

Abstract:

Our paper presents novel empirical findings on how migration affects household size of migrants' families staying behind depending on the success of migratory experiences. We use a unique three-wave household panel data from Tajikistan to explore the change in household composition as a response to wealth fluctuations associated with migratory experiences of the household members. In addition, we analyze the interaction between effects of idiosyncratic income shock related to migration and the one of an aggregate shock – the global financial crisis – and show how households adjust their family size during times of financial hardship. Empirical evidence suggests that after a certain time lag families with successful returned migrants experienced a decrease in family size due to some of the family members' moving out. Furthermore, we show that while people were more likely to live in larger households during the crisis year than before and after the crisis, the successful migration episode two years before the crisis offsets the effect of financial crisis on the household size.