**Women's Education and Non-Farm Enterprise Ownership: Poverty-Mitigating Role of Remittances in Nigeria**

**Abstract**

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**Keywords**: Women's Education, Non-farm Enterprise, Multi-dimensional Poverty, Remittances.

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**Introduction and Relevant background information**

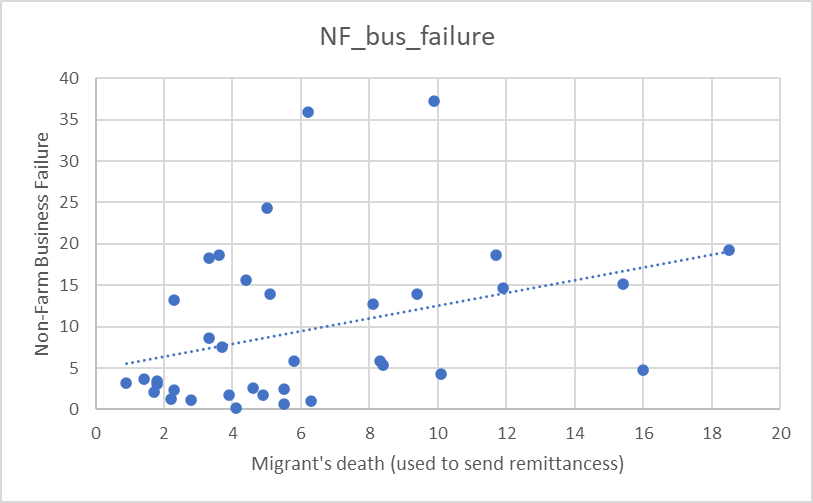
Remittances worldwide have witnessed a phenomenal increase in the last two decades. Thus, the policymakers are keen to examine the developmental role of these international private flows particularly in developing countries. Nigeria, a developing country in Africa, with a large population and thus potentially high labour migration, stands among the top 10 remittance-receiving countries. Our study examines the effect of domestic and international remittances on various dimensions of empowerment in Nigeria, particularly focusing on education and entrepreneurship. Specifically, we seek to understand how these financial flows contribute to educational attainment and the ownership of non-farm enterprises by vulnerable groups like women, thereby potentially reducing multidimensional poverty across the country and its regions. We categorise women as a vulnerable group in Nigeria due to systemic inequalities and barriers that limit their access to resources, education, economic opportunities, and decision-making power.

**Research Approach**

Our study relies on the survey data (based on 22,200 households) from the Nigeria Living Standards Survey (2018-19) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) data for thirty-six states. Our investigation also combined these states to have a regional analysis of the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. Applying the econometric techniques, this study examines the impact of domestic and international remittances on women's education and non-farm enterprise ownership and other wide-ranging Multidimensional poverty features at the national and regional levels.

**Discussion**

Our preliminary (national) results suggest that domestic remittances increase women’s ownership of non-farm enterprises while international remittances increase female school enrolment as well as their educational attainment both at secondary and tertiary levels.



**Conclusion**

From our preliminary results, our potential conclusion indicates that remittances, both domestic and international, play a significant role in empowering women in Nigeria by enhancing their educational opportunities and their children. Remittances also enable them to own non-farm enterprises. These findings suggest that remittances are a significant factor in addressing multidimensional poverty, particularly for women, and could inform policy interventions aimed at leveraging private international flows for developmental purposes in Nigeria and similar contexts for developing economies.

**References**

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