International emigration and the labour market outcomes of women staying behind in

Morocco

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Abstract

We tackle the issue of women's activity rates in Morocco by adopting a mixed method

approach. Using the 2007 household survey, we find that having a migrant in the household

increases women's labour participation, while receiving remittances decreases it. While

migration increases women's probability of being an unpaid family worker, it has no impact

on their probability of having income-generating activities. The qualitative fieldwork

indicates that while traditional attitudes are an important factor in women's low levels of

engagement in paid activities, the most compelling reason behind this situation lies in the lack

of good job opportunities for women.

**Keywords:** International migration, remittances, female labour force participation, Morocco.

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