

Review of: "Monopsony and Gender Wage Discrimination in the Philippines"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper estimates wage elasticities of labor supply between women and men in a less development economy as Philippines. To do this, it uses pooled information of Philippine Labor Force Survey from 2010 to 2018.

The article includes a good theoretical and empirical foundation. It presents rich information to carry out different analyses.

The wage elasticity of labor supply curve is interpreted, from a neoclassical framework, as an indicator of the degree of monopsony in the labor market. In fact, both women and men have inelastic labor supply and, indeed, elasticity is insignificant for female. It reflects the fact that workers have very low opportunity to transition from one job to another. From another theoretical framework, Following Keynes' General Theory of Employment, it could be interpreted as result of supply of labor not being a function of real wages ("real wage is not equal to marginal disutility of the existing employment").

Beyond the above, I have some comments of specific issues:

1. It is said that factors that explain the choice between different work arrangements may also explain the choice not to work or to migrate. It seems contrived to include the complex decision to migrate in this scheme
2. It could be usefull to differentiate selfed-employed from temporary workers. In other words, differentiate cases where a wage relationship exist from cases where it does not exist. I understand it could be limited by Labor Force Survey possibilities.
3. From Table 1, I find age categories do not discriminate groups of age for persons over 30 years. I think it could be usefull to analyze situation of older adults.
4. It would be good to include some notes on the general characteristics of the pension system in the Philippines, to understand if it can have an influence on activity (inactivity) rates.
5. It is said that, for both women and men, the higher the education level, the less involvement in labor market and more participation in permanent arrangements. The paper suggest that could be related with the fact that the skills learned in higher education do not match the needs of the industry (in this case it could result in a overqualification phenomenon, not necessarily in unemployment of higher educated). I think it can be interpreted in another way. Same evidence could be related with more possibilities to choose between different options for high education workers, wich can in turn be linked to higher incomes in their households.
6. Related to the previous point, I think It would be useful to include in estimations the effect of variables that describe household characteristics.

