

Discussion Questions for Meurs Bargaining Power Modules, July 8

Wiig:

- 1) What is the research question?
- 2) In his abstract, Wiig says “Bargaining theory indicates such redistribution of assets should empower women.” Consider both the cooperative model and the non-cooperative model. Carefully explain the link between (land) assets and BP, using diagrams or equations.
- 3) Later Wiig says that he is looking at part of the broader concept of empowerment—the decision making part. How does decision-making relate to bargaining power and empowerment? Explain carefully the difference in these concepts. (Deere will be talking about empowerment more on Wednesday.)
- 4) What 2 groups of individuals were compared in the empirical test?
- 5) What does the author mean when he says that the titling was exogenous? Why is this important? How does he show that it was exogenous?
- 6) Explain carefully how Wiig uses his 26 questions to create his measure(s) of empowerment.
- 7) Are the questions, listed in T1, a good measure of BP (recall the definition of BP)? Explain why and also why they might not be.
- 8) Consider Table 2. In addition to the key independent variable (assets), the authors include a number of other control variables. Explain the reason for each control. Which are linked to bargaining theory and how are they linked?
- 9) Consider Table 3. What does it tell us about the author’s research question? What does it tell us about how we should measure bargaining power in empirical work?

Garikapati:

- 1) What is the research question related to women’s empowerment? (We will not discuss the question related to vulnerability.)
- 2) The author notes the important distinction between looking at program impact on women’s households and looking at program impacts on the women themselves. Link this to this morning’s discussion of unitary household models. What is the author saying (indirectly) about how to model household decision making?
- 3) What are the comparison groups in this study? Why is important to use these two groups to address the research question?
- 4) What are the components of the empowerment measure used by Garikapati? Would you say these are measures of BP itself, it’s causes, it’s outcomes, or something else (some other form of power outside the household, like political power, for example)?
- 5) Although the author’s measure of empowerment combines various measures, all of which have values that go beyond 0/1, the author eventually converts the measure into a simple 0/1 measure—empowered or not empowered. Why does the author do this? Would you have done the same? What are the pros and cons of this approach?
- 6) Consider Table 4. As above, explain the purpose of each control and it’s relationship (or not) to bargaining theory.
- 7) What does Table 4 tell us about the author’s research question? What is the explanation for this finding?