



beyond the money: the impact of international migration on children's life satisfaction: evidence from ecuador y albania

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the setting

- discourse on migration and development – migration can help improving living standards and welfare
- new vulnerabilities and costs for migrants, families, and sending communities
- international migration
 - economic/objective indicators
 - non-economic/subjective indicators

the question... why is important?

- how international migration structures the lives of those left-behind beyond its economic impacts?
 - what is the impact of parental migration on children and adolescents left-behind?
- subjective indicators of well-being – cognitive assessment of a person's life satisfaction as a whole.
- beyond economic indicators
- life-satisfaction

why is important? so what?

- parental migration hinders children's rights - children's best interests.
- beyond economic indicators...
 - if remittances increase consumption it is not clear whether remittances increase satisfaction with life or overall well-being
- life satisfaction diverse array of correlates including risky behaviors, psychopathological symptoms and health outcomes (alcohol and drug abuse, aggressive and violent behaviors, sexual activities, depression, anxiety)

data & methods

- household surveys with children and adolescents 0-17 years in the cities of quito and tirana
- two groups:
 - households with migrants and non-migrants.
- focus groups – migrant, non-migrant
- brief multidimensional student's life satisfaction
 1. family
 2. friendship
 3. school
 4. self
 5. place of residence

results

- focus group results emphasize that impact of migration goes well beyond its economic benefits.
- entire familial structures from children to caretakers are negatively affected both emotionally and from a well-being perspective after discounting material benefits that migrant may bring.
- migration by at least one parent negatively impacts children and adolescent life satisfaction in comparison to children and adolescents who live with both parents and who have never moved away.
- migration of at least one parent in comparison to migration by a member of the household other than the parent has a more negative impact

take away points

1. migration affects the lives of those left-behind beyond economic impacts.
2. the life satisfaction of children and adolescents from households where at least one parent has migrated tends, on average, to be lower than the life satisfaction of those children and adolescents who still live with both of their parents.
3. migration of a member of the household other than the parent also negatively affects children and adolescents' life satisfaction. overall parental migration has a more negative impact on children's life satisfaction than the former.