

## Abstract

An expansion or contraction in a sector intensively using female labor must affect female labor force participation. We suggest that, whenever trade and international specialization expand sectors prone to employing females, female labor force participation actually drops, and vice versa. In general, when sectors prone to employing females expand, sectors tending towards male employment must contract. This contraction, in turn, induces male workers to migrate to the expanding sectors, which, in our specification, drives female workers out of formal employment. In this sense, a country that is exporting female labor content is, in fact, substituting male labor for female labor. Finally, we show that our mechanism also applies in a case of technological change that is biased towards female labor.

Keywords: Trade, Female labor force participation, Fertility, Technological Change.

JEL Classifications: F10, F16, J13, J16.