Civil Conflict, Domestic Violence and Intra-Household Bargaining In Post-Genocide Rwanda

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Civil Conflict, Domestic Violence and Intra-Household Bargaining
In Post-Genocide Rwanda

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Abstract

This paper examines the long-term impact of civil conflict on domestic violence and intra-household bargaining using data from Rwanda. Women who married after the 1994 genocide experienced significantly increased domestic violence and reduced decision-making power relative to women who married before, with a greater effect for women in localities with high genocide intensity. Additionally, exposure to genocide reduced the household education expenditure in families of women who were of marriageable age after the genocide relative to families of older women. Part of the effect of the genocide on domestic violence was driven by changes in the marriage market sex ratios across localities and over time, which were mainly induced by the conflict. Through changes in intra-household bargaining, civil conflicts may impair the well-being of women and children in the long-term.

Key words: Domestic violence, intra-household bargaining, gender, women’s decision-making power, civil conflict, Rwanda, Sub-Saharan Africa.

JEL codes: O12, J12

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