

Family characteristics and transition into the labour market : Results from an original survey for Senegal

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Motivation

- ▶ Why being interested in explaining unemployment and in particular youth unemployment in developing countries?
- ▶ Why focusing on family characteristics?
 - ▶ Developing countries/Africa : family is an important institution with a significant power over many decisions (education, migration, marriage, etc)
 - ▶ Evidence of networks effects on labor market outcomes
 - ▶ Extend results on the role of sibship composition on resource allocation (Murdoch, 2000 ; Berhman et al, 1982, 1986)

Motivation (foll.)

- ▶ On the outcome of interest : the process of transition more than the probability to work
 - ▶ The event will realize for almost all men
 - ▶ Late/early entry may have additional effects : on social status, timing of marriage, fecundity (Galland, 2000 ; Antoine, Razafindrakoto, and Roubaud, 2001 ; Singh and Samara, 1996)

Objectives of the paper

1. Investigate the impact of socio-demographic characteristics of the household on age at entry into the labour market
2. Explore gender differences
3. Explore cohort differences

Outline

The PSF Data

The Model

Results for females

Results for males

Intergenerational comparison

Conclusion

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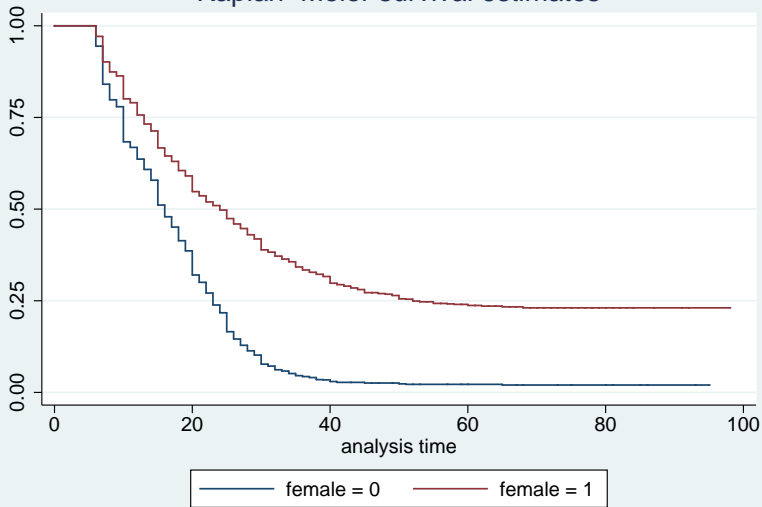
Intergenerational comparison

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The PSF Survey

- ▶ The survey, designed by Philippe De Vreyer, Sylvie Lambert, Abla Safir and Momar Sylla, was conducted in Senegal in 2006 over 1800 households
- ▶ Usual information on individual characteristics plus detailed description of households structure and budgetary arrangements.
- ▶ 9683 individuals aged more than 6 years old.
 - ▶ Median age at first entry into the labor market is 19 (according to the non parametric Kaplan Meier estimator)
 - ▶ Large gender differences : for females (N=5093) the median is at 23, for males (N=4590) the median is at 16.

Kaplan–Meier survival estimates



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The Model

1. Estimation of a risk model (Weibull model)
2. Introduce individual and family level controls and estimate their effect on age at first entry
 - ▶ Cohort dummies (1910/1930/1950/1970)
 - ▶ First born son/daughter or not
 - ▶ Has ever been fostered out or not (def : Isiugo-Abanihe, 1986)
 - ▶ Early marriage or not (bef 15 for girls/ 23 for boys)
 - ▶ Level of education
 - ▶ Parents' education
 - ▶ Parents' living status before entering the labour market (or censoring)
 - ▶ Father's occupation
 - ▶ Father marital status (monogamous/polygamous)
 - ▶ Location
 - ▶ + Measures of ethnicity and religious group
3. Separate model for males and females

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Results for females : Cohort differences

- ▶ Belonging to the 2 first cohorts (1910 and 1930) or to the youngest one (1970) has **the same effect** on age at first entry
- ▶ Females born between 1950 and 1970 **entered the labour market earlier** than females born after 1970
 - ▶ At each age, the risk of transition is *13 percent higher*

Result for females : Characteristics **accelerating labor market entry**

- ▶ Having been fostered *40 percent higher*
- ▶ Early marriage *30 percent higher*
- ▶ Parents :
 - ▶ Father with koranic education (ref father with no education) *23 percent higher*
 - ▶ Father works/worked in agriculture (ref no/other occupation) *30 percent higher*
- ▶ Education : completed secondary education (ref no formal education) *32 percent higher*
- ▶ Serere, other (ref Wolof) *20 and 26 percent higher*

Result for females : Characteristics **delaying labor market entry**

- ▶ Being the first born daughter = *88 percent*
- ▶ Parents :
 - ▶ Mother has some education (ref : mother with no education) = *65 percent*
 - ▶ Parents deceased before the transition = *30 percent*
- ▶ Education : currently enrolled in formal school (ref : no education) = *50 percent*
- ▶ Location : Lives in urban area = *45 percent*
- ▶ Pular (ref Wolof) = *78 percent*
- ▶ Murid (ref other religious group) = *81 percent*

Result for females : Comments

- ▶ Effects of parents' education ; occupation ; living status ; of the practice of fostering ; of early marriage
 - ▶ Reflect the role of **economic conditions during childhood** and/or of **the network**
- ▶ Effect of ethnicity ; religious group ; first-born daughter
 - ▶ Reflect the role of **social norms**
- ▶ On the positive association between sec. education and risk of entering the labour market
 - ▶ Accelerating effect of secondary education : demand for women with general academic skills

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Results for males : Cohort differences

- ▶ At each age, the younger cohort has a higher risk of entering into the labour market than the 3 older cohorts

Results for males : Characteristics **accelerating labor market entry**

- ▶ Having been fostered *28 percent higher*
- ▶ Early marriage *22 percent higher*
- ▶ Parents :
 - ▶ Polygynous father *10 percent higher*
 - ▶ Father works/worked in agriculture (ref : no/other occupation) *30 percent higher*
- ▶ Pular, other (ref Wolof) *15 and 31 percent higher*

Results for males : Characteristics **delaying labor market entry**

- ▶ Parents :
 - ▶ Parents have some education (ref : parents with no education) = *80 percent*
 - ▶ Parents deceased before the transition = *40 percent*
- ▶ Education :
 - ▶ currently enrolled in formal school = *30 percent*
 - ▶ more than secondary level of education (ref : no education) = *50 percent*
- ▶ Location : lives in urban area = *40 percent*
- ▶ Murid (ref : other religious group) = *80 percent*

Result for males : Comments

- ▶ **As for women**, evidence that
 - ▶ **economic conditions during childhood** and/or of **the network** and **social norms** govern transition
- ▶ **Contrary to women** : negative association between sec. education and risk of entering the labour market
 - ▶ Delaying effect of secondary education : demand for men with specific academic skills or difficulty to find a job once having higher education
- ▶ Different cohort effects between men and women
 - ▶ Evolution of the macroeconomic conditions had not the same effect on men and women

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Intergenerational comparison

- ▶ Question : For a given characteristic, is there a different effect on the young cohort and the older cohort ?
- ▶ Sample : Focus on young adults 15-35 and the nearest generation among the older : 36-50
- ▶ Results :
 - ▶ Men : Has a fostering experience (young enter even more rapidly) ;
 - ▶ Men and Women : Father deceased before entering the job market (young enter with less delay) ;
- ▶ Interpretation
 - ▶ The motivation for fostering out boys has changed : today, more for apprenticeship ? Or reflect the household's economic difficulty (foster out a child and send the child to work)
 - ▶ The loss of a father has become less easy to manage : today, one child has to drop out of school and work (before : inter-family transfers/help)

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- ▶ What matter ? Economic conditions during childhood, network size, norms, education
- ▶ What matter even more today ? Lack of network/support for men
- ▶ Room for policy actions at various levels :
 - ▶ Improve household's capacity to cope with shocks **to avoid an early entry**
 - ▶ Develop formal network within which information on job quality/opportunity would circulate ; Promote girls' acquisition of general academic skills ; Ensuring the matching between job availability and education for mento **ease job search**
- ▶ Research agenda
 - ▶ Take into account the characteristics of the first job
 - ▶ Early/Late entry and life trajectory (marriage decision)