Women’s Mobility, Employment and Empowerment in the Muslim World

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Based on our findings, what can the policymakers in Saudi Arabia suggest to increase license uptake?

- Reduce the cost of driving training and/or offer financial assistance to low-income women
- Offer transport or open more driving training schools
- Implement gender-sensitive road safety interventions

Women’s Mobility and Workforce Participation in Saudi Arabia

What are the key barriers for women in obtaining their driving licenses?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affording a car</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car is shared in the household</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affording maintenance</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns about driving accidents</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being alone with men</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult of learning</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Societal concerns</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family concerns</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputational concerns</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does alleviating the financial barriers affect women's likelihood in obtaining their license?

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Future Work

Saudi Arabia

Using randomized controlled trials as an exogenous variation in whether women have realized and exercised the right to drive, we plan to test whether realizing and exercising this newfound legal right changes women's social, economic, civic and political activity.

Pakistan

The team is conducting several RCT experiments using the Job Talash infrastructure to explore the constraints faced by jobseekers and firms. In one RCT, we quantify the costs and benefits of transport on women’s mobility and labour force participation by offering door-to-door pick and drop services from home to places of employment for Job Talash subscribers. We are also conducting an auditing experiment to measure the extent and effect of misreporting of work experience by job applicants on jobseekers and firms; as well as a study to understand how search encouragement can bring people who are not otherwise searching into job search and employment.

Job Search Barriers for Women in Pakistan

What methods do employers use for hiring, and how does it interact with the job search methods for male and female job seekers?

Men and women have vastly different views on employment

- 55% of men are working, compared to 9% of women
- 65% of women are not working and not interested in working, compared to 6% of men

Women who reported having a few or more working female friends are 10 percentage points more likely to search through networks than women who did not have any. This suggests women who set their salary expectations lower than men. However, both show a demonstrated interest in higher salary jobs.

Future Work

Conclusion

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Acknowledgments

The Saudi Arabia team would like to thank AlNahda Society, Mawadda, and Insan for helping our team recruit women for our study.

The Pakistan team would like to thank CERP, Pakistan for their help and collaboration on the project.