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Loan Allocation within Group Lending: New Evidence from Self-Help Group Program in South India

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Introduction

Background

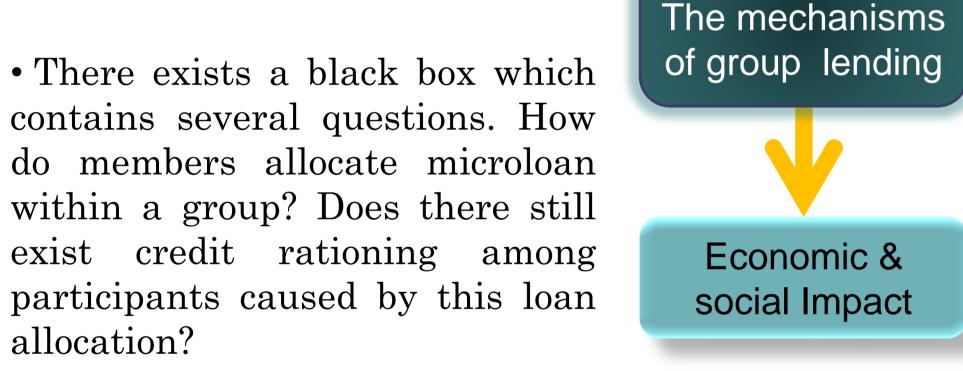
- Microfinance (MF) has attracted growing attention as a means of improving financial access. Reflecting the enthusiasm about it, Government of India has initiated the biggest MF program since 1992.
- This program adopts a group lending methodology with joint liability based on Self-Help Group (SHG) in which microloans are designed to be allocated among members by themselves.

SHG program

BLACK BOX

Motivation

- Despite the proliferation of impact evaluation studies on MF, few studies shed light on loan allocation or actual credit access.
- within a group? Does there still



• This paper empirically explores these question. The objective is to clarify the determinants of loan allocation and credit access within group lending, using original data collected in Kerala, South India.

The Scheme of SHG program

Formation of SHGs

- One SHG is composed by 10-20 women who can be selected based on geographical proximity.
 - → self selection, heterogeneity in a group

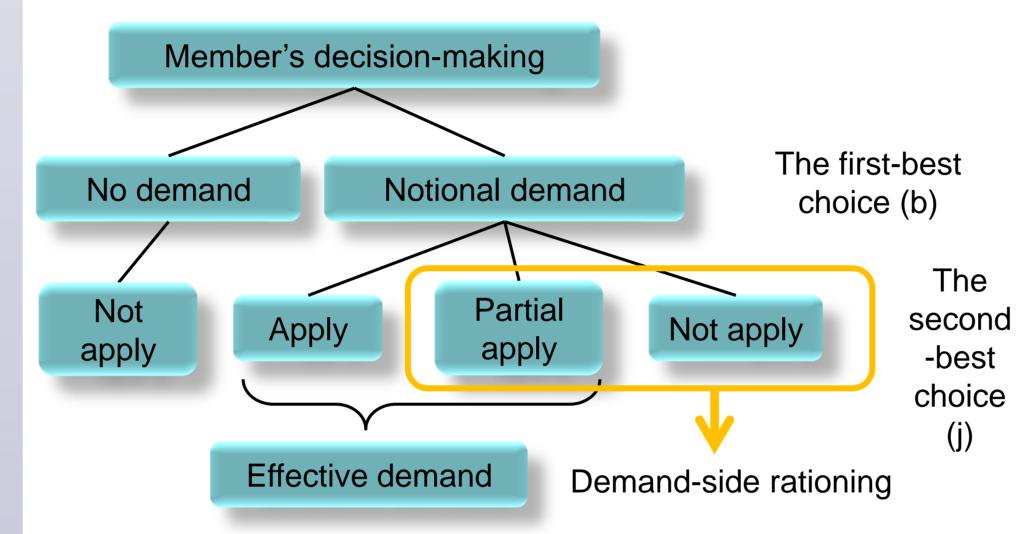
Financial Transactions

- Members are obligated to hold weekly meetings collecting compulsory savings (10-50 Rs/meeting). And there are two types of loan: the internal loan and the external loan. The internal loan comes from their own accounts accumulated by compulsory savings, while the external loan is disbursed by the formal bank to a group.
- The interest rate, the repayment schedule, and loan allocation are determined by members.
- The external loan can't be available without repayments of previous loans. Thus only in a beginning of loan cycle can they apply and issue the external loan to members.
- Note that loans are taken from banks in the group's name but each of the members conducts her business individually.

Econometric Framework

• The interaction between a applicant and other members may be modeled as a sequential two-stage decision process (Zeller [1994]WD, Mushinski [1999]JDS).

A borrower's decision making



• Nested logit model (apply, partial apply, not apply) The joint probability of choosing alternative *jb* can be written as

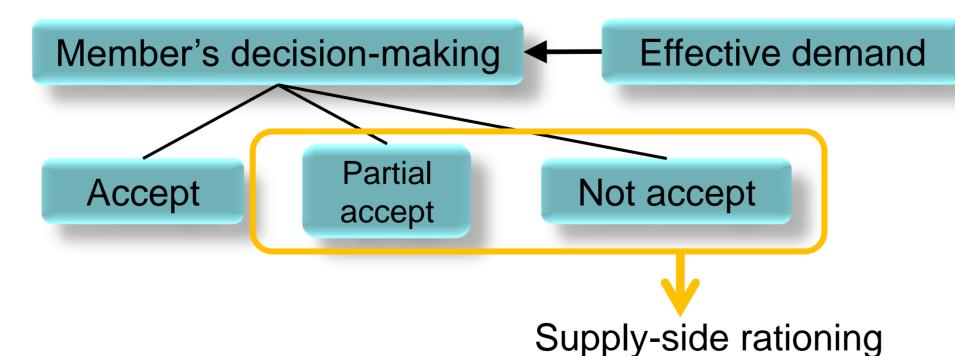
Prob[
$$second_i$$
, $first_b$] = $P_{ijb} = P_{ijb} \times P_b$

This probability can be written as

$$P_{ij|b}P_b = \left(\frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}'_{ij|b}\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\sum_{j=1}^{J_b} \exp(\mathbf{x}'_{ij|b}\boldsymbol{\beta})}\right) \left(\frac{\exp[\boldsymbol{\tau}_b(\mathbf{z}'_{ib}\boldsymbol{\gamma} + I_{ib})]}{\sum_{b=1}^{B} \exp[\boldsymbol{\tau}_b(\mathbf{z}'_{ib}\boldsymbol{\gamma} + I_{ib})]}\right)$$
where $I_{ib} = \ln\left(\sum_{j=1}^{J_b} \exp(\mathbf{x}'_{ij|b}\boldsymbol{\beta})\right)$

- This term is the inclusive value in the first-best choice.
- z is a vector of observed attributes that vary across the first-best strategies.
- x is a vector of observed attributes that vary across the second-best strategies; factors related to bargaining information asymmetries, power, characteristics of other applicants.

Lender's decision making



• Multinomial logit Model (accept, partial accept, not accept)

$$\Pr(Y_i = l) = \left(\frac{\exp(\mathbf{w}'_{il}\theta)}{\sum_{l=1}^{L} \exp(\mathbf{w}'_{il}\theta)}\right)$$

Data Collection and Survey Area

The Data

- The data: 220 households (SHG members) in Sultan Battery gram panchayat, Wayanad district, Kerala, gathered between Aug and Oct 2008.
- Questionnaire: family compositions and labor market participation, landholdings, fixed assets, annual income, credit transactions, gift exchange, and social network etc.
- Note that we also collected the above information on other members who applied in a same loan cycle recorded in financial books of each SHG.

How to identify credit rationing

(almost same method with Boucher, Guirkinger, and Trivelli [2009] EDCC)

- Whether had you applied for a loan in 12 month? If no, why had you not done so? If yes, would you want to applied for another loan? (→ apply, partial apply, not apply, no demand)
- Whether any applications were approved? If yes, had your applications been partially accepted? (> accept, partial accept, not accepted)

(A subset of) Estimation Results

Nested multinomial logit model borrower's decision making						Multinomial logit model for lender's decision making						
	External loan	Partial applying		Not applying			External loan		Partial accept		Not accept	
		Coef.	Z-value	Coef.	Z-value			Coef.	Z-value	Coef.	Z-value	
	Constant	-1.436	-1.6928	-1.625	-1.913	Ap	plicant					
Applicant							Effective demand for loan	-0.567	-0.4537	-0.079	-2.6243	
	Permanent income	-0.3505	-2.9719	-0.7371	-3.7746		Permanent income	-0.007	-0.4201	-0.402	-3.5782	
	Transitory income	0.0117	1.4995	0.5626	1.6775		Transitory income	0.012	0.7038	-0.001	-0.923	
	Dummy for past default	0.3275	1.2205	0.8322	3.0409		Dummy for past default	0.228	0.117	0.221	0.601	
	Landholdings	0.1861	0.106	0.0857	0.9042		Landholdings	0.220	2.1645	0.221	1.3213	
	Fixed asset	1.7476	0.4996	2.5098	0.1959		<u> </u>					
	Savings in SHG	0.0439	0.2305	0.1951	0.1305		Fixed asset	0.029	2.6789	0.019	1.1889	
	Social position in village	0.7638	2.2634	0.2807	1.2352		Savings in SHG	-0.151	-3.3414	-0.1439	-0.2305	
	Social position in SHG	0.0007	2.4388	0.0008	2.9947		Social position in village	0.46	2.5134	0.862	1.4093	
	Distance from formal bank	0.6388	2.0188	0.7503	2.5913		Social position in SHG	-0.566	-3.5415	-0.623	-2.9661	
	Dummy for SC/ST	0.0006	2.513	0.0007	2.5699		Fixed effect for social caste	0.3275	-0.7038	1.0991	3.3322	
Average of other applicants						Av	erage of other applicant					
	Permanent income	0.006	0.9161	0.0505	0.0709		Effective demand for loan	0.3275	1.2205	0.3294	1.4018	
	Transitory income	-0.8021	-2.8939	-0.6892	-3.0674		Permanent income	1.1861	4.06	1.0991	4.045	
	Dummy for past default	0.0412	0.2062	0.1601	1.0849		Transitory income	1.7476	3.4996	1.661	3.3322	
	Landholdings	-0.04	-2.8778	-1.0691	-0.1113		Dummy for past default	-0.128	-3.117	-0.424	-4.101	
	Fixed asset	-1.1133	-0.2751	-1.1384	-0.4235		_	0.0007	2.4388	0.0006	2.513	
	Savings in SHG	0.3399	2.5251	0.3379	2.4967		Landholdings					
	Social position in village	0.5297	0.5175	0.4848	0.1136	_	Fixed asset	-0.3284	-2.0701	-0.3046	-1.732	
	Social position in SHG	1.1038	4.0894	1.1064	3.4748		Savings in SHG	1.231	2.41	1.163	0.2305	
	Fixed effects for SHGs						Social position in village	0.2013	0.4537	0.906	0.9161	
	σ	0.5767	0.2325	0.67	0.2178		Social position in SHG	1.0505	3.4201	4.8021	2.8939	
	τ	0.7821	0.2903	0.9378	0.2982		Fixed effect for SHGs					

Conclusion

Conclusion

- The access to microcredit is not necessarily guaranteed for all of members in SHGs and loan is allocated in group lending with two types of credit rationing.
- This paper focuses on a bargaining process in loan allocation to clarify the determinants of both types of credit rationing.
- A potential borrower would be preliminary rationed by lack of creditworthiness, insufficient implicit collateral requirements, weak bargaining power, transaction costs and, urgent needs by others.
- There might be a selection based on creditworthiness, political distortion, and wealth bias in loan allocation.