

Does Sanitation Behavior Migrate?

Shyamal Chowdhury
University of Sydney

Raymond Guiteras
University of Maryland

A. Mushfiq Mobarak
Yale University

Contact: A. Mushfiq Mobarak, ahmed.mobarak@yale.edu

Introduction

We study the sanitation behavior of seasonal migrants using two sets of experiments and datasets from Bangladesh:

1. Randomly assigned sanitation marketing to rural villages, and tracked sanitation behaviors of migrants from those villages when they move to cities and towns.
2. Randomly assigned incentives to seasonally migrate, and tracked sanitation behaviors of returning migrants both at destination and origin.

Research Questions

1. Does rural sanitation marketing (information campaigns, subsidies) carry over to better sanitation practices when migrants move to cities and towns?
2. Do migrant workers bring sanitation habits acquired in cities and towns back to their home village?

Experiment 1: Effects of Sanitation Marketing on the Sanitation Choices of Migrants

We estimate the effects of the following (randomized) rural sanitation marketing interventions on the behavior of migrants from those villages when they move.

1. **LPP** – A CLTS-style community awareness program that teaches the importance of proper sanitation and charts the status of a community’s current sanitation practices.
2. **Subsidy** – 50% subsidies for latrine purchase randomly assigned within the poorest (landless) segment of the population
3. **Supply** – Supply agents acted as liaisons between latrine parts dealers and provided information on how to install and maintain a latrine.

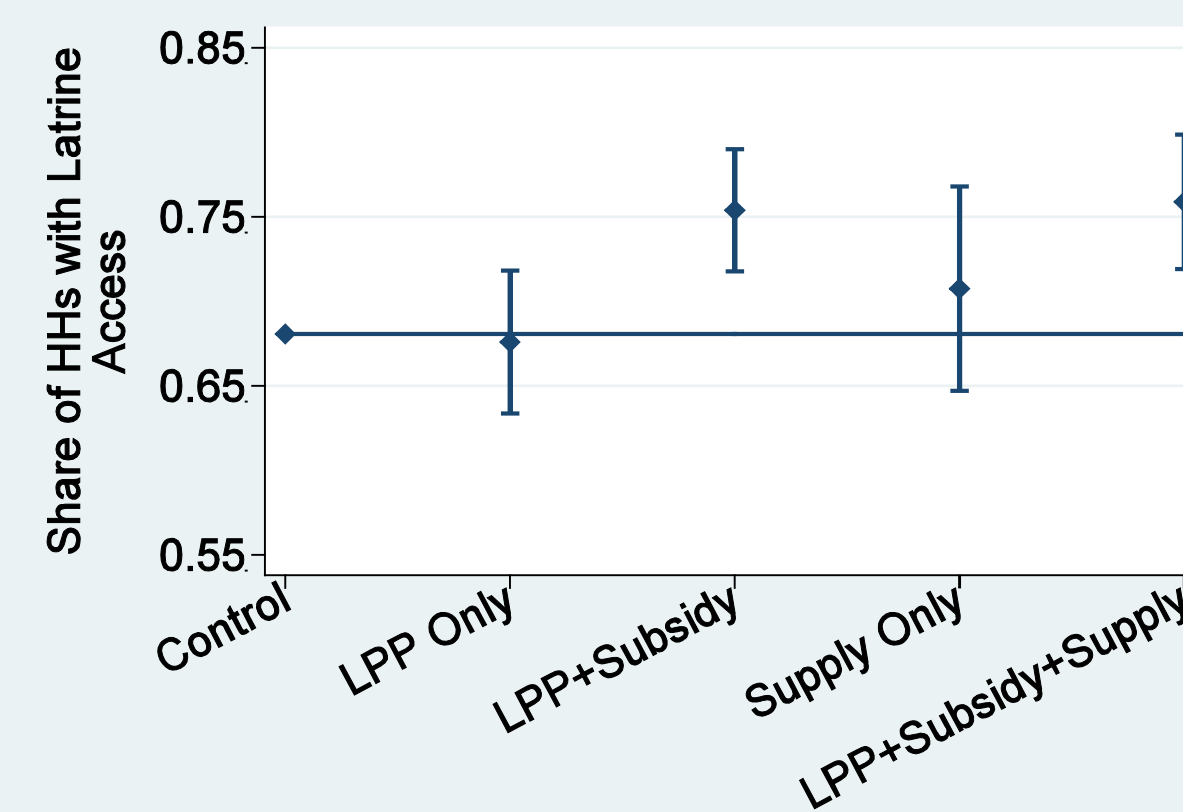


Figure 1 – Subsidies Increase Latrine Investments at Home

(Point Estimates and 95% Confidence Intervals)

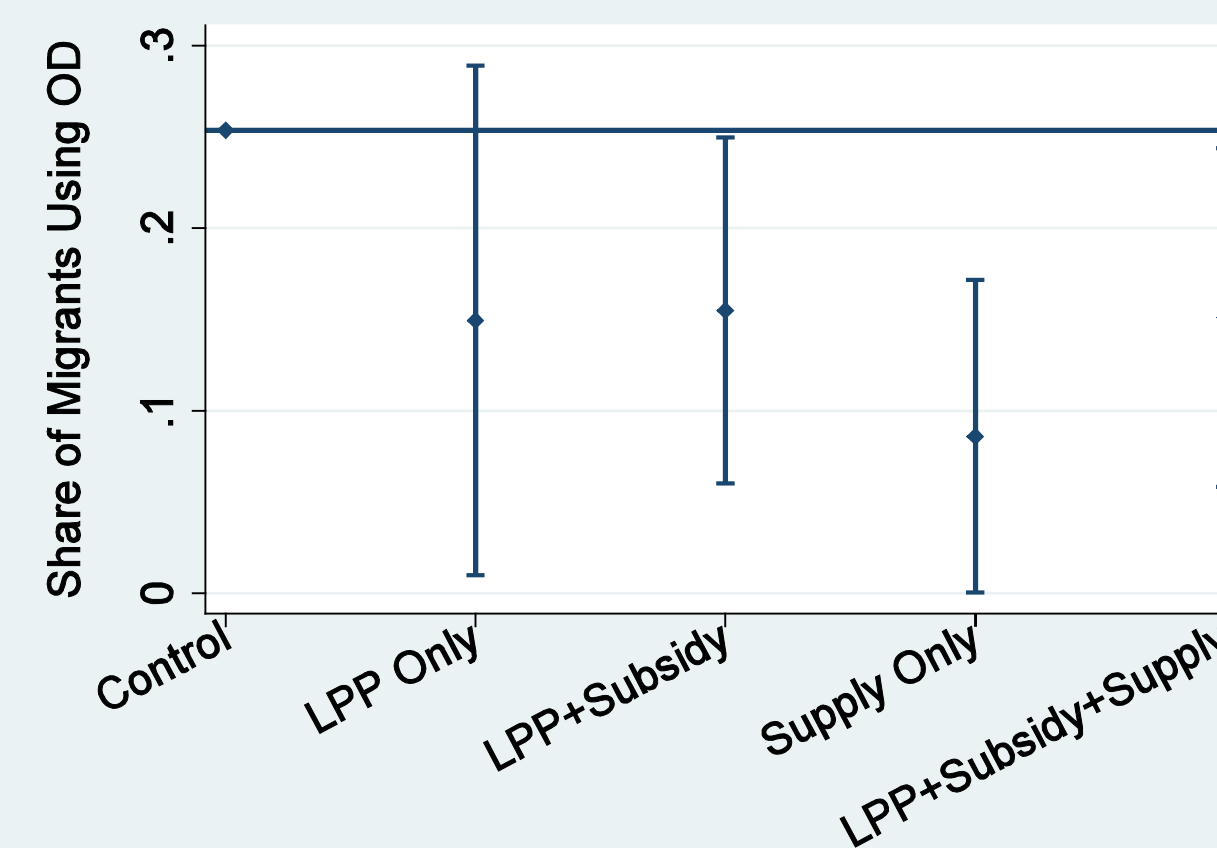


Figure 2 – Sanitation Marketing Decreases Open Defecation (OD) Among Migrants

(Point Estimates and 90% Confidence Intervals)

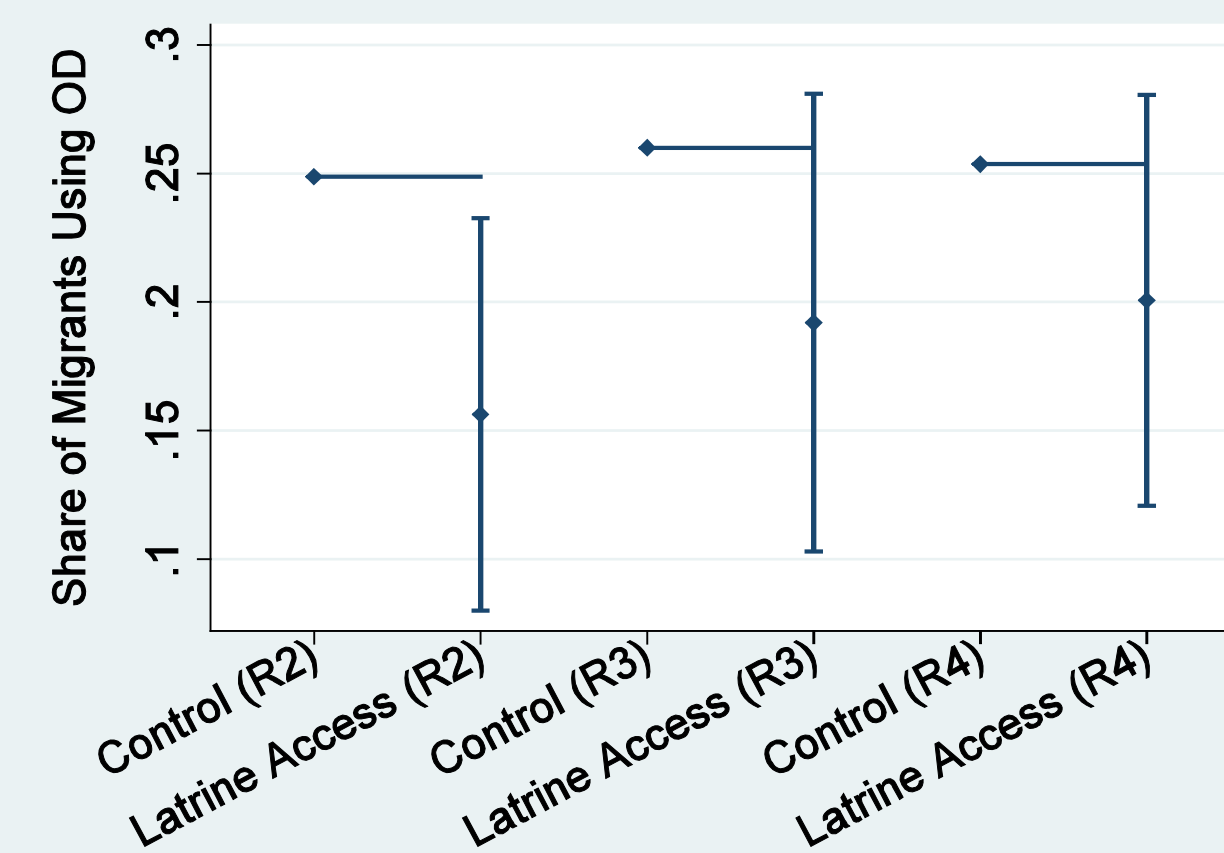


Figure 3: Some Evidence that Migrants from Households Induced to Invest in Latrines through Randomized Subsidies are Less Likely to Practice OD at Destination

(Point Estimates and 90% Confidence Intervals)

Experiment 2: Effects of Migration Incentives on the Sanitation Behavior of Returning Migrants

We investigate the impact of inducing seasonal migration to cities and small towns on sanitation behavior at the home village when the migrant returns.

The randomly assigned treatments we used in this project include:

1. **Migration Incentive** – An \$8.50 incentive (covering a round-trip bus ticket & food) to households to temporarily out-migrate during the pre-harvest lean season
2. **Destination Assignments** – Random assignment to one of four specific migration destinations (a big city, versus smaller towns offering agricultural work)

In previous work, we identify that the Migration Incentive increases seasonal migration rates by 22%. Migrants earn at the destination, leading to consumption and welfare increases at the origin.

	Rural	Urban
	40.2% (N=643)	20.6% (N=310)

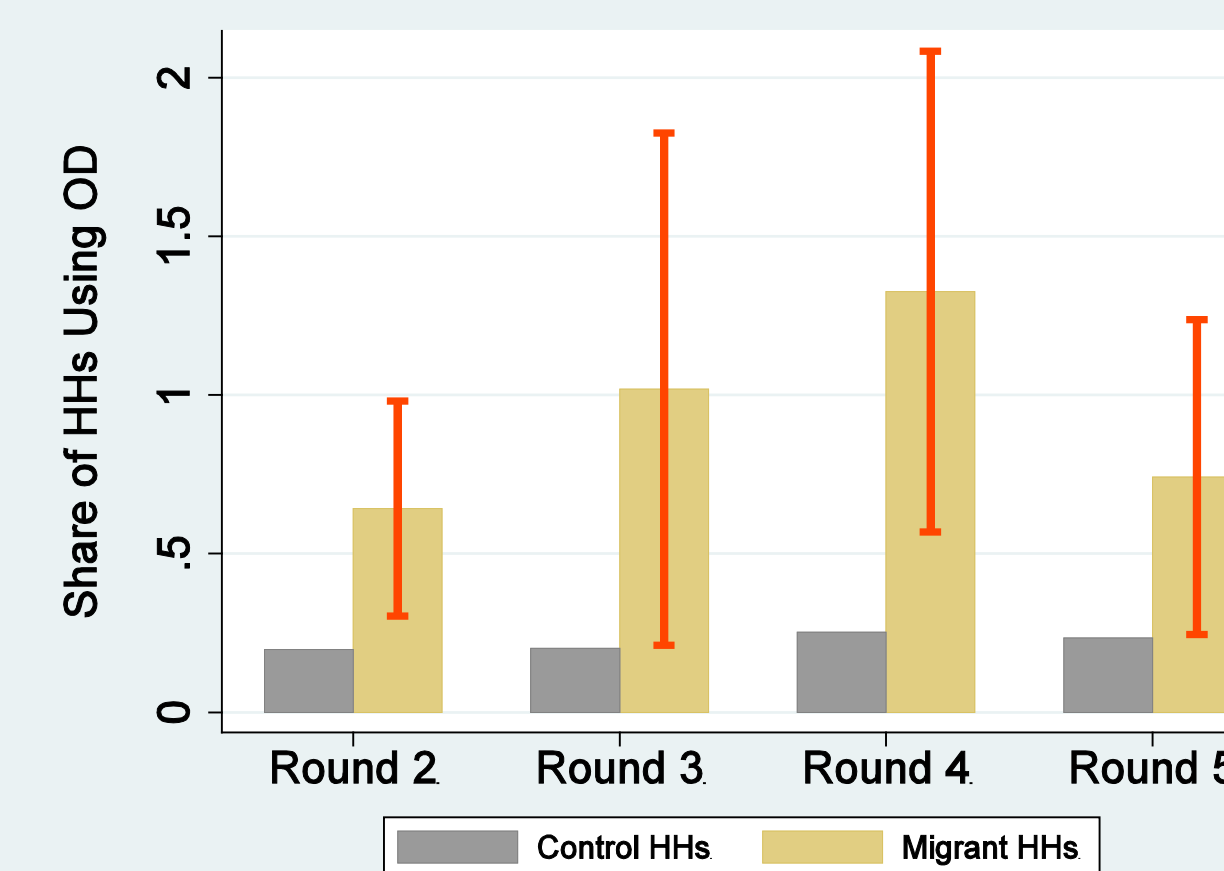


Figure 4 – Adults Induced to Migrate by the Incentive are More Likely to OD when they Return Home

(Point Estimates and 90% Confidence Intervals)

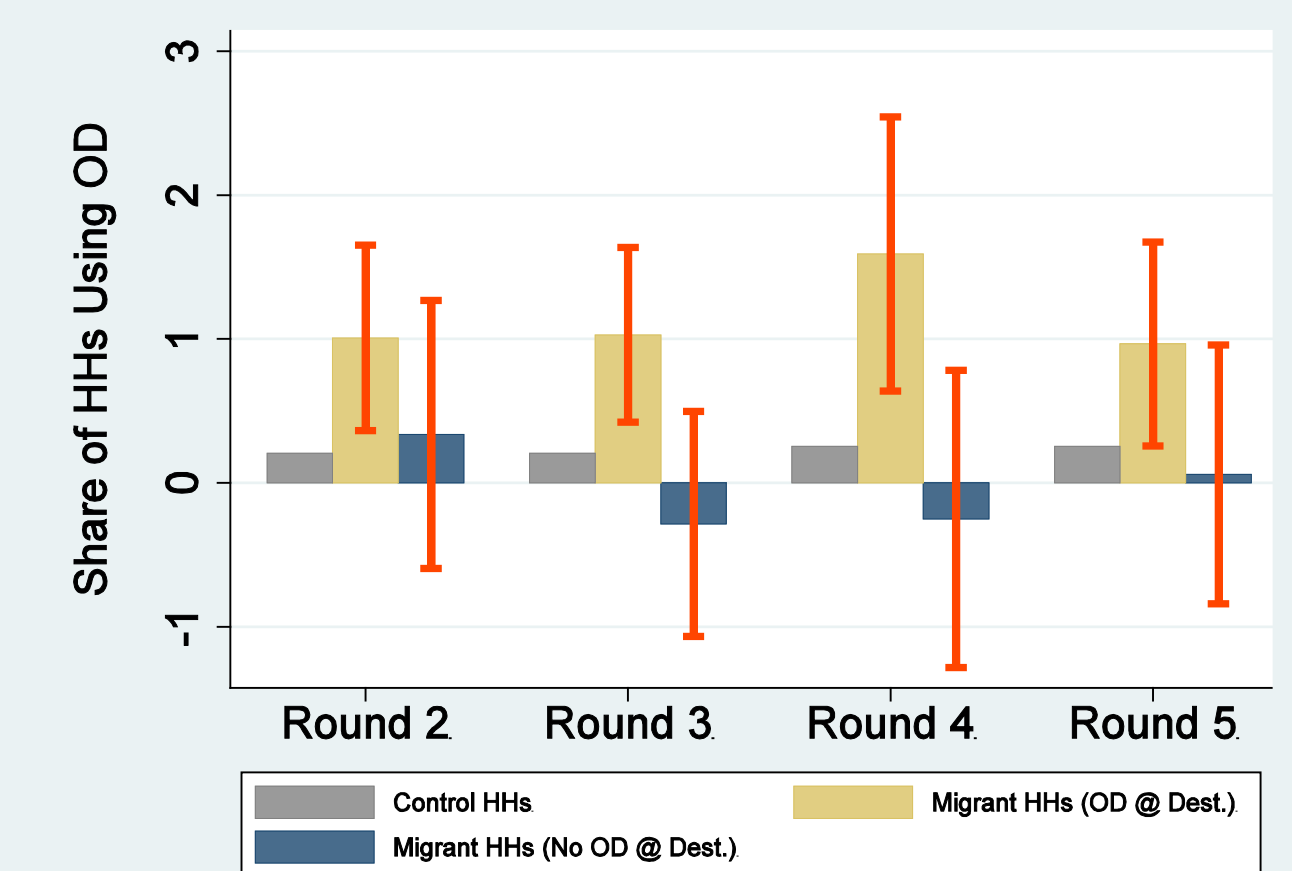


Figure 5 – This Increase in Adult OD at Home is Driven by Households with Individuals Induced to Migrate to High-OD Destinations (Smaller Towns)

(Point Estimates and 90% Confidence Intervals)