lecture 15
Gender Issues and Household Models

14.771, Fall 02
ONE STEP BACK: MISSING WOMEN

100 million missing women (Amartya Sen).

What is a “missing woman”?

Ratio: Number of females/Number of males in 1986

- Europe: 1.05
- Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): 1.022
- North Africa: 0.96
- South East Asia: 1
- China: 0.94
- Bangladesh: 0.94
- India: 0.93
- Pakistan: 0.91
A missing women is a woman who should be alive and is not.
Number of missing women = Current population *
Female/male ratio in SSA - Current number of women

Number of missing women in 1986 (millions):

- South East Asia: 2
- China: 44
- Bangladesh: 3.7
- India: 37
- Pakistan: 5.2
INFANTICIDE?

- Mortality at birth (between 0 and 11 months) in Punjab
  - Male: 51
  - Female: 43
  - Ratio: 1.18
- Child mortality at birth does not explain it.
- Ratio male/female mortality at other ages:
  - 1 to 11 months: 0.53
  - 12-23 months: 0.51
  - 24-59 months: 0.65
- Child mortality in early childhood is much higher for girls: they are being neglected.
- Child-rearing age (maternal mortality)
- Selective abortion?
NEGLECT: EVERYDAY OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

→ Very difficult to reliably evaluate what everybody eats.

→ Deaton’s idea: Does a girl bring about a smaller reduction in the consumption of adult goods (cigarettes, etc...) than a boy?

→ He estimates “\( \pi \)-ratio”: how much should you give to a household so that the consumption of (say) cigarette would be unchanged after the birth of the child.

\[
\phi = \frac{\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \cdot i}{\frac{\partial q}{\partial \xi} \cdot j}
\]

→ Does not find a systematic pattern.

→ This test does not indicate strong discrimination. Yet the basic fact that women die more than men remain true. Perhaps the consumption of cigarettes is poorly measured. Perhaps the discrimination does not occur in the amount of food they get but in more extreme circumstances, or in more subtle ways.
EXTREME OUTCOMES: CHILD SURVIVAL IN PERIODS OF DROUGHT

Extreme outcome for the child: Girls are less likely to be taken to the doctor or the hospital when sick.

Extreme outcome for the parents: Are girls more likely to die than boys when parents face a crisis (e.g. a drought).

Test: relative survival probability of girls and boys in rural India. Rose (1999)

Dependent variable:

$$\frac{P(\text{survival} \mid \text{girl})}{P(\text{survival} \mid \text{boy})}$$

Look at table in the handout (T. statistic in parentheses)

→ Does drought affect boys or girl’s survival more?

→ Why does she run the regression for the “no flood years”?

→ Why does she run it separately for landed and landless?