

Paternal Circular Migration and Development of Socio-Emotional Skills of Children Left Behind*

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Abstract

This study investigates the short-run effect of paternal absence due to circular migration on the socio-emotional skills of their children left behind. To address the endogeneity of the migration decision, and building on previous studies, this study focuses on children whose fathers have all engaged in circular migration. Furthermore, using quasi-exogenous variation in the timing of return migration induced by bilateral migration laws between Ukraine and Poland, I circumvent the bias related to the return migration decision. The findings of this study suggest that current paternal absence due to circular migration negatively affects the socio-emotional skills of children left behind. Overall, this result suggests that circular migration is not necessarily a "triple-win" solution that benefits all involved parties.

Keywords: circular migration, children left behind, perseverance skills, formation of socio-emotional skills

JEL codes: F22, O15, J24

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