



WTO-ILO Workshop to take stock of current research on global trade and employment

Workshop report:

Looking Forward: Priorities for Future
« Commissioned » Research



Repeat what others have done



There is room for country level empirical work on:

- (theme 1) Microlevel studies analysing the impact of services or material offshoring on workers' wages.
- (theme 2 and 3) Decomposing the different sources of wage inequalities, using LEEDs. Which methodology to use?
- (theme 3): empirical country level work on trade and inequality, for inequality measures others than wage inequality (Gini, quintiles, functional distribution).
- (theme 4) How do domestic policies affect the trade-informality nexus; what are the mechanisms through which trade opening affects informality.



Repeat what others have done



There is room for country level work on:

- (theme 5) Muendler-type of studies have also been done for the US. (Kletzer): can this be done for other countries.
- (theme 7) Can work done for India be repeated to understand better the “efficiency vs. equity” effects of different type of labour regulation.
- (theme 8) Explore channels through which trade, potential trade, offshoring, potential offshoring affect bargaining power



Need for better data on



- Employment by tasks (classification needed plus data sets) to analyse whether/how wage and employment effects of offshoring differ by tasks.
- Informality



Enhance our understanding of dynamics



- (theme 1) How does the adjustment to outsourcing take place ? How does it affect workers at the micro level ?
- (theme 2) it would be important to understand the dynamics of how firms navigate from small to large.
- (theme 5 and 6) Skill adjustment (training/adjusting) and export quality, export destination



Additional questions



Theme 5 and 4:

Do exports create formal jobs?:

- Muendler: exporters expand production with less employment
- Sinha: exporters shed labour that becomes informal (using firm level data?)

Theme 2 and 6:

Introducing multiple types of workers: could this be done empirically or are we talking about introducing this into models? If empirically, which level of disaggregation is available? Bluecollar vs white collar? 5 ISCED levels?



Additional questions



Theme 3:

- Services need to be included, in particular in the offshoring work. How can this be done? (could we link up to services network).

General question:

- in offshoring and other research themes: move from micro to macro results