

Abstract

The dissertation thesis titled *“Battle and Beating, Water and Waste: Micro-Level Impact Evaluation in Developing and Emerging Economies”* contains the findings of econometric impact evaluations conducted in two different areas of day-to-day life in developing and emerging economies: violence, and water.

Within the first of these areas, the analysis is centred on the behavioural response of people living in spatial vicinity of violent conflict. Getting granular on the impact of such exposure on the prevalence of domestic violence, the *first chapter* – joint work, written together with Dominik Noe – contributes to estimating a societal price-tag of warlike row; and its repercussions on interpersonal relationships and social behaviour towards family and friends. We postulate the theory that living in households in proximity to locations where incidents of extreme violence occur increases the probability of women living in these households to become victims of domestic violence. This theory is then tested using data from Colombia as a country where both rich data on incidence of violent clashes as well as of domestic violence is available. The *core finding* is that higher intensity of conflict increases the probability of women to be subject to domestic violence.

The second and third chapter of this dissertation are dedicated to the second area of interest, and within it specifically to matters of connection of households to piped water and improved sanitation. The *second chapter* – joint work, written together with Stephan Klasen, Tobias Lechtenfeld, and Kristina Meier – studies the impacts of connection of households to piped water and improved sewerage on health, and school and workplace attendance. It contributes to the presently still manageable array of impact evaluations in the water and sanitation sector, and to the authors’ knowledge is the first rigorous one in the urban environment. Quasi-experimental methods and water quality tests in presence of variation of infrastructure proliferation allow identifying these impacts separately for mere connection to piped water, and for additional connection to improved sewerage. The *core finding* is that connection to piped water in the Yemenite towns can do harm when water supply is intermittent, and does not change much in presence of reliable one compared to traditional and alternative solutions of water supply. Anyhow, connection to improved sewerage comes with health benefits when water supply is reliable.

It can be frequently observed that piped water, after having been purified at treatment plants and supplied germfree, gets re-contaminated within households. Conducting water quality testing at different points of the intra-household supply chain allows answering *where* and often also *how* the pollution takes place. The lion’s share of this deterioration of water quality is linked to behavioural aspects of water handling and hygiene rather than to constructional features. The single-authored *third chapter* builds upon the second; and addresses the question which conditions are the drivers behind behavioural aspects that prevent recontamination of drinking water. Here the determinants of intra-household behaviour regarding water handling and hygiene are scrutinized, and squared with the findings of the second chapter. The *core finding* is that hygiene training, access to information and communication technology, and school education are among the relevant controllable determinants of water handling and hygiene behaviour. Connection to piped water and improved sewerage – which typically can be widened out only in the medium to long term – is fostering desirable behaviour as well, albeit to a lesser extent, and with the effect of the former exceeding that of the latter.