

Publication of Summary of Dissertation Contents and Summary of Dissertation Screening Results

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Name	ALHASSAN Usman		Degree No.	Dr. A No. 1705
Degree Type	Doctor of Philosophy	Date of Award	September 25, 2023	
Requirements for Degree Conferral	Persons who comply to the Ritsumeikan University Degree Regulations Article 18 Section 1 【Degree Regulations Article 4 Section 1】			
Title of Dissertation	An Assessment of the Conditional Impact of Remittances on Formal Entrepreneurship, Poverty, and Income Inequality in Developing Countries (発展途上国における移民送金が正規の起業家、貧困、所得不平等に及ぼす条件付き影響の評価について)			
Examiners (Affiliation)	(Chief Examiner) MASWANA Jean-Claude (Professor, College of Economics Ritsumeikan University)		KAKINAKA Makoto (Professor, College of Economics Ritsumeikan University)	
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Summary of Dissertation Contents	<p>The dissertation focuses on the impact of international remittances on entrepreneurship, poverty, and income inequality in developing countries, conditional on e-government development, financial development, and labor supply decisions among remittance recipients, based on macroeconomic and survey data. Moreover, the dissertation is structured around three papers; all of which have been published or accepted for publication. In the first paper, the conditional effect of remittances on entrepreneurship development, focusing on the moderating role of e-government and the viability of financial development, using a panel Feasible Generalized Least Squares (FGLS) and the Driscoll–Kraay estimation techniques with biennial data from 2007 to 2019. The second paper empirically analyzes the role of remittances in reducing poverty and income inequality conditional on e-government development and financial inclusion, using a sample of 98 developing countries from 2003 to 2018 and applying the robust fixed effect and the two-stage fixed effect estimators. The third paper researches the relationship among international remittances, labor supply, and household entrepreneurship in Nigeria. In addition to the above papers, the thesis also includes an analysis of the impact of differences in educational levels on income distribution. Thus, the thesis examines the impact of remittances on entrepreneurship, poverty, and income inequality in developing countries, considering the mediating role of e-government and financial inclusion, presenting a unified analysis.</p>			
Summary of Dissertation Screening Results	<p>The dissertation evaluation focuses on (a) the relevance and comprehensiveness of the literature, (b) the appropriateness of the theoretical analysis and methodology, and (c) the significance and originality of the findings. First, on the review of the literature, three primary areas have been examined. To start, the structuralist view sees migration and remittances as promoting brain drain, remittance dependency, and inequality within communities. Next, the new economics of labor migration (NELM) theory, which emerged in the 1980s, argues that migration and remittances were a household strategy to diversify income and manage risk. Moreover, recent cross-country studies point out that remittances may facilitate formal entrepreneurship development, but certain conditions in migrant-sending and host countries may influence their effectiveness. Despite the inclusion of various constraints in the remittances-welfare nexus in the previous literature, the role of the government as a potential channel for reducing transaction costs for migrants has been ignored. This gap has been highlighted and filled in the dissertation. Second, the theoretical analysis has been sufficiently conducted, taking both</p>			

	<p>microeconomic and macroeconomic determinants and welfare effects of international remittances. At the microeconomic level, the various motivations to remit have been discussed. A mixture of individualistic and familial motives explains the likelihood and size of remittances. At the macroeconomic level, the standard Keynesian argument, and the trade-theoretic literature on the short-run impact of remittances have been discussed in connection to employment, poverty reduction, and income inequality.</p> <p>Furthermore, empirical-wise, the use of panel Feasible Generalized Least Squares (FGLS) and the Driscoll-Kraay estimation techniques are appropriate for analyzing the welfare effects of international capital flows. These techniques help to control for unobserved heterogeneity, time-invariant factors, and serial correlation in the panel data, thereby reducing the likelihood of spurious results. Third, the findings indicate that international remittances can be an effective means of financing development in developing countries, conditional on e-government development, financial development, and labor supply decisions among remittance recipients. Furthermore, the study provides evidence of an occupational shift from agriculture to non-agricultural employment opportunities in Nigeria, resulting in entrepreneurship development, particularly in the informal sector. Overall, the study provides a consistent and coherent argument regarding the impact of international remittances on entrepreneurship, poverty, and income inequality in developing countries.</p> <p>There are several limitations worth considering in the dissertation. Firstly, the chosen indicator for e-government, the "e-government development index" computed by the United Nations, appears to be overly broad. Additionally, the exclusion of cryptocurrency adoption as a remittance transfer method within the financial institutions and channels studied represents another limitation. Lastly, the dissertation focuses exclusively on the financial aspect of remittances, overlooking the emerging evidence that migrants, particularly transnational entrepreneurs, also engage in non-financial remittances. Nevertheless, these limitations have not affected the contribution of the dissertation to the remittance literature.</p> <p>Importantly, the dissertation has produced some original empirical findings mainly in the following two points compared to previous studies. One is that contrary to the mainstream view that consider the positive development effects of remittances on entrepreneurship, poverty, and income inequality as attainable without the role of State, empirical evidence of the dissertation validates the presence of the State via e-government architectures. The latter, combined with the domestic financial system, is seen as essential for mobilizing savings from migrants and routing them to development targets such as entrepreneurships or job creation. Interestingly, contrary to most studies on remittances that assume occupational state to remain unaffected by remittance inflows, the dissertation provides evidence of an occupational shift from agriculture to non-agricultural employment opportunities in Nigeria, resulting in entrepreneurship development, particularly in the informal sector. This shift has been facilitated by remittances, which have played an essential role in financing the start-up and expansion of small and medium-scale nonfarm enterprises.</p> <p>Following the degree applicant's presentation of the outline of his dissertation, the screening committee proceeded with the dissertation defense examination. Following the examination, all members of the screening committee unanimously agreed that the dissertation fulfilled the evaluation criteria for a doctoral thesis and was deserving of the conferral of a doctoral degree.</p>
<p>Summary of Examination Results or confirmation of Academic Skills</p>	<p>The dissertation defense examination was held from 10:40 to 12:10, Friday, June 23, 2023, at the Biwako Kusatsu Campus AWIF Across Lounge With the deputy examiners, through the defense examination, we confirmed that the degree applicant has the required knowledge and has displayed adequate skills for the doctoral degree. Therefore, the screening committee hereby verifies that the degree applicant meets requirements based on the Ritsumeikan University Degree Regulations, Article 18, Paragraph 1, and is suitable for the conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Economics from the School of Economics, Ritsumeikan University.</p>