The World Bank, Women, Business and the Law*

The Need for better checking of Data

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First sentence. Second sentence. Third sentence. Fourth sentence.

1 Introduction

Despite the many decades' worth of progress in gender equality throughout the world, one of the enduring types of gender discrimination worldwide is in the eyes of the law. Though much progress has been made in western, high-income countries, there remains vast swaths of the world where women may not vote, work, or participate in the same activities as men do, due to the presence of gendered laws. To trace the progression of economic opportunities of women in the world's 190 countries, the World Bank constructed their "Women, Business, and the Law" (WBL) dataset, which Hyland et. al make of primary interest in their paper "Gendered Laws and Women in the Workforce". In Sections 2 and 3, we analyze and replicate some of the key graphs and insights from their paper. Building on their work in Sections 4 and 5, we call into question the data collection methods of the World Bank, finding data from Statistics Canada that conflict with the data [or whatever Sehar finds], outlining the importance that accurate data have in being able to fully understand the complex picture of women and the law throughout the world.

2 Data

Hyland et al.'s original paper primarily makes use of the 'Women, Business, and the Law' dataset (WBL) from the World Bank, along with some others to help compare and contextualize the data. In our replication, however, we will be focusing on aspects of this dataset only.

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*Code and data are available at: https://github.com/lcarnegie/replicationpaper.

2.1 Source

The Women, Business, and the Law dataset is organized across thirty-five aspects of the law, which are scored across eight indicators of four or five binary questions. Each indicator represents a different phase of a woman's career: Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension. Answers to the binary questions were sourced, pro-bono, from respondents with expertise in laws on family, labor and violence against women. It not clear where in their countries' legal systems the respondents were when they were polled. The indicators are as follows:

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Mobility: Examines constraints on women's freedom of movement.
Workplace: Analyzes laws affecting a woman's decision to work
Pay: Measures laws and regulations affecting a woman's pay
Marriage: Assesses constraints related to marriage
Parenthood: Examines laws that affect women's work after having children
Entrepreneurship: Assesses constraints to women starting and running a business
Assets: covers property ownership rights, inheritance rights (both for children and surviving
Pension: captures the equalization of retirement ages (with full and partial benefits as well

Indicator-level scores are obtained by calculating the unweighted average of the questions w


Figures 1A, 1B, and 2 were replicated from the original paper.


Figure 1A shows the average unweighted aggregate WBL index score in 2019, compared across reg

Figure 1B breaks down aggregate index for 2019 into it's constituent indicators and shows the
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Figure 2 shows the progression of the aggregate WBL index over time, broken down by region. As expected, high-income countries dominate in index score, but interestingly Latin American women enjoyed more rights than even European/Central Asian women between 1995-2000. Employment rights for women in Sub-Saharan Africa have also seen the most growth since tracking began in 1971. ## Methodology {#subsec2-data}

3 Results

4 Discussion

4.1 First discussion point

4.2 Second discussion point

4.3 Third discussion point

4.4 Weaknesses and next steps