AGE OF MARRIAGE, WEATHER SHOCKS, AND THE DIRECTION OF MARRIAGE PAYMENTS

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Motivation

- 700 Million women alive today were married before age of 18
- Especially common in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 56% of women in South Asia
  - 42% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Early marriage associated with a wide range of adverse outcomes for women and their offspring including:
  - higher rates of domestic violence
  - harmful effects on maternal, newborn, and infant health
  - reduced sexual and reproductive autonomy
  - lower literacy and educational attainment

Research Question

- Do aggregate Economic forces influence marriage decisions?
- In particular, do aggregate shocks affect rates of child marriage?
- In what direction?
  - Dowry vs. Brideweath (Brideprice)

This Paper

- Builds an equilibrium model of child marriage incorporating income shocks
- Matches drought data and survey data to test what [if any] effect a drought has on marriage decision
- Finds:
  - Africa: droughts increase the probability of child marriage
  - India: droughts decrease probability

Optimal Stopping Problem

My Work

- More detailed subset of the paper in Tanzania
- Finite horizon VFI, Optimal Stopping Probelm
    1. No savings decision
    2. When to sell your daughter?
- **Answer:** Using brideweath as consumption smoothing technique to smooth consumption when facing low-income shock.
- **Policy Counterfactual:** If allow savings? Marriage age goes up because want to accrue more of the benefit daughter provides to home.