

WAGE GAPS IN AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING, AND SERVICES SECTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

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Wage gaps had increased substantially in the Philippines. Despite researches dating back two decades, empirical evidence remains mixed as to the degree of wage gap between sectors and within sectors. The study aimed to explore if there is such an existing wage gaps within and between the three economic sectors in the Philippines by gender and education. This study was conducted: (a) To assess the composition of workers in agriculture, manufacturing, and services sector by gender and education; (b) describe the distribution and variation of daily wage across workers in the three sectors; (c) examine the wage gap of different groups of workers within the three sectors by education and gender; (d) calculate the wage gap of different groups of workers between agriculture and manufacturing, manufacturing and services, and agriculture and services by education and gender; and (e) measure the wage gaps among groups of workers within and between the sectors.

The October 2011 Labor Force Survey (LFS) was used in estimating the daily wages of workers in agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors by gender and education. Descriptive statistics were used measure mean wages, standard deviations and coefficients of variation; quantile regression was employed



in comparing and estimating certain wage gaps within and between the sectors. Quantile regression allowed for a better understanding of wage gaps along the wage distribution of workers in the agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors.

The results were found to be consistent with the dominant views of literatures. That is, wage gaps exist within and between all three sectors with gender and education levels. In the gender category, results showed that males were earning relatively higher wages compared to their female counterparts. By education, workers who took college education earned relatively higher wages compared to the ones who finished high school and elementary education. The results of the data within and between the sectors have furthermore shown that, generally, services sector is the highest wage earner by gender and of education, followed by the manufacturing sector, while the agriculture sector earned the lowest wage.

Generally, the findings suggest that support for antidiscrimination especially for female workers in the lower quantiles of the wage distribution as well as government's support for education may narrow certain wage gaps between genders and educational levels.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pag	ge
TITLE PAGE.	i
APPROVAL SHEET i	ii
BIOGRAI IIICAL SKLI CII	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT i	v
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS v	⁄ii
LIST OF TABLES	X
LIST OF FIGURES xv	vii
LIST OF APPENDIXES xv	viii
INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Froblem	4
Objectives of the Study	5
Hypotheses of the Study	6
Significance of the Study	6
Scope and Limitations of the Study	7
Definition of Terms	8
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	0
Wage Gaps in the Manufacturing Sector	1
Wage Gaps in the Services Sector	17



	Wage Gaps in the Agriculture Sector	18
	Sources of Wage Gaps	20
	Studies on Quantile Regression	26
FRA	MEWORKS OF THE STUDY	28
	Theoretical Framework	28
	Conceptual Framework	29
MET	THODOLOGY	32
	Research Design	32
	Sources of Data	32
	Methods of Analysis	32
RES	ULTS AND DISCUSSION	35
	Composition of Workers in Agriculture, Manufacturing, And Services Sectors	35
	Distribution and Variation of Daily Wages Across Workers in The Three Sectors	37
	The Distribution and Variation of Daily Wages of Workers Between the Three Sectors	52
	Wage Gaps by Gender and Education	76
	Wage Gaps among Workers Within and Between Agriculture, Manufacturing, and	80
	Services Sectors	
SUM	MMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	116
	Summary	116
	Conclusions	120



Recommendations	121
REFERENCES	123
APPENDIXES	127





Table		Page
1	Total Number of Workers in Agriculture, Manufacturing and Services Sectors, Philippines, 2011	36
2	Total Number of Male and Female in Agriculture, Manufacturing and Services Sectors, Philippines, 2011	36
3	Total Number of Workers by Educational Attainment In Agriculture, Manufacturing and Services Sectors, Philippines, 2011	37
4	Wage Gaps by Gender in Agriculture Sector, Philippines, 2011	38
5	Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Agriculture Sector, Philippines, 2011	40
6	Wage Gaps by High School and College Education In Agriculture Sector, Philippines, 2011	41
7	Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education In Agriculture Sector, Philippines, 2011	43
8	Wage Gaps by Gender in Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	44
9	Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	46
10	Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	47



Table		Page
11	Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	48
12	Wage Gaps by Gender in Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	50
13	Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	51
14	Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	53
15	Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	54
16	Wage Gaps in the Male Gender between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	55
17	Wage Gaps in the Female Gender between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	57
18	Wage Gaps in Elementary Education between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	58
19	Wage Gaps in High School Education between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	59



Table		Page
20	Wage Gaps in College Education between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector, Philippines, 2011	61
21	Wage Gaps in Male Gender between Manufacturing and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	62
22	Wage Gaps in Female Gender between Manufacturing and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	63
23	Wage Gaps in Elementary Education between Manufacturing and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	65
24	Philippines, 2011 Wage Gaps in High School Education between Manufacturing and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	66
25	Wage Gaps in College Education between Manufacturing and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	68
26	Wage Gaps in the Male Gender between Agriculture and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	69
27	Wage Gaps in the Female Gender between Agriculture and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	70
28	Wage Gaps in Elementary Education between Agriculture and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	73



Table		Page
29	Wage Gaps in High School Education between Agriculture and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	74
30	Wage Gaps in College Education between Agriculture and Services Sector, Philippines, 2011	75
31	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Gender in Agriculture Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 81
32	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Agriculture Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	82
33	Comparison of Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Agriculture Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 83
34	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Agriculture Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 85
35	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Gender in Manufacturing Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 86
36	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	87



Table		Page
37	Comparison of Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 89
38	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 90
39	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Gender in Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 91
40	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011.	. 92
41	Comparison of Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 94
42	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011.	. 95
43	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Male Gender between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 96
44	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Female Gender between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 98



Table		Page
45	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Elementary Education Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 99
46	Comparison of Wage Gaps in High School Education Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 100
47	Comparison of Wage Gaps in College Education between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	102
48	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Male Gender between Manufacturing and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	103
49	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Female Gender between Manufacturing and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 104
50	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Elementary Education Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	. 106
51	Comparison of Wage Gaps in High School Education Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	107
52	Comparison of Wage Gaps in College Education between Manufacturing and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	109



Table	Pag	зe
53	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Male Gender between Agriculture and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	0
54	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Female Gender Between Agriculture and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	1
55	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Elementary Education Between Agriculture and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	2
56	Comparison of Wage Gaps in High School Education Between Agriculture and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	4
57	Comparison of Wage Gaps in College Education Between Agriculture and Services Sector using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	5



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	A framework showing the determinants of wage gaps within and between the three economic sectors: Agriculture, manufacturing, and services	31
2	Total log mean wages within and between the three sectors in terms of gender, Philippines, 2011	76
3	Total log mean wages within and between sectors in terms of educational attainment, Philippines, 2011	78



Table	Pag	e
1	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Gender in Agriculture Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	8
2	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Agriculture Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	9
3	Comparison of Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Agriculture Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	0
4	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Agriculture Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	1
5	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Gender in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	2
6	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	3
7	Comparison of Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	4
8	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	5
9	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Gender in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression, in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	6



Table		Page
10	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and High School Education in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	137
11	Comparison of Wage Gaps by High School and College Education in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	138
12	Comparison of Wage Gaps by Elementary and College Education in Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	139
13	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Male Gender Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	140
14	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Female Gender Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	141
15	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Elementary Education Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression, Philippines, 2011	142
16	Comparison of Wage Gaps in High School Education Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	143
17	Comparison of Wage Gaps in College Education Between Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	144



Table		Page
18	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Male Gender Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	145
19	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Female Gender Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	. 146
20	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Elementary Education Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	. 147
21	Comparison of Wage Gaps in High School Education Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011.	148
22	Comparison of Wage Gaps in College Education Between Manufacturing and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	. 149
23	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Male Gender Between Agriculture and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	. 150
24	Comparison of Wage Gaps in the Female Gender Between Agriculture and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	. 151
25	Comparison of Wage Gaps in Elementary Education Between Agriculture and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	. 152



Table		Page
26	Comparison of Wage Gaps in High School Education Between Agriculture and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011.	153
27	Comparison of Wage Gaps in College Education Between Agriculture and Services Sector Using Quantile Regression in Actual Wages, Philippines, 2011	154