

The effect of relative deprivation on Mexican migration focusing on NAFTA

共生基盤学 共生農業資源経済学講座 開発経済学 樋田翔吾

1. Introduction

Many models have been developed like neoclassical model and network theory to analyze migration. While network theory has attracted much attention, new economics of labor migration has not been used very much to explain Mexico-US migration. This migration theory has several aspects and I focus one of them called relative deprivation. The main focus goes to the effect of NAFTA, which changed economic structure of Mexico, on migration theory of relative deprivation. I also analyze the differences between relative deprivation effects on rural and urban area because they have different characteristics in terms of migration decision.

2. Method

I used logit model to estimate the effect of relative deprivation on Mexican migration to U.S. focusing on NAFTA with the dataset from Mexican Migration Project. Community average was used as a reference point of relative deprivation because this dataset has been collected with a unit of community. Dependent variable is migration decision of going to U.S. Independent variables include individual, household and community characteristics with dummy variables indicating the effect regarding NAFTA and rural-urban context.

3. Results

The results indicate that NAFTA has both of positive and negative effects on migration depending on which kind of relative deprivation. It has positive effects on durable and vehicle deprivation which decrease original negative effects. This means that other things being equal, the probability that poor people who do not own durables or vehicles migrate became higher than before NAFTA. On the other hand, it has negative effects on housing quality and agricultural machine deprivation.

4. Conclusion

I showed some evidence to support hypothesis of relative deprivation effect on migration by NAFTA. Mexican migration policies should be made with considering the effects I showed so that they lead development of the country and reduce social inequality.