

What do we know about the impact of microinsurance?

Ralf Radermacher

What is impact?

- Change of economic or social parameters of insured clients or their households or communities
- Attributed to insurance

The problem with assessing impact in microinsurance

- Finding comparable groups
 - Selection bias: not necessarily offered to all
 - Self-selection bias: some to whom offered do not take it
- Attributing the impact to insurance
- Enabling learning: Understanding the context
- (Publication bias)

- Some 30+ studies have been conducted so far on the impact of microinsurance
- All, apart from 2, focus on health insurance
- Geographical focus is Africa and Asia
- Within these continents most on Rwanda, Dem. Republic of Congo, India

- Most studies use administrative data
- Many generate primary quantitative data
- Only few studies which passed a quality check used qualitative data (many addtl. to admin or quanti data)

- Most studies have a problem with (self-) selection bias
- Only a handful studies adjust for it through quantitative techniques
- Main analytical tool for admin and quantitative data is descriptive statistics (not controlling for self-selection bias)

- Two research foci dominate by far: financial protection and utilization of health care
- Related to the latter, some look into equity and maternal care
- “Exotic” topics were “increase in asset base” and “impact on social network”

- Many different outcome measures have been applied
- Not all are comparable
- Most evidence found on impact of insurance on health care utilization
- Evidence on reduction of out of pocket spending is much weaker

- Focus of impact research still very narrow
- Evidence is still weak
- Studies suffer from methodological problems
- Studies answer “whether impact”, hardly “why”



.micro .insurance .academy

**Thank you very much for your
attention**



ralf@mia.org.in

www.microinsuranceacademy.org