

International migration can transfer preferences across national borders. This transfer of preferences can shift tastes in a manner that influences household decisions, such as choice of school for the children of the household. Households may choose to send their children to religious schools due to an alteration of religiosity through a transfer of preferences driven by international migration. I investigate whether Bangladeshi households with migrants in Muslim majority countries are more likely to send at least one child to a madrassa, i.e., an Islamic school for children. Both the number of madrassas and madrassa enrollment are increasing in Bangladesh despite lower expected labor market outcomes of madrassa schooling. Using the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2010 data and an instrumental variable approach, I find that a household sending a migrant in a Muslim majority country is more likely to send at least one child to a madrassa. Results show that the probability of a household sending at least one child to a madrassa doubles when the household has at least one migrant abroad. I also find that boys are more likely to be sent to a madrassa than girls. The increase in madrassa schooling is not part of general increase in schooling, rather there is switching away from secular non-madrassa schools to madrassas. This indicates a migration induced transfer of norm that changes preference in the host country.