

THE HEALTH COSTS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION: EVIDENCE FROM CHINESE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

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Against the background of accelerating population aging and the gradual passing of the demographic dividend, health capital has become more and more important. Therefore, clarifying the relationship between trade liberalization and health capital is of great practical significance for the continued deepening of socio-economic development and reform and the promotion of trade development in the future. We try to provide research ideas for developing countries on the topic of the health costs of trade liberalization based on the perspectives of adults and children.

Keywords: health capital; trade liberalization; adults; children.

ИЗДЕРЖКИ ЛИБЕРАЛИЗАЦИИ ТОРГОВЛИ ДЛЯ ЗДОРОВЬЯ: ДАННЫЕ НА ПРИМЕРЕ КИТАЙСКИХ ВЗРОСЛЫХ И ДЕТЕЙ

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На фоне ускоряющегося старения населения и постепенной потери демографического дивиденда капитал здоровья приобретает все большее значение. Поэтому прояснение взаимосвязи между либерализацией торговли и капиталом здоровья имеет большое практическое значение для дальнейшего углубления социально-экономического развития и реформ и содействия развитию торговли в будущем. Мы пытаемся предложить развивающимся странам идеи для исследований на тему издержек либерализации торговли для здоровья, основываясь на взглядах взрослых и детей.

Ключевые слова: здоровый человеческий капитал; либерализация торговли; взрослые; дети.

Introduction

Healthy human capital is the driving force and source of sustainable development of nations and societies, and it is an important social issue of great concern to governments around the world. Along with the development of globalization, trade between countries around the world has become more and more intensive, and the expansion of trade, while improving the living standards of residents, has also brought certain effects on their health ^[1]. Along with the continuous development of trade liberalization, globalization has brought not only food, medicine, employment and income to the

region, but also environmental pollution, diseases, etc. ^[2]. Therefore, in order to improve national health and promote sustainable social and economic development, it is important to clarify the relationship between trade and population health.

Over the past 40 years since the reform and opening up, especially after the accession to WTO, China's import and export trade volume has been increasing and trade liberalization has made great achievements. At the same time, the health problems of Chinese residents have become increasingly prominent. In 2015, the rates of hypertension and obesity among adults aged 18 and above in China were 25.2 % and 11.9 % respectively, up 6.4 and 4.8 percentage points respectively compared to 2002. Besides, in 2012, the proportion of adults with a healthy BMI within the normal range was 52 %.

Per capita intake of salt, cooking oil and sugar in 2012

Category	Standards of World Health Organization	Adults in China
Per capita daily intake of salt (g)	≤ 5	10.5
Per capita daily intake of edible oil(g)	25~30	42.1
Per capita daily intake of added sugar (g)	≤ 25	30

Compiled according to EPS China Data [3].

At the same time, we used data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey from 2000 to 2011 to collate the prevalence of adult morbidity in China and found that despite a slight decrease in 2006, it is clear that adult morbidity has been on the rise since WTO accession in 2000.

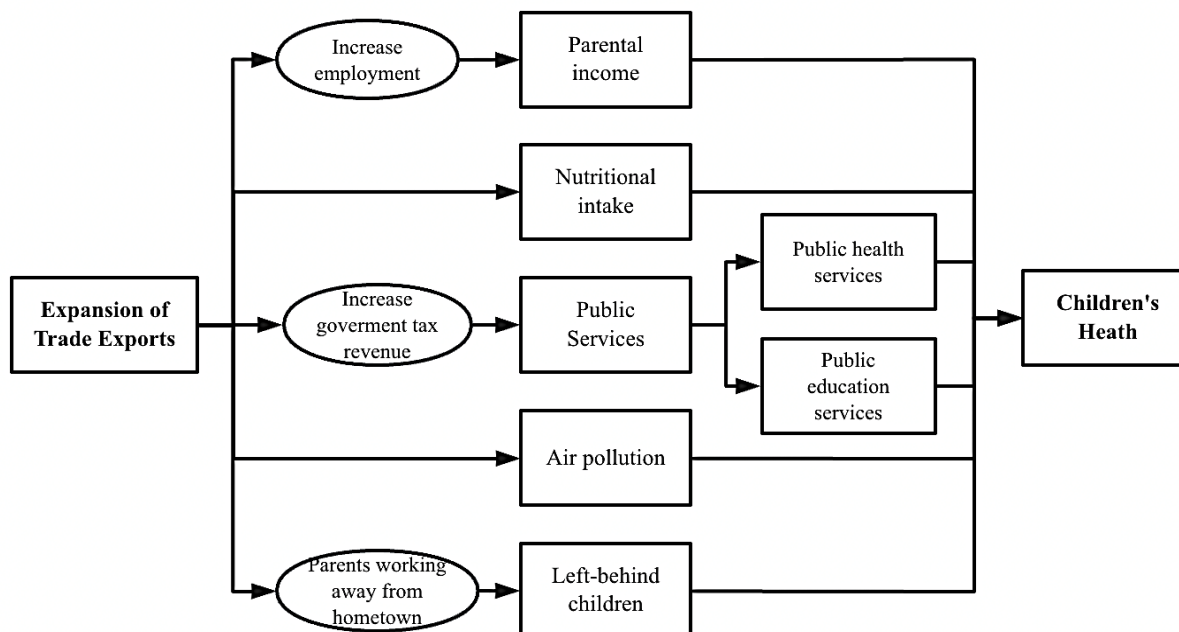
Data and methods

The research data include several aspects: firstly, the micro-level individual health data, we mainly use the China Health and Nutrition Survey data in 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2011; secondly, the trade data mainly use the data from UN comtrade. The third part of the data is used to match the regional working population by industry using the China Population Survey data, and this is used to construct the key variable of this paper-trade export shocks. We use Bartic IV for different groups of adults and children to construct export shocks.

For adults and children, we use different research paths for the analysis. In particular, for the adult group, we focus on the labor market perspective and explore the mediating mechanisms of export shocks on adults' health from four perspectives: work intensity, employment rate, regular income, and the rate of job transition.

Regarding the sample of children, our study is based on five main perspectives, including: parental income, nutritional intake, public services, air pollution and left-behind children. First, export shocks stimulate labor market dynamics to bring more Second, export expansion leads to lower prices of goods and lower cost of nutritional intake for children, which in turn affects children's health.

At the same time, the impact of export shocks on the labor market not only raises the income of the population, but also, to a certain extent, makes the labor force move to more economically active areas, which in turn increases the number of children left behind. It should not be overlooked that the increasing expansion of exports has not only stimulated economic growth in exporting regions, but also environmental pollution, which undoubtedly affects children's health (see figure for details).



Pathways of the impact of export expansion on children's health

Conclusions

With the development of globalization and the acceleration of population aging, the health problems of adult and child groups need further attention. In this paper, we analyzed the pathways from the perspectives of adults and children, including work intensity, employment rate, regular income, the rate of job transition for adults and parental income for children. The study also includes five perspectives on children: parental income, nutritional intake, public services, air pollution and left-behind children. This paper provides a path of inquiry into the health costs of trade exports as a new research direction from the adult and child populations in developing countries.

References

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