# Integration in the Global Value Chain and the Gender Employment Gap: Case of China

Topic:
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The gender gap is a phenomenon that transcends the majority of the worldâ€™s cultures, religions and income groups. Despite the great importance attached, the most recent â€œGlobal Gender Gap Report 2023â€• released by World Economic Forum (WEF, 2023) shows that at the current rate of progress, it will take 131 years to reach full parity, which represents a more than 30-year deterioration compared to the 2020 estimate (~100 years to parity). In this paper, we selected China as a case to explore the relationships among the integration in the global value chain and the gender employment gap, as China has witnessed a widening gender employment gap (GEG) by 9.64% in the past two decades 2000-2020, indicated by the labor force participation rate (LFP) of male minus LFP of female. More specifically, we distinguish domestic demand and different types of Global Value Chain (GVC) -- related demand under the inter-country input-output framework, and propose a new gender gap decomposition model to explore the evolution of GEG of China from demand-side perspective. Our empirical results suggest that GVC-related activities only contributed to the widening of GEG in China by less than 0.60% between 2000 and 2020. In contrast, increasing gender discrimination toward female and technological progress with a rapid decrease in employment when producing the same amount of output in most female-intensive sectors are the dominant reasons behind the widening GEG of China. Our case analysis of China suggests that the stimulations of the LFP of female both on the sides of employers and employees are eagerly required to reduce gender gap worldwide.