Women’s Empowerment
Rural Roads Investments in Nicaragua
SDG 5: Gender equality and women’s empowerment
One key source of inequality

Way women are expected to spend their time:

At all level of incomes, women do the majority of housework and care and, correspondingly, spend less time in market work (Duflo, 2012)
Household decisions

- Income
- Culturally defined gender attitudes
- Women’s decision-making power

Household chores
Responsibility for child care
Improved Rural Roads

Reduced travel time and costs...

- TO production and other facilities
- TO labor markets
- FROM economic centers
What does this have to do with SDG 5?

Literature discusses effects on...

• women’s income generation opportunities
• social gender norms

(Khandker et al., 2009; Mu and van de Walle, 2011; Tacoli and Satterthwaite, 2013)
1. Change in income generation opportunities

a. Connect women to input and output markets
1. Change in income generation opportunities

b. Connect women to labor markets
1. Change in income generation opportunities

bad road conditions vs. good road conditions

c. Stimulate a more diversified local economy
2. Change in culturally defined gender attributes

Exposure to urban views on the role of women in everyday live
What about *Women’s Empowerment*?

- Own Income
- Favorable Gender Attitudes
- Changes in time use
- Improved decision-making power
What about Women’s Empowerment?

Own Income

Favorable Gender Attitudes

Consumption of female-oriented durables

Investments in women’s...
• education
• health
• businesses

Respectful behavior of family members...
• fertility
• well-being

Improved decision-making power and control over household resources

Own Income

Favorable Gender Attitudes
Filling the evidence gap

Nice theory of change

Yet, rigorous evidence mostly missing

Possible entry points for complementary interventions

Much work ahead of us!
Thank you!
References


