

# Poverty and Gender in Latin America

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## Abstract

Even if assumptions of the traditional income poverty measure -full income pooling and equal resource allocation- have strong implications and are not confirmed by the evidence, this measure is still widely used in gender poverty analysis. Alternative measures of poverty are scarcely considered, and not much is known about the gender bias introduced by this traditional measure. In this paper, we present different poverty measures at the individual and household levels and compare their results to that from traditional poverty measure, analyzing the potential extent of misclassification. Our analysis is based on household surveys for 16 Latin American countries (circa 2016). Our results indicate that departing from the conventional methodology has much more influence on women than men, worsening female indicators. Households emerge as crucial venues for income support for low income partnered women and for women with no access to any income. This last group still represents around a quarter of Latin American women, whose autonomy is seriously compromised due to this fact.

Keywords: income poverty, gender, Latin America

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