

EconWorld2017@Rome

Gender Gap in Smoking: A Decomposition Analysis for Turkey

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ABSTRACT

Turkey signed the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2004 and implemented 2008-2012 National Tobacco Control Action Plan (NTCAP) in order to reduce the smoking rates. This paper aims (1) to decompose the gender gap in smoking into differences in observable characteristics and regression coefficients and (2) to compare the changes in the determinants of and their contributions to the smoking differential between years 2008 and 2012. We apply the extended Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition for nonlinear regression models using the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data. We find that the percentage of the smoking differential explained is sensitive to the choice of the reference coefficients and increases from 2008 (14%) to 2012 (26%) with the same set of variables using male coefficients. Moreover, an inclusion of attitude toward tobacco law and tax variables increases the percentage of the explained differential up to 44.5% in 2012 when females and males differ only with respect to the differences in the observed characteristics. Results show that females and males respond differently to the changes in the factors of smoking. In addition, decomposition analysis reveals that contributions of the significant factors associated with gender gap in smoking differ between 2008 and 2012.

KEYWORDS Gender Differences; Smoking; Blinder-Oaxaca Decomposition

JEL C21, I1, I12