

Assessing the Impact of Wage Compensation Scheme on Return-to-Work Timing and Exclusive Breastfeeding Practices in tea-garden areas of Assam

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• **Objective:**

- Assesses the scheme's impact on return-to-work timing and exclusive breastfeeding practices, aiming to highlight its role in improving maternal health outcomes.

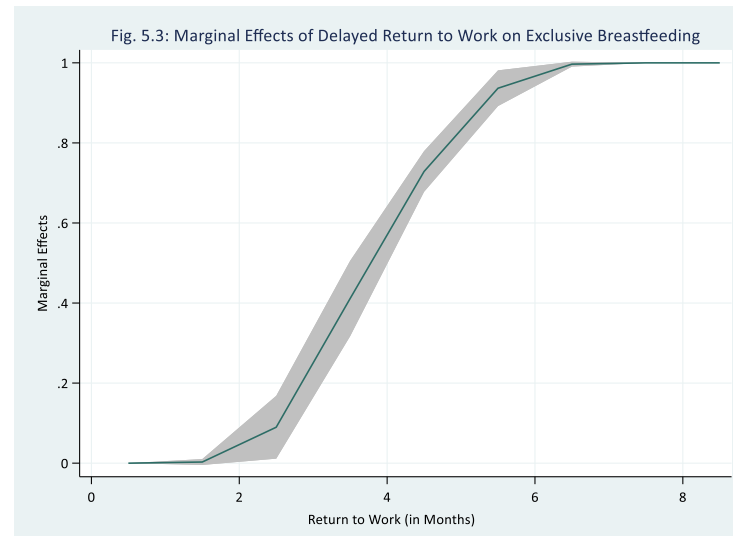
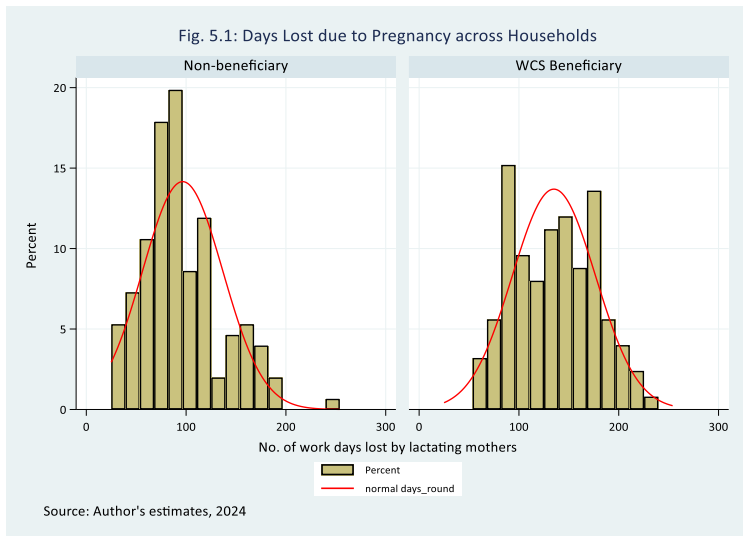
• **WCS:** INR 12000 in 4 installments

• **Data:** Primary Survey (500)

• **Empirical Method:** Probit and PSM Models

| Exclusive Breastfeeding | Probit 1 | Probit 2 | Probit 3 | Probit 4 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Return to work | 0.171*** (0.005) | 0.142*** (0.011) | 0.144*** (0.011) | 0.123*** (0.014) |
| Received Counselling on Breastfeeding | | | | 0.155*** (0.023) |
| Child Covariates | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| LMs Covariates | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Household Covariates | No | No | No | Yes |
| District | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Sample | 276 | 276 | 276 | 276 |
| Wald chi2(1) | 114.780 | 80.580 | 78.440 | 71.720 |
| Prob > chi2 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Pseudo R2/R2 | 0.577 | 0.683 | 0.718 | 0.835 |
| Log pseudolikelihood | -73.095 | -54.767 | -48.727 | -28.588 |

| Delayed Return to Work | Coefficient | RSE | Z-stat | p-value | LL 95% CI | UL 95% CI |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| PSM | 2.224 | 0.205 | 10.830 | 0.001 | 1.821 | 2.627 |
| NN Matching 1:1 | 2.112 | 0.244 | 8.660 | 0.001 | 1.634 | 2.590 |
| NN Matching 1:5 | 2.046 | 0.193 | 10.600 | 0.001 | 1.668 | 2.424 |
| IPW | 2.345 | 0.226 | 10.370 | 0.001 | 1.902 | 2.789 |



Results:

- WCS results in delayed the return to works among LMs
- Delay in return to work augments exclusive breastfeeding

Policy Implications:

- Expand the coverage to other informal sector workers
- Enhance the counselling on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding