

Interactive comment on “Discovering the differential and gendered consequences of natural disasters on the gender gap in life expectancy in Southeast Asia” by Marshal Q. Murillo and Shukui Tan

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The paper “Discovering the differential and gendered consequences of natural disasters on the gender gap in life expectancy in Southeast Asia” focuses on the gender differences in case of natural disasters in Southeast Asia. The Authors tested a series of research hypotheses and finally concluded that during natural disasters females are more vulnerable than males in terms of life expectancy. I think that the paper is well organised and clear, but I think that two points should be necessarily clarified.

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1) The paper is based on the data collected in EM-DAT, particularly on the number of fatalities caused by natural disasters. I think that there is a basic question to point out. EM-DAT collects all types of natural disasters, no matter their triggering causes. The authors mentioned the climate change in different parts of the paper and talks about the possible modifications of risk for human life related to the increasing impacts of natural disasters due to the climate change. The “Hypothesis 3: Natural disasters reduce the life expectancy of women relatively more than that of men and this is more likely to increase in countries that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change” as formulated, implies that “all” the natural disasters can be affected by climate change. Nevertheless, several natural disasters collected in EM-DAT are not related to climate, thus cannot be affected by climate change. Earthquakes and volcanic disasters have an endogenous trigger, while mass movements (landslides is a type of mass movements) (Page 8 line 14) can be either related to climatic features or linked to earthquakes. Thus, some natural disasters are not connected to climate and cannot be directly related to climate change. Then I think that this basic point must be clarified. The disasters cannot be considered all together.

2) I understand that the paper concerns a specific area (Southeast Asia), but I think that the Authors should also mention studies carried out in developed countries where the vulnerability is larger for males than for females. I think that the Authors should give visibility to these opposite findings obtained in different countries. Otherwise, a generic reader can believe that the findings of this paper are verified in all the countries.

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