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The Gender Bias Burden on Business: Women’s Access to Credit in Bahrain [poster]

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Women in entrepreneurship
• MENA region: 7.9% annual wealth loss due to gender inequality.
• Equal participation in entrepreneurship between the genders would increase the global GDP by 2%.

Problem
• Women struggle to access credit to start businesses.
• Bahrain solved it with a law prohibiting gender-based discrimination in access to credit. I systematically examined its effectiveness.

Result
• The borrowing gap between states without the law will be more affected by women’s labor force participation.
• Women’s labor force participation significantly affects the gender gap in borrowing for business purposes.

Labor Force Participation
• Traveling restrictions and stereotypes about traditional gender norms negatively affect women’s labor force participation.
• Women’s access to education increase women’s labor force participation.

Conclusion
• Supporting women’s economic involvement is the foundation for credit access, and work-based legislation should focus on women’s workforce participation.