# Does the Network Matter?

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#### Abstract

Network formation theory is based on the assumption that the benefits of belonging a network depend on the number of people a person is linked to which includes direct links, links of links, links of links of links, etc. Most empirical work on the other hand assumes that person a's decision to link to person b is not affected by the other links of person b. This paper seeks to bridge the gap between theory and empirical work by allowing links of link to enter each person's link formation decision.

We use a rich dataset from the Eastern Region of Ghana to test our hypothesis and we find that links of links does indeed have an effect on the individuals link formation decision.

Keywords: Link formation, Binary Choice Model, Endogeneity

JEL Codes: D85, C25, C26

# 1 Introduction

In most networks studied by economic theory, the higher the number the connections a node has, the more is its the profitability. Consider networks of information where information is transferred from node to node. In these networks, more links, links of links, etc, a person has; the more information he gets and thus the more profitable his position. All this implies that anyone choosing to form a link would consider (among other things) the shape of network or in particular, the connectivity of the person he is contemplating linking with. The more links this person has, network formation theory would imply, the more likely it is that the link is formed. Most previous empirical work has implicitly assumed the contrary and that the probability of a link depends only on the direct benefits of the link and not on the links of the link. This paper, on the other hand, posits that players might also be taking into account the indirect benefits of being linked to another person. In other words each person takes the shape of the network into account when making his decisions to link and this paper allows the links of links to enter into each person's decision formation. We hope to see that the more connected a player is, the more beneficial it is for another player to link to him.

Note: This analysis might still be thought partial in the sense that it does not allow more indirect link like links of links of links to enter into the decision, but we believe that decay in benefits is high enough to wipe off any benefits from more indirect links and moreover such an analysis would require observations from numerous networks.

We think of the network as the result of everyone simultaneously deciding who to link with. If we then allow the total links of j to affect the decision of i to link to j, we have an endogeneity problem because the total links of j are determined simultaneously and are affected by i's decisions. Since the decision to link is binary, we have endogeneity in a binary choice problem. I use the control function approach to tackle with the endogeneity and model j's total links as function of his characteristics and the characteristics of the representative/mean individual in that network. The rationale for using this control is as follows: Previous literature has modeled the decision to link as depending on the individual characteristics of the two people. A link between i and j will be cheaper, the more similar they are in their characteristics. In this paper I model i's decision to form a link with j as depending the characteristics of i and j, as well as on the total number of links j has. In this case, each one of a person's decisions will depend on how similar his characteristics are with the other person, and since his total links is a sum of all these decisions, we can think of a person's total links as a function of how similar his characteristics are to the representative/mean individual in that network.

Another issue that still remains is that these link decisions are inherently correlated. For instance, i's decision to link with j and i decision to link with k are presumably correlated and similarly, j's decision to form a link with i and k's decision to form a link with i are again correlated. This kind of spatial correlation has been studied by Conley() and we use the corrected standard errors he suggests in our section on robustness.

To test the hypothesis, I use an unusually rich data set collected in four clusters of villages in the Eastern Region of Ghana collected by Chris Udry and Markus Goldstein. The data was collected over the course of two years and fifteen modules in a four village clusters in Eastern Region of Ghana. In each village 60 couples/triples were questioned. The network data used here was collected by asking each individual in the sample about seven randomly selected (without replacement) from the sample and three focal village residents.

**Related Literature**: The theoretical literature in economics on network formation follows two main strands - one follows Jackson and Wolinsky (1996) and the other follows Bala and Goyal (2000). A recent survey is Jackson (2005). Among empirical literature dealing investigating networks Krishnan and Sciubba (2006) investigate the effect of the number of links as well as the structure on labour sharing networks. They present a model of network formation, where each person decides who wants to share his labour with, and labourers have different productivities. They test the predictions of their model on data from rural Ethiopia. Durlauf and Fafchamps (2005) is a recent review of literature dealing with social capital and networks.

Goldstein and Udry (1999) give a detailed description of the data. Udry and Conley (2004) use the same data to analyse the information, capital, labour and land networks in the same data set. Bandiera and Rasul (2006) study the relationship between the network and probability of adopting a new production technology by farmers in Mozambique. They find that the probability of a farmer adopting a new technology is increasing in the number of adoptees in his network, if that number is small and decreasing if the total adoptees in his network is large. This paper is also related to work by De Weerdt (2002), De Weerdt and Dercon (2006), Fafchamps and Lund (2003), Foster and Rosenzweig (1995), Munshi (2004) and Besley and Case (1997).

# 2 Identifying Network Effects

I first present a standard theoretical model and then propose a way to estimate it. I assume that the observed network is the equilibrium of a one-shot game of network formation played by a set of individuals denoted by  $N = \{1, ..., n\}$ . For any player, the benefit from the network is the number of individuals accessed and the costs are from making direct links. Individuals maybe accessed through direct links and also by indirect links. The cost is assumed to depend on the characteristics of the two individuals linked.

Let  $g_i = \{g_{i,1}, \dots, g_{i,j}, \dots, g_{i,n}\}$  denote player i's strategy where  $g_{i,j} = 1$  denotes that i links with j. Let  $g = \{g_1, \dots, g_i, \dots, g_n\}$  denote the network. The distance, d, between two individuals in a network is defined as the minimum number of links connecting them. Let **X** denote the characteristics matrix,  $X_i = \{x_{i1}, \dots, x_{id}, \dots, x_{im}\}$  denotes the vector of individual characteristics along m-dimensions of identity. Let  $\Pi$  denote the profit function, where

$$\Pi_i(g) = \Phi(n_i(g), n_i^d(g), \mathbf{X}), \text{ where}$$

$$n_i(g) = \text{ number of people accessed by i in g}$$

$$n_i^d(g) = \text{ number of people with whom i forms links in g}$$

The above model assumes that benefit from a link is the same regardless of the distance. A more general version of the model will allow for some decay in the passage of information and so indirectly accessed links will not be as valuable as directly accessed links. Such a model will have a variable  $\delta_d$  which denotes the decay in benefit if the accessed individual is at a distance d.

To simplify the model and make it more easy to estimate, lets assume:

A.1 The profit function is linear in benefits and cost, i.e. profit = benefit - cost

A.2 Benefits from all links at distance d are  $\delta_d$  and do not depend on individual characteristics.

A.3 Cost of forming any link depends only on the characteristics of the two individuals involved in the link.

A.4 To simplify the model further, assume that *i* can access k's information only if  $g_{ik} = 1$  or there is some other player *j* such that  $g_{ij} = g_{ji} = 1$ .

Under these assumptions, the profits function is now additive in each link formed. A link will be formed if it yields positive profits given that its not accessed by some other link. Let  $\pi_{ij}$  be the profit to *i* from forming a link with *j* and  $-c(X_i, X_j)$  be the cost of a link given the individual characteristics. Define  $m_j$  to be the total links of agent *j*;

$$m_j = \sum_{k \in N} g_{j,k}$$

The decision by i to form a link with j, i.e.  $g_{i,j}$  can then be seen as the following<sup>1</sup>:

$$g_{i,j} = 1(\pi_{ij}(g) > 0)$$
  
$$\pi_{ij}(g) = \delta m_j + c(X_i, X_j) + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

Empirical work till now has implicitly assumed  $\delta = 0$  or that the network does not matter, and so they did not have any endogeneity problem. But in the above model,  $g_{i,j}$  is modeled as a function of  $m_j$  where both are determined simultaneously and hence,  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  is not independent of  $m_j$ . Since theoretical work does assume a positive  $\delta$ , this paper investigates if shape of the network matters or if players just take into account who they are directly linked to.

Economic theory and empirical work suggests that  $c(X_i, X_j)$  should actually be a function of the social distance between the two people, in particular it could be linear in social distance or that

$$c(X_i, X_j) = d(X_i, X_j)'\beta$$
; where  $d(X_i, X_j)$  is some measure of social distance

In particular we will use

$$d(X_i, X_j) = \{ d(x_{i1}, x_{j1}) \dots, d(x_{id}, x_{jd}), \dots, d(x_{im}, x_{jm}) \}$$
(1)

$$d(x_{id}, x_{jd}) = x_{id} - x_{jd}$$
 if dimension-*d* is continuous (2)  
=  $1(x_{ki} = x_{kj})$  if dimension-*d* is discrete

To estimate the model where we include the endogenous variable m, we propose to use the control function method. We will model m as a function of exogenous regressors and an error term. The endogeneity will then be assumed to be a result of the relation between the error in  $m_j$  and the error in  $\pi_{ij}$ . Since m is a sum of indicator functions, it is not possible to derive the exact functional form of it. But if we model a single link decision as a function of social distance, then we can think of the m (which is the sum of single link decisions) as being a function of the social distance of the of each individual from the representative/average individual. Denote the average individual's characteristics by  $X_A$ . Now the model to be estimated (assuming all equations to be linear) is:

$$g_{ij} = 1(\pi_{ij}(g) > 0)$$
  

$$\pi_{ij}(g) = \delta m_j + d(X_i, X_j)'\beta + \varepsilon_{ij}$$
  

$$m_j = d(X_j, X_A)'\gamma + \eta_j$$
  

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \rho \eta_j + \nu_{ij}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Ideally the link benefit should also depend on a indicator taking value 1 if i accesses j through some other link, but that variable is suppressed here.

where  $\nu_{ij}$  and  $\eta_j$  are independent of all the regressors and all errors are assumed to be normal.

A remaining problem is that the errors might be spatially correlated. The error terms their errors  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  and  $\varepsilon_{ik}$ . might be correlated because they capture the error in  $g_{ij}$  and  $g_{ik}$ , both of which are *i*'s decision to form a link with different players and might be correlated. Similarly,  $g_{ji}$  and  $g_{ki}$ reflect *j*'s and *k*'s decision, respectively, to form a link with *i*. Since both of these decisions depend on the characteristics of *i*, they are not independent and neither are the errors  $\varepsilon_{ji}$  and  $\varepsilon_{ki}$ . This spatial correlation will be dealt with in the section on robustness.

#### 3 Data

The data was collected by Chris Udry and Markus Goldstein over the course of two years and fifteen modules in a four village clusters in Eastern Region of Ghana. In each village 60 couples/triples were questioned. The network data used here was collected by asking each individual in the sample about seven randomly selected (without replacement) from the sample and three focal village residents. The questions asked were:

Could you go to \_\_\_\_ if you had a problem with unhealthy crops?

Could you go to \_\_\_\_ for advice about when to apply a new kind of fertilizer?

Could you go to \_\_\_\_ if you wanted to discuss changing your method of planting?

Could you go to \_\_\_\_ if you wanted to find a buyer for any of your crops?

The answer to these questions implies the presence (or not) of an informational link. Table 1 presents the summary statistics for these four types of informational links. Table 2 presents the summary statistics for the endogenous variables which take the value of the total link each respondent has for each of these link types. Given our sample, the maximum number of links possible is ten and minimum is zero.

If we think of the village residents as the population participating the network formation game, then the randomly selected 60 couples and further their links with randomly selected seven individuals from within that sample, allows us to see a randomly selected portion of the network. Analysing the structure of connections within this portion of the network would give us a good idea of the actual network.

I also use data on identity or individual characteristics for both the respondent and the match and this includes information on their religion, clan, gender, age, wealth, primary occupation, soil type, if they are the first of their family to reside in that village, school level and the experience in different crops grown. Using information on individual characteristics, I construct variable measuring the distance between two individuals. In particular, for discrete characteristics like religion, clan, gender, occupation, soil type, if they are the first of their family to reside in that village and school level; I construct a variable taking value 1 if both have the same characteristic and 0 otherwise. For continuous characteristics like age, wealth and experience in different crops, I construct a variable taking on the difference between the respondent's and match's characteristic's values. The only variables for which I don't do this is the variable Office (indicator variable taking value 1 if match holds office and 0 otherwise) and Moffice (indicator variable taking value 1 if match holds office and 0 otherwise). Whether the respondent/match holds an office might be correlated with the perceived value of information to be gained from them. We can easily imagine that villager assume that office holders might have more access to information, or might have been given the office because of their knowledge; in either case the fact that someone holds an office would mean that they have more information to give. Moreover, the holder of the office might have less need to form information links, since he possibly has more information than his links. For that reason we include directly Office and Moffice, instead of a derived variable. The summary statistics for these variables is presented in Table 3.

Another set of variables are used to control for the total links of the match. The variables measure the distance of the match from the representative/average individual for that village cluster. For discrete variables like religion, clan, gender, occupation, soil type, if they are the first of their family to reside in that village and school level, I construct a variable taking value 1 if the match has the modal characteristic of the village and 0 otherwise. For continuous variables like age, wealth and experience in different crops grown I construct two variable each. The first takes the difference between the match's characteristic and the village mean for that characteristic if this difference is positive and zero otherwise and the second takes the difference is negative and zero otherwise. The reason for doing this is that the effect might not be symmetric and we allow that. The distribution for these variables might be skewed and then it would matter whether the difference is positive or negative. The variables are presented in **Table 4**.

#### 4 Estimating Network Effects

We first run a simple probit including the endogenous regressor in Table 5. In all of these regressions, we see that the effect of the match's total links if positive and significant.

In Table 6, we present the results of regressing the total links of the match on the difference

between the match's characteristics and the representative individual (the variables from Table 4). We see that these variables do have explanatory power, in particular, the crop experience seems to matter in the total links. This makes sense considering all these networks are informational and information is crop based.

Table 7 finally presents the results using the control function approach. Again we see that the endogenous regressor, even after controlling for the endogeneity has a positive and significant impact on the decision to form a link.

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Variable	Definition	Mean
		(Std Dev)
Askprob	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.3266078
	dent would ask match if they had a	
	problem with unhealthy crop	
		(0.4690316)
Askfert	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.3029004
	dent would go to match for advice on	
	new fertilizer	
		(0.4595705)
Askplant	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.3092055
	dent would go to match to discuss	
	planting method	
		(0.4622244)
Askbuyer	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.2530272
	dent would go to match for find a	
	buyer	
		(0.4348013)

Table 1: Variables Measuring Presence of Link

Table 2: Variables Measuring Total Links

Variable	Definition	Mean
		(Std Dev)
ttprob	Variable representing the number of	3.264313
	matches a respondent would ask about	
	a problem with unhealthy crop	
		(2.756746)
ttfert	Variable representing the number of	3.027743
	matches a respondent would go to for	
	advice on new fertilizer	
		(2.583175)
ttplant	Variable representing the number of	3.090542
	matches a respondent would go to dis-	
	cuss planting method	
		(2.675547)
ttbuyer	Variable representing the number of	2.526608
	matches a respondent would go to	
	match for find a buyer	
		(2.755896)

Mttprob	Variable representing the number of	3.273902
	matches the 'match' would ask about	
	a problem with unhealthy crop	
		2.761207
Mttfert	Variable representing the number of	3.015504
	matches the 'match' would go to for	
	advice on new fertilizer	
		2.58929
Mttplant	Variable representing the number of	3.093023
	matches the 'match' would go to dis-	
	cuss planting method	
		2.696501
Mttbuyer	Variable representing the number of	2.503876
	matches a respondent would go to	
	match for find a buyer	
		2.755468

Table 3: Variables M	leasuring Distance	between	Respondent
and Match			

Variable	Definition	Mean	Std. Dev.
Shhn	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.0071	0.0842
	dent and match have are from the		
	same household and 0 o.w.		
Shomeregion	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.7131	0.4524
	dent and match have the same home-		
	region and 0 o.w.		
Slanguage	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.3844	0.4865
	dent and match have the same lan-		
	guage and 0 o.w.		
Sfirsthere	0-1 variable taking value 1 if either re-	0.65538	0.47533
	spondent and match were both first		
	from their families in the village, or		
	both not the first in the village and 0		
	o.w.		
Sresprel	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.2715	0.4448
	dent and match have the same religion		
	and 0 o.w.		
Ssex	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.4985	0.5001
	dent and match have the same sex and		
	0 o.w.		
Sschoollevel	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.364	0.4812
	dent and match have the same level of		
	schooling and 0 o.w.		
Sclan	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.3045	0.4603
	dent and match belong to the same		
	clan and 0 o.w.		
Sagyapong	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.103	0.304
	dent and match have the same soil		
	type and 0 o.w.		
Stotwealth	Continuous variable measuring the	-379416	2714457
	difference in the wealth of the respon-		
	dent and match		
Smaizeyrs	Continuous variable measuring the	-1.1964	18.9637
	difference in the years of experience in		
	maize farming of the respondent and		
	match		

Scassayrs	Continuous variable measuring the	-1.1967	19.0373
	difference in the years of experience in		
	cassava farming of the respondent and		
	match		
Spineyrs	Continuous variable measuring the	-0.9935	5.8541
	difference in the years of experience in		
	pineapple farming of the respondent		
	and match		
Scocoayrs	Continuous variable measuring the	0.0842	11.3626
	difference in the years of experience in		
	cocoa farming of the respondent and		
	match		
Syamyrs	Continuous variable measuring the	-0.9118	17.8441
	difference in the years of experience		
	in yam farming of the respondent and		
	match		
Socc	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.5063	0.5
	dent and match have the same occu-		
	pation 0 o.w.		
Off	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.2059	0.4045
	dent holds office and 0 o.w.		
Pineyes	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.4196	0.4936
	dent has experience in pineapple farm-		
	ing and 0 o.w.		
Cocoayes	0-1 variable taking value 1 if respon-	0.2529	0.4347
	dent has experience in cocoa farming		
	and 0 o.w.		
Moff	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.2629	0.4403
	holds office and 0 o.w.		
Mpineyes	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.5132	0.4999
	has experience in pineapple farming		
	and 0 o.w.		
Mcocoayes	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.2522	0.4343
	has experience in cocoa farming and 0		
	0.W.		

Table 4:	Variables	Measuring	Distance	of Match	from	Aver-
age Resp	ondent					

Variable	Definition	Mean	Std. Dev.
Mdmoderesprel	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.4304	0.49522
	has the modal religion of his village		
	and 0 o.w.		
Mdmodeschool	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.53436	0.49891
	has the modal education of his village		
	and 0 o.w.		
Mdmodeocc1	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.75798	0.42838
	has the modal occupation of his village		
	and 0 o.w.		
Mdmodeclan	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.47786	0.4996
	belongs to the modal clan of his village		
	and 0 o.w.		
Mdmodehomeregion	0-1 variable taking value 1 if match	0.8548	0.35237
	has the modal home region of his vil-		
	lage and 0 o.w.		
Mdpmeantotwealth	Difference in wealth between match	327144	330751
	and average for the village if match		
	has more wealth than average, 0 oth-		
	erwise		
Mdnmeantotwealth	Difference in wealth between match	697260	1995031
	and average for the village if match		
	has less wealth than average, 0 other-		
	wise		
Mdpmeanage	Difference in age between match and	4.98393	5.92479
	average for the village if match has		
	more age than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdnmeanage	Difference in age between match and	5.2116	8.30507
	average for the village if match has less		
	age than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdpmeanmaizeyrs	Difference in experience with maize	4.60295	6.63978
	(in years) between match and average		
	for the village if match has more ex-		
	perience than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdnmeanmaizeyrs	Difference in experience with maize	5.91893	9.32316
	(in years) between match and average		
	for the village if match has less expe-		
	rience than average, 0 otherwise		

Mdpmeancassayrs	Difference in experience with cassava	4.61727	6.68501
	(in years) between match and average		
	for the village if match has more ex-		
	perience than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdnmeancassayrs	Difference in experience with cassava	5.93284	9.34766
	(in years) between match and average		
	for the village if match has less expe-		
	rience than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdpmeanpineyrs	Difference in experience with pineap-	1.04005	1.05353
	ple (in years) between match and av-		
	erage for the village if match has more		
	experience than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdnmeanpineyrs	Difference in experience with pineap-	2.03952	3.96562
	ple (in years) between match and av-		
	erage for the village if match has less		
	experience than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdpmeancocoayrs	Difference in experience with cocoa (in	2.35537	1.56624
	years) between match and average for		
	the village if match has more experi-		
	ence than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdnmeancocoayrs	Difference in experience with cocoa (in	2.36621	6.65376
	years) between match and average for		
	the village if match has less experience		
	than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdpmeanyamyrs	Difference in experience with yam (in	3.82191	4.69297
	years) between match and average for		
	the village if match has more experi-		
	ence than average, 0 otherwise		
Mdnmeanyamyrs	Difference in experience with yam (in	4.69776	10.4069
	years) between match and average for		
	the village if match has less experience		
	than average, 0 otherwise		

	Askprob	Askfert	Askplant	Askbuyer
Mttprob	0.064			
	$(3.38)^{**}$			
Mttfert		0.077		
		$(3.72)^{**}$		
Mttplant			0.081	
			$(4.17)^{**}$	
Mttbuyer				0.105
				$(6.21)^{**}$
Shhn	1.436	1.397	1.452	1.093
	$(3.00)^{**}$	$(3.00)^{**}$	$(3.09)^{**}$	$(2.61)^{**}$
Shomeregion	0.091	0.116	0.071	0.085
	(0.68)	(0.85)	(0.53)	(0.61)
Ssex	0.236	0.078	0.123	0.287
	$(2.30)^*$	(0.76)	(1.20)	$(2.74)^{**}$
Sclan	0.166	0.153	0.159	0.22
	(1.49)	(1.37)	(1.45)	$(1.99)^*$
off	-0.67	-0.317	-0.443	-0.392
	$(4.68)^{**}$	$(2.24)^*$	$(3.15)^{**}$	$(2.80)^{**}$
Moff	0.334	0.073	0.189	0.256
	$(2.44)^{*}$	(0.53)	(1.38)	(1.79)
Sfirsthere	0.233	0.296	0.284	0.247
	$(1.96)^*$	$(2.45)^*$	$(2.37)^{*}$	$(2.01)^*$
Sresprel	0.028	-0.024	-0.117	-0.083
	(0.25)	(0.21)	(1.04)	(0.72)
Sschoollevel	-0.065	-0.015	-0.026	0.078
	(0.60)	(0.14)	(0.24)	(0.69)
Sage	0.006	-0.001	0.005	0.01
	(1.14)	(0.22)	(1.03)	(1.90)
Smaizeyrs	0.021	0.019	0.021	0.037
	(0.96)	(0.86)	(0.94)	(1.61)
Scassayrs	-0.02	-0.017	-0.021	-0.029
_	(0.93)	(0.79)	(0.98)	(1.29)
Spineyrs	-0.043	-0.071	-0.048	-0.01
_	$(4.88)^{**}$	$(7.66)^{**}$	$(5.40)^{**}$	(1.14)
Scocoayrs	-0.007	0.011	0.006	0.006
_	(1.71)	$(2.55)^*$	(1.59)	(1.38)
Syamyrs	-0.011	-0.009	-0.01	-0.019
	$(3.39)^{**}$	$(2.86)^{**}$	$(3.30)^{**}$	$(5.66)^{**}$
Socc	0.156	0.227	0.134	0.251
~	(1.27)	(1.78)	(1.08)	(1.92)
Constant	-1.201	-1.376	-1.232	-1.552
	(7.23)**	(7.97)**	$(7.40)^{**}$	(9.09)**
() b a operation	701	701	701	701

 Table 5: Probit Results

Observations781781781781Absolute value of t statistics in brackets.

\* significant at 5%; \*\* significant at 1%

	Mttprob	Mttfert	Mttplant	Mttbuyer
Mdmoderesprel	0.374	0.429	0.335	-0.128
	(0.369)	(0.345)	(0.356)	(0.346)
$Mdmodeschool\_level$	0.352	0.163	0.172	0.299
	(0.370)	(0.346)	(0.358)	(0.347)
Mdmodeocc1	0.537	0.481	0.417	0.61
	(0.425)	(0.398)	(0.411)	(0.398)
Mdmodeclan	0.476	0.178	0.304	0.357
	(0.354)	(0.332)	(0.342)	(0.332)
Mdmodehomeregion	0.383	0.227	0.272	0.501
	(0.552)	(0.516)	(0.533)	(0.517)
Mdpmeanage	-0.008	0.031	0.025	-0.006
	(0.042)	(0.039)	(0.041)	(0.039)
Mdnmeanage	-0.021	-0.012	-0.01	0
_	(0.034)	(0.032)	(0.033)	(0.032)
Mdpmeanmaizeyrs	0.01	0.012	0.01	0.003
	(0.144)	(0.135)	(0.140)	(0.135)
Mdnmeanmaizeyrs	-6.059**	-7.028***	-6.496***	-12.107***
	(2.447)	(2.288)	(2.364)	(2.291)
Mdpmeancassayrs	-0.004	-0.02	-0.009	0.006
	(0.142)	(0.133)	(0.138)	(0.133)
Mdnmeancassayrs	$6.071^{**}$	7.017***	$6.506^{***}$	12.091***
	(2.447)	(2.289)	(2.364)	(2.291)
Mdpmeanpineyrs	$0.387^{*}$	$0.397^{*}$	$0.454^{**}$	$0.446^{**}$
	(0.227)	(0.212)	(0.219)	(0.212)
Mdnmeanpineyrs	-0.015	-0.022	-0.013	0.004
	(0.067)	(0.063)	(0.065)	(0.063)
Mdpmeancocoayrs	-0.386***	-0.375***	-0.394***	-0.361***
	(0.144)	(0.135)	(0.139)	(0.135)
Mdnmeancocoayrs	-0.008	0.023	0.019	0.011
	(0.030)	(0.028)	(0.029)	(0.028)
Mdpmeanyamyrs	$0.094^{**}$	$0.119^{***}$	$0.106^{**}$	0.120***
	(0.043)	(0.040)	(0.041)	(0.040)
Mdnmeanyamyrs	-0.03	-0.006	-0.022	-0.012
	(0.023)	(0.022)	(0.023)	(0.022)
Constant	$2.394^{***}$	2.101***	2.241***	$1.366^{*}$
	(0.853)	(0.798)	(0.824)	(0.799)
Observations	268	268	268	268
R-squared	0.16	0.2	0.18	0.25

Table 6: First Stage OLS Regressions For Total Links of Match

Absolute value of t statistics in brackets. \* significant at 5%; \*\* significant at 1%

	Askprob	Askfert	Askplant	Askbuyer
Mttprob	0.213***			
	(0.056)			
Mttfert		$0.190^{***}$		
		(0.054)		
Mttplant			0.222***	
			(0.055)	
Mttbuyer				$0.258^{***}$
-				(0.045)
Shhn	$0.883^{*}$	$0.966^{*}$	$0.924^{*}$	$0.747^{*}$
	(0.517)	(0.494)	(0.507)	(0.451)
Shomeregion	0.025	0.066	0.01	0.038
	(0.147)	(0.146)	(0.147)	(0.154)
Ssex	0.231**	0.068	0.112	0.299***
	(0.111)	(0.110)	(0.111)	(0.115)
Sclan	0.142	0.145	0.137	$0.204^{*}$
	(0.120)	(0.117)	(0.118)	(0.121)
off	-0.616***	-0.305**	-0.397***	-0.386**
	(0.153)	(0.150)	(0.152)	(0.152)
Moff	$0.255^{*}$	0.017	0.095	0.067
	(0.148)	(0.146)	(0.148)	(0.165)
Sfirsthere	$0.252^{*}$	$0.304^{**}$	$0.297^{**}$	$0.310^{**}$
	(0.129)	(0.128)	(0.129)	(0.136)
Sresprel	0.013	-0.03	-0.131	-0.085
	(0.121)	(0.120)	(0.122)	(0.126)
Sschool_level	-0.06	0.001	-0.025	0.074
	(0.118)	(0.117)	(0.118)	(0.124)
Sage	0.005	-0.002	0.004	$0.011^{*}$
	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.006)
Smaizeyrs	-0.007	-0.005	-0.003	0.01
	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.028)
Scassayrs	0.007	0.006	0.003	-0.003
	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.027)
Spineyrs	-0.048***	-0.077***	-0.055***	-0.023**
	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
Scocoayrs	-0.004	$0.014^{***}$	0.010**	0.007
	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.005)
Syamyrs	-0.014***	-0.011***	-0.013***	-0.020***
	(0.004)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.004)
Socc	0.089	0.157	0.075	0.172
	(0.134)	(0.135)	(0.134)	(0.143)
Constant	-1.058***	$-1.210^{***}$	-1.053***	-1.521***
	(0.175)	(0.178)	(0.177)	(0.191)
Observations	769	769	769	769

Table 7: Two Step IV Probit Results

Observations769Absolute value of t statistics in brackets.\* significant at 5%; \*\* significant at 1%