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Maternal Education and Child Health Outcomes: An empirical analysis of the relationship

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Priscilla Lekalkuli

Abstract

Maternal Education and Child Health Outcomes: An empirical analysis of the relationship

This paper provides an empirical analysis of the effect of maternal education on a child's anthropometric measures (height-to-age and weight-to-height) with the aim to determine not only the pathways in which mother's education affects child health but also whether there is a threshold in the relationship. Large variations in education policy and public investment in education in Kenya from independence (1963) facilitate the use of an instrument for endogenous mother's education using the 2008/2009 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) data. To the best of my knowledge, such analysis has not been conducted in Kenya using the 2008/2009 KDHS data. In addition, the use of instrumental variables has been limited and my research contributes to the literature on child health by using instrumental variable in my analysis. The results of this study have policy implications. Kenya, being a member of the United Nations, is working on reaching the United Nation's Development Goal of reducing child mortality by half by 2015. Therefore, my research is essential in contributing insights that will inform policy recommendations.