

Income and children's education in widow-headed households in Tonga

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Abstract

This paper makes an effort to examine the relationship between widow headship and household income and children's education in Tonga. Findings from previous related studies revealed that widow-headed household, compared to other types of female headed household, had experienced the greater challenges of having low income to meet their basic needs and failure to take their children to school. Using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation method based on the Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2009 (HIES 2009), shows that widow-headed households, compared to households headed by married women and widowers, do have negative relationship and statistically significant results on household income. Indeed, we agreed with findings from previous studies that widow-headed households are economically suffered compared to households headed by married women and widowers. In terms of children's education, widow headship appears to have no significant relationship, as well as married woman headship, with their children's enrollment in school, while children in widower headed households are significantly and less likely to enroll and attend school.