

Education and Child Health: An Empirical Analysis of the Effect of Mother's Schooling Years on Child Height in Papua New Guinea

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Abstract: Currently there are increasing interests placed on the effect of education on health and many debates on whether education has a positive effect on health or not. Given a strong and well established empirical correlation between education and health, the debate among economists lies on the possible mechanisms that explain that correlation. That correlation is still largely unknown. Using the 2009/2010 cross sectional data of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Household Income & Expenditure and an instrument of mother's birth province approach I find some evidence of potential casualty between the number of mother's schooling years and her child's height. However, this effect is in fact quite minimal equivalent to reducing the household size by five members. A better way to fully understand the effects would be through the study of mechanisms by which the schooling effect passes through. Regional variations are also considered important when undertaking studies in developing countries such as PNG.