

ABSTRACT

Name: Salome Godwin Maseki

Student ID: 201626020

Thesis Title: **Effect of Mother's Education on Fertility, Child - Death and Surviving Number of Children: Evidence from Tanzania**

This study investigates the effect of education on fertility, child death and surviving number of children as there has been an increasing interest on the effect of education on health outcomes. Using 2012 Tanzania census data, we investigated the effect of mother's education on fertility and child-death employing the Education for Self-Reliance (ESR) policy change which was the first post-independence education policy in Tanzania. In particular we explore the variation of changes following an end to the expulsion of primary pupils for non-payment of school fees and/or the removal of primary school fees in 1971 that saw an increase in access to education, as our Instrument variable. We use regression discontinuity design and observe a clear jump in years of schooling for women at the cutoff off age point (47 years in 2012 census). Furthermore, after plotting RD graph of the women we observed that those affected by the policy had experienced less fertility and number of child death compared to their unaffected counterparts. The increase in education attainment by women, as a result of the reforms in education, is seen to have led to a decrease in child death and hence we find that the education reform did affect fertility and child health in Tanzania.

We also use Two Stage Least Squares (2SLS) regression model to examine the effect of education on fertility, child death and the ratio of the number of dead children to the total number of children ever born per woman which reveals a decrease in the number of children who died implying that the reform increased child survival. Moreover, the results show the increase in years of schooling led to a decline in fertility and child death among women in Tanzania. For checking the robustness of our results we also use the 2002 Tanzania census data and obtain similar results to those of the 2012 Tanzania census for both lower bandwidth and small bandwidth of women selected. Prolonged schooling is likely to decrease teenage pregnancies and the ultimate number of children per woman. This plus the knowledge and skills acquired through schooling could account for decreased child deaths.

Given the findings, it is crucial for the Government and other players, such as Development Partners like the United Nations and the World Bank among others, to consider, improved access to and better quality of education for women to achieve better children's health as enunciated in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.