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Thesis Title: The Impact of Oil and Gas Production on Health and Education Outcomes for Men and Women

This study estimates the impact of oil and gas production on health and education outcomes for both men and women. Over the past few decades, much research developed to assess the relationship between natural resource wealth, economic growth and other development outcomes. Historically, studies found a negative association between natural resource abundance, particularly oil, and economic growth, but the very existence of this phenomenon – known as the “resource curse” – has been refuted. In fact, recent research found that natural resources, like oil, enhance long-term economic growth, but one author claims that the benefits typically go to men. Though some recent studies show positive relationships between oil and some development outcomes, none of them investigates the differential impact for men and women. This research finds that the production of oil causes a significant decline in female labour force participation; will lead to an increase in life expectancy at birth and school enrollment, and; a reduction in infant and child mortality for the total population. However, after comprehensive analysis, there is no conclusive evidence that oil favors men over women.