

## The Impact of Change of Medium of Instruction on Educational Outcomes

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Using school based data and individual household data, this study shows that government policy choices, if carried out without careful planning, can lead to negative education outcomes for the entire nation and to certain sections of society in particular. Using a junior class that was affected by the policy change as treatment and a senior class that was not affected as control, it has been shown that repetition rates increased, though modestly, after government decided to change the medium of instruction in primary school from the vernacular to English through the Education Act of 2013. Apart from this repetition increase, it is seen that pupils from predominantly non-English speaking households are likely to fall behind in their class progression with respect to their age. Rural primary schools are found to be negatively affected as compared to urban-based schools. In view of this, a reversal/amendment of the policy is urgently called for.