

Education of Children Living Without Biological Mothers: Analysis Using Demographic and Health Surveys of Sub-Saharan African Countries

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The study investigates the effect of absence of biological mother on child education outcomes using information on education of children aged 7–14 years collected from 15 DHS in Sub-Saharan African countries. Child education outcomes are measured by grade gap and child school attendance. The study uses OLS estimation method for empirical analysis with region and cluster fixed effects to control for unobserved characteristics such as weather, quality of school, village level income differences and culture.

The results show that absence of biological mother increases child grade gap by approximately 9 percent. On school attendance, the results indicate that children living without biological mother are more likely not to attend school by approximately 23.5 percent. The study also examines whether there is variation of the effect of absence of biological mother on child outcomes across gender. The results show that the effect of absence of mother is higher on girls than on boys. The study further analyses the effect of the absence of mother on child school outcomes across different age groups. The results show that absence of biological mother affects education outcomes for children aged 12–14 years more than the children aged 7–11 years old.