

Parental Morbidity and School Participation in Kenya

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Abstract

This paper attempts to investigate the effect of parental morbidity on school participation in Kenya. In particular, we examine the relationship between the health status of the head of the household and children's time allocation. In this case, we examine the correlation between sickness or injury or chronic illness of the head of the household with children's time allocation either in school or work. To ensure that children who are either working or attending school are comparable, we controlled individual and household characteristics. We find that health shocks in the household account for a considerable explanation as to children temporarily withdraw from school and also children participation in economic activities. Our main finding is that health shocks to the household head induce them to withdraw their children from school and increases the probability of working as a homemaker.