Maternal employment and children’s education: a case-study of urban Ghana

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Introduction

- The influence of maternal employment on children’s educational outcomes in SSA is a relatively understudied topic.

- Relationships are expected to be complicated
  - Budget
  - Time
  - Perceived returns
Educational context in Ghana

- Considerable progress made in access to basic education
- Challenges remain in high levels of repetition and drop-out
Research aim

To quantitatively explore the relationship between maternal employment and children’s educational progress

Focus on:

a. urban areas of the Greater Accra region
b. children co-resident with their biological mothers
# Child-mother pairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship to head</th>
<th>% of each relation to head</th>
<th>% living with mother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>19.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>62.35</td>
<td>89.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son/daughter in-law</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandchild</td>
<td>9.90</td>
<td>26.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepchild</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>63.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive/foster child</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relative</td>
<td>13.78</td>
<td>8.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-relative</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>62.01</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcome: Completion of primary and JJS Education

Completion of primary (12-14 years)
Completion of basic (15-17 years)
Attendance SSS (15-17 years)
## Maternal employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother’s work status</th>
<th>Age group of youth (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not working</td>
<td>17.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee in the formal sector</td>
<td>8.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee in the informal sector</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (w employees) in non-agricultural labour</td>
<td>7.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (wo employees) in non-agricultural labour</td>
<td>61.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family worker</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 (11,369)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data considerations

a. 12-14 years

- Households: n=10,214
- Mothers: n=10,243
- Children: n=11,369

b. 15-17 years

- Households: n=9,139
- Mothers: n=9,177
- Children: n=10,181
Method

- Multi-level logistic regression
- 2- levels (children nested within mothers)

\[
\log\left(\frac{\pi}{1-\pi}\right) = \beta_0 + u_{oj} + \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_k X_k
\]

- Controls at the household, maternal and child level
Results: Completion of primary education

Predicted probability of having completed primary education:

- self-employed (w)
- formal employee
- self-employed (wo)
- informal employee
- not working
- other
Results: JSS completion among 15-17 year olds
Attendance of SSS among 15-17 year olds

Predicted probability of attending SSS

- self-employed (w)
- formal employee
- family worker
- self-employed (wo)
- informal employee
- not working
- other
Discussion

- Controlling for socio-economic and demographic covariates at the household, maternal and child level, maternal employment has a significant influence on children’s educational progress
  - At all levels the positive influence of formal employment and self-employment (with employees)

- Further work needed to understand the mechanisms through which these forms of maternal employment influences education
  - Maternal income & supplementary education?
  - Perspectives of the importance of education?
ANY QUESTIONS?