

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

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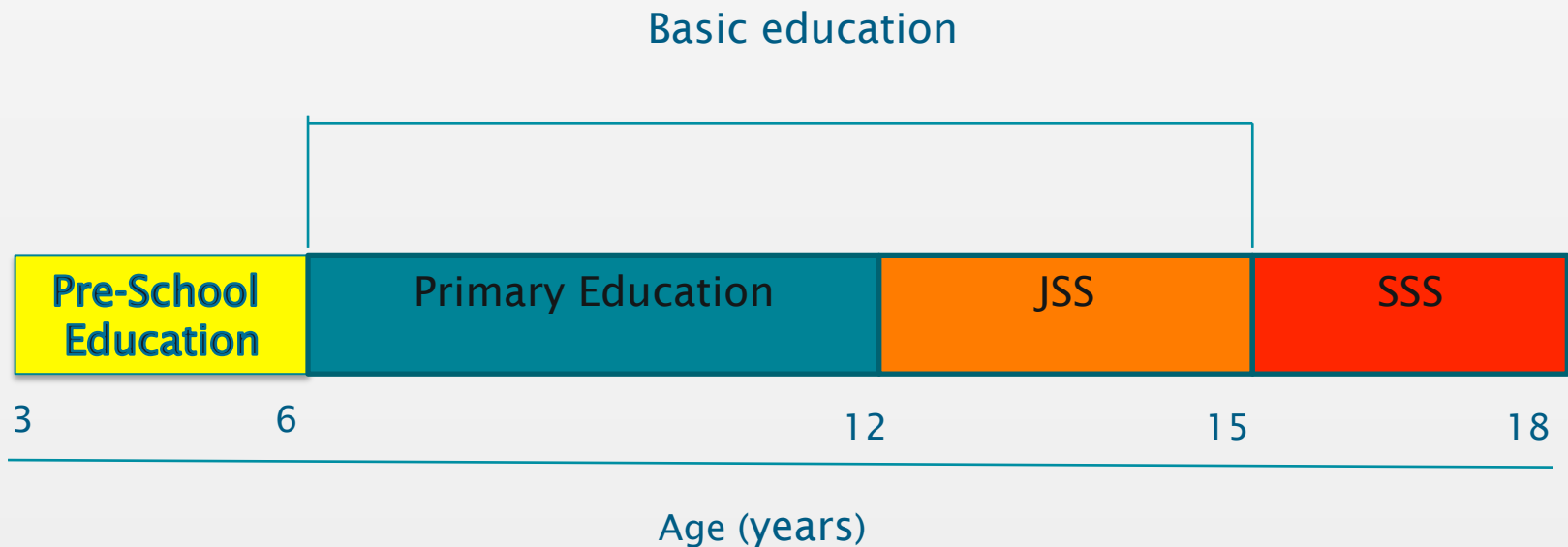
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Introduction

- 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

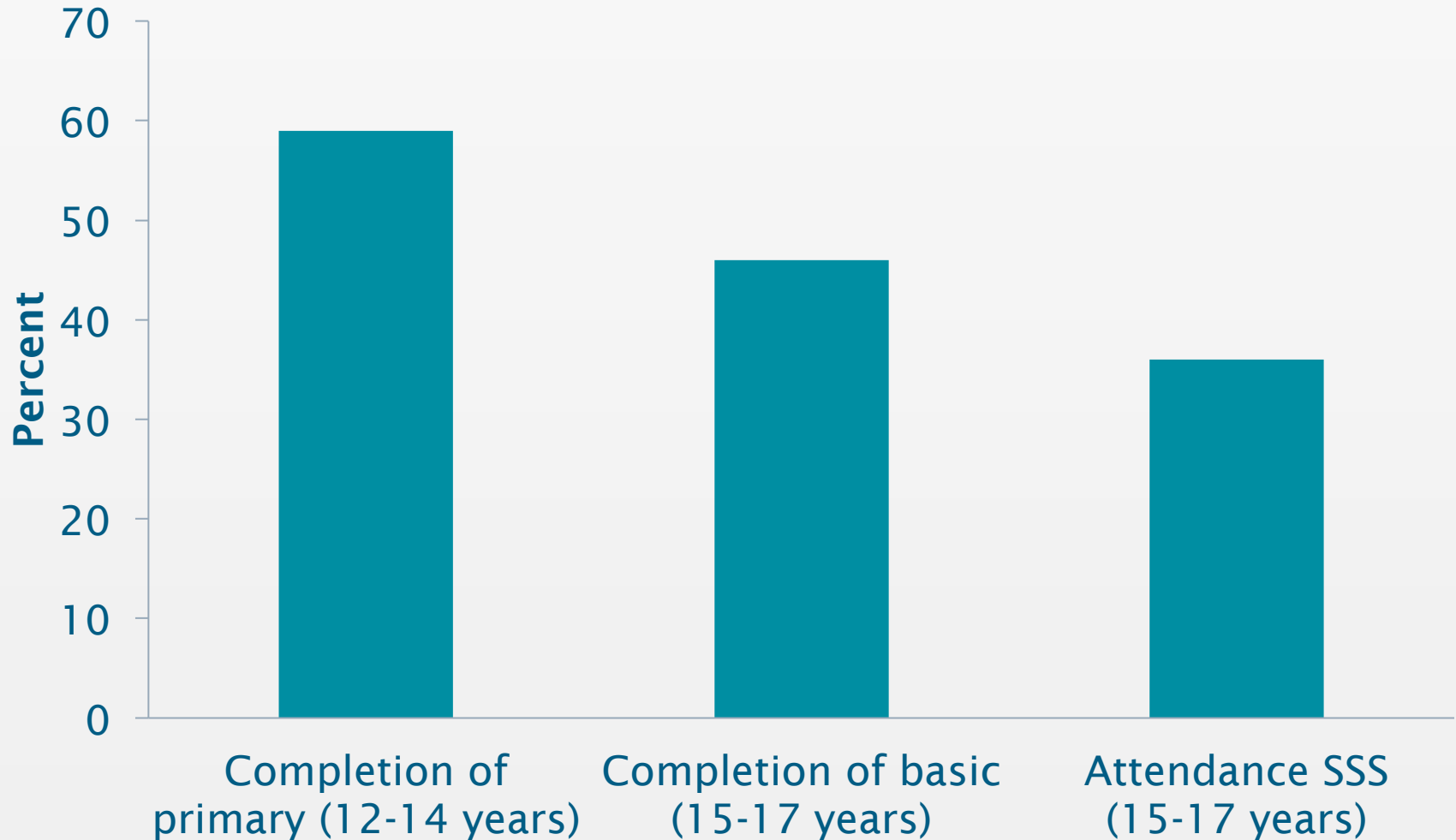
Focus on:

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

Child-mother pairs

Relationship to head	% of each relation to head	% living with mother
Head	0.91	19.83
Spouse	0.32	0.00
Child	62.35	89.72
Son/daughter in-law	0.31	0.00
Grandchild	9.90	26.41
Sibling	5.11	2.36
Stepchild	3.02	63.48
Adoptive/foster child	0.80	0.00
Other relative	13.78	8.98
Non-relative	3.50	0.00
Total	100	62.01

Outcome: Completion of primary and JJS Education

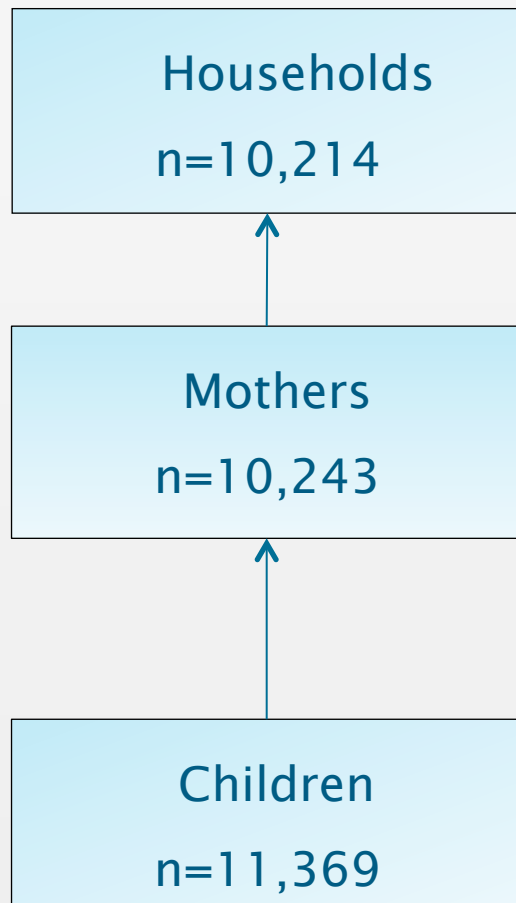


Maternal employment

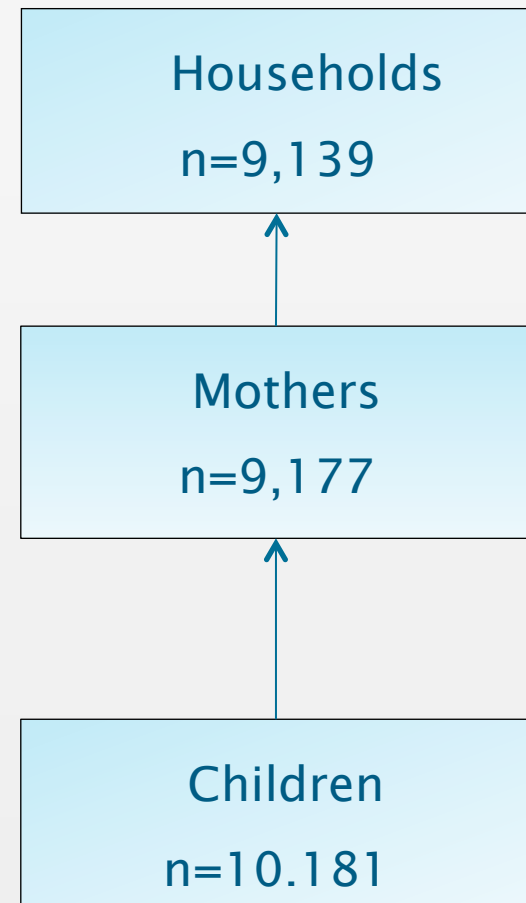
	Age group of youth (years)	
Mother's work status	12-14	15-17
Not working	17.67	17.96
Employee in the formal sector	8.74	8.93
Employee in the informal sector	2.75	2.64
Self-employed (w employees) in non-agricultural labour	7.14	6.83
Self-employed (wo employees) in non-agricultural labour	61.36	61.08
Family worker	1.07	1.38
Other	1.26	1.18
Total	100 (11,369)	100 (10,181)

Data considerations

a. 12-14 years



b. 15-17 years



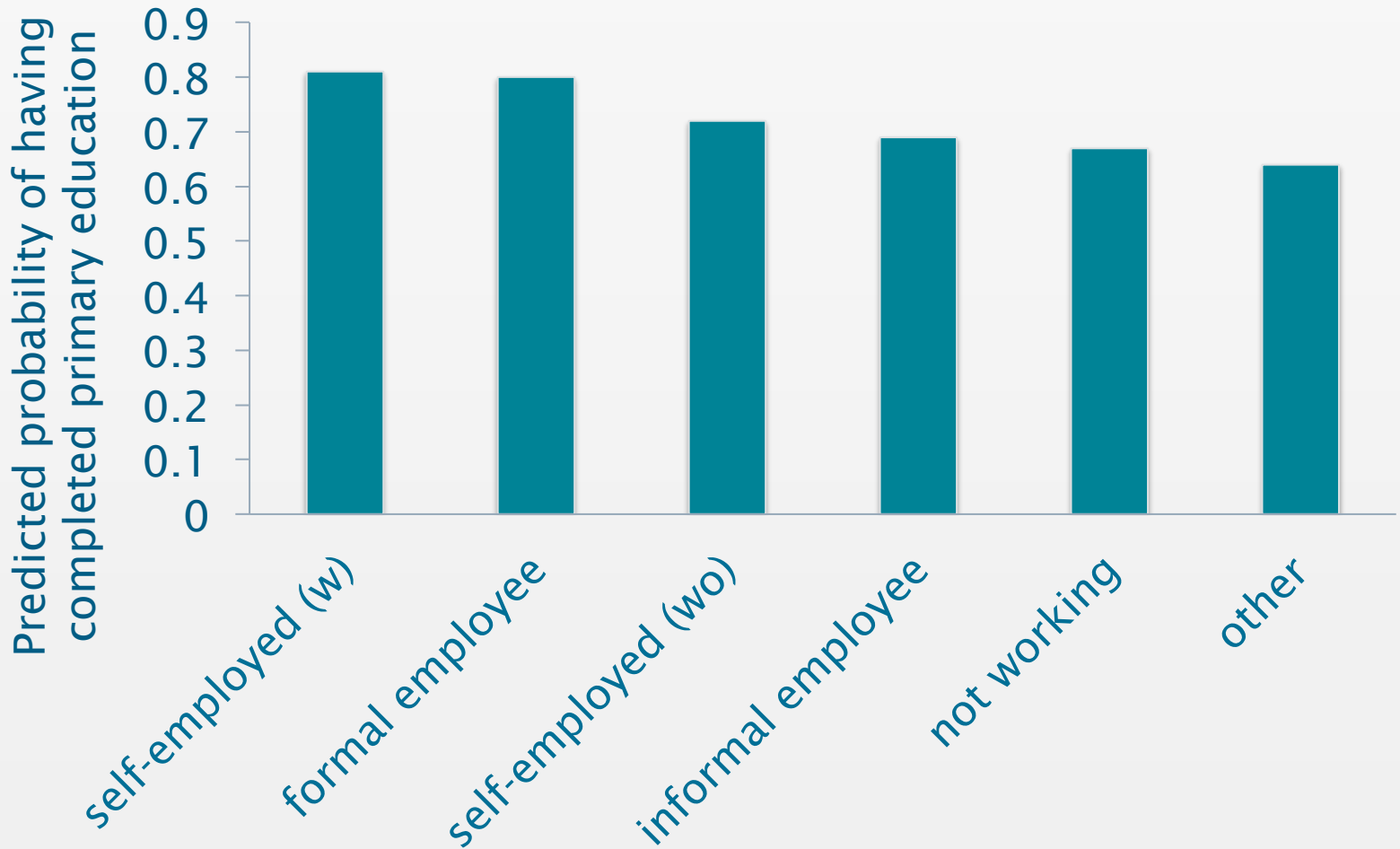
Method

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

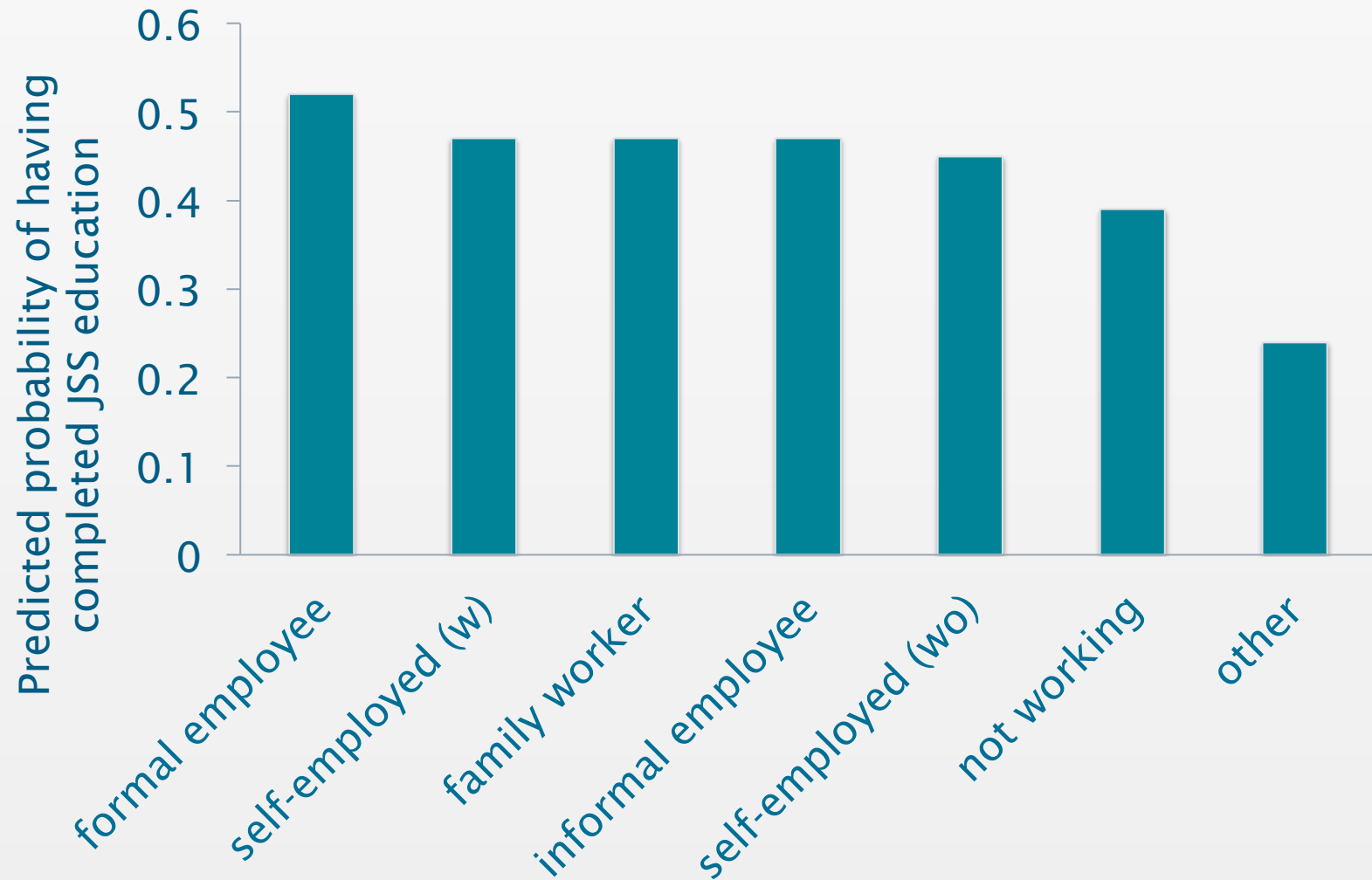
$$\log\left(\frac{\pi}{1-\pi}\right) = \beta_0 + u_{oj} + \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_k X_k$$

- Controls at the household, maternal and child level

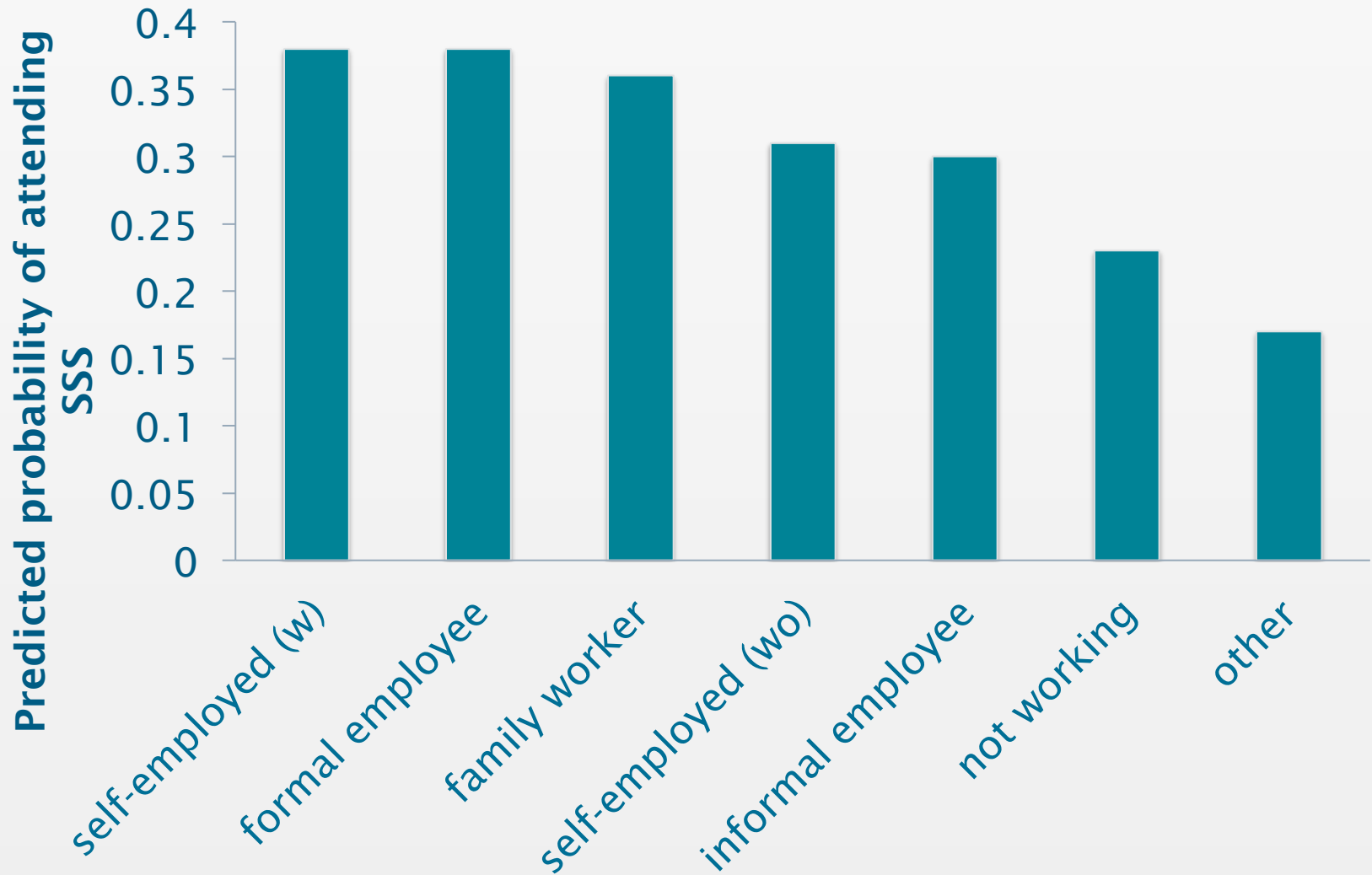
Results: Completion of primary education



Results: JSS completion among 15-17 year olds



Attendance of SSS among 15-17 year olds



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?

