Education decisions in slums of Dhaka

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Context

• Rapid urban economic growth, poverty reduction, migration
• High and increasing returns to education
• But much of the migration is towards slums
  – 1 in 3 of Dhaka’s population
  – Very low income, poor housing conditions
  – Children often work
  – Unrecognised
  – Not enough schools
  – Harder to access returns to education
The research

- CREATE survey – 1600 households in 4 slums (plus 6 rural areas)
- My survey – 500 of these households / 600 children aged 11-15
- Interviews – 30 households
Korail

- Huge slum in peninsula in lake
- Wealthy area
- Worst perceived financial condition
- Severe flooding
- 50% of children in school
- Mainly NGO + some government
Tejgaon

- 120 rooms on three floors
- highest rents
- highest income
- half of children in school
- mainly government schools
- fewest friends and relatives
- migrated from diverse origins
Lalbag

- Sweeper colony in Old Dhaka
- Mostly born in Dhaka
- Highest enrolment: >80%
- >50% in government schools
- 17% in private schools
Cholontika

- Lowest household income
- Worst housing conditions
- Insecure dwellings
- People ‘don’t help each other’
- 75% in school
  - mostly in NGO schools; few in government schools
Proportion of schoolgoing children by age and sex
School type

- government *, 48%
- NGO, 33%
- madrasa, 3%
- private, 12%
- other, 4%

* Includes registered non-government primary schools