

Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa

A Select Annotated Bibliography with special
reference to irreversibilities associated with
poor nutrition, health and education

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(with additional material from Karen Moore)



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Introduction

Background

This annotated bibliography forms part of the third phase (2005-2010) of work of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC), which is structured around three distinct themes that will be carefully sequenced and closely integrated: thematic research, policy analysis, and policy engagement. In particular, this bibliography is part of the foundation research theme *Empirical Methods for Studying Intergenerational Transmissions of Poverty (IGT)*, which attempts to identify the extent to which such processes occur, the nature and reversibility of such processes in different contexts and occurring at different times, and the range of factors that increase the likelihood that poverty is passed from one generation to the next.

Ongoing CPRC and other research suggests that important factors include: differential access to and control of resources and the returns on those resources; unequal investments in the human capital formation of household members; and unequal distributions of leisure and labour time. Factors determining these systematic inequalities have been found to be due, in part, to non-cooperative household decision-making processes, conflict and household disintegration, differentiation based on social status (e.g. gender, age, mental or physical impairment, relationship to household head, birth order etc.), alcohol and drug dependence, and mental ill-health. Many of these factors – lower investments in the education and nutrition of girls, for example – clearly have negative long-term poverty implications. Other factors may have far more complex long-term effects on children's lives and livelihoods and need further investigation.

Although highly context specific, an individual's asset bundle, their capabilities, and their power to exercise agency have been found to combine to mould the life-course of individuals and their households. Research undertaken by the Childhood Poverty Research Centre, a CPRC partner, identified a range of factors which increase the likelihood of an individual's poverty status being (largely) irreversible. Systematic discrimination based on ethnicity or gender, for example, has been shown to limit the beneficial impact of pro-poor poverty interventions on some groups of people. An individual's aspirations, and how they are influenced by early life experiences, have also been found to play strong roles in the extent to which s/he is able to extract maximum benefit from any policy or programmatic interventions that create new opportunities over the individuals' life course.

Other work has shown that older people can be vitally important with regard to the intergenerational transmission of poverty, especially through their role as carers and particularly in areas with high levels of morbidity and mortality from chronic disease. This research also reminds us that poverty can be transmitted 'both ways' – i.e. that the poverty status of older people is affected by the status and behaviour of younger generations.

While this research stream will focus primarily on the household and intra-household level, it is recognised that the household is not the only nor, in many cases, even the main domain of IGT processes. Within communities, schools and workplaces, children's assets, aspirations and long-term well-being can be affected by a range of

actors, particularly extra-household relatives: peers, friends and schoolmates, neighbours, teachers, employers and co-workers, and religious leaders. Likewise other age groups and ascribed groups will be influenced and affected by inter-relationships, institutions and structural factors. This research will also aim to develop an understanding of the key macro-level processes and policies – e.g. health, education and social transfer policies, labour market and migration trends – that can facilitate or hinder the intergenerational transmission of well-being.

A Guide to the Contents and Structure

This select annotated bibliography is divided into sections which correspond to key themes in the IGT literature. Within each section the resources are presented and summarised in alphabetical order. Keywords have also been identified and these can be found in the corresponding index.

IGT Research Online

This section identifies some online resources, including databases, which can be used to research IGT poverty themes, data and analysis.

Definitions, Concepts and Frameworks

IGT poverty has been, and can be, defined in multiple ways. Although it is centrally concerned with the persistence of poverty over time and across generations, it can be defined in terms of the type of transmission, the type of poverty, its irreversibility, and the individual/household/contextual factors which enhance or interrupt transmissions. These nuances are important as they have implications for which policy interventions will be most appropriate, successful and/or efficient.

This section highlights some of the key literature which attempts to define, conceptualise and create a framework around IGT poverty. Although not an exhaustive list, it includes key illustrations of the different ways in which this can be done and the implications for policy and further research. Significantly, a majority of the literature suggests that there is an important role which appropriate social policy can play in interrupting IGT poverty.

The contents of this section document a series of processes and factors which contribute to what is termed IGT poverty. These include material disadvantage, social disadvantage, transfer of capital and assets, family background in terms of family size and racial status, gender, kinship, and economic reforms. Overall, there seems to be compelling evidence for the importance of the economic and educational status of parents, and of childhood development as a whole, for influencing later adult achievements. The pathways along which this is important differ depending on the framework used. Some authors construct an asset transfer approach, others focus on family background characteristics, and others concentrate on enabling environments.

The majority of this work has been done in the context of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Latin America, and Asia. Despite an emerging literature on Sub-Saharan Africa, this is still a gap which needs to be filled.

Methods for Investigating IGT Processes:

This section flags up some key texts on the use of a range of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods when exploring IGT poverty. It also includes some new and developing methodologies such as interpretive focus groups. Poverty is mobilised through differing proxies including income, parental education, household assets, childhood education, childhood malnutrition, and orphanhood. These are identified here and, as can be seen, each proxy illustrates another aspect of IGT poverty and a potential intervention point.

Health, Nutrition and Irreversibilities in Child Development:

Child and maternal nutrition and health status are often cited alongside the timing of shocks and interventions as *the* critical factors in determining the irreversibility of poverty transfers. This section will accordingly focus on the key texts which discuss these links and processes, and the implications for interventions in relation to the irreversibilities of such transfers.

HIV/AIDS and maternal and child nutrition emerge as significant in the processes which can condemn future generations to a lifetime of poverty. Timing of child-bearing, orphanhood from HIV/AIDS, type of care and carer, and socialisation are also flagged up. There is a significant amount of evidence which suggests that early childhood malnutrition will have long-term impacts in terms of productivity, educational attainment and poverty as adults. Importantly, the factors which are identified as significant in creating child malnutrition are related to parental income, parental education, household poverty, parental presence/absence, and other household characteristics. This demonstrates clearly some major pathways for the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Although much of the literature included in this section demonstrates the long-term and irreversible impact of certain disadvantages suffered during childhood, they also highlight the potential intervention points for policies to interrupt the cycle of ill-being and poverty. Policies to support elderly carers, to increase household income and resources, and to increase access to education and health services could all have an impact on interrupting negative poverty cycles across lifetimes and generations.

Education, Training and Reversals in Poverty Trajectories:

This section looks at “education” as an important intervention to interrupt IGT poverty. Investment by parents in their children’s education is seen as a vital human capital investment. However, the persistence of forms of discrimination (for example, around gender) can determine an inequality in *who* is educated and for how long.

Maternal education is identified as particularly significant, especially in terms of nutrition information, for the well-being of children. Moreover, early enrolment in schools and sustained education are shown to influence adult income-earning potential. Education is demonstrated to be a significant pathway for the breaking of IGT poverty cycles and, potentially, for the “catching-up” of bad starts in life due to poverty.

Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa:

This section deals specifically with recent relevant texts that examine poverty processes in sub-Saharan Africa but are not included in any of the previous sections. In particular, issues of agricultural livelihoods, conflict, ageing, street children, and social capital emerge as points of interest.

IGT Research Online

Birth to Twenty is the longest running study of child and adolescent health and development in Africa and one of the few large scale longitudinal studies in the world. It tracks the lives of 3273 people born in metropolitan area of Johannesburg-Soweto, South Africa, between March and June in 1990. Details of its research, data and publications can be found at its website.

<http://www.wits.ac.za/birthto20/>

Childhood Poverty Research and Policy Centre is a collaborative research and policy programme which involves Save the Children, the Chronic Poverty Research Centre, and partners in China, India, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. Their website provides resources including publications and a methods toolbox.

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/about/chip.html>

Eldis: The Gateway to Development Information, is a Development database (one of a family of knowledge services from the Institute of Development Studies) with a significant range of up to date and interesting resources on poverty processes.

<http://www.eldis.org/>

Elsevier is an online resource service which provides access to journals in a variety of subjects, including health.

<http://www.elsevier.com/>

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has online resources which include its publications on food security and malnourishment.

<http://www.fao.org/>

The Future of Children is an online resource of the Princeton University, United States of America, which aims to promote effective policies and programs for children by providing policymakers, service providers and the media with information and research.

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/>

HelpAge International is a global network of not-for-profit organisations with a mission to work with, and for, disadvantaged older people worldwide to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of their lives. Their website contains publications, newsletters and profiles on the issues surrounding ageing.

<http://www.helpage.org/>

ID21 is a database provided by the Institute of Development Studies, with abstracts on the latest development research.

<http://www.id21.org/>

The Inter-American Development Bank has a wide range of on-line resources, including a section on intergenerational transmissions of poverty and children and youth.

<http://www.iadb.org/>

The International Food Policy Research Institute website has a topic section on poverty reduction, which includes sub-sections on the pathways from poverty, pro-poor public investment program and diet changes among the poor. These provide background and publications.

<http://www.ifpri.org/themes/topics.asp#poverty>

The Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research has publications on child health and the implications for poverty.

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/poverty/index.html>

UNICEF, the United Nations' Children's Fund regularly publishes reports on different aspects of childhood, including health, nutrition, conflict and HIV/AIDS.

<http://www.unicef.org/>

The United Nations Task Forces for the MDG's reports can be found here. In particular, the Task force on Child Health and Maternal Health identify key links between health status and the persistence of poverty across lifetimes and generations.

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/reports2.htm> (Task Forces' Final Reports)

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/who/task04.htm> (Task force on Child Health and Maternal Health)

The World Bank website contains publications and discussions on key topics such as children and youth (including child health and nutrition, early childhood development, and vulnerable children and youth).

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

The World Health Organisation's Child Health and Development Team publish information and documents on key issues such as the nutrition of children and adolescents, HIV/AIDS, and rights.

http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/OVERVIEW/CHILD_HEALTH/child_overview.htm

Young Lives Research Project: Childhood Poverty in Ethiopia is part of a four country, multi donor project, funded by Save the Children UK. It seeks to record changes in child poverty over a 15 year period through a longitudinal survey. Further information on this project and initial reports can be found at:

http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-73382-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Definitions, Concepts and Frameworks

Boggess, S. and Corcoran, M. with Jenkins, S.P. (1999). 'Cycles of Disadvantage?' Institute of Policy Studies: Wellington

This is a further title in a series of works published as part of the Income Distribution and Social Policy Programme at the Institute of Policy Studies.

- Paper One: 'Cycles of Disadvantage' by Scott Boggess and Mary Corcoran:
The first work reviews US evidence on cycles of disadvantage, or the question of how and to what extent economic and other background disadvantages are passed on to children by their parents. The review shows that snapshots of poverty rates mask the degree to which there is movement in and out of poverty. There is mobility in and out of poverty during childhood years. Moreover, childhood poverty does not necessarily lead to adult poverty. The factors that are associated with intergenerational poverty are reviewed, and the routes or mechanisms by which these factors, including poverty, operate are covered. Economic disadvantages are shown to play a significant role in determining life cycle incomes; however, other factors also play a role. In particular, the research examines the influence of family structure, neighbourhood effects, transmission of welfare dependence and social isolation.

- Paper Two: 'The Intergenerational Transmission of Disadvantage: A UK Perspective' by Stephen P Jenkins:
Stephen P Jenkins' paper comments on the Boggess and Corcoran research and reviews the extent to which the findings for the USA about the role of poverty, the family and other background influences in the determination of economic disadvantage are applicable to other countries. In particular, he reviews UK research and concludes with some brief conjectural comments about the applicability of the results to New Zealand.

[Institute of Policy Studies:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/ips/publications/economic/cycles.aspx>].

Keywords

United States of America

United Kingdom

Disadvantage

IGT Poverty

Bowles, S., Gintis, H. and Groves, M.O. (2005). *Unequal Chances: Family Background and Economic Success* Russell Sage Foundation: New York and Princeton University Press: Princeton

This edited volume contains data, analysis and discussion focusing on IGT poverty in the United States of America, which is conceptualised in terms of the tendency for children of those at the bottom of the income distribution to find their children at the bottom, with a parallel tendency for those at the top of the income distribution to find their children also at the top. From this they conclude that children from the least well-off families do not have a fair chance at attaining the level of economic security most other families manage to attain.

This book seeks to analyse the extent of economic mobility, and also to uncover the factors accounting for the success of some families and the failures of others to attempt to ensure their children an auspicious economic future.

The chapters of this volume address the following areas:

- General versus specific intergenerational associations between parents and children
- New evidence regarding the intergenerational elasticity in the area of persistence in earnings
- The changing correlation between American adult's family incomes and their parents' characteristics between 1961 and 1999
- The role of sibling types in earnings variation in Sweden
- The comparative intergenerational economic mobility of Black and White families in the United States of America.
- The role of parent and child personalities and attitudes
- The gender dimension of intergenerational transfers in rural China
- A normative perspective on intergenerational transmission of economic advantage

The editors declare that this volume amply documents the existence of IGT poverty, but also express optimism concerning the power of social policy to enhance quality of opportunity (Introductory Chapter).

Keywords

Family Background

Economic Success

IGT Poverty

Castaneda, T. and Aldaz-Carroll, E. (1999). 'The Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty: Some Causes and Policy Implications' Inter-American Development Bank Discussion Paper (not for quotation). Available at <http://www.iadb.org/sds/doc/1258eng.pdf>

In this paper, IGT poverty is defined as the process by which poor parents transmit poverty and disadvantage to their children. The specific purpose of this report is to investigate the effects of family background factors in determining IGT poverty in Latin America, and to discuss policy implications. The analysis is based on empirical data from a sample of Peruvian families that were interviewed in 1985 and 1994, and the cross-sectional data sets of sixteen countries. The framework of analysis is that of quantity-quality interaction model of Becker-Lewis (1973) and Becker (1991).

After first introducing the conceptual framework and then reviewing relevant literature, the authors present their results from regression and cross-sectional analyses. The key findings suggest that family background characteristics play an important role in the educational and future economic performance of poor children. It was also found that those children who complete secondary education, and can thus likely break the IGT poverty cycle, are those with fewer siblings, higher educated parents, living in a higher income household, and are more likely to reside in an urban area.

The policy implications are then outlined as:

- governments should not overlook the role of parents in transmitting poverty or wealth to their children
- low income families can be helped by social programs that benefit parents and children
- there should be universal provision of high quality family planning and other reproductive health services to all women and men
- measures to reduce forms of discrimination against women should be introduced
- adult literacy programmes should be introduced
- adult skills training should be introduced
- special support policies for indigenous people should be introduced
- adequate attention should be given by the police and health system to the problem of domestic violence
- policies to address the rural/urban inequalities should be introduced

Keywords

Latin America
 IGT Poverty
 Education
 Gender

Corcoran, M. (2001). ‘Mobility, Persistence, and the Consequences of Poverty for Children: Child and Adult Outcomes’ pp. 127-161 in Danziger et al (eds) *Understanding Poverty* Russell Sage: New York

Reviews longitudinal studies to demonstrate patterns of intra- and intergenerational economic mobility and evaluate the impact of childhood poverty and/or a single-parent household on future outcomes. Poverty persistence is examined in terms of the amount of long-term poverty and the demographic groups experiencing the most, the extent of intergenerational poverty, and changes in long-term child poverty incidence. Analysis of patterns of intragenerational income mobility focuses on the extent of such mobility and variation across demographic groups; assessing 1980-early-1990s mobility increases and its countervailing effect on cross-sectional income inequality; and comparison of income mobility between the US and other industrialized nations with less income inequality. It is suggested that parental disadvantage rather than childhood poverty is associated with or causes parental poverty and leads to negative relations between childhood poverty and child outcomes. The impact of growing up in a single-parent family on children, giving birth as a teen, and being born to a teenage mother on children’s life/economic chances is assessed. The prevalence of African Americans among the long-term poor is noted, & policy suggestions are offered. 5 Tables, 3 Figures [J. Zendejas: Cambridge Scientific Abstracts].

Keywords

United States of America
 Mobility
 Persistence
 IGT Poverty

Corcoran, M. (1995). ‘Rags to Rags: Poverty and Mobility in the United States’ *Annual Review of Sociology* 21: 237-267

Early arguments over the “culture of poverty” assumed considerable intergenerational transmission of poverty but differed over whether this was due to cultural inadequacies of the poor or to structural barriers and discrimination faced by the poor. These arguments subsided in the 1970s when quantitative social stratification studies such as Blau and Duncan (1967) found that intergenerational socioeconomic mobility was considerable and that there was little evidence for a “vicious cycle of poverty”. In the 1980s the issue of intergenerational poverty re-emerged when research on new longitudinal datasets suggested that both intragenerational and intergenerational poverty were more persistent than analyses based on cross-sectional data had suggested. Four new theoretical perspectives were developed to explain intergenerational poverty: the resources model, the correlated disadvantages model, the welfare culture model, and Wilson’s (1987) underclass model. This review summarizes and evaluates recent empirical research on the extent to which being raised in poor families, in non-intact families, in welfare-dependent families, and/or in underclass neighbourhoods facilitates or hinders children’s adult attainments. The review assesses how well each of the four new models are supported by this research [Author’s own].

The studies used strongly support the economic resources model, that is, that parental economic resources consistently predict children’s adult attainments. However, whilst this relationship can be identified, the author acknowledges that the route by which parental income matters is less clear. Evidence for the welfare culture model is weak, whilst evidence for Wilson’s underclass model is strong. A further key finding is that being born into a black family rather than into a white family dramatically reduces a child’s adult economic prospects.

The author suggests that further research on intergenerational transmission of poverty should focus on *how* and *why* parental poverty itself diminishes children’s adult attainments.

Keywords

United States of America

Poverty

Mobility

IGT Poverty

Duncan, C.M. (1999). ‘Worlds Apart: Why Poverty Persists in Rural America’ Yale University Press: New Haven, Connecticut.

The book presents case studies from three remote rural areas in the USA and of the people that live in these areas. The case studies are of the poor and struggling, the rich and powerful, and all in between. The histories focus on families and work, the hard times experienced, and the hopes and dreams of the residents. The nature of poverty is examined in Blackwell, Appalachia, and in the Mississippi Delta town of Dahlia. In these rural towns there is a persistent inequality that erodes the fabric of the community, feeds corrupt politics and undermines institutions crucial for helping poor families achieve the ‘American Dream’. In contrast, New England’s Gray Mountain enjoys a rich civic culture that enables the poor to escape poverty. Focusing on the implications of the differences among these communities, the book provides an insight into the dynamics of poverty, politics, and community change [CAB Abstracts 2000].

Keywords

United States of America
Rural
Inequality
Poverty
Politics
Community

Falkingham, J. and Ibragimova, S. (2005). ‘The Dynamics of Child Poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic’ CHIP Report 11: London. Available at

<http://www.childhoodpoverty.org/index.php?action=publicationdetails&id=92>

The authors define poverty as multidimensional, incorporating both monetary poverty and capability poverty. Using panel data from the 1998-2001 Household Budget Survey this paper investigates the dynamics of childhood poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic, in particular the duration of material poverty and factors associated with movement into and out of poverty. Overall, poverty rates are higher for children living in rural areas. However, children living in urban areas have been hardest hit by the recent economic slowdown and the urban rates of poverty have been worsening 2001-2 whilst rates in rural areas have improved. There is also a correlation between the number of children in a household and childhood poverty, and between the educational level of the head of the household and childhood poverty.

Despite high levels of childhood poverty there is some mobility, and further in-depth analysis is needed on the factors associated with this movement. Key factors are demonstrated to be the educational level of the head of the household, number of children in the household, reforms in health financing, and inequalities in school enrolment.

Keywords

Kyrgyz Republic
Poverty Dynamics
Childhood
Mobility

Fan, C.S. (2005). ‘Survival of the Gene, Intergenerational Transfers and Precautionary Saving’ *Journal of Development Economics* 76: 451-479

This paper provides a model of bequest and investment in children’s human capital at low incomes. It posits that parents and children are linked through their common concern of grandchildren and intergenerational transfers provide a material basis for the perpetuation of the family line. The model characterizes intergenerational strategic interactions in a dynamic game theoretical framework. Moreover, it explores intergenerational uncertainty as a source of precautionary saving. In contrast with the existing literature, the model implies that there are qualitative differences between precautionary saving from one’s own income uncertainty and precautionary bequests from children’s income uncertainty [Author’s Own].

Whilst the focus of this paper is on a series of mathematical proofs, its engagement with the question of intergenerational transfers demonstrates that they are important

for living generations and form a significant part of the perpetuation of the family for future generations.

Keywords

Intergenerational Transfers

Precautionary Saving

Family Line

Gottschalk, P., McLanahan, S. and Sandefur, G.D. (1994). 'The Dynamics and Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty and Welfare Participation' pp. 85-108 in Danziger et al eds. *Confronting Poverty: Prescriptions for Change*

This chapter reviews the recent empirical research on poverty and welfare dynamics and the emerging research on the links between generations. First, the authors outline the tensions between conservatives' and liberals' approach to the persistence of poverty and the idea of a welfare trap. They then go on to claim that the relevant question is not whether a trap exists or whether there are disincentives, but rather, what is the quantitative magnitude of these factors? Two central issues for examination are introduced:

- The prevalence of long-term poverty and welfare participation and the disincentives caused by public assistance
- The relationship between poverty, income, and welfare in one generation and the next

In the second section of the chapter, evidence on intergenerational mobility for the United States of America is outlined, including arguments on the permanency of poverty. The authors conclude that mobility rates were similar to other industrialised nations. Then welfare dynamics are analysed, demonstrating that a reformed and more generous welfare system could clearly reduce poverty. In the third section of the chapter, the analysis is extended to poverty and welfare dynamics across generations. This finds that the media and some scholars have overstated the extent to which poverty and welfare are traps in which individuals and families are caught. They state that although individuals who lived in poor families as children and whose families participated in welfare programs are more likely themselves to be poor and receive welfare as adults, as many as two thirds of the children from these families manage to escape poverty.

The dearth in knowledge about these issues is pointed to by the authors in their concluding remarks.

Keywords

United States of America

IGT Poverty

Welfare

Harper, C., Marcus, R. and Moore. 2003. 'Enduring Poverty and the Conditions of Childhood: Lifecourse and Intergenerational Poverty Transmissions' *World Development* 31(3): 535-554

This paper defines IGT and life course poverty as emphasising the linked set of processes that may result in, or entrench, childhood, adulthood or chronic poverty,

rather than outcomes or experiences during a specific period of time (pp.535-536). IGT is seen to involve either the private transmission of poverty (within a family) or the public transfer (or lack of transfer) of resources across generations. Negative transmissions and negative poverty cycles can be interrupted, but the specific contexts determining poverty transmissions must be understood. A gap is identified in available data for the Developing World, particularly panel data which has led to a dearth in the quantitative analysis of such that has been seen in the Developed World. Policy recommendations focus on enabling environments which both make possible individual participation in society through positive social relations and socio-political structures, and also present opportunities for development. Three areas of policy integration are highlighted: substantial consideration of the potential impact of different policy choices on children; greater integration between sectoral priorities; a process of policy design which promotes coordination between different government departments, citizen voice and reduced transaction costs to governments of coordinating with donors.

Keywords

Life course Poverty

IGT Poverty

Enabling Environments

Policy Integration

Hoff, K. and Sen, A. (2005). ‘The Kin System as a Poverty Trap?’ World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3575. Available at

http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469372&menuPK=64216926&entityID=000012009_20050503101120

An institution found in many traditional societies is the extended family system (kin system), an informal system of shared rights and obligations among extended family for the purpose of mutual assistance. In predominantly non-market economies, the kin system is a valuable institution providing critical community goods and insurance services in the absence of market or public provision. But what happens when the market sector grows in the process of economic development? How do the members of kin groups respond, individually and collectively, to such changes? When the kin system “meets” the modern economy, does the kin system act as a “vehicle of progress” helping its members adapt, or as an “instrument of stagnation” holding back its members from benefiting from market development?

In reality, the consequences of membership in a kin group have been varied for people in different parts of the world. Hoff and Sen characterize the conditions under which the kin system becomes a dysfunctional institution when facing an expanding modern economy. The authors first show that when there are moral hazard problems in the modern sector, the kin system may exacerbate them. When modern sector employers foresee that, they will offer employment opportunities on inferior terms to members of ethnic groups that practice the kin system. These entry barriers in the market, in turn, create an incentive for some individuals to break ties with their kin group, which hurts members of the group who stay back in the traditional sector.

The authors then show in a simple migration model that if a kin group can take collective action to raise exit barriers, then even if migrating to the modern sector and breaking ties increases aggregate welfare (and even if a majority of members are

expected to gain ex post, after the resolution of uncertainty about the identity of the winners and losers), a majority of agents within a kin group may support ex ante raising the exit barrier to prevent movement to the modern sector. This result is an example of the bias toward the status quo analyzed by Raquel Fernandez and Dani Rodrik in the context of trade reform. The authors do not claim that all kin groups will necessarily exhibit such a bias against beneficial regime changes. But they provide a clear intuition about the forces that can lead to the collective conservatism of a kin system facing expanding opportunities in a market economy-forces that can lead the kin group to become a poverty trap for its members [World Bank Summary: http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469372&menuPK=64216926&entityID=000012009_20050503101120]

Keywords

Kin System

Poverty Trap

Machin, S. ‘Intergenerational Mobility and Childhood Disadvantage’ Available at <http://www.qub.ac.uk/nierc/documents/Machin.pdf>

This paper draws on research primarily from the United Kingdom and the United States of America, in order to examine the transmission mechanisms associated with childhood disadvantage that underlie IGT poverty. IGT poverty is conceptualised in terms of parent to child transmission. The author first summarises work on intergenerational earnings mobility that use either a regression approach or which consider movements up or down a distribution of interest. He then considers intergenerational transmissions of other measures of economic status. Following a brief outline of these studies, factors that may underpin the strong intergenerational correlations depicted are highlighted. These are: early childhood mobility and parental economic status; childhood disadvantage and success or failure in the labour market; and recent trends in child poverty.

The authors conclude that these findings suggest that mobility is limited in terms of earnings and education, and that there is persistence in economic success or failure across generations, central to which is the ability of individuals to achieve higher earnings in the labour market.

Keywords

United States of America

United Kingdom

IGT poverty

Economic Status

Mobility

Malhotra, R. and Kabeer, N. (2002). ‘Demographic Transition, Intergenerational Contracts and Old Age Security: An Emerging Challenge for Social Policy in Developing Countries’ Institute of Development Studies Working Paper 157. IDS: Brighton. Available at: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/wp/wp157.pdf>

This paper seeks to begin to address the dearth in literature on ageing in Southern countries undergoing demographic transition. It positions its discussions around the idea of inter-generational contract, defined as the set of norms, rules, conventions and

practices which govern the relationship between different generations at the level of families and at the level of society. It is mainly an exploratory review of secondary literature.

After first introducing and defining demographic transition and ageing in the Third World, the paper moves onto a more detailed exploration of intergenerational contracts. The authors suggest that these contracts are undergoing a process of change and contestation and that, as a part of this, the elderly are emerging as a new vulnerable group. They also claim that this supports the growing idea of a declining ability and motivation of families to provide care and support to elderly generations.

Significantly, the role of social policy in constructing and/or reinforcing old age insecurity is highlighted. Reliance on the family as the only form of support for old age cannot be taken for granted. However, a synthesis is suggested, in which the state and family are brought together in a partially socialised inter-generational contract in which each has a role to play.

Keywords

Ageing

Third World

Social Policy

Minujin, A., Delamonica, E., Gonzalez, E.D. and Davidziuk, A. (2005). ‘Children Living in Poverty: A Review of Child Poverty Definitions, Measurements and Policies’ Final draft paper for UNICEF conference *Children and Poverty: Global Context, Local Solutions* New School University: New York. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/child_poverty_final_draft_4_05.pdf

The authors begin by outlining the current global situation of child poverty and the concern that the world is falling short of its commitment to ensure that every child has a safe and nurturing childhood. They assert that children living in poverty have specific vulnerabilities and needs which have not been differentiated sufficiently, if at all, in the global poverty debate. Although the specific focus is on children, they are not seen as isolated actors, and the importance of the mother, father and immediate environment is acknowledged.

The paper is defined as “a mapping...of different approaches to define, identify, measure, and tackle child poverty” (p. 4). It is split into four sections: the first discusses why child poverty should be studied and addressed; the second is a summary of different definitions of child poverty and conceptual frameworks that shape child poverty action plans; the third presents the monetary and deprivation approach as two different methods for measuring poverty; and the fourth presents a mapping of the different policies that explicitly address child poverty.

A key reason given for tackling childhood poverty (alongside the right of children to have a good start in life) is that today’s uneducated, malnourished and poor children are likely to become tomorrow’s uneducated, malnourished and poor adults (p.6). The effects of poverty on children are stated as more permanent than the effects of poverty on adults. Therefore an explicit and causal link is made between the prospects and chances of present and future generations. Intervening to stop childhood poverty is seen as an intervention to break the poverty cycle.

In terms of policy implications, the authors review key policy interventions already being used and then highlight the need for a holistic approach; the provision of good basic social services to all children; and an acknowledgement of the effect of macroeconomic reforms on poverty. They also outline a variety of steps which can be taken to ensure that child poverty is the main consideration of poverty reduction strategies. These include recognising child poverty as a unique phenomenon which requires direct intervention; incorporation of human rights principles in poverty reduction strategy papers; and an increase in the efforts to measure child poverty.

Keywords

Childhood

Poverty

Policy

Human Rights

Moore, K. (2005). 'Thinking about Youth Poverty through the Lenses of Chronic Poverty, Life-Course Poverty and Intergenerational Poverty' CPRC Working Paper 57. Manchester: IDPM/CPRC. Available at

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/resources/cp57.htm>

This paper argues that the related concepts of chronic poverty, life-course poverty and intergenerational poverty (transmission of poverty from one generation to the next via the transfer or non-transfer of poverty related assets and capital) are useful for understanding youth poverty. These concepts position youth poverty in terms of different groups of the poor and priorities for policy, in terms of life events which shape vulnerability, and in terms of the links between youth poverty and parental and childhood deprivation. By looking specifically at youth poverty, this paper identifies a stage at which anti-poverty interventions may have the most potential impact for long-term positive change. The construction and analysis of developing country data sets (quantitative and qualitative) can inform such appropriate and timely interventions.

Keywords

Youth Poverty

Chronic Poverty

Life-Course Poverty

Intergenerational Poverty

Vulnerability

Deprivation

Policy Intervention

Policy Dynamics

Moore, K. (2001). 'Frameworks for Understanding the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty and Well-Being in Developing Countries' Chronic Poverty Research Centre Working Paper 8. Available at

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/resources/cp08.htm>

This paper defines chronic poverty as IGT poverty, and seeks to open a space for a discussion of this concept in the developing world context. Through problematising the concept of IGT poverty, this work seeks to position it in a broader meaning of the transfer (or non transfer) of different types of capital. It highlights both private versus public transmission, the differing directions of transmission, the transfer or absence of transfer of different types of capital, and the question of other factors and processes

which interact to ensure IGT poverty. It concludes with a section on policy implications, hypothesising that policy interventions will depend on both the type of capital transmitted and the general approach to poverty reduction. A literature gap is also highlighted: the intergenerational transmission of socio-cultural and socio-political assets, including coping strategies, in the developing world.

Keywords

Chronic Poverty

IGT Poverty

Capital

Paolisso, M.J., Hallman, K., Haddad, L. and Regmi, S. (2002). ‘Does Cash Crop Adoption Detract from Child Care Provision? Evidence from Rural Nepal’ *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 50(2): 313-337

This paper examines the commercialisation of agriculture in rural Nepal (an area of high rates of poverty), and the impact of this on men and women’s roles and how they respond to new economic opportunities. The authors assert that whilst women’s time is valuable in agricultural cultivation, it is also valuable in the production of child nutrition through care behaviours which have life long impacts.

Data from fieldwork conducted in Nepal, which was designed to examine the impact of a project commercialising fruit and vegetables, is used in a multivariate analysis. This analysis finds that for households with more than one pre-schooler the trade-offs associated with participation in the commercialisation project did not seem too important for the health of the under five year olds. But for households with only one pre-schooler the trade-off seemed more important. The authors conclude that the implications of this are complicated, as care, empowerment of women, and the role of other household members must be taken into account. It is also acknowledged that more research is needed on the long-run impacts.

Keywords

Nepal

Cash Crops

Care

United Nations. (2005). ‘World Youth Report: Intergenerational Relations’

Available at

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wpayintergenerational.htm#WYR2005>

This online discussion first outlines the concerns related to our ageing global society and the implications this has for youth development in terms of caring and social development. This is identified as of particular concern in sub-Saharan Africa due to the AIDS pandemic and its erosion of life expectancy.

Both intra-generational and intergenerational poverty are then defined. Lifecourse, or intra-generational poverty is defined as denoting the ways in which a poor child or young person can grow into a poor, or even poorer adult. Intergenerational poverty is defined as the transmittance of poverty through generations, involving both private and public spheres, and cultural trends.

Two main areas are suggested for further attention in research and policy:

- Investment in individual life courses, which includes age-adjusted policies and programmes that encourage workplace flexibility, lifelong learning and healthy lifestyles, especially during transitional periods, such as youth to adulthood, family formation, or midlife to later years
- Strengthening the social environment of family, neighbourhood and community

Keywords

IGT Poverty

Life course Poverty

Ageing

Sub-Saharan Africa

Wilson, A.E., Shuey, K.M. and Elder Jr. G.H. (2003). ‘Ambivalence in the Relationship of Adult Children to Aging Parents and In-Laws’ *Journal of Marriage and Family* 65: 1055-1072

The concept of ambivalence emphasizes the complexity of family relations and the potential for individuals to evaluate relationships as both positive and negative. Using multilevel models, we investigate ambivalence in adult children’s relationships with their aging parents and in-laws. We focus on factors predicting adult children’s ambivalence toward parents and in-laws within a gendered kinship structure that shapes these relations. We conclude that ambivalence is a useful concept for representing the complexity of parent-child relationships and is produced within the context of social relations structured by gender and kinship. Results show greater ambivalence among dyads of women, toward in-laws, among those in poor health, for daughters providing assistance, and for adult children with poor parental relations in early life [Authors’ Own].

Data for this research came from the Midlife Transitions Project, a continuation of the Iowa Youth and Families Project (a panel study). The findings indicate the importance of policies which do not assume that the family is the main site of support for the elderly.

Keywords

United States of America

Ambivalence

Intergenerational Relationships

Methods for Investigating IGT Processes

Andrade, E., Veloso, F., Madalozzo, R. and Ferreira, S.G. (2003). ‘Do Borrowing Constraints Decrease Intergenerational Mobility? Evidence from Brazil’. Getulio Vargas Foundation: Brazil. Available at

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC16514&resource=fl>

In this paper, we find evidence that suggests that borrowing constraints may be an important determinant of intergenerational mobility in Brazil. This result contrasts sharply with studies for developed countries, such as Canada and the US, where credit constraints do not seem to play an important role in generating persistence of inequality. Moreover, we find that the social mobility is lower in Brazil in comparison with developed countries.

We follow the methodology proposed by Grawe (2001), which uses quantile regression, and obtain two results. First, the degree of intergenerational persistence is greater for the upper quantiles. Second, the degree of intergenerational persistence declines with income at least for the upper quantiles. Both findings are compatible with the presence of borrowing constraints affecting the degree of intergenerational persistence, as predicted by the theory [Authors’ Own].

This paper defines intergenerational mobility in terms of the persistence of income status across generations.

Keywords

Borrowing

Intergenerational Mobility

Brazil

Ario, I., Moisio, P. and Niemela, M. (2004). ‘Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty in Finland in the 1990s’ University of Turku, Department of Social Policy, Series C: 13. Available at

http://www.soc.utu.fi/sospol/julkaisut/Ario_Moisio_Niemela_5_b_netiversio.pdf

This study investigates whether there are links between social mobility and poverty from the viewpoint of the intergenerational transmissions of poverty. In particular, it focuses on the questions of whether IGT poverty has changed during the 1990s (a time of economic depression) in Finland, and whether it is different for men and women.

The authors define child poverty as a phenomenon where the inequality of opportunity is most explicitly and openly displayed, and as not just a question of poverty, but of intergenerational inequality of opportunities. They state, “[a] poor family passes to its children often also poorer opportunities in life” (p.1).

First the authors outline explanations for IGT poverty, including cultural-behaviour factors, the welfare system, and structural-economic explanations. They then identify

their key research questions: how strongly does a poor childhood predict poverty in adulthood; have there been changes in the inheritance of poverty in the first half of the 1990s; is the intergenerational transmission of poverty different among men and women; and, is the poverty mobility between 1990 and 1995 different among those coming from poor or non-poor childhood families?

The data used comes from the 1970-1995 Longitudinal Census Data File of Statistics Finland. The panel for this data set is gathered every five years, is register-based, and contains information on around 70,000 Finns. The 1960 birth cohort was selected by the authors for this analysis. Transition tables were created and log-linear models used to test the research questions. The results found that:

- Poverty had risen during the depression, with a higher growth of poverty among women
- The poverty risk is the same before and after depression for a person from a poor childhood family, but those coming from a non-poor family have a higher risk of finding themselves in poverty after the depression
- For women the childhood family has a much stronger effect than for men in terms of falling into or staying out of poverty during the depression
- The intergenerational transmission of poverty has increased among women and decreased among men during the depression

In conclusion, the authors find substantial evidence for IGT poverty in Finland. The importance of the welfare gap is highlighted.

Keywords

Finland

IGT Poverty

Gender

Welfare

Beegle, K. and De Weert, J. Dercon, S. (2005). 'Orphanhood and the Long-Run Impact on Children' Available at

http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0001651/P2000-Orphanhood_children_Sept2005.pdf

This paper presents unique evidence that orphanhood matters in the long-run for health and education outcomes, in a region of Northwestern Tanzania, an area deeply affected by HIV-AIDS in Africa. We use a sample of non-orphans surveyed in 1991-94, who were traced and reinterviewed in 2004. A large proportion, 23 percent, lost one or more parents before the age of 15 in this period, allowing us to identify the impact of orphanhood shocks. Since a substantial proportion reaches adulthood by 2004, we can also assess permanent health and education impacts of orphanhood. In the analysis, we can control for a wide range of child and adult characteristics before orphanhood, as well as community fixed effects. We find that maternal death causes a permanent height deficit of about 2 cm (or 22 percent of one standard deviation) and a persistent impact on years of education of almost 1 year (or 25 percent of one standard deviation). We also find that paternal orphanhood has an impact on educational outcomes, but only for particular groups. We show evidence that living arrangements and whether the child was in school at the time of losing a parent strongly influence the impact of maternal and paternal death. We also illustrate the

problems of inference on the impact of orphanhood if only children who remained in their baseline communities by 2004 had been reinterviewed [Authors' Own].

The authors assert the need for further research in other areas in order to fully address the question of whether orphanhood is the main source of deprivation among children or just one of many factors relevant for targeting the poor and vulnerable. Further research on the implications for, and assessment of, specific policy interventions is also needed.

Keywords

Tanzania
Orphanhood
Health
Education
Deprivation

Bhargava, P., Mathur, K. and Rajagopal, S. (2005). 'Understanding Chronic Poverty in Rajasthan'. CHIP Report 16. London: CHIP.

<http://www.childhoodpoverty.org/index.php?action=publicationdetails&id=97>

This paper focuses on the deprivations which occur during childhood which then entrench poverty. IGT poverty is primarily used to signify the private transmission of poverty from the older generation to the younger generations (especially parents to children). IGT poverty is seen as a series of multiple vulnerabilities which include poor nutrition and healthcare, low levels of education, depletion of the environment, insecure livelihoods, indebtedness, cultural norms, traditions and social practices. After outlining these deprivations in the context of Rajasthan, India, the paper highlights key policies which are already in place and the gaps between such policies and practice. The fieldwork undertaken here ran over two years in two districts and aimed to assess the impact of programmes specifically targeted at children. The data was collected via both qualitative methods (in-depth case studies, life histories, genealogies and timelines) and quantitative methods (survey collecting data on households, children and fertility patterns).

The findings indicate some key factors contributing to intergenerational transfers:

- deterioration of environmental resources
- subdivision of already small agricultural landholdings among members of large households
- large households which often contribute to indebtedness, ill-health and an inability to afford education
- less educated parents do not prioritise education, especially for girls
- persistence of social inequality
- limited access to schools
- the norm of early pregnancy and adolescent mothers, together with the livelihood conditions of parents, result in children who are vulnerable to poor health
- changes in women's status have been slow.

The paper concludes that disrupting negative poverty cycles necessitates a policy environment that provides potential opportunities for people to escape intergenerational and life-course poverty.

Keywords

Rajasthan
Deprivation
Childhood Poverty
IGT Poverty
Livelihood Strategies
Coping Strategies
Gender Discrimination
Education
Health

Bird, K. and Shinyekwa, I. (2005). 'Even the 'Rich' are Vulnerable: Multiple Shocks and Downward Mobility in Rural Uganda' *Development Policy Review* 23(1): 55-85

This paper identifies the gaps in some methods and current data (e.g. point-in-time information and a lack of panel data for developing countries), and instead uses multiple methods to identify what drives and maintains chronic poverty in rural Uganda: household survey; village level participatory studies; in-depth life-history interviews; and focus group discussions. The focus is on the chronicity of poverty and how low capabilities and the interlocking nature of their problems trap the poor in chronic poverty. IGT poverty is understood in terms of shocks which drive individuals and households into poverty, and low capabilities which maintain them there across lifetimes and generations. Life histories were identified as particularly strong in helping to understand the multiple trajectories into and out of poverty. The local focus groups faced the problem of bias towards local elites, as the researchers were discouraged from interviewing the 'ignorant' poor.

Key findings include:

- chronically poor households seldom faced a single problem or constraint, and had little opportunity for accumulation and movement out of poverty
- households outside of 'vulnerable groups' were also vulnerable to downward movements of well-being
- domestic conflict, separation and divorce emerged as recurrent themes
- the contribution of alcohol dependence to poverty, not just of the individual
- insecurity and displacement are key drivers and maintainers of poverty and chronic poverty

The authors suggest that because this analysis shows that all households are vulnerable to downward mobility, interventions targeting specific vulnerable groups are subject to substantial error, and a layered approach in which poor regions are identified followed by specific groups may provide a better foundation for policy. Key potential interrupters of chronic poverty should be identified. Policymakers should target a ceasefire in northern Uganda, a national programme for the economic and social reintegration of IDPs, increasing the effectiveness of local service provision and well-designed policies to reduce alcohol dependence.

Keywords

Chronic Poverty
Drivers and Maintainers of Poverty

Vulnerability
Policy

Blackburn, K. and Cipriani, G.P. (2005). ‘Intergenerational Transfers and Demographic Transition’ *Journal of Development Economics* 71: 191-214

This paper presents an analysis of demographic transition based on the endogenous evolution of intergenerational transfers along an economy’s endogenous path of development. Two-period-lived agents belonging to overlapping generations choose optimally their desired levels of consumption and fertility, together with their desired sizes of transfers to both parents and children. Parents are more efficient than children in producing output, but some parental time must be devoted to childrearing.

At low levels of development, fertility is high and the flow of net intergenerational transfers is from the young to the old. At high levels of development, fertility is low and the flow of net transfers is from the old to the young. These results accord strongly with empirical observations and the analysis may be seen as formalising, for the first time, a long-standing and well-respected hypothesis in the demographic transition literature [Authors’ Own].

The authors see this work as the first step to further work which will model formally the endogenous co-evolution of intergenerational transfers, demographic outcomes and economic activity.

Keywords

Intergenerational Transfers

Demographic Transition

Development

Bolt, V.J. and Bird, K. (2003). ‘The Intrahousehold Disadvantages Framework: A Framework for the Analysis of Intra-Household Difference and Inequality’ CPRC Working Paper 32. Available at

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/resources/cp32>

This paper introduces the Intrahousehold Disadvantages Framework which is said to provide researchers with a set of practical tools to analyse intra-household differentiation. The benefits of this approach are outlined as: providing a more holistic understanding of social difference and analysis of disadvantage; acknowledging the household as a site of negotiation and conflict over resources; and acknowledging the household as a complex unit of analysis.

The paper is split into four key sections: the first briefly discusses the concept of the household, and the evolving attempts to model and define it; the second attempts to reinforce the argument that the household is not just a site of altruism and cooperation, but also a site of negotiation, bargaining and conflict; the third section critically analyses existing gender frameworks in order to identify a set of tools and concepts to provide an analytical starting point from which to examine non-gender intrahousehold asymmetries; and the fourth section presents a set of tools and concepts, with examples, to assist in the critical analysis of dimensions of intrahousehold difference.

In doing this, the authors present a two tier framework (community level and intrahousehold level) which examines the impact of locally identified “clusters of disadvantage” on intrahousehold resource allocation and decision-making. According

to this method, at the community level participatory techniques should be used to create individual profiles, alongside an institutional analysis and a practical and strategic needs analysis. For the intrahousehold tier, more detailed case studies of two or three individuals who are characterised by the identified “clusters of difference” should be undertaken. This framework should provide a schematic map showing the implications of disadvantage at the community and intrahousehold level. Further detail can then be added to this map, accounting for local situations and realities.

Keywords

Intrahousehold Disadvantages
Community
Institutions
Gender

Dodson, L. and Dickert, J. (2004). ‘Girls’ Family Labour in Low-Income Households: A Decade of Qualitative Research’ *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66: 318-332

This article analyzes a decade of qualitative research to identify and explore an overlooked survival strategy used in low-income families: children’s family labor. Defined as physical duties, caregiving, and household management responsibilities, children’s—most often girls’— family labor is posited as a critical source of support where low wages and absent adult caregivers leave children to take over essential, complex, and time-consuming family demands. We argue that there are lost opportunities when children are detoured from childhood to do family labor and that an intergenerational transfer of poverty is associated with those losses [Authors’ Own].

Focused on the United States of America, the methodology here comprises of 10 years of research over seven studies divided into a discovery and verification phase. Grounded theory was used alongside a new analytic approach – interpretive focus groups, in which the analysts are people with the lived experiences of those under study.

Keywords

United States of America
Child Labour
IGT Poverty

Frankenberg, E., Lillard, L. and Willis, R.J. (2002). ‘Patterns of Intergenerational Transfers in South East Asia’ *Journal of Marriage and Family* 64: 627-642

Using data from the 1993 Indonesia Family Life Survey, this paper’s empirical analysis seeks to explore motivations for intergenerational exchanges of time and money. The findings support the hypotheses of several models regarding motivations for transfers, and in particular: transfers as a source of insurance; the exchange of money for time; and repayments to parents for educational loans. These results are then compared to results obtained previously for Malaysia, and found to be remarkably similar.

Keywords

South East Asia

Intergenerational Transfers

Ghuman, S., Behrman, J.R., Borja, J.B., Gultiano, S. and King, E.M. (2005). 'Family Background, Service Providers, and Early Childhood Development in the Philippines: Proxies and Interactions' *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 54(1): 129-164

This paper acknowledges the strong links which have been shown to exist between human capital investments in the first few years of life and cognitive development, school performance, productivity, income, and health and nutritional status over the life course. It focuses on the associations between family background and early childhood development which have received limited attention in the empirical literature.

Baseline data collected in 2001 for, and prior to, a government programme on early childhood development is used for the analysis here. It was collected from two programme regions and then a control region. The central aim of the analysis is identified as to estimate the associations between early childhood development and family background and to discern whether and how these associations change with controls for health and ECD-related service provision and community characteristics. Key indicators were chosen for child development, family background and health and other ECD related services. The analysis indicates that family background has a number of important positive effects on early childhood development. However, failure to account for community characteristics can give misleading indications of the probable impact of family background on early childhood development. They also found that generally the estimated associations of family background and early childhood development are less sensitive to inclusion of health or early childhood development services compared to all community characteristics. However, some instances show a significant change in family background estimates with inclusion of health services.

Keywords

Philippines

Human Capital

Early Childhood Development

Family Background

Health

Hoff, K. and Pandey, P. (2004). 'Belief Systems and Durable Inequalities: An Experimental Investigation of Indian Caste' World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3352. Available at

http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469372&menuPK=64216926&entityID=000112742_20040722150100

If discrimination against an historically oppressed social group is dismantled, will the group forge ahead? The authors present experimental evidence that a history of social and legal disabilities may have persistent effects on a group's earnings through its impact on individuals' expectations. In the first experiment, 321 high-caste and 321 low-caste junior high school male student volunteers in rural India performed the task of solving mazes under economic incentives. There were no caste differences in

performance when caste was not publicly revealed, but making caste salient created a large and robust caste gap. When a nonhuman factor influencing rewards (a random draw) was introduced, the caste gap disappeared. To test whether the low caste's anticipation of prejudicial treatment caused the caste gap, the authors conducted a second experiment that manipulated the scope for discretion in rewarding performance. When the link between performance and payoffs was purely mechanical, making caste salient did not affect behavior. Instead, it was in the case where there was scope for discretion and judgment in rewarding performance that making caste salient had an effect. The results suggest that when caste identity is salient, low-caste subjects expect that others will judge them prejudicially. Mistrust undermines motivation. The experimental design enables the authors to exclude as explanations of the caste gap in performance socioeconomic differences and a lack of self-confidence by low-caste participants [World Bank Summary:

http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469372&menuPK=64216926&entityID=000112742_20040722150100]

In conclusion, the authors assert that their findings provide evidence for an additional explanation, beyond differences in access to various resources, for the tendency of social inequalities to reproduce themselves over time.

Keywords

India

Belief Systems

Inequalities

Horrell, S., Humphries, J. and Voth, H.J. (2001). 'Destined for Deprivation: Human Capital Formation and Intergenerational Poverty in Nineteenth-Century England' *Explorations in Economic History* 38: 339-365

This paper combines nutritional and human capital poverty traps in a model that investigates the dynastic nature of labour market opportunities in nineteenth century England. Poor households are defined as female headed, and a mathematical model is used to represent the relationships between human capital and income and thus to model intergenerational poverty traps. The emphasis is on how these poverty traps can mean that temporary shocks to income may extend beyond the individual to the intergenerational transmission of poverty, which is conceptualised as the effect of shocks to family income on children's general education and health and subsequently their capacity to work and earn as adults.

A data set from the Marine Society is used, which includes recordings of height, age, family and occupation of each recruit. This evidence shows that being fatherless, and so likely poor, had an adverse effect on children's human capital acquisition. However, policy intervention in the form of the Old Poor Law blocked the transmission of poverty and avoided permanent pauperism. It is claimed that even at an early stage of development, redistribution emerges as a positive contribution to economic growth, not a luxury that poor countries can ill afford.

Keywords

Poverty Traps

Intergenerational Disadvantage

Human Capital Acquisition

Welfare State
Economic History
Great Britain

Kebede, B. (2003). 'Decomposition of Household Expenditure and Child Welfare in Rural Ethiopia' Centre for the Study of African Economies: Oxford.

Available at

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC14025&resource=Default>

This research uses the Lazear and Michael (1998) methodology to focus on the question of how much parents spend on their children in rural Ethiopia. This method focuses on the two problems of apportioning private and public goods, which are then divided into exclusive and non-exclusive goods. Some specific estimation procedures are modified and panel data are used to control for household level heterogeneity. In addition, a new and approximate test for the estimated ratios is applied (adapted from authors' abstract). The results indicate that the estimated expenditures on children are more correlated to child welfare than per capita household expenditures. It is suggested that this method applied to standard household and income expenditure surveys should be increasingly applied in order to better understand intra-household allocations.

Keywords

Ethiopia

Household Expenditure

Child Welfare

Intra-Household Allocation

Keister, L.A. (2004). 'Race, Family Structure, and Wealth: The Effect of Childhood Family on Adult Asset Ownership' *Sociological Perspectives* 47(2): 161-187

This paper examines family background as a potentially important factor contributing to racial differences in wealth ownership, one of the most extreme and persistent forms of stratification in the United States of America. The author first highlights key findings in the literature so far, including the racial differences in family structure, and evidence that family structure during childhood shapes well-being and attainment both during childhood and in adulthood. She then sets up her core argument, which claims that family background is a critically important, albeit often overlooked, determinant of adult wealth. Key relationships between family size, opportunities in childhood, and adult wealth, family disruption and extended family are identified. This is then followed by a section which explains data and method.

In order to investigate the hypothesis empirically, data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 cohort is used. This is identified as an appropriate data set because it combines broad longitudinal coverage of a large sample with detailed information about wealth holdings, family background, life transitions and adult status. Results of a standard regression analyses and sequence analyses of saving trajectories are used to provide insights into the role of processes and family background in creating and maintaining inequality, particularly racial inequality in wealth ownership.

The results found that sibship size decreases adult wealth, consistent with the argument that additional siblings strain both material and nonmaterial resources. They

also indicated that family disruption decreases adult wealth, but that having an extended family in the home can reduce the negative effects of disruption. Evidence was also found that family background may reduce the effect of race on wealth via portfolio behaviour and savings trajectories. Overall, it is concluded that these results suggest that the extreme and persistent racial divide in wealth ownership is at least partially traceable to family processes during childhood. This has implications for the benefits of incentives to change some behaviour and ensuring that appropriate skills and knowledge are fostered during childhood.

Keywords

United States of America

Race

Family Structure

Wealth

Inequality

Childhood

Adulthood

Verner, D. and Alder, E. (2004). ‘Youth at Risk, Social Exclusion, and Intergenerational Poverty Dynamics: A New Survey Instrument with Application to Brazil’ World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3296. Available at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=610341

This paper addresses the underlying causes of problems and risks faced by poor and excluded people, focusing on youth of 10-24 years of age. We develop a survey instrument that addresses poverty in broad sense including hunger, early pregnancy and fatherhood, violence, crime, drug use, low levels of social capital, and low educational attainment. The paper also sheds light on intergenerational transfer of risks that are considered to induce poverty, e.g. in early pregnancy and education attainment. We document simple findings based on the survey data gathered in three poor urban neighborhoods in Fortaleza in the Northeast of Brazil. Our main findings show that: (i) poor youth are at considerable risk of growing up without their father—only 7 percent grow up with their father present in the household; (ii) the intergenerational transmission of low education attainment is at play, but it is diminishing; (iii) the risk of early pregnancy and fatherhood is large; 31 percent of the youth had their first child before age 16, triple that of the adult population; (iv) the risk of sexual abuse and violence within the household exists—6 percent of the youth answered that they had their first sexual relationship with a family member and 13 percent grow up in household with violence; (v) the social capital levels are low—only five percent of the youth and 9 percent of the adults have measurable social capital; and (vi) the risk of growing up in a violent neighborhood is large—59 percent of the youth claim that they live in a violent neighborhood, 80 percent feel unsafe in their neighborhood and 50 percent feel unsafe at home [Authors’ Own].

The authors’ conclusion that youth are not the problem, but are a product of their environment has implications for policy interventions. These should seek to intervene in the processes and contexts that lead to poverty.

Keywords

Brazil

Youth
Social Exclusion
IGT Poverty

Worthman, C.M. and Brown, R.A. (2005). 'Models of the Life Course and the Youth-to-Adult Transition: the Life Trajectory Interview' Available at

<http://www.anthropology.emory.edu/CHB/members/Ryan%20Brown/LifeTrajectory.pdf>

The purpose of this paper is to define and explain the life trajectory interview. The author defines its use as:

- To elicit models of economic and social success and of life course achievement and derailment
- To identify how individuals position themselves with respect to these models
- To test how this relates to individual mental health trajectories across the lifespan
- To characterise participants' understanding of how individual behaviour and extrinsic events may act to "derail" life course goals

First the conceptual approach is outlined, including a discussion of the gaps in approaches. Then the sample described, along with the method of semi-structured interviews, focus groups and the creation of scales for pilot testing.

Keywords

Youth
Adult
Life Course
Life Trajectory Interview

Health, Nutrition and Irreversibilities in Child Development

Alderman, H., Hoddinott, J. and Kinsey, B. (2004). ‘Long Term Consequences of Early Childhood Malnutrition’ Households in Conflict Network Working Paper 9. Available at <http://www.hicn.org/papers/wp09.pdf>

This paper examines the impact of preschool malnutrition on subsequent human capital formation in rural Zimbabwe using a maternal fixed effects – instrumental variables (MFE-IV) estimator with a long term panel data set. Representations of civil war and drought “shocks” are used to identify differences in preschool nutritional status across siblings. Improvements in height-for-age in preschoolers are associated with increased height as a young adult and number of grades of schooling completed. Had the median pre-school child in this sample had the stature of a median child in a developed country, by adolescence, she would be 3.4 centimetres taller, had completed an additional 0.85 grades of schooling and would have commenced school six months earlier [authors’ abstract]. The authors call for more forward thinking policies which may mitigate the impact of shocks such as war and drought which have long lasting impacts and affect lifelong abilities to be productive.

Keywords

Zimbabwe
Shocks
Education
Malnutrition

Attree, P. (In Press) ‘The Social Costs of Child Poverty: A Systematic Review of the Qualitative Evidence’ *Children and Society*

This paper is UK-focused and describes a systematic review of qualitative studies of children living in material disadvantage. The author highlights work which suggests that disadvantage has negative effects on children’s physical and socio-emotional health that persist throughout their lives, and that the longer children spend in poverty the greater the impact on their health and development.

A systematic review process was used, which broadly followed the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination Guidelines. Meta-ethnographic methods were then used to produce a qualitative “line of argument” meta-synthesis. The children’s accounts of coping with poverty demonstrated the social costs of poverty, children’s inventiveness in coping with poverty and that, despite their resourcefulness, some poor children experience a gradual narrowing of their horizons, both economically and socially, limiting their life expectations.

Policy changes that the children identified as wanting to see included improved social and leisure activities and additional financial support. The author concludes that these findings highlight the importance of measures to improve the material circumstances of low-income families. Moreover, the author asserts that this research has highlighted the gaps in the evidence base, and recommends further research with children from minority ethnic communities, with younger children, and children from different types of neighbourhood.

Keywords

United Kingdom

Child Poverty

Social Costs

Buvinic, M. (1998). 'The Costs of Adolescent Childbearing: Evidence from Chile, Barbados, Guatemala and Mexico' *Studies in Family Planning* 29(2): 201-209

The studies include retrospective information and a comparison group of adult childbearers to account for the effects of background factors (poverty) and the timing of observations. Findings show that early childbearing is associated with negative economic rather than social effects, occurring for poor rather than for all mothers. Among the poor, adolescent childbearing is associated with lower monthly earnings for mothers and lower child nutritional status. Also, among this group of women only, improvements in the child's wellbeing are associated with mother's education and her contribution to household income. Findings suggest that social policy that expands the educational and income-earning opportunities of poor women could help to contain the intergenerational poverty associated with early childbearing among the poor [Cambridge Scientific Abstracts: Original abstract – amended].

Keywords

Chile

Barbados

Guatemala

Mexico

Childbearing

Burja, J. (1999). 'Intergenerational Deadlock? Confronting the AIDS Crisis in Tanzania' Id21 Development Reporting Service. Available at

<http://www.id21.org/society/5ajb1.html>

Aids in Africa has created and widened divisions between age groups at a time when intergenerational support is more essential than ever. Normal sexual activity is highly likely to expose young people to the risk of HIV infection: they need protection just as older people need support in the face of the mounting death toll. Yet, talking about sex is culturally taboo, especially between parents and children. And rural poverty drives young people into towns where they may engage in risky survival strategies beyond adult control. Comparative research by the universities of Bradford and Leeds examines the significance of generational and gender relations in addressing the epidemic in Zambia and Tanzania [ELDIS Database].

Keywords

Tanzania

Zambia

AIDS

Case, A. and Ardington, C. (2004). 'The Impact of Parental Death on School Enrolment and Achievement: Longitudinal Evidence from South Africa' Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper 97

We analyse longitudinal data from a demographic surveillance area (DSA) in KwaZulu-Natal, to examine the impact of parental death on children's outcomes. We find significant differences in the impact of mothers' and fathers' deaths. The loss of a

child's mother is a strong predictor of poor schooling outcomes. Maternal orphans are significantly less likely to be enrolled in school, and have completed significantly fewer years of schooling, conditional on age, than children whose mothers are alive. Less money is spent on their educations on average, conditional on enrolment. Moreover, children whose mothers have died appear to be at an educational disadvantage when compared to non-orphaned children with whom they live. We use the timing of mothers' deaths relative to children's educational shortfalls to argue that mothers' deaths have a causal effect on children's educations. The loss of a child's father is a significant predictor of household socioeconomic status. Children whose fathers have died live in significantly poorer households, measured on a number of dimensions. However, households in which fathers died were poor prior to fathers' deaths. The death of a father between waves of the survey has no significant effect on subsequent household economic status. While the loss of a father is correlated with poorer educational outcomes, this correlation arises because a father's death is a marker that the household is poor. Evidence from the South African 2001 Census suggests that the estimated effects of maternal deaths on children's school attendance and attainment in the Africa Centre DSA reflect the reality for orphans throughout South Africa [Authors' Own].

The authors highlight that one of the long term effects of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa will be the impact on the education of the current school going age generation, with further negative implications for economic growth and the health and general well-being of the population. This highlights the importance of policy interventions which tackle the HIV/AIDS crisis, and make provisions for orphans and their education.

Keywords

South Africa
HIV/AIDS
Orphanhood
Education

Cohen, D. (1998). 'Poverty and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa' SEPED Conference Paper Series No. 2, UNDP. Available at http://www.undp.org/seped/publications/poverty_HIV_SSA.pdf

This paper discusses two key relationships - the relationship between poverty and HIV/AIDS, and the relationship between HIV/AIDS and poverty - in terms of the gender dimensions of poverty, the intergenerational aspects of poverty, the qualitative and quantitative measures of poverty, and the ways in which the HIV epidemic alters the relationships between the poor and the wealthy. An intergenerational approach to poverty is defined as seeing poverty as part of dynamic social, economic and political processes.

The focus for these questions is sub-Saharan Africa due to the staggering rates of HIV infection in this region and the AIDS epidemic which directly affects more than one quarter of Africans (pp.1-2). The trends of mother to child transmission and HIV orphans are identified as directly affecting intergenerational poverty, and thus presenting a particular challenge to policy makers. The HIV/AIDS epidemic intensifies poverty and leads to its persistence over time and across generations. This happens due to the risky behaviours adopted by the poor, a more limited capacity to

deal with morbidity and mortality, the erosion of human resources, social exclusion and the damaging effect on childhood development. The authors warn that large numbers of children growing up in poverty will adopt those behaviours which lead to HIV infection, and become the next generation of those infected with HIV.

They conclude that: “[t]he next step has to be the development of policies and programmes that address the inter-relationships between poverty and development and to actually put in place those activities that can make a difference for development outcomes. Central to these activities are programmes that address poverty today so as to facilitate future socioeconomic development tomorrow. For unless the intergenerational effects of HIV are addressed now then it is optimistic in the extreme to assume that Africa will become a pole of development in succeeding decades” (p.11).

Keywords

HIV

AIDS

Sub-Saharan Africa

Intergenerational Poverty

Commission on the Nutrition Challenges of the 21st Century. (2000). ‘Ending Malnutrition by 2020: An Agenda for Change in the Millennium’ *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 21(3). Available at <http://www.eldis.org/static/DOC18732.htm>

During the 1990s, major international commitments were made to reduce malnutrition. There was dramatic progress in some areas, but more still needs to be done. This special supplement to the Food and Nutrition bulletin of the United Nations University reviews progress in combating malnutrition to date. It sets out a vision and goals for the future and outlines the commission’s agenda for change.

The document discusses the impact of poor nutrition throughout the life cycle and examines societal issues that must be addressed and the challenges for food production, agriculture and the environment. The key issues are condensed in an executive summary. The authors describe the major nutritional challenges that have been identified. Reviewing recent progress and setbacks in overcoming these, they highlight the following elements of the current situation:

- Dramatic progress has been made in some areas, particularly the reduction of iodine deficiency disorders and clinical vitamin A deficiency. The proportion of underweight and stunted children has fallen, though the absolute numbers continue to rise
- Lessons learned from countries that have achieved significant improvements show that there is no single recipe for success. Policies and strategies have differed, but what is required is purposeful action and political commitment
- The social, economic and personal costs of malnutrition are huge. Investing in nutrition makes good economic sense and yields numerous other benefits by improving the physical and intellectual capacity of individuals
- The economic crises of the late 1990s in Asia and Latin America may threaten much if not all of the progress made there earlier in that decade. Life expectancy has also fallen in central and eastern Europe, following the sudden changes in government and national financial management.

To accelerate progress, poor nutrition must be tackled throughout the whole life-cycle from birth to adulthood. Action is needed to address social issues and attitudes to food, as well as to increase food production and manage the associated environmental pressures. As part of their agenda for change, the report's authors outline the following major strategic tasks:

- An assessment of national policies and plans in the light of new perspectives is required. There is also a need for accelerated action, along with a new UN process to integrate programmes into a cohesive effort
- A new national mechanism should be established for developing coherent policies on diet and physical activity. These National Nutrition Councils should be recognised by the donor community as the focus of international linkages and support
- The elimination of malnutrition must become a major focus of economic and social policy in developing and developed countries
- Donor governments should offer to establish country-by-country agreements with interested governments. These agreements should indicate targets and strategies for accelerated action and the resources required
- The World Bank and IMF should be requested to issue a policy document on maintaining progress toward nutrition goals in countries undergoing structural adjustment programmes and debt repayment
- Support is needed to improve national statistical systems for collection and analysis of data on nutritional status and trends
- Regional task forces should be established to consider outreach and social mobilisation methods to encourage accelerated actions to improve nutrition.

[From Eldis Database <http://www.eldis.org/static/DOC18732.htm>]

Keywords

Malnutrition

Life Cycle

Croppenstedt, A. and Muller, C. (2000). 'The Impact of Farmers' Health and Nutritional Status on their Productivity and Efficiency: Evidence from Ethiopia' *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 48(3): 475-502

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Ethiopian economy, but its limited growth has ensured the poverty of 60% of the population. Food insecurity and malnutrition are common, and childhood stunting is amongst the highest rate in the world (pp.475-476). This article focuses on the link between nutrition and health and labour productivity, and thus the medium and long-term affects of nutrition intakes are studied. The authors outline the literature which links nutrition and activity levels, and the wage efficiency literature. They identify a gap in this area and highlight that unlike education the returns of other human capital variables are the subject of few empirical studies.

This study uses data from the first round of the Ethiopian Rural Household Survey conducted in 1994. In order to test the nutrition-productivity link, the authors estimate wage equations for farm labour with the inclusion of anthropometric indicators as explanatory variables. The key findings were that the distance to the source of water as well as nutrition and morbidity status affects agricultural productivity. The market

wage rate is also very responsive to the weight-for-height as well as the body mass index and height. Significantly, returns to investment in nutrition are high in the Ethiopian context. This implies the need for, and significant impact of, policies to tackle poor nutrition among adults and children in Ethiopia.

Keywords

Ethiopia

Food Insecurity

Nutrition

Engle, P.L., Menon, P. and Haddad, L. (1999). ‘Care and Nutrition: Concepts and Measurements’ *World Development* 27(8): 1309-1337

Care is the provision in the household and the community of time, attention, and support to meet the physical, mental, and social needs of the growing child and other household members. The significance of care has best been articulated in the framework developed by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). This paper extends the UNICEF model of care and summarizes the literature on the relationship of care practices and resources to child nutrition. The paper also summarizes attempts to measure the various dimensions of care. The concept of care is extended in two directions: first, we define resources needed by the caregiver for care and, second, we show that the child’s own characteristics play a role in the kind of care that he or she receives.

The literature summary and methodological recommendations are made for six types of resources for care and for two of the least studied care practices: complementary feeding and psychosocial care. The other care practices are care for women, breast-feeding, food preparation, hygiene, and home health practices. Feeding practices that affect a child’s nutritional status include adaptation of feeding to the child’s abilities (offering finger foods, for example); responsiveness of the caregiver to the child (perhaps offering additional or different foods); and selection of an appropriate feeding context. Psychosocial care is the provision of affection and attention to the child and responsiveness to the child’s cues. It includes physical, visual, and verbal interactions [Authors’ Own].

The authors conclude that appropriate care practices will depend on context, but that once these are identified, policy should support their uptake and practice. In general, mothers’ resources for care should be enhanced and supported, alongside the teaching of specific care practices.

Keywords

Care

Nutrition

UNICEF

Freedman, L.P., Waldman, R.J., Wirth, M.E. et al. (2005). ‘Who’s got the Power? Transforming Health Systems for Women and Children’ UN Millennium Project Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health. Available at

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/ChildHealthEbook.pdf>

This is the final report of the United Nations Task Force on Child and Maternal Health, created in order to respond to the question, what will it take to meet the

Millennium Development Goals on child and maternal health by 2015? The focus of this report is on how to harness the power to transform the structures, including health systems, which shape the lives of women and children. Positioned within the Millennium Project, this report links health with poverty and draws on epidemiological data and analysis generated over the last few decades. It puts forward an argument for the unique role of health systems in reducing poverty and promoting democratic development. Policy recommendations and strategies are then outlined.

The connections between maternal and child health are identified in terms of women's empowerment, the malnutrition of mothers and its links to neo-natal mortality and child malnutrition, and complications during birth with effects that can last a lifetime.

Key recommendations include:

- strengthening health systems
- additional funding for health systems
- development of the health workforce according to the goals of the health system and with the rights and livelihoods of the workers addressed
- upholding of sexual and reproductive health rights
- scaling up of child health interventions to 100% coverage
- focusing of maternal health strategies on a functioning primary health care system

Keywords

Child Health

Maternal Health

Power

Garrett, J.L. and Ruel, M.T. (2003). 'Stunted Child-Overweight Mother Pairs: An Emerging Policy Concern?' FCND Discussion Paper 148. International Food Policy Research Institute. Washington DC. Available at <http://www.ifpri.org/divs/fcnd/dp/papers/fcnbr148.pdf>

Positioned in the nutrition transition and food insecurity literature, this paper explores the coexistence of a stunted child and overweight mother (SCOWT) in the same household and tests whether the phenomenon is associated with a country's level of economic development and urbanisation. Stunting is identified as a significant indicator to use because it is largely irreversible and is therefore an accurate indicator of long-term chronic malnutrition in early childhood. Using data from 36 recent Demographic and Health Surveys across Africa, Latin America and Asia, descriptive statistics were derived, and a regression analysis undertaken in order to model the associations outlined above. The key results show that SCOWT is generally more prevalent in Latin America and not necessarily more prevalent in urban areas. There is some indication of an association between childhood stunting and increased risks of obesity at adolescence and adulthood. Thus, childhood stunting can have the affect of late obesity as a result of increased household food and energy availability.

Recognising SCOWT as a concrete phenomenon is seen as an important step in designing more effective strategies to tackle over and under nutrition, especially in targeting the food and nutrition needs of each individual, rather than at households where it cannot be assumed that such needs will be met. Intrahousehold factors emerge as potentially the most important determinants of SCOWT.

Keywords

Nutrition
Stunting
Overweight
Intrahousehold
Africa
Asia
Latin America

Gillies, P., Tolley, K. and Wolstoneholme, J. (1996). ‘Is AIDS a Disease of Poverty?’ *AIDS Care* 8(3): 351-363

This paper aims to begin to consider the evidence for AIDS as a disease of poverty. It seeks to describe the important influence of the social and economic context of HIV/AIDS and of those behaviours associated with HIV transmission, and argues for a shift in emphasis in the conceptualization of the ‘problem of AIDS’. The relationship between poverty and AIDS is explored, particularly in relation to global economic development, urbanization, homelessness and the disintegration of neighbourhoods, migration and systems of labour and production. Examples of socially driven community-based responses to the prevention and control of the HIV epidemic in diverse cultures are discussed and the need for new outcome measures for assessing community initiatives is proposed [Author’s abstract].

Keywords

AIDS
Poverty
Economic Development
Urbanisation
Homelessness
Migration
Systems of Labour
Systems of Production
Community Initiatives

Haddad, L., Alderman, H., Appleton, S., Song, L. and Yohannes, Y. (2003). ‘Reducing Child Malnutrition: How Far Does Income Growth Take Us?’ *The World Bank Economic Review* 17(1): 107-131

This article identifies that whilst progress has been made in reducing aggregate prevalence rates of child malnutrition, the rate of progress has been slowing, and in Africa both the number and prevalence of underweight children has increased. Thus, the Millennium Development Goal of halving the prevalence of underweight children between 1990 and 2015 will not be met at current rates of progress.

This article also identifies that there has been no systematic multi-country analysis of the causal relationship between income and malnutrition, and attempts to fill the gap. The key question it asks is: how far does moderately rapid income growth take us toward reducing the rate of child malnutrition in line with the Millennium Development Goal? They use household survey data from 12 countries as well as aggregate data on a set of 61 developing economies to model the relationship between child underweight and per capita income. This model is then used to predict the

declines in malnutrition that can be expected from a sustained 2.5% annual increase in per capita income from the date of the survey (1990s) to 2015.

The results showed that with this rate of income growth in 9 out of 12 countries the declines in child malnutrition fall short of the Millennium Development Goal. This leads to the conclusion that economic growth can play an important part in reducing malnutrition, but it is not enough. It is suggested that increasing the number and effectiveness of direct nutrition interventions is crucial.

Keywords

Child Malnutrition

Income Growth

Millennium Development Goals

Harper, C. 2004. 'Breaking Poverty Cycles – The Importance of Action in Childhood' CHIP Briefing 8. London: CHIP. Available at

<http://www.childhoodpoverty.org/index.php?action=publicationdetails&id=107>

This paper highlights the 'crisis in childhood poverty of staggering proportions which has significant long-term implications'. Focusing on the role of nutrition, health and education, the irreversibilities of 'early insults to the growth and development of children' are explored (p.1). It demonstrates the importance of child, adolescent and maternal nutrition in determining health across a lifetime, and thus one of the key drivers of chronic poverty at the individual and household level. Missed or poor education is shown to have long term effects on other efforts to escape poverty, and childhood nurturing on aspirations and welfare. Key policy recommendations include: addressing damage in childhood that is irreversible; ensuring economic policies do not undermine social policies; public commitments to government accountability; public provision of social services; and addressing discrimination.

Keywords

Irreversibility

Childhood Poverty

Education

Health

Nutrition

HelpAge International. (2003). 'HIV/AIDS and Ageing: A Briefing Paper'.

Available at

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC12567&resource=f1>

With a focus on Africa and Asia, this paper outlines the specific effects of HIV/AIDS on older men and women, both as carers and as carriers. It looks at their role as primary care givers to orphans of HIV/AIDS, their own risks of infection, stigma and exclusion based on age, and thus the persistence of HIV/AIDS related poverty through time and across generations. The authors suggest that collaborative action is needed to ensure that the intergenerational nature and widespread socio-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS are recognised, addressed and prevented.

Keywords

Africa

Asia

HIV
AIDS
Ageing

Larrea, C., Montalvo, P. and Ricaurte, A.M. (2004). 'An Analysis of Social, Ethnic and Regional Determinants of Child Health in the Andes'. Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLASCO). Available at <http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/DocDisplay.cfm?Doc=DOC16325&Resource=flpoverty>

The authors suggest that child malnutrition severely jeopardises, reduces or impairs prospects for productive social participation in adulthood. The authors propose that it is a major hindrance to human development (defined as a process of enhancing human capabilities). Furthermore, they say malnutrition perpetuates the intergenerational reproduction of poverty, thus creating a vicious circle that prevents social improvement and equity.

This paper aims to analyse social, ethnic and regional determinants of child malnutrition, as well as the effects of access to health services in four Andean countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Specifically, the project focuses on four particular topics:

- the contrast between the highland and the lowland regions in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Highlands stunting is consistently higher, and differences are not explained only by individual socio-economic or ethnic factors
- the lack of improvement in child nutrition in Peru and Colombia, where stunting prevalence is flattening out in the last years
- the effect of ethnic and cultural factors on stunting. Indigenous peoples are the most affected by stunting in Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru
- cross-country stunting differences between Colombia and the remaining countries.

The author makes comparisons between how various nutritional factors affect growth rates in each country, but notes that the conclusion to the paper as a whole is still under revision, and will ultimately include similarities and differences among country cases [Eldis Database].

Keywords

Andes
Child Malnutrition
IGT Poverty

McDonough, P., Sacker, A. and Wiggins, R.D. (2005). 'Time on my side? Life Course Trajectories of Poverty and Health' *Social Science and Medicine* 61: 1795-1808

This study examines the relationship between poverty and health in time. Following the argument that time is significant for shaping the experience of being poor or not poor and growing evidence of heterogeneity in long-term patterns of poverty, we investigate whether different kinds of poverty have distinct consequences for long-term health.

Using data from the 1968–1996 annual waves of the United States Panel Study of Income Dynamics Data, we estimate a general growth mixture model to assess the relationship between the longitudinal courses of poverty and health. The model allows us to first estimate latent poverty classes in the data and then determine their effects on latent self-rated health. Four types of long-term poverty patterns characterized as stable nonpoor, exiting poverty, entering poverty and stable poor were evident in the data. These different kinds of poverty affected self-rated health trajectories in distinct ways, but worked in concert with age, education and race to create gaps in initial health status that were constant over time [Authors' Own].

The authors suggest that further research is needed, focusing on specific life events and biographical episodes that trigger changes in state. They also call for a greater understanding of biographical meanings that individuals attach to such forms of disadvantage over the life course.

Keywords

United States of America

Poverty

Health

Life Course

Nyamukapa, C. and Gregson, S. (2005). 'Extended Family's and Women's Roles in Safeguarding Orphans: Education in AIDS Afflicted Rural Zimbabwe' *Social Science and Medicine* 60: 2155-2167

The extended family forms the basis for orphan care and education in sub-Saharan Africa. Initial absence followed by emergence of differentials in primary school enrolment between orphans and non-orphans have been attributed to the strength and subsequent HIV/AIDS-induced breakdown of extended family orphan care arrangements. Yet, few attempts have been made to describe how these arrangements are affected by HIV/AIDS or how they relate to observed patterns of childhood outcomes by sex and orphan status.

We use a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to show that maternal orphans but not paternal or double orphans have lower primary school completion rates than non-orphans in rural Zimbabwe, and that these patterns reflect adaptations and gaps in extended family orphan care arrangements. Sustained high levels of primary school completion amongst paternal and double orphans—particularly for girls—result from increased residence in female headed households and greater access to external resources. Low primary school completion amongst maternal orphans results from lack of support from fathers and stepmothers and ineligibility for welfare assistance due to residence in higher socio-economic status households. These effects are partially offset by increased assistance from maternal relatives.

These findings indicate that programmes should assist maternal orphans and support women's efforts by reinforcing the roles of extended families and local communities, and by facilitating greater self-sufficiency [Authors' Own].

Keywords

Zimbabwe

Orphans

AIDS
Education
Care

Smith, M.K. (2002). 'Gender, Poverty and Intergenerational Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS' *Gender and Development* 10(3): 63-70

This paper focuses on HIV/AIDS as one of the major obstacles to achieving the MDGs, and how poverty and inequality increase girls' vulnerability to HIV, and affect the ability of older women to care for AIDS sufferers. The main vulnerabilities outlined here are women's relative powerlessness and limited economic options pushing them into sex work. Young women are viewed as particularly vulnerable because of intergenerational sexual relationships, violence and limited access to information. Migration casqued by poverty is also highlighted as a factor which increases the risk of HIV transmission. In times of conflict, rates of coercive sex, sexual violence, HIV and STD infection are magnified and accelerated. A gap in the literature and available data is identified with regards to HIV/AIDS infections and vulnerability in elderly women and men.

Discrimination is seen as a major factor in preventing people – and especially women – from revealing their status and taking action to stop further transmission. According to the author, young girls and older women are often the last to seek health care due to both relative powerlessness and roles as carers. The further transmission of HIV/AIDS will therefore continue to have an impact on the socio-economic prospects of households, individuals, and society as a whole, and to further exacerbate gender inequalities. The vicious circle of illness and poverty continues. Moreover, orphans of AIDS often do not have the necessary skills and knowledge to make a livelihood and often turn to risky sexual behaviour which further increases their risk to HIV and poverty.

The implications for policy are identified as:

- strategies have to go beyond condom use to address deep-rooted gender inequalities
- access to affordable treatment must be facilitated
- a continuum of care approach can provide a coherent and effective response
- institutional policies and programmes have to develop responses to the impact of HIV/AIDS on the development process, bearing in mind the demographic changes which result from AIDS-related sickness and death, and trying to involve the very young and old

Keywords

Gender
HIV/AIDS
Poverty
Vulnerability

Quisumbing, A.R. (2003). 'Food Aid and Child Nutrition in Rural Ethiopia' *World Development* 31(7): 1309-1324

In the face of the increasing importance of food aid in disaster relief, and in particular for Ethiopia, this paper focuses on the effects of food aid on individual nutritional status as measured by indicators of child nutrition. It draws on the growing body of

literature which rejects the unitary model of the household, with implications for policy interventions and the identity of those targeted to receive aid. Accordingly, this paper looks specifically at: the impact of the gender of recipient and gender of child on nutritional status; the relative impact on nutritional status of free distribution (FD) and food for work (FFW) schemes. The authors use a unique panel data set from rural Ethiopia which contains information on individual anthropometric outcomes and household food aid receipts for four survey rounds during 1994-97.

The analysis shows that participation in both FD and FFW increases with negative rainfall and livestock shocks, and that they thus perform an important consumption smoothing function. It also shows that both programs are reaching the poorer and more vulnerable households. However, the analysis of child nutritional status shows that the effects of food aid on individuals within the household differ depending on the modality of food aid and on the gender of the child. This is explained as either a desire to by parents to address imbalances, or as a calculation by parents of returns to investment in children in their old age. The conclusion made is that program designers need to examine the impact of food aid on individual outcomes, both for adults and for the next generation, to better assess its long-term impact.

Keywords

Food Aid

Child Nutrition

Intrahousehold Allocation

Ethiopia

Singh-Manoux, A. and Marmot, M. (2005). 'Role of Socialisation in Explaining Social Inequalities in Health' *Social Science and Medicine* 60: 2129-2133

This paper proposes that socialisation is a process that links social selection (where early life environmental factors are seen to influence both adult health and social career), materialist/structural and cultural/behavioural explanations of health inequalities. More specifically, this paper argues that social class, throughout the life course, has a powerful influence on behavioural, social and psychological variables, and that the cultural, behavioural, structural and material explanations of social inequalities need to be integrated in order to understand the social determinants of health.

Socialisation is defined as a process by which individuals become part of a group, and is seen as a complex, interactive process that starts from birth and continues into adulthood, involving mechanisms like observation, imitation, and internalisation. It is defined as being composed by distinct intra and intergenerational processes. This understanding is then linked to Bourdieu's basic thesis that there is a correspondence between social structures (throughout the life course) and mental structures. The authors identify four key areas, linking social structure to health, which are likely to benefit from research within the socialisation framework:

- Health behaviours
- Psychological vulnerability
- Social participation
- Future time perspective

The authors contend that these four areas are key skills that are conditioned by the socioeconomic context, beginning early in childhood and then continuing throughout the life course. They expand this by claiming that the macrostructural processes of socialisation lead to intergenerational similarity in social status.

Keywords

Socialisation
Inequalities
Health

Schatz, E.J. and Ogunmefun, C. (2005). 'Caring and Contributing: the Role of Older Women in Multigenerational Households in the HIV/AIDS Era'. Population Ageing Centre, Institute of Behavioural Science: Colorado. Available at <http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC19995&resource=f1>

This paper explores the coping strategies of households in rural South Africa, where HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality are having profound effects on household resources. The paper focuses specifically on the potentially crucial role older women's pensions play in multi-generational households both during crises (e.g. HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality) and day-to-day subsistence.

Results are based on interviews with women between the ages of 60-75. Half of the respondents are South African born, and thus eligible for the South African non-contributory pension; the other half are self-settled Mozambican refugees, who officially were ineligible for the pension until recently. Longitudinal data was also used and combined with the above to produce a more complex picture.

The authors conclude that:

- although the South African government may intend pensions to substitute and supplement income for elderly individuals, older women are using pensions for much more than their own subsistence. They are using their pensions as means for sustaining their multi-generational households, as a substitute for unemployed children's income, and as a resource for economic shocks
- HIV/AIDS constitutes a considerable economic shock to households. The cost of a protracted illness and the income loss of a prime-aged adult are further compounded at death by funeral expenses and the need to care for children left behind
- older women are very likely to pool their pensions with other household income to feed, clothe, and shelter their kin, and less likely to spend it on luxury items like alcohol and tobacco
- very few women had any money left at the end of a payment period. Most money went to sustaining households, making sure there was enough food and clothing for household members, and that school fees were paid.
- Although most of the pensioners mainly used their government grant to cover household necessities, many found that it was insufficient to sustain their family through an entire month. Often they ran out of money a week or two before the next monthly pension payment arrived
- when asked what the government could do for them, nearly all of our respondents to the survey said more money needs to be added to their pensions

- meeting the request to add money to pensions may be a real way to improve the welfare of households with a pensioner and children under age 15, reaching both demographic groups simultaneously

Finally the report states that further work is important in order to analyse the proportion of children who live in households with pension age-eligible adults, to determine the extent to which children would be affected by a policy which increased pensions to elders. Targeting older women (and older men), by increasing the pension might show itself to be a better way to assist vulnerable children and elders.

[Adapted from Eldis:

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC19995&resource=f1>]

Keywords

South Africa

Multigenerational Households

Older Women

HIV/AIDS

Pensions

Yaquib, S. (2002). ‘Poor Children grow into Poor Adults: Harmful Mechanisms or Over-Deterministic Theory?’ *Journal of International Development* 14(8): 1081-1093

This paper focuses specifically on the (possible) link between childhood poverty and adult poverty, and specifically on the potential to resist or reverse such damage. Childhood is viewed as setting the stage for a lifetime of experiences, and as a sensitive period for developing cognition, physical vitality and personality. The arguments relating to childhood poverty are explicitly grounded in both the social sciences and the natural sciences of human functioning. Empirical research (from Europe and the USA), including longitudinal studies and medical experiments, is drawn upon during the discussion. Looking at opportunities, agency and turning points, both plasticity and resilience in human functioning are found. In terms of policy, it is suggested that in the face of genetics, some antipoverty interventions may be futile. The author suggests that a careful empirical assessment of behavioural and biological mechanisms that affect resilience and plasticity in human functioning is required to avoid over determined theory, and that antipoverty interventions should be timed according to when the fastest poverty reversals can occur.

Keywords

Childhood Poverty

Resilience

Plasticity

Antipoverty Intervention Timetabling

Education, Training and Reversals in Poverty Trajectories

Blackman, R. and Litchfield, R. (2001). ‘Child Poverty: Notes No. 1’ Poverty Research Unit: Sussex. Available at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/PRU/notes1.pdf>

This paper briefly outlines child poverty, with a special focus in intergenerational transmissions and education. Children are described as the nations’ future, and the arguments for this outlined. Sections on measuring child poverty, poverty dynamics and intergenerational transmission of poverty are included. IGT poverty is defined as the process by which children of poor families are more likely to be poor adults. The authors assert that first and foremost this is due to educational achievement, which is influenced by parents’ income, household financial dynamics, parents’ education and family size. Children in developing countries are more likely to be required to work and therefore sacrifice their education, with long term consequences for their well being.

Other factors identified as important in relation to IGT poverty, are maternal malnourishment, and periods of poverty during childhood. Policies to intervene and break the poverty cycle during the early years of development are highlighted as vital.

Keywords

Child Poverty

IGT Poverty

Education

Ford Foundation. (2002). ‘Building Assets to Reduce Poverty and Injustice’. Available at

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC9678&resource=fl>

This report outlines the ideas behind and practice of the Ford Foundation’s Asset Building and Community Development Program. Assets are defined as “a broad array of resources that enable people and communities to exert control over their lives and to participate in their societies in meaningful and effective ways” (p. 4). They include: financial holdings; natural resources; social bonds; and human assets. The Ford Foundation, over the last few years, has made grants available in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States in order to help build assets. This report identifies some of the key projects, outcomes and lessons learned from this program thus far, including natural resources for sustainable development in Brazil, alliances between the industrial and non-profit sectors in South Africa, individual development accounts in the United States, and recycling in Egypt.

When outlining the benefits of an asset approach, the focus is on the benefits produced for future generations, and thus breaking IGT poverty. It is argued that the economic, psychological and social benefits of an increased asset base provide the circumstances under which poverty can be interrupted and both individuals and households are able to plan for the future, laying a more secure foundation for

subsequent generations. It is claimed that an asset building approach seeks to change the way assets are developed, distributed and passed on from generation to generation. The selected examples are used to demonstrate the role of people and institutions in the creation, distribution and use of key assets, as well as to reveal the importance of organizing civil society, securing human rights, making education available to all, good governance and cultural stewardship. Three key new opportunities for asset bundling around the world are identified: a new equation for power sharing in communities produce by the trends towards decentralisation, globalisation, and increased communication; an increasing willingness to include social and environmental values in the fundamental operations of business and markets; and a new movement which is emerging to mobilise governments, international agencies and other public systems to be the base for equitable treatment of citizens.

Keywords

Ford Foundation

Asset Building

Africa

Asia

Latin America

United States

Intergenerational Transfers

Handa, S., Simler, K.R. and Garrower, S. (2004). Human Capital, Household Welfare, and Children's Schooling in Mozambique. Research Report 134. International Food Policy Research Institute. Washington DC. Available at <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/abstract/134/rr134.pdf>

This study focuses on the issue of human resources in post-war Mozambique, providing an empirical assessment of the existing stock of human capital, the association between household human capital and household well-being, and the determinants of investment in human capital (p.1). Human capital is seen as important for three reasons: it is an important means to increase labour productivity; it has potential to contribute to poverty reduction; and policy simulations show that the education level of adult household members is one of the most important determinants of poverty in Mozambique. The authors first present a theoretical framework for examining household decisions regarding children's well-being, based on the New Households Economics Model of Becker and subsequent extensions by Strauss and Thomas. They then use the database of Mozambique's first post-war national household survey of living conditions (1996-7), and an extensive data set on school characteristics collected by the Mozambique Ministry of Education, to evaluate the impact of adult education on household well-being and undertake an econometric treatment of the determinants of schooling among 7-17 year old children.

The key findings were that the children of educated mothers are healthier and better nourished, and that they in turn are more likely to go to school and stay in school longer. Education is viewed as a part of human capital with both significant private and social implications. In terms of policy, the authors use their theoretical framework and results to provide a set of policy simulations and cost-effectiveness results to illustrate the potential impact of policies on schooling outcomes. The policy implications relate to the potential social and economic benefits of improving education, especially women's education in rural areas. Moreover, investment in

education is identified vital for the well-being of today's families and future generations in all countries where poverty is endemic.

Keywords

Mozambique

Education

Poverty

Human Capital

Post-war

Hannum, E. and Buchmann, C. (2005). 'Global Educational Expansion and Socio-Economic Development: An Assessment of Findings from the Social Sciences' *World Development* 33(3): 333-354

This paper seeks to explore the empirical foundations of the conventional wisdom amongst development agencies that educational expansion (in terms of formal schooling) improves economic welfare and health, reduces inequalities, and fosters more democratic political systems. The authors draw on evidence, across a variety of countries, from empirical studies in sociology, demography, economics, political science and anthropology, in order to specifically investigate five related assumptions:

- Human capital stock is central to national economic development, as better educated citizens are more productive
- Within societies the expansion of educational opportunities enables individuals to improve their economic circumstances
- Educational expansion narrows social inequalities within countries by promoting a meritocratic basis for status attainment in which the talented can achieve appropriate positions in the economy, regardless of social background
- Countries with better educated citizens have healthier, slower growing populations, as educated individuals make better health choices, live longer, and have healthier and fewer children
- Countries with more educated populations are more democratic, as their citizens are able to make more informed political decisions

The authors identify and compare key research across disciplines, helping to show where the empirical evidence is strongest and where gaps are found. Their assessment finds consistent evidence from a range of disciplines for the beneficial effects of educational expansion in the realms of health and demographic change. However, they found less consensus regarding the effects of educational expansion for economic growth, the erosion of social inequalities, or democratisation. Links between maternal literacy and child schooling are discussed, as well as the capacity of education to reduce social inequalities. These two areas have significant implications for IGT poverty, and policies to tackle it. When concluding, the authors highlight four general points which should be considered in terms of the areas which saw inconclusive or contradictory results:

- The importance of a long term perspective
- The expansion of different levels of education seem to have different consequences
- The quality of education affects its impact
- Educational impacts are sensitive to context

It is concluded that policies should seek to engage with these issues and to promote educational expansion as one of the many important elements in economic and social development.

Keywords

Education

Health

Growth

Inequality

Democratization

Demographic Change

Poverty

Kabeer, N. (2003). 'Past, Present and Future: Child Labour and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty' Conference Paper Presented at Staying Poor: Chronic Poverty and Development Policy, IDPM, Manchester. Available at

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/pdfs/conferencepapers/Kabeer.pdf>

The author draws on work from Hulme et al (2002) to define IGT poverty as implying poverty extended over at least two generations within the same family or community and thus suggesting certain intractability. The focus of this paper is on investment in the human capital of children through education and its relevance for IGT poverty processes. The central idea underpinning this examination is that of the 'quantity-quality' transition in which families move from large numbers of children with low investment of resources per child to smaller numbers of children with higher resource investments per child. Part of such a process is also a change in the intergenerational contracts within families and a shift in the parent-child relationships. In the face of decreasing fertility rates, declining mortality rates and increased availability and use of birth control, parents are more likely to invest emotionally in their children, to feel a greater sense of personal agency, and to make investments in their children for the future.

According to the author, in the South Asian Context the declines in mortality and fertility have directly and indirectly increased the value placed on education. However, the process has been uneven across social and geographical spaces, suggesting that different forms of intergenerational contracts exist. Household Survey data highlights that poverty and its mediating factors such as gender and age influence such processes. This paper uses data collected in Dhaka and Calcutta through household surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups and discussions with key respondents, in order to seek to explain child labour among the present generation of school-going children.

Key sets of factors were identified as operating against children's educational attainment:

- vulnerability (defined as the conditions and concerns of individuals and households who are at constant risk of sliding into greater poverty from a position characterised by high levels of deprivation)
- social exclusion (defined as the interlocking of forms of disadvantage reflecting economic factors, resource based disadvantage, social identity, and the issue of recognition)
- endemic insecurity

- a culture of exclusion in everyday life

Significantly, the author highlights that the parents of the current generation of children had often themselves experienced some of the same disadvantages, even if in different contexts. In conclusion, this paper suggests that there is a degree of path-dependence in the life-trajectories of those who have been disadvantaged. These pathways are material, social and subjective. However, the author acknowledges that these pathways can be broken by those parents who have managed to send their children to school. This has been facilitated by changing norms around education. However, negative attitudes and behaviours of teachers as well as material constraints make such achievements difficult, and the provision of social safety nets may be one way of helping.

Keywords

Education

IGT Poverty

South Asia

Demographic Transition

Human Capital

Lloyd, C.B. and Grant, M.J. (2004). ‘Growing up in Pakistan: the Separate Experiences of Males and Females’ Population Council Working Paper 188: New York. Available at <http://www.popcouncil.org/publications/wp/prd/188.html>

This paper examines gender differences in transitions to adulthood in Pakistan. The analysis is based on data from the 2001–02 Adolescent and Youth Survey of Pakistan (AYSP), a nationally representative survey of young people aged 15–24 undertaken by the Population Council’s Islamabad office. The survey covers key aspects of adolescents’ lives, including the timing of several adult transitions and a detailed accounting of time use over the previous 24 hours. The results of the analysis confirm the fundamental importance of schooling to transitions to adulthood. Those without any schooling, which still include 15 percent of young men and 46 percent of young women, assume the work burdens of adults prematurely and are deprived of the opportunity for learning in an institutional setting outside the family. Those who do attend school eventually take up gender-stereotyped roles; however, they do so with some delay, allowing them to experience a longer transition to adulthood. For both males and females, there appears to be a large lag in years between the assumption of adult work roles, whether in the domestic setting or in the labor market, and the assumption of adult family roles as marked by the timing of first marriage. Recent further delays in the timing of first marriage for young women have been accompanied by a rise in the percent working for pay during the later adolescent years; a similar trend is not apparent for young men. A multivariate analysis of some of the factors associated with variations in daily work hours among young people demonstrates the potential for change created by opportunities for higher levels of schooling, vocational training, and formal-sector jobs. The nature of current opportunities available to young people, however, appears to reinforce traditional gender role stereotypes [Authors’ Own].

Keywords

Pakistan

Education

Gender
Adulthood

Mayer-Foulkes, D. (2003). 'Market Failures in Health and Education, Investment for the Young, Mexico 2000' Available at

http://www.gdnet.org/pdf2/gdn_library/awards_medals/2003/r_m/reforms_poor/mayerfoulkes.pdf

Mincerian econometric estimates including health (indicated by stature), schooling and experience show adult human capital has increasing returns in Mexico. These may result from recent pro-market reforms. In addition, probit estimates show that childhood nutrition and health (also indicated by stature), as well as parental education, have substantial and possibly increasing returns in the acquisition of education, as measured by school permanence. Thus the poor are less able to invest in human capital, and constituent elements for a low human capital trap, or for a prolonged transition in intergenerational human capital accumulation, are present in Mexico, affecting 90% of the population. Further, a transition matrix analysis supports the presence of a barrier to education at 9 years of schooling. A numerical policy experiment shows that a 5 cm average increase in stature (which South Korea achieved in one generation) would overcome this barrier and lead to higher levels of education. Thus, to produce effective results pro-market reforms raising returns to human capital must be accompanied with policies supporting nutrition, health and early child development, as well as education, so as to overcome market failures in human capital investment. Policies for long-term growth must address the intergenerational dynamics of human capital accumulation [Authors' Own].

Keywords

Mexico
Health
Education
Capital

Onyango-Ouma, W., Agaard-Hansen, J. and Jensen, B.B. (2005). 'The Potential of Schoolchildren as Health Change Agents in Rural Western Kenya' *Social Science and Medicine* 61: 1711-1722

A prospective, quasi-experimental study was carried out in Bondo district in western Kenya to determine the potential of schoolchildren as health change agents in a rural community. A group of 40 schoolchildren were given health education using action-oriented and participatory approaches and their knowledge and practices as well as the influence on recipient groups consisting of peers at school and parents/guardians at home, were studied.

The study, which used questionnaire surveys, involved a pre-test of knowledge about malaria, diarrhoea and hygiene among the recipient groups. After the baseline surveys they underwent health communication training conducted by the 40 schoolchildren. An identical post-test questionnaire was administered to all participants at 4 and 14 months. Health related practices were studied regularly through observation in schools and homes over 14 months.

Significant improvement in knowledge was detected in all recipient groups. Behavioural changes were more evident among the children than among the adults.

The impact of the project was reflected in concrete changes in the school environment as well as the home environments [Authors' Own].

The implications for policy are highlighted as:

- public health programs should incorporate participatory, action-orientated methods which encourage individuals' full participation in the learning process
- teachers and education policy makers should consider whether more didactic approaches should be replaced with participatory and action-orientated approaches in future health education projects
- fostering school-community links is essential for the success of school health programs

Keywords

Kenya

Education

Health

Population Council. (2005). 'Building Assets for Safe, Productive Lives: a Report on a Workshop on Adolescent Girls' Livelihoods'. Population Council: New York. Available at

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC18653&resource=f1>

This report summarises the proceedings of a workshop on adolescent girls' livelihoods that brought together stakeholders from all over the globe to interpret the word "livelihoods" in light of the needs of adolescents, and to review recent findings from field-based interventions and the research methods necessary to bring to light the distinctive adolescent experience.

The report begins by reviewing progress made on work on adolescent girls' livelihoods. It finds that there is a dearth of information regarding adolescents' work, livelihoods, and time use upon which policies and interventions were based.

An examination of how popular livelihoods strategies (such as vocational training, financial literacy and microfinance) fit into the theoretical map of economic development and correspond with adolescents' evolving capacities, rapid transitions, and vulnerabilities is then presented. In addition, the relationship between livelihoods and two other major elements in adolescents' lives - school and marriage - are explored in depth. The paper also looks at the social dimensions of livelihoods programming for adolescent girls.

The report concludes by making five propositions for discussion in developing a second generation of livelihoods programmes for adolescents:

- livelihoods programmes developed initially for adults need careful adaptation to benefit adolescents
- interventions should be staged, taking into account an adolescent's age, personal characteristics and degree of poverty
- experiment to learn what content, be it literacy, sports, livelihoods training, savings, or reproductive health, is engaging to girls, is acceptable to and even creates demand among parents, and encourages sustained and regular participation

- learn how programme content and group formation and social support interact to increase acceptance and participation; increase the effective acquisition of skills; and increase the probability that participants can apply new skills
- develop different ways of studying and evaluating experimental and more mature second- and third-generation interventions for adolescents, including the criteria used to determine “success.”

[Eldis:

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC18653&resource=f1>]

Keywords

Assets

Adolescence

Livelihoods

Ramey, C.T. and Landesman Ramey, S. (1990). ‘Intensive Educational Intervention for Children of Poverty’ *Intelligence* 14: 1-9

Addresses 3 issues for which there is increasing scientific and practical knowledge about solutions: (1) poverty; (2) intensive targeted interventions in the first 5 years of life, evaluated as effective in preventing the significant intellectual dysfunction that may result from intergenerational poverty; and (3) issues about how to develop and implement a nationwide effort to prevent environmentally induced handicaps [Cambridge Scientific Abstracts: Original – Amended].

Keywords

United States of America

Education

Children

Poverty

Shobe, M.A. (2002). ‘The Future in Anti-Poverty Strategies’ *Journal of Children and Poverty* 8(1): 35-49 Available at

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/10796126.html>

The uneven distribution of income and assets in the United States continues to have negative effects on the personal, social, and economic well-being of adults and children. Poverty affects the entire family and is often associated with household instability, school dropouts, teen pregnancies, and intergenerational poverty. Although income-based anti-poverty policy initiatives have helped individuals with children meet their basic consumptive needs, they have done little to help families lay a foundation for their futures. The implementation of asset-building programs that provide Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to both adults and children reflects an approach to reducing the incidence and impact of poverty in the United States. Current state and federal policy initiatives that are designed to help economically vulnerable individuals build assets are also described in this paper. Implications of asset-building program and policy initiatives on the well-being of low-income children and adults, households, and communities are discussed to demonstrate the impact that resources and opportunities have on the social and economic growth of the entire family [Author’s abstract].

Keywords

United States of America

Income

Assets

IGT Poverty

Individual Development Accounts

Webb, P. and Block, S. (2004). 'Nutrition Information and Formal Schooling as Inputs to Child Nutrition' *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52(4): 801-820

This paper identifies that whilst the broad development benefits of female education are understood, the pathways by which it contributes to nutritional outcomes in the absence of precise knowledge about beneficial nutrition practices are less clear (p.801). They seek to offer support to the argument that the impact of targeted transfers of nutrition information to assist in nutritional improvements may be large. The data used is a household survey undertaken in rural Central Java, Indonesia, which began in 1995 and involved the regular collection of information on dietary diversity, expenditure, asset ownership, demographics, morbidity, and nutritional status. The authors present both nonparametric and parametric results and conclude that the oft-cited finding that maternal schooling is a primary determinant of child nutritional status is an oversimplification. Distinctions need to be made between short-term and long-term outcomes and between the effects of formal schooling and the effects of specific nutrition knowledge.

Their key findings were that:

- whilst formal schooling of mothers is an important determinant of child nutritional status, its direct benefits pertain to long-term outcomes
- short-term child nutritional status is much more responsive to acquired nutrition information than maternal schooling
- that formal schooling is only one of several sources of nutrition information
- that paternal schooling contributes independently from maternal schooling to long-term child nutrition outcomes

The policy implications which the authors identify include:

- the significance of village access to the public health system
- the importance of an assessment of the replicability of these findings in other contexts
- that operational agencies should pay closer attention to the potential multiplier effects of even narrowly framed messages
- that even mothers lacking formal education appear to benefit from well targeted nutrition messages
- information transfer could play a useful buffering role in the face of shocks
- the associated role of paternal education should not be overlooked

Keywords

Indonesia

Education

Nutrition

Zimmer, Z., Martin, L.G., Ofstedal, M.B. and Chuang, Y.L. (2005). ‘Education of Adult Children and Mortality of Their Elderly Parents in Taiwan’. Population Council Working Paper 199: New York. Available at

<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/wp/199.pdf>

Research shows an older adult’s education is strongly associated with mortality. But in societies such as Taiwan, where families are highly integrated, the education of family members may be linked to survival. Such may be the case in settings where there are large gaps in levels of education across generations and high levels of resource transfers between family members. The authors assert that this paper extends previous work, by considering education as a family resource, rather than an individual one. This study employs 14 years of longitudinal data from Taiwan to examine the combined effects of education of older adults and their adult children on mortality outcomes of older adults. Nested Gompertz hazard models are used to evaluate the importance of education of an older adult and their highest-educated child after controlling for socioeconomic, demographic, and health characteristics. To gain further insight, additional models stratify results by whether older adults report serious chronic health conditions. Results indicate that educational levels of both parent and child are associated with older adult mortality, but the child’s education is more important when a) controlling for the health of the older adult, and b) when examining only those older adults who already report a serious chronic condition, suggesting different roles for education in onset versus progression of a health disorder that may lead to death. These findings would benefit from being tested in other Asian settings with different family structures [adapted from authors’ own].

Keywords

Taiwan

Education

Mortality

Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa

Carter, M.R. and Maluccio, J.A. (2003) ‘Social Capital and Coping with Economic Shocks: An Analysis of Stunting of South African Children’ *World Development* 31(7): 1147-1163

Using South African Household panel data that include directly solicited information on economic shocks this paper asks how households are able to cope with economic shocks and the role that social capital may play in facilitating coping in such circumstances. The analysis is embedded in the literature on early malnutrition and its long-term affect on the growth of young children, and in the literature on consumption smoothing. They identify the ability of households to use informal insurance mechanisms to manage both idiosyncratic and covariant shocks as critical. They suggest that future work might focus on determining what other aspects of the household economy are being protected in the potentially dangerous trade-off with child health.

Keywords

South Africa
Child Health
Shocks
Social Capital

Chant, S. and Jones, G.A. (2005). ‘Youth, Gender and Livelihoods in West Africa: Perspectives from Ghana and the Gambia’ *Children’s Geographies* 3(2): 185-199

This paper presents the results of a pilot study conducted in Ghana and the Gambia in 2003. This study sought to examine how young low-income women and men in urban areas negotiate livelihoods, with particular reference to work and training.

The first section of the paper outlines the two main factors which underpin the rationale for this research. These factors are: the changing positions of gender, and particularly youth, in international fora on poverty in developing societies; and that academic research on the links between youth, gender and poverty is less extensive than might be anticipated and is insufficient to sustain an association of childhood-life course poverty that legitimates many policy measures.

The second section deals with the research methods. The research period lasted 8 weeks and was undertaken in 2003. The methodology mainly entailed the generation of primary data, principally through individual interviews and focus groups. Additional consultations were then held with representatives from government departments and non government organisations.

The third section highlighted the key findings:

- Young, low-income people in the Ghana and The Gambia become involved in a variety of work activities from a relatively early age, almost invariably while they are still studying at school

- These income-generating activities are commonly unskilled and poorly remunerated
- A significant motivation for undertaking such activities is to pay for, and establish a legitimate claim for, schooling
- The workload within the home falls mainly to the girls
- The importance placed on education by the interviewees, state and NGOs seems at odds with the fact that most children go into menial jobs

In the fourth section, further areas for research and questions to be asked are identified:

- Exploring the nature of transitions which policy often summarises as a path from education to work, work to poverty alleviation, childhood to adulthood
- Need to better understand why apparently dynamic livelihood creating opportunities such as education and training do not remove more from poverty
- How far might measures such as enhancing the availability of start-up capital for young people support measures to create greater harmony between education systems and labour markets?

Keywords

Ghana
 Gambia
 Youth
 Gender
 Livelihoods

Christiaensen, L and Alderman, H. (2004). ‘Child Malnutrition in Ethiopia: Can Maternal Knowledge Augment the Role of Income?’ *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52(2): 287-312

Child malnutrition is introduced as a manifestation of a host of factors, including household access to food and the distribution of this food within the household, availability and utilisation of health services, and the care provided to the child. Within the literature in this area, maternal education is highlighted as important element, and studies which indicate this are mentioned.

Following on from the more general discussion, child malnutrition in Ethiopia is described, and a gap in knowledge about the causes of this identified. The empirical approach of this paper, in seeking to fill such a gap, follows the Becker model in which a household maximises a utility function over leisure, market-produced goods, and home-produced goods. The data used covers individual, community and household levels, and is drawn from nationally representative 1995-6, 1997, 1998 Welfare Monitoring Surveys, the 1995-6 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, and the 1998 Health Nutrition Survey. Included in the analysis of this data are policy simulations.

The results identify household resources, parental education, and food prices as key determinants of chronic child malnutrition in Ethiopia. The results also indicate that it is plausible that maternal nutritional knowledge also plays an important role in the

determination of child malnutrition. These findings imply that policies to enhance the education of mothers regarding nutrition and care may well have a significant impact on child malnutrition and thus one mechanism for IGT poverty.

Keywords

Ethiopia
Malnutrition
Education
Income

Doocy, S., Teferra, S., Norrell, D. and Burnham, G. (2005). ‘Credit Program Outcomes: Coping Capacity and Nutritional Status in the Food Insecure Context of Ethiopia’ *Social Science and Medicine* 60: 2371-2382

This paper presents findings of a survey that was primarily intended as (1) an assessment of coping capacity in drought and food insecure conditions and (2) a microfinance program outcome study. A three group cross-sectional survey of 819 households was conducted in May 2003 in two predominantly rural sites in Ethiopia. Established clients of the WISDOM Microfinance Institution were compared with similar incoming clients and community controls. No overall pattern of enhanced prevalence of coping mechanisms was observed in any participant group, suggesting that participation in the lending program did not affect coping capacity at the household level. No significant differences in mean mid-upper arm circumference or prevalence of acute malnutrition were found in males or females when the total sample was assessed. In the primary survey site, Sodo, female clients and their children had significantly better nutritional status than other comparison groups: the odds of malnourishment in female community controls compared to established female clients was 3.2 (95% CI: 1.1–9.8) and the odds of acute malnutrition in children 6–59 months of age were 1.6 times greater in children of both male clients and community controls (95% CI: .78–3.32).

Household food security among female client households in Sodo was significantly better than in other comparison groups according to a variety of indicators. As compared to female clients, male clients and community controls, respectively, were 1.94 (95% CI: 1.05–3.66) and 2.08 (95% CI: 1.10–4.00) times more likely to have received food aid during the past year. Findings of the present study suggest that microfinance programs may have an important impact on nutritional status and well-being of female clients and their families. That female clients were significantly less likely to be food aid recipients suggests that microfinance programs maybe successful in reducing vulnerability to prolonged drought and food insecurity [Authors’ Own].

Keywords

Ethiopia
Microfinance
Credit Programs
Nutrition Status
Coping Capacity

Fafchamps, M. and Quisumbing, A. (2004). ‘Assets at Marriage in Rural Ethiopia’ International Food Policy Research Institute: Washington. Available at <http://www.eldis.org/cf/search/disp/docdisplay.cfm?doc=DOC16602&resource=fl>

Assets at marriage is seen by the authors as significant because: it represents the transfer of assets from parents to children; it may act as a determinant of bargaining power within marriage; and particularly in agrarian societies it determines the start up capital of a new production unit and plays a paramount role in shaping the lifetime prosperity of newly formed households. This paper seeks to examine the relative importance of two major processes which determine the assets brought to marriage in rural Ethiopia: the matching between spouses with different assets; and parents' decision to endow their marrying children with start-up capital.

The conceptual model used is that of compensating transfers from parents to children at the time of marriage (i.e. that the parents' incentive to give to their marrying child is a decreasing function of what is given by the spouses' parents). This is applied to survey data from the 1997 Ethiopian Rural Households Survey, and used to examine three processes: assorted matching; compensating transfers; and strategic behaviour of parents. The results suggest that different processes drive assets brought to marriage by brides and grooms. Evidence is also found for assertive matching, and for strategic behaviour regards to brides, but none for compensating transfers. The authors suggest that more research is needed in this area, and in different contexts.

Keywords

Intrahousehold allocation
Marriage market
Inheritance
Assets
Intergenerational transfers
Ethiopia

Grundling, J. and Grundling, I. (2005). 'The Concrete Particulars of the Everyday Realities of Street Children' SAGE Publications: London

This paper focuses on the phenomenon of street children in Namibia, caused, according to the authors, by poverty and income inequality. Street children in Namibia are found in both rural and urban areas, and their numbers are increasing daily. In order to tackle this problem, the authors urge a greater understanding of its complexities in the Namibian context.

The first section reviews the literature on street children in Namibia, and highlights poverty as a push factor. Distinctions are made between street children in terms of children *of* the street and children *on* the street and between the homeless and runaways. Current efforts to address the phenomenon of street children in Africa are mentioned, alongside their inability to tackle the problem effectively.

This research study utilised quantitative and qualitative methods in both urban and rural areas of Namibia. The results indicate the reasons why children first turn to the streets are a complex mix of factors external to the family (e.g. high unemployment rates, inaccessible education system, HIV/AIDS prevalence, illiteracy of parents) and factors which relate the family/home circumstances (e.g. limited or no parental care and support, need to help support parents financially).

Recommendations for action include:

- A Government led process of formulating appropriate social legislation, national and regional policies and guidelines to address the problem of street children
- Broadening of vertical and horizontal employment opportunities
- Local authority social management systems to identify those at risk
- Education of street children to cope with daily stress and develop resourcefulness
- Addressing the psychosocial integration of street children into the community

The authors conclude that further research needs to be directly orientated towards solving unemployment problems in Namibian communities.

Keywords

Namibia

Street Children

Unemployment

Haddad, L. and Hoddinott, J. (1994). ‘Women’s Income and Boy-Girl Anthropometric Status in the Cote d’Ivoire’ *World Development* 22(4): 543-553

The authors of this paper define the household as a collective entity, rather than a consensual unit. This model is extended to examine specifically the relationship between women’s income and the anthropometric status of boys and girls in the Cote d’Ivoire, in what the authors term a noncooperative bargaining model. This model relies on the assumption that individuals’ actions are conditional on the actions of others. The data used is taken from the 1986-7 round of the Cote d’Ivoire Living Standards Survey. Percentage height-for-age and percentage weight-for-height are used as the dependent variables and indicators of one type of health status measure. Child specific, parental and community variables are used as regressors. Other regressors are also included to capture phenotype and genotype. The final determinant of child anthropometric status is the proportion of cash income accruing to the spouse(s) of the male head.

The key finding is that increases in the proportion of cash income accruing to women increases boys’ height for age relative to girls. In the discussion of this result, the authors suggest it may be due to efficiency (e.g. importance of sons as old age security) and equity (e.g. Ivorian boys have a poorer health endowment) concerns which reinforce each other. The authors comment that their findings suggest that gender specific policy interventions may not have gender neutral outcomes.

Keywords

Cote d’Ivoire

Income

Anthropometric Status

Noncooperative bargaining

Heslop, M. (2002). ‘Poverty and Pensions: The Rights of Older People’. Id21 Development Reporting Service. Available at

<http://www.id21.org/society/insights42art9.html>

Relatively rapid population ageing in poorer countries implies that unless policies and social protection schemes specifically address issues of old age poverty, targets for

poverty reduction will not be achieved. Studies of poverty in old age reveal its multi-dimensional nature, including its persistence and its intergenerational impact [ELDIS]. The author suggests that guaranteed and regular income in old age will have important intergenerational and anti-poverty effects. Suitable policies to ensure this must be informed by further research in this area. The literature and data mentioned relates to countries in sub-Saharan Africa e.g. Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa.

Keywords

Old Age Poverty

IGT Poverty

Sub-Saharan Africa

Larson, B.A., Barnes, G., Rogers, G. and Larson, J.G. (1996). 'Forests, Agriculture and Child Health in Zaire: A Household Modelling Approach' *Forest Science* 42(1): 3-9

In the Kwilu subregion of Zaire, where malnutrition rates are among the highest in rural Zaire, farm households depend directly on forested land for agricultural production and harvesting of nontimber forest products. A nonseparable model of an agricultural household is developed in this paper based on several specific characteristics of the Kwilu, in order to investigate the effects of resource degradation on household production, consumption, and labour allocation decisions (and as a result child care). Both forested valleys and savanna lands on the plateaus are used for shifting cultivation, and forested areas are regarded to be more productive in terms of agriculture than savanna areas. Shifting cultivation on forest land may require 15-20 yr for forest regeneration and a minimum of seven years for re-establishment of soil fertility, but fallow periods have declined to as little as three years in high population density areas. Availability of fertile forested land for crop production is becoming a problem in the region, although low quality savanna lands are abundant even in the Kwilu subregion. Yields and labour productivity drop substantially when households are forced to use savanna soils due to a shortage of forest soils. The model is used to examine the internal nonmarket and external market adjustments that rural households can make when forested land becomes less available to households because of, for example, population growth and deforestation. When forested land becomes less available, the specific conditions are identified where farmers (women) work harder for less return while allocating less time to child care activities. The end result is poorer child health. These negative health effects provide one empirically observable measure of the opportunity costs of resource degradation in an economy where markets function poorly at best [Cambridge Scientific Abstracts 1996].

Keywords

Zaire

Environment

Child health

Malnutrition

Rural Areas

Morgan, S.L. and Morgan, W.R. (2004). 'Educational Pathways into the Evolving Labour Market of West Africa' *Research in Sociology of Education* 14: 225-245

This case study of Kano, Nigeria, examines changes over the past four decades in an education and labor market relationship that has evolved since the 10th century. We first offer an analysis of the historical origins of Kano's current three-layered segmented labour market and its corresponding three distinct, but increasingly overlapping, educational pathways. We then compare the labour market entry pathways reported in 1974 and 1992 by two cohorts of young adult males, the respondents having first been surveyed as 17-year-olds in 1965 and 1979.

Despite higher levels of modern secular education in 1992 for males in all occupational destinations, apprenticeship participation was significantly lower in 1992 only for young men who entered the professional and clerical positions that dominate Kano's public sector. Islamic training remained universal, and in fact increased significantly in years of participation across all occupational destinations. We next show that the jointly educated young men who were part of the first, more traditional sector of the labour market, were less seriously impacted in their earnings by Nigeria's turbulent end-of-the-century economy. Finally, we discuss the possible advantages of an apprenticeship system coupled to modern secular education for moderating social inequality and stabilizing economic development in sub-Saharan Africa and other less-developed regions [Authors' Own].

Keywords

West Africa

Nigeria

Education

Labour

Owens, T. and Hoddinott, J. (2003). 'Ex-Ante Actions and Ex-Post Public Responses to Drought Shocks: Evidence and Simulations from Zimbabwe'. *World Development* 31(7): 1239-1255

The authors assert that: "[t]his paper is motivated by the juxtaposition of claims that a 'forward-looking role for social protection' is desirable, and that recent trends in development assistance have run counter to this approach with increased reliance on *ex-post* responses to shocks and the absence of empirical information on whether households would benefit from a switch to *ex-ante* policies" (p.1253). To examine these questions they draw on household data from resettlement areas of rural Zimbabwe between 1992-3 and 1995-6, and construct a series of simulations in which emergency aid received in the aftermath of the 1994-5 drought is made available to households in the form of agricultural capital stock and extension advice. This empirical model finds that shifts to *ex-ante* policy responses to potential shocks will be welfare enhancing and poverty reducing. However, the authors caution that merely reallocating aid across time does not obviate the need for a safety net. By acknowledging other literature on the health impacts of this drought (particularly child stunting which has long-term effects) the authors suggest that their findings may actually understate the benefits of shifting from *ex-post* public responses to drought shocks to *ex-ante* actions.

Keywords

Zimbabwe

Drought

Shocks

Quisumbing, A.R., Estudillo, J.P. and Otsuka, K. (2004). ‘Land and Schooling: Transferring Wealth across Generations’ IFPRI Food Policy Statement 41. Available at <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/fps/fps41.htm>

In rural societies, passing down land and providing an education are the main ways in which parents assure the future welfare of their children. But parents do not necessarily pass these valuable resources to both sons and daughters equally, and parents’ decisions about how to allocate wealth to children can have a profound impact on the pattern of income inequality between men and women over time. If parents educate and bequeath land only to their sons, for instance, women will soon be worse off than men. Thus knowing how men and women acquire land and education is key to allocating scarce resources and planning for a better future (p.1).

This is the central concern of the book from which this policy statement is taken. Intensive household surveys from Ghana, Indonesia and the Philippines are used to consider a wide range of investments that parents make in children, and thus seeks to increase the range of policy interventions to achieve growth and gender equality. Policy suggestions are: the extension and strengthening of education systems in rural areas to improve women’s education attainment; promotion of competition in non-farm labour markets so as to eliminate discrimination against women; reforms of property rights systems and the legal framework; development of technologies to increase the returns to women’s labour in the agricultural sector.

Keywords

Education

Land

Gender

Ghana

Indonesia

Philippines

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