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The Role of Education in the Development of Infants in Turkey

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to see if Turkish mothers with greater levels of education produce healthier infants (N=12,732). According to the findings, Turkish mothers with a higher educational level had healthier infants than Turkish mothers with a lower educational level. In terms of statistics, one additional education year in Turkey is linked to a 5.2549 gram rise in Turkish birth weight and a 0.25 percentage point reduction in Turkish low birth weight risk.

Keywords: Education; Turkey; Birth Weight

Introduction

Half of fatalities of Turkish children are caused by malnutrition in Turkey. Childhood malnutrition has long-term effects on Turkish, such as including cognitive impairment, a greater risk of chronic diseases, lower educational achievement, and lower productivity. Thus, policymakers in Turkey have moved their focus to solving the health challenges of Turkish children, with education seen as a feasible remedy.

The purpose of this study is to see if Turkish mothers with greater levels of education produce healthier infants (N=12,732). Other studies have concentrated on more visible results of schooling, such as earnings, professions, and productivity, but this one contributes to the body of knowledge by focusing on less apparent effects, such as newborn health. Our findings, which are focused on Turkey, contribute to the growing body of evidence concerning the health-education relationship across generations in Turkey.

According to the findings, Turkish mothers with a higher educational level had healthier infants than Turkish mothers with a lower educational level. In terms of statistics, one additional education year in Turkey is linked to a 5.2549 gram rise in Turkish birth weight and a 0.25 percentage point reduction in Turkish low birth weight risk.

Data

Using data from the Turkey Demographic and Health Surveys (TUR-DHS), we investigate whether better educated Turkish mothers give birth to healthier Turkish children. The TUR-DHS collects

detailed information on Turkish children aged 0 to 4. A number of Turkish parental traits are also included in the TUR-DHS. The number of schooling years completed by the Turkish respondents is the key explanatory variable (*Education*).

Table 1: Turkish Summary Statistics

	Mean (1)	SD (2)	N (3)
Turkish Birth Weight	3221.1	716.33	6889
Turkish Log Birth Weight	8.048	0.255	6889
Turkish Low Birth Weight	0.112	0.316	6889
Turkish Education	4.967	3.914	12732
Turkish Age	28.326	5.836	12732
Turkish Number of Offspring	2.812	1.895	12732
Turkish Living in Rural Areas	0.344	0.475	12732
Turkish Currently Married	1.000	0.000	12732
Turkish Offspring Age in Month	29.639	17.414	12732
Turkish Offspring Being Male	0.521	0.500	12732
Turkish Plural Birth	0.009	0.094	12732

The statistical breakdown of the variables in this Turkish investigation is shown in Table 1. Our sample includes around 12,732 Turkish births. Turkish offspring had an average birth weight of 3221.1 grams, a log birth weight of 8.048, and a low birth weight rate of 11.2%. The average length of time spent in school in Turkey is 4.967 years. The average age of Turkish responders is 28.326. The average number of children per Turkish respondent is 2.812. The Turkish population lives in rural areas is 34.4%, with 100% of married Turkish. The Turkish offspring have an average age of 29.639 months. Males make up 52.1 percent of all Turkish children. Multiple births make up 0.9% of all Turkish births.

Empirical Design

To see whether more educated Turkish women had healthier Turkish children, we estimate the following regression,

$$Y_{jist} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Education_{jist} + X'_{jist}\Omega + \epsilon_{jist}$$

where the subscripts *j*, *i*, *s*, and *t* refer respectively to Turkish offspring, women, cluster, and survey date in Turkey. Y_{jist} stands for Turkish birth weight, Turkish birth weight in log, and Turkish risk of low birth weight.

$Education_{jist}$ is the number of educational years Turkish respondents completed. X'_{jist} includes Turkish number of offspring, age, squared-age, whether Turkish lives in rural areas, whether Turkish is currently married, whether Turkish offspring is a plural birth, whether Turkish offspring is male, Turkish offspring age in month, squared-age in month, Turkish birth date fixed effects, Turkish residential cluster fixed effects and Turkish survey time fixed effects. ϵ_{jist} is the error term.

The coefficient β_1 is the effects of more educated Turkish mothers on birth outcomes. In other words, β_1 reflects the difference in birth outcome of Turkish women living in the same area but with different levels of education.

Results

Birth Weight - The relationship between Turkish mother education and birth weight in Turkey are in Table 2. Column 1, where only Turkish mother education is controlled for, displays the relationship between Turkish mother education and birth weight in Turkey. We find that one extra school year in Turkey is associated with a 13.4010 gram increase in Turkish birth weight.

The estimate only represent the connection between Turkish mother education and birth weight in Turkey, while key elements in Turkey are not taken into consideration. For example, Turkish with advantage backgrounds may have better access to Turkish healthcare system and education simultaneously . As a result, from Columns 2 to 3, we add the collection of Turkish attributes and Turkish spatial-temporal fixed effects. Then, according to Column 3, we find that one additional school year in Turkey is linked to a 5.2549 gram gain in birth weight.

Table 2: Turkish Birth Weight

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Turkish Education	13.4010***	12.4692***	5.2549*
	(2.2434)	(2.5083)	(3.2836)
Observations	6889	6889	6649
Cluster FE	.	.	X
Characteristics	.	X	X

Log Birth Weight - The relationship between Turkish mother education and log birth weight in Turkey are in Table 3. Column 1, where only Turkish mother education is controlled for, displays the relationship between Turkish mother education and log birth weight in Turkey. We find that one extra school year in Turkey is associated with a 0.66% increase in Turkish birth weight.

The estimate only represent the connection between Turkish mother education and birth weight in Turkey, while key elements in Turkey are not taken into consideration. As a result, from Columns 2 to 3, we add the collection of Turkish attributes and Turkish spatial-temporal fixed effects. Then, according to Column 3, we find that one more educational year of Turkish mother is associated with 0.29% gain in birth weight.

Table 3: Turkish Log Birth Weight

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Turkish Education	0.0066***	0.0058***	0.0029**
	(0.0008)	(0.0009)	(0.0012)
Observations	6889	6889	6649
Cluster FE	.	.	X

Characteristics	.	X	X

Low Birth Weight - The relationship between Turkish mother education and low birth weight in Turkey are in Table 4. Column 1, where only Turkish mother education is controlled for, displays the relationship between Turkish mother education and low birth weight in Turkey. We find that one more educational year of Turkish mother is associated with 0.91 percentage point reduction in low birth weight.

The estimate only represent the connection between Turkish mother education and birth weight in Turkey, while key elements in Turkey are not taken into consideration. As a result, from Columns 2 to 3, we add the collection of Turkish attributes and Turkish spatial-temporal fixed effects. Then, according to Column 3, we find that one more educational year of Turkish mother is associated with 0.25 percentage point reduction in low birth weight.

Table 4: Turkish Low Birth Weight

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Turkish Education	-0.0091***	-0.0077***	-0.0025*
	(0.0010)	(0.0011)	(0.0014)
Observations	6889	6889	6649
Cluster FE	.	.	X
Characteristics	.	X	X

Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to see if Turkish mothers with greater levels of education produce healthier infants (N=12,732). Other studies have concentrated on more visible results of schooling, such as earnings, professions, and productivity, but this one contributes to the body of knowledge by focusing on less apparent effects, such as newborn health. Our findings, which are focused on Turkey, contribute to the growing body of evidence concerning the health-education relationship across generations in Turkey.

According to the findings, Turkish mothers with a higher educational level had healthier infants than Turkish mothers with a lower educational level. In terms of statistics, one additional education year in Turkey is linked to a 5.2549 gram rise in Turkish birth weight and a 0.25 percentage point reduction in Turkish low birth weight risk.

Our findings are relevant to research into the impact of several variables on Turkish health. For example, governmental responses to diseases may have an impact on Turkish health; heavy rain and heat in Turkey worsen illness; political violence and food scarcity in Turkey may connect to poor survival rates; literacy, land reform, and nutrition efforts improve health (Hang et al., 2020a, 2020b, 2020c).

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