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More Schooling in Nigeria Is Associated with a Higher Rate of Healthier Infants

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to see if Nigerian mothers with greater levels of education produce healthier infants (N=64,750).According to the findings, Nigerian mothers with a higher educational level had healthier infants than Nigerian mothers with a lower educational level. In terms of statistics, one additional education year in Nigeria is linked to a 7.0448gram rise in Nigerian birth weight and a 0.21 percentage point reduction in Nigerian low birth weight risk.

Keywords: Education; Nigeria; Birth Weight

Introduction

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

The purpose of this study is to see if Nigerian mothers with greater levels of education produce healthier infants (N=64,750). 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 Nigeria, contribute to the growing body of evidence concerning the health-education relationship across generations in Nigeria.

According to the findings, Nigerian mothers with a higher educational level had healthier infants than Nigerian mothers with a lower educational level. In terms of statistics, one additional education year in Nigeria is linked to a 7.0448 gram rise in Nigerian birth weight and a 0.21 percentage point reduction in Nigerian low birth weight risk.

Data

Using data from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Surveys (NGA-DHS), we investigate whether better educated Nigerian mothers give birth to healthier Nigerian children. The NGA-DHS collects detailed information on Nigerian children aged 0 to 4. A number of Nigerian parental traits are also included in the NGA-DHS. The number of schooling years completed by the Nigerian respondents is the key explanatory variable (*Education*).

Table 1: Nigerian Summary Statistics

	Mean (1)	SD (2)	N (3)
Nigerian Birth Weight	3320.4	729.21	12394
Nigerian Log Birth Weight	8.083	0.228	12394
Nigerian Low Birth Weight	0.072	0.258	12394
Nigerian Education	4.933	5.231	64718
Nigerian Age	29.481	6.881	64750
Nigerian Number of Offspring	3.704	2.066	64750
Nigerian Living in Rural Areas	0.659	0.474	64750
Nigerian Currently Married	0.983	0.130	64750
Nigerian Offspring Age in Month	28.373	17.159	64750
Nigerian Offspring Being Male	0.504	0.500	64750
Nigerian Plural Birth	0.015	0.123	64750

The statistical breakdown of the variables in this Nigerian investigation is shown in Table 1. Our sample includes around 64,750Nigerianbirths. Nigerian offspring had an average birth weight of 3320.4grams, a log birth weight of 8.083, and a low birth weight rate of 7.2%. The average length of time spent in school in Nigeria is 4.933years. The average age of Nigerian responders is 29.481. The average number of children per Nigerian respondent is 3.704. The Nigerian population lives in rural areas is 65.9%, with 98.3% of married Nigerian. The Nigerian offspring have an average age of 28.373months. Males make up 50.4 percent of all Nigerian children. Multiple births make up 1.5% of all Nigerian births.

Empirical Design

To see whether more educated Nigerian women had healthier Nigerian 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 Nigerian offspring, women, cluster, and survey date in Nigeria. Y_{jist} stands for Nigerian birth weight, Nigerian birth weight in log, and Nigerian risk of low birth weight.

$Education_{jist}$ is the number of educational years Nigerian respondents completed. X'_{jist} includes Nigerian number of offspring, age, squared-age, whether Nigerian lives in rural areas, whether

Nigerian is currently married, whether Nigerian offspring is a plural birth, whether Nigerian offspring is male, Nigerian offspring age in month, squared-age in month, Nigerian birth date fixed effects, Nigerian residential cluster fixed effects and Nigerian survey time fixed effects. ϵ_{jist} is the error term.

The coefficient $\beta_1$is the effects of more educated Nigerian mothers on birth outcomes. In other words, β_1 reflects the difference in birth outcome of Nigerian women living in the same area but with different levels of education.

Results

Birth Weight- The relationship between Nigerian mother education and birth weight in Nigeria are in Table 2. Column 1, where only Nigerian mother education is controlled for, displays the relationship between Nigerian mother education and birth weight in Nigeria. We find that one extra school year in Nigeria is associated with a 13.5399gram increase in Nigerian birth weight.

The estimate only represent the connection between Nigerian mother education and birth weight in Nigeria, while key elements in Nigeria are not taken into consideration. For example, Nigerian with advantage backgrounds may have better access to Nigerian healthcare system and education simultaneously . As a result, from Columns 2 to 3, we add the collection of Nigerian attributes and Nigerian spatial-temporal fixed effects. Then, according to Column 3, we find that one additional school year in Nigeria is linked to a 7.0448gram gain in birth weight.

Table 2: Nigerian Birth Weight

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Nigerian Education	13.5399***	13.6304***	7.0448***
	(1.4808)	(1.6289)	(2.0971)
Observations	12388	12388	11891
Cluster FE	.	.	X
Characteristics	.	X	X

Log Birth Weight- The relationship between Nigerian mother education and log birth weight in Nigeria are in Table3. Column 1, where only Nigerian mother education is controlled for, displays the relationship between Nigerian mother education and log birth weight in Nigeria. We find that one extra school year in Nigeria is associated with a 0.48% increase in Nigerian birth weight.

The estimate only represent the connection between Nigerian mother education and birth weight in Nigeria, while key elements in Nigeria are not taken into consideration. As a result, from Columns 2 to 3, we add the collection of Nigerian attributes and Nigerian spatial-temporal fixed effects. Then, according to Column 3, we find that one more educational year of Nigerian mother is associated with 0.28% gain in birth weight.

Table 3: Nigerian Log Birth Weight

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Nigerian Education	0.0048***	0.0047***	0.0028***
	(0.0005)	(0.0005)	(0.0007)
Observations	12388	12388	11891
Cluster FE	.	.	X
Characteristics	.	X	X

Low Birth Weight- The relationship between Nigerian mother education and low birth weight in Nigeria are in Table4. Column 1, where only Nigerian mother education is controlled for, displays the relationship between Nigerian mother education and low birth weight in Nigeria. We find that one more educational year of Nigerian mother is associated with 0.33 percentage point reduction in low birth weight.

The estimate only represent the connection between Nigerian mother education and birth weight in Nigeria, while key elements in Nigeria are not taken into consideration. As a result, from Columns 2 to 3, we add the collection of Nigerian attributes and Nigerian spatial-temporal fixed effects. Then, according to Column 3, we find that one more educational year of Nigerian mother is associated with 0.21 percentage point reduction in low birth weight.

Table 4: Nigerian Low Birth Weight

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Nigerian Education	-0.0033***	-0.0032***	-0.0021***
	(0.0005)	(0.0006)	(0.0008)
Observations	12388	12388	11891
Cluster FE	.	.	X
Characteristics	.	X	X

Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to see if Nigerian mothers with greater levels of education produce healthier infants (N=64,750). 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 Nigeria, contribute to the growing body of evidence concerning the health-education relationship across generations in Nigeria.

According to the findings, Nigerian mothers with a higher educational level had healthier infants than Nigerian mothers with a lower educational level. In terms of statistics, one additional education year in Nigeria is linked to a 7.0448 gram rise in Nigerian birth weight and a 0.21 percentage point reduction in Nigerian low birth weight risk.

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

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