Abstract

This paper aims to assess whether a causal effect exists between parental education and child mortality in Madagascar. Until recently, the case of sub-Saharan Africa has been surprisingly overlooked by most of the causal evidence despite the higher mortality and the lower association between parental education and child survival. By adopting a careful empirical strategy based on schools' availability information and internal instruments, the present paper further contributes to the literature by analysing both father and mother's education as well as looking at different educational levels. The results demonstrate that children's survival probabilities increase when they have a mother with at least primary schooling. Including wealth reduces the effect of mothers' education by only a third. In contrast, fathers’ education does not play a significant role.

Presenter

Samia Badji is a research affiliate at GATE CNRS in France and she is currently visiting the Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability at Monash University. She has strong interests in human capital investment, in particular health and education. She has investigated several issues in developing countries such as child labour or child survival and malnutrition. She has also been working on how the children and the elderly living in rural areas in China are affected by migration.