



Editorial



Of the 17 articles included in volume 46, five concern private schooling. Do private schools help a country achieve universal schooling? William Smith suggests that in China the answer is yes but in India the answer is no. Does demand for private schools depend on their students outperforming students in public schools? Jonathan Stern and Thomas Smith find that in Indonesia the answer is no. Demand for private schools remains high even though in general students in them perform lower. They argue that parents and families choose private (faith-based) schools because they prefer to have their children educated within a religious environment. Does family wealth determine those who choose private schools? Orla Kelly, Aditi Krishna and Jacqueliine Bhavha argue that in Rajasthan (India's largest state) it is caste as opposed to socio-economic status which helps determine the demand for private schooling. They point out that private schools had better infrastructure (including toilets for girls) and better exam results. Families with children in government schools tend to go into debt to support their education supporting the theory 'that the most disadvantaged continue to rely on a public education system that yields poor exam results'. Do private schools help public schools by providing a sense of competition for students? Socio Garcia-Diaz, Ernesto del Castillo, and Rene Cabral say that in Mexico the answer is yes. They argue that 'a higher degree of competition from public and private schools significantly increases elementary school efficiency . . . and that private schools perform significantly better due to the differential incentives they face in terms of competition'. Does private tutoring improve performance? Yu Zhang investigates this question in China by tracking its effects on Mathematics, Chinese and English.

Six of the articles describe the effect of interventions and other associates of school outcomes. Does the provision of school lunch help increase attendance? Zellynne Jennings suggests that no, it doesn't in Jamaica. Does mother's education increase the attendance of young girls? Mamusu Kamanda suggests that in Sierra Leone, an increase of 10% in the proportion of mother's in a community with more than primary education increase the probability that children will attend secondary school by 8%; and a 50% increase in the community would increase the rate of school enrollment by 45%. Children with mothers with a primary school education were seven percent more likely to attend primary school. Children with mothers with a secondary education were 14% more likely to

attend primary school. And children with mothers with a university education were 22% more likely to attend primary school. Does the educational attainment of parents affect the educational attainment of their children equally across genders? Masayoshi Okabe suggests in rural Mindanao (the Philippines) that the answer is no; that the educational attainment of parents has greater impact on the educational attainment of girls. If students skip particular classes, does it adversely affect performance in those subjects? Using PISA data across countries Christine Salzer argues that skipping particular lessons has a significant deleterious effect on PISA scores in those subjects, particularly in mathematics. Can sexual exploitation of female students be reduced? Hilary Schwandt and Carol Underwood say yes it can. They report the results from a school safety intervention applied in Malawi, Botswana and Mocambique. They conclude that 'those girls who attended an intervention school were significantly more likely to report a reduction in teachers offering sex in exchange for favors'. Millions of homes experience the effects of missing parents who have had to seek work outside of their home country. What effect does their absence have on the school performance of the children at home? Vengadeshvaran Sarma and Rasyad Parinduri report on their study in Sri Lanka. They find that if the mother migrates and the father stays there is an adverse effect on education, but if the father migrates and the mother stays there is an improved effect on education.

Five articles report on the economics of education. Iris BenDavid Hadar argues that the choice of the way education is financed reflects different theories of justice. Are there gender differences in the way in which educational expenditures are allocated in Malaysia? Husaina Banu Kenayathuilla argue that the answer, on the national level is no, there are no significant differences. However there are some regions in which gender gaps appear once children are enrolled in school. Have schooling subsidies reached rural schools? Peter Quartey and Mawuli Gaddah argue that the answer is yes in terms of rural Ghana. In terms of economic returns to education, have gender and racial gaps in South Africa remained? Taylor Salisbury suggests that economic returns to women's education are higher than for men, but that the economic returns for coloreds and Africans remains lower than for white South Africans. Many rural parents in Pakistan do not see the need to invest in their children's education.

Jane Jerrard argues that parents in Sindh province need convincing that the cost of sending their children to school is offset by tangible benefits.

The world is currently focused on issues of migration and migrants. What are the ways in which migrants can be peacefully and effectively re-settled? Thomas Crea argues that higher education institutions and processes can be employed as a 'psychosocial intervention' as much as any educational program

and that the institutions are already basically in place, Higher education institutions may lower a migrant's uncertainty about the future and be effective across a wide variety of contexts and migrant backgrounds.

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