

Effects of Female Education on Brideprice: a Regression Discontinuity Analysis using Universal Primary Education in Uganda^{*}

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship between brideprice and female education using data from rural Uganda. The country's universal primary education (UPE), which caused an exogenous increase in female education, is exploited as a cutoff in the regression discontinuity design to identify the causal effects of female education on brideprice. Our estimation results reveal that the UPE in Uganda indeed increased female education, and that a higher education leads to a higher amount of brideprice paid in cash, a piece of evidence supportive of related literature. We also find that better educated women are less likely to receive brideprice. In combination with the judicial ban of its reimbursement upon divorce, these results may de-emphasize further inputs of policy resources to settle the social controversy over brideprice's possible downsides, on condition that the government fully enforces the judgement. Our results also posit that an economic policy may change a cultural practice.

JEL classification codes: I21, I25, O55, Z13.

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