



Roll Call: Getting Children Into School

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Roll Call: Evidence from Rigorous Research on How to Get Children Into School

- 58 studies from 28 countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, including some evidence from Ghana
- All studies included in the review were conducted with a rigorous methodology
 - The group who received the program and the comparison group were separated cleanly, usually through randomization
 - Can compare program group vs. comparison group and know that all differences in school participation are due to the program

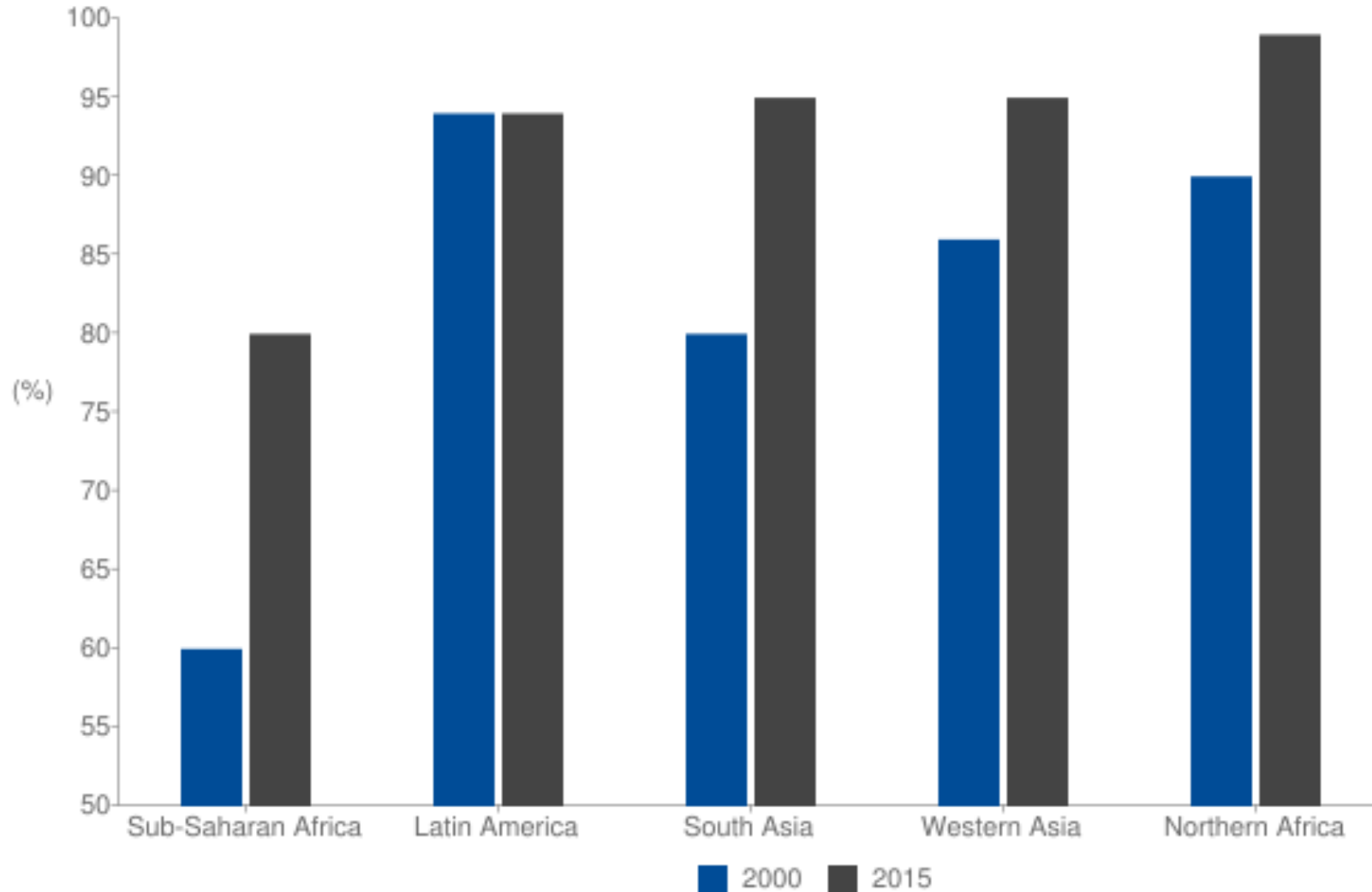


Outline

- Good news & difficult news about enrollment
- Summary: What have we learned about how to get kids in school?
- **Reduce the “costs”** that parents and children pay
 - “Costs” = Fees, uniforms, long travel time to school, having to come when sick...
- **Increase the benefits** students & parents perceive
- Focus on: JHS/SHS; female students



Good news: We are moving towards universal primary enrollment



Difficult news: Pockets of low enrollment remain

- Particularly in **remote** or **conflict-affected** areas
- **Secondary school:**
 - During 2000-2014, for those aged 12-16 secondary enrollment rose from **55 to 65 percent**, in developing countries.
 - 65% of children globally enrolled means that **202 million adolescents of secondary school age** are not enrolled
 - **Ghana: Secondary school enrollment for girls was 53% in 2017** (UNESCO, World Bank)



Key Takeaways for Increasing Enrollment & Attendance

What have we learned?

1. **Convenience** of participating in school matters, especially for girls
2. **Costs** and **incentives** greatly affect enrollment & attendance
3. **Health and nutrition** interventions have increased attendance (in particular, deworming)
4. **Changing perceptions** about the benefits of education and ways to reduce cost can be effective
5. Improving education quality (i.e., learning) may not lead to increased participation



Reducing Costs

1. Shortening travel time to school
2. Subsidies and material gifts
3. Improving student health

Increasing Perceived Benefits

4. Improving the quality of education
5. Adding school supplies
6. Changing perceptions
7. Increasing student motivation





Reducing Costs



Shortening travel time to school can increase enrollment and attendance

- In areas with few schools, **creating new local schools** is a very effective way to increase enrollment and attendance
 - Examples from India, Pakistan: Government instituted new schools
 - This may be more important for girls than for boys



Eliminating fees can lead to large increases in participation

In Ghana, providing poor students with scholarships for senior high school (SHS) led to:

- 30 pp increase in SHS **enrollment** (from 56 percent)
- 26 pp increase in SHS **completion** (from 48 percent)

8 years later, scholarship led to:

- Gains in learning, earnings, preventative health
- Delays in marriage and childbirth

Conditional Cash Transfers: Widely tested, consistently effective at increasing participation

Randomized evaluations of CCTs around the world



References: Akresh et al. (2013), Barrera-Osorio and Filmer (2015), Mo et al (2012), Wong et al. (2012), Barrera-Osorio et al. (2011), Schady and Araujo (2008), Benedetti et al. (2016), Galiani and McEwan (2013), Baird et al. (2010), Baird et al. (2011), Bard et al. (2013), Schultz (2004), Behrman et al. (2009), Behrman et al. (2011), Benhassine et al. (2015), Edmonds et al. (2014), Maluccio and Flores (2004), Barham et al. (2013), Gitter and Barham (2008), Evans et al. (2014), Fiszbein et al. (2009), Snilstveit et al. (2015)



Even small incentives, or removing small costs, can have large impacts

- \$20 scholarships reduced dropout amongst 6th graders in Cambodia by ~20%
- In Malawi, a \$5/month transfer was nearly as effective as a \$15/month transfer
- Free uniforms for 6th grade girls in Kenya reduced dropout by 3 pp (16%)
- Breakfast increased student participation at preschools (Kenya) and primary school (Jamaica)
- School feeding program in Burkina Faso improved enrollment by 4-5 percentage points

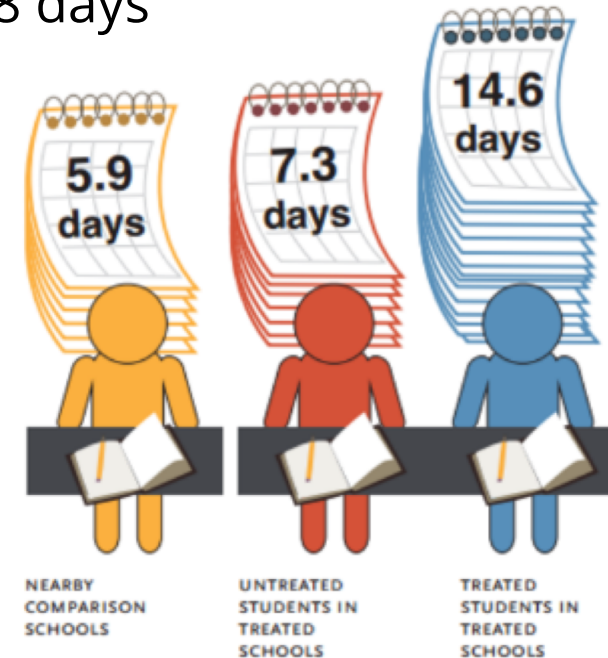
References: Duflo et al. (2015), Kremer et al. (2009b), Barrera-Osorio et al. (2013), Vermeersch and Kremer (2005), Powell et al. (1998); Kazianga, et al. (2009)

Reducing the cost of school by improving child health

Low-cost **deworming** drugs distributed in mass school-based campaigns reduced absenteeism by 9.3 pp (25 %) in Kenya

Programs not obviously about education can have education impact

Deworming increased attendance for both treated and untreated students, resulting in a total increase in attendance of almost 28 days



References: Miguel and Kremer (2003), Baird et al. (2013), Ozier (2014)



Increasing Perceived Benefits



Increasing the quality of education does not always increase attendance

- At least in the short term
- Quality may be hard to judge
- Long-term impacts of improving quality on participation not yet evaluated

References: Duflo et al. (2012), Banerjee et al. (2007), Duflo et al. (2015), Barrera-Osorio et al. (2015), Andrabi et al (2014), Barr et al. (2012), Lassibille et al. (2010), Pradhan et al. (2012)

Adding school supplies does not consistently improve participation

Textbooks in Kenya

Textbooks in Sierra Leone

Laptops in Peru

Libraries in India

Infrastructure investments in Bolivia



References: Glewwe et al. (2009), Sabarwal et al. (2014), Cristia et al. (2012), Borkum et al. (2012), Newman et al. (2002)

Changing perceptions can improve attendance at low cost

- Programs that:
 - Correct perceptions about the benefits of education
 - Make the benefits of education more prominent in the minds of students and parents
- Evidence from Latin America (Dominican Republic, Chile, Peru)
- For example, providing information on average earnings by education level, videos explaining benefits of education decrease dropout

References: Jensen (2010), Dinkelman and Martinez (2014), Loyalka et al. (2012)

Increasing student motivation: Examples can be powerful

Mexico: Classmates of children who received CCTs were more likely to go to school

Kenya: Merit scholarships for girls increased attendance for all girls (not just those at the top of the class)

India: Quota policy for female village leaders erased gender gap in educational attainment in villages



References: Bobonis et al. (2009), Kremer et al. (2009)

Conclusions

- Shortening travel time to school can increase enrollment and attendance → especially for girls
- Eliminating fees can lead to large increases in participation
- Changing perceptions can improve attendance at low cost → in JHS, SHS
- Increasing student motivation: Examples can be powerful → especially for girls