

Review of: "Women education in Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Comments on "Women Education in Ethiopia"

1. It is important to control for age in the regression. Relatively older women grew up in an era when Ethiopia was at a lower level of economic development and the level of development when growing up can be expected to affect educational outcomes.
2. The paper includes among the regressors indicator variables for various levels of wealth. These wealth variables refer to wealth in 2016. However, wealth will not only affect a woman's education, but her education is likely to also affect family wealth. There may be reverse causality here therefore the wealth variables should be dropped to obtain unbiased estimates of the parameters.
3. Ideally the model should control for conditions a woman faced at the time when she was growing up. The survey does not include direct evidence on these conditions, but it is possible to infer where a woman lived when she was of school age. The survey questionnaire includes information on the duration or residence at the current location and the place or previous residence of a woman. I recommend using this information to figure out where a woman lived when she was of school age and then controlling for her location (e.g. region) at that age. The objective here is to control for the effects of availability of schooling resources and level of economic development across space.
4. The model in the paper includes regressors for age at first marriage and age at first birth. It is possible that both variables are endogenous, thus the estimates are inconsistent. How about reformulating these variables as binary variables taking the value 1 for marriage at a young age or birth at a young age with the young age defined so that the marriage or birth were less likely to be influenced by a woman's choices? For example, marriage at a very young age is likely to be primarily influenced by choices made by parents rather than a young woman herself.