

Authors

Esther Duflo
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Pascaline Dupas
Princeton University

Michael Kremer
The University of Chicago

Education, HIV, and Early Fertility:
Experimental Evidence from Kenya*

Esther Duflo Pascaline Dupas Michael Kremer

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Abstract

A seven-year randomized evaluation suggests education subsidies reduce adolescent girls' dropout, pregnancy, and marriage but not sexually transmitted infection (STI). The government's HIV curriculum, which stresses abstinence until marriage, does not reduce pregnancy or STI. Both programs combined reduce STI more, but cut dropout and pregnancy less, than education subsidies alone. These results are inconsistent with a model of schooling and sexual behavior in which both pregnancy and STI are determined by one factor (unprotected sex), but consistent with a two-factor model in which choices between committed and casual relationships also affect these outcomes.

JEL Codes: O12, I12, I25, I38

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Duflo: MIT Economics Department, 50 Memorial Drive, Building E52 room 252G, Cambridge, MA 02142 (e-mail: eduflo@mit.edu); Dupas: Stanford Economics Department, 579 Stein Mall, CA 94306 (e-mail: pdupas@stanford.edu); Kremer: Harvard University Department of Economics, Littauer Center, 1805 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 (e-mail: mkremer@fas.harvard.edu).

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