A Fresh Look at the Social Impact of Girls’ Education

GPE Webinar
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Rights or social impact?

- Educating girls = Human Right
- The right thing to do
- But “social impact facts” are crucial for advocacy
Why do we need more facts?

Facts + recent data =

social impacts reinforce each other
Female education and teenage births

Every year of education reduces teenage births by about 10% in countries with high teenage births.
Female education and infant mortality

For every 10 point increase in female secondary enrollment you get a 7% reduction in infant mortality in high-mortality countries.
Female secondary education and fertility

For every 10 point increase in enrollment, the number of children/woman is reduced by .3
From fertility back to education

Countries with high fertility have lower learning levels when the children eventually go to school.
Educated mothers live longer

Every 10-point increase in secondary enrollment shows a 10% drop in maternal mortality 10 years later.
Next slide shows the inter-relationships taking just one key outcome: maternal mortality
The following two charts offer even more illustration of how some of these relationships work...
Education and delaying marriage and first child-birth

an extra 8 points of enrollment = 1 year later marriage and birth
Girls who marry and have first births later are healthier and live longer. Every 1 year increase in age of marriage is associated with 6.5% less anemia.
How GPE supports girls’ education?

- Countries with big gender gaps → get more GPE gender programs
- Programs typically cover:
  - Removal of fees/direct costs
  - Incentive schemes
  - Construction of schools with separate classrooms/latrines for girls
  - Female teachers
  - Work on socio-cultural issues and community participation
  - Capacity development of ministry to support gender focus
  - Gender sensitive textbooks
  - Gender sensitive curriculum
  - Safe schools/prevention of school-related gender violence
Some conclusions

• Girls education is key to development
• The impacts are complex and mutually reinforcing
• The impacts are multi-generational
• If you act on all these issues (and manage the economy well and have good governance!) you can break poverty in 1-2 generations
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