

VOLUNTARY TERM PAPER ECON 3710/4710, Winter/Spring 2015

Must be submitted no later than 19 March. Send me the paper by e-mail or, even better, give me a paper copy. Please, use English or a Scandinavian language.

1) DHS data from some African countries and the main regions of India can be found on the course web page

http://folk.uio.no/keilman/V2005/teaching_material_V2005.html

under 'Data sets for term paper 1' and are described in the appendix. If you are curious to learn more about the data or the demographic development of the different countries, take a look at the DHS home page <http://www.measuredhs.com/>. Please, select one country/region and find out as much as possible about the impact that a woman's education has on her fertility, using OLS regression. Obviously, you should include more independent variables than education in your models. One possible approach is to first estimate an effect of education with no other variables present, subsequently include variables that may determine both education and fertility, and finally some that education may operate through in affecting fertility. Describe your findings briefly.

2) Infant mortality is much higher in poor than in rich countries. What are the main reasons for that? (If this were a compulsory term paper, I would have expected about 500 words)

Try to make the argumentation well-structured and precise. Use as much of the course literature as you think is relevant, though you are not expected to have read papers that are not yet presented at the lectures. It is not necessary to search for additional literature, but if you do, please give exact references.

Appendix

Survey data for 22 African countries and 6 main regions of India.

Country:

1	Benin	F
2	Burkina Faso	F
3	Zimbabwe	M
4	Tanzania	T
5	Cameroon	F
6	Central African Republic	F
7	Chad	F
8	Cote d'Ivoire	F B
9	Comores	F M T B
10	Ghana	
11	Kenya	T
12	Madagascar	F
13	Malawi	M T B
14	Mali	F
15	Mozambique	F# T
16	Namibia	M T B
17	Niger	F T
18	Rwanda	F B
19	Senegal	F M TB
20	Togo	F
21	Uganda	T
22	Zambia	T
91	India, North	T
92	India, Central	T
93	India, East	T
94	India, North-East	T
95	India, West	T
96	India, South	T

F = DHS documentation in French or Portuguese#

M = Muslim not separate category for religion

T = Traditional not separate category for religion

B = Boy preferences not defined

North: Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, New Dehli, Jammu, Rjasthan

Central: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh

East: Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal

North-East: Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh

West: Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra

South: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka

Variables available. They describe the situation at the time of interview.
The material is restricted to women aged 30 or more who are married.

Columns in spreadsheet:

A	Education (0-20 years)
B	E1=1 if 3-6 years (reference category is 0-2)
C	E2=1 if 7-8
D	E3=1 if 9-10
E	E4=1 if 11-
F	Number of children
G	Age (15-50)
H	A1=1 if 32-34 (reference category is 30-31)
I	A2=1 if 35-37
J	A3=1 if 38-40
K	A4=1 if 41-43
L	A5=1 if 44-46
M	A6=1 if 47-
N	Married (=1 for everyone)
O	Age at marriage
P	M1=1 if <14 (reference category is 17)
Q	M2=1 if 15
R	M3=1 if 16
S	M4=1 if 18 (means 18 or more for India)
T	M5=1 if 19- (=0 for everyone in India)

Other individual variables:

U	Muslim (=1, otherwise 0)
V	Traditional religion (=1, otherwise 0)
W	Wealth index for household (0-2 for Africa, 0-5 for India)
X	Electricity in household (=1, otherwise 0)
Y	Boy preference (=1, otherwise 0)
Z	Husband works in agriculture (=1, otherwise 0)
AA	Husband's education (0-20 years)
AB	H1=1 if 3-6 years (reference category is 0-2)
AC	H2=1 if 7-8
AD	H3=1 if 9-10
AE	H4=1 if 11-

Community variables:

“global”:

AF	Urban (=1, otherwise 0)
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“aggregate”:

AG	Average educational level	... do not use ..
AH	Average wealth index	... do not use ...
AI	Percent with electricity	... do not use ...
AJ	Percent Muslim	... do not use ...
AK	Percent with boy preferences	... do not use ...