

# Two Promising Areas for Impact Evaluation on Gender

Gender Analysis Breakout

MCC IE Conference

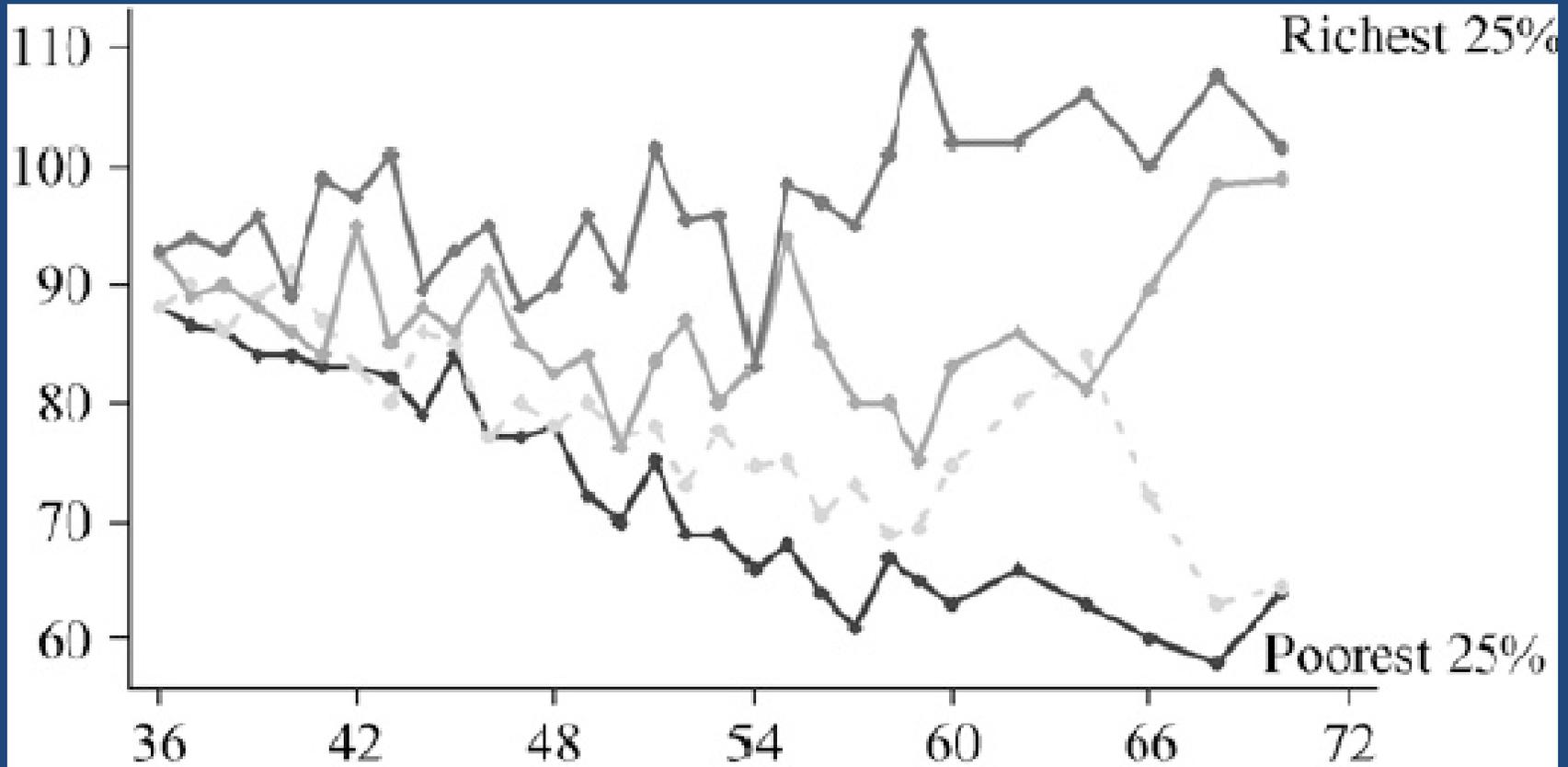
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# PART 1: INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN

Can we Increase the  
Contribution of Men?



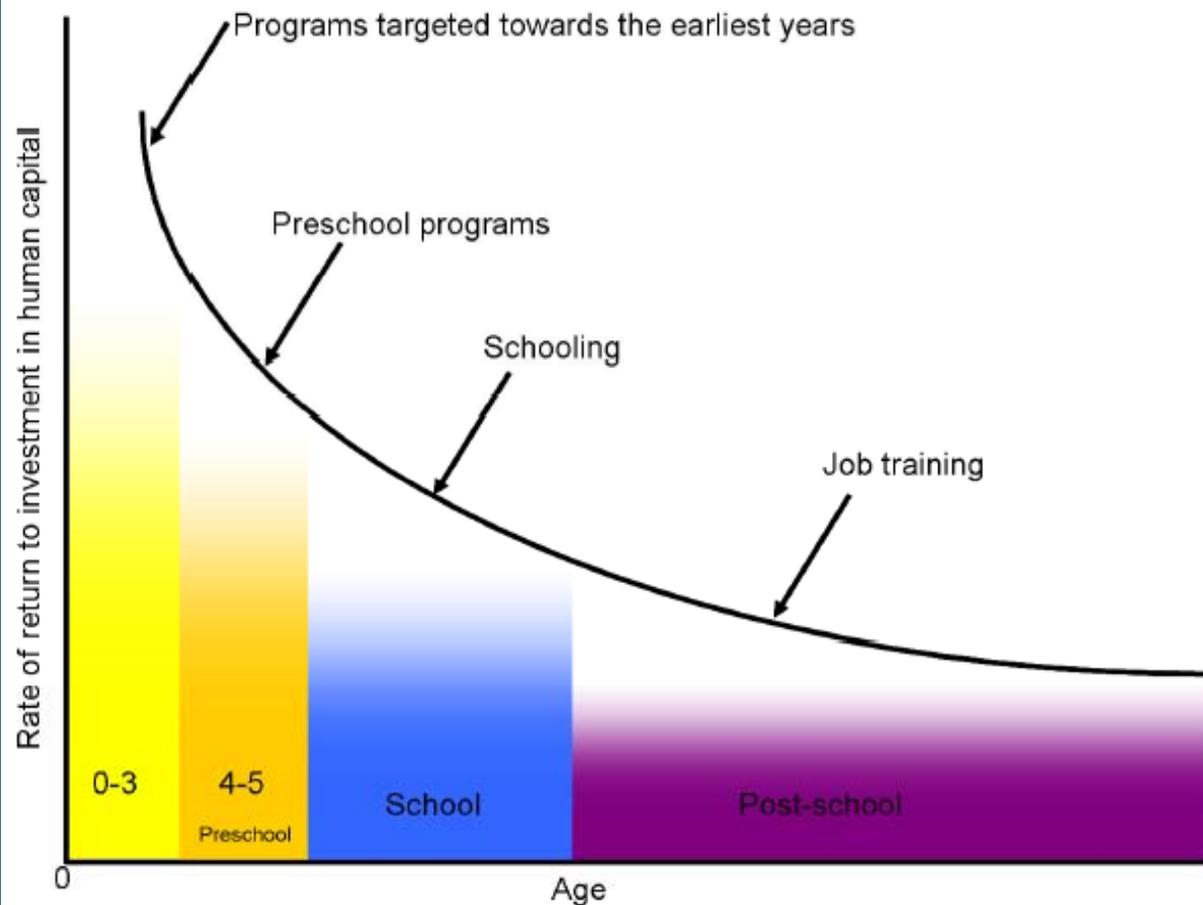


**TVIP VOCABULARY SCORES OF 36-TO-72-MONTH-OLD  
ECUADORIAN CHILDREN BY WEALTH QUARTILES**

*SOURCE: PAXSON AND SCHADY 2007.*

Ability responds to environment in early years

# Economist have used such evidence to stylize investment priorities in human capital



Take advantage of malleability

-Build foundations for further learning

-Prevent early damage / avoid irreversible loss of potential

**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS APPEAR PROFITABLE, EVEN IF PAYOFF IS ONLY 20+ YEARS FROM TODAY**

# Many Proven Effective Early Child Programs Expect Changes in Knowledge Attitude and Practices

For Example:

- Active feeding for complementary nutrition of weaning age children
- Increasing diet diversity through home gardening
- Increased stimulation for preschool aged children

I could add exclusive breast feeding for first six months of a child's life, but this is one of the only ECD activities that has an unambiguous assignment within the household

# One Constraint in Going From Knowledge to Practices

We know how to transmit information and we know how to transfer cash, but we have no way to transfer time

## **One approach: increase the role of men in child rearing**

An Example: Nicaraguan *Atención a Crisis* with community workshops targeted to parents of children age 0 to 6. IE will compare programs targeted to women with those targeted to male and female household members

Other approaches use mass media to encourage male participation or similar communication instead of face to face encounters

Example: Fatherhood Project in South Africa encourages fathers' involvement in parenting through advocacy and photographs

# Methodological Challenges for IE of Advocacy

As is well known (and illustrated in Agnes' presentation) information moves between treatment and control populations leading to crossover bias (usually downwards)

Fortunately, random assignment to programs can still be used for identification of differences in, say, attitudes which can then explain outcomes

Randomized encouragement can also be used to explain exposure to information and thus to measure the impact of message

Example: Randomize distribution of lottery numbers which will be read on programs that also contain different public service messages

# Part 2: Reforming Family Rights

The Fatherhood Project explicitly addresses absent fathers

But in addition to the important issue of male presence there is an issue of “presents”, that is, the resource that a father contributes

Families of divorced and abandoned women and, of course, widows are regularly shown to amongst the poorest members of society and are therefore prioritized in social transfer programs.

Protection of rights could reduce the need for these programs

# In many African countries family law is based on a mixture of civil and customary law

Customary law often grants few rights to women. For example, inheritance goes to the man's brothers

Some intriguing questions - such as should civil law trump customary law and if not, can the latter evolve? – are well beyond today's discussion

There are, however, assessments of major changes in legal codes, for example, in countries such as Lesotho and Rwanda looking at range of issues such as impact on fertility and child health as well as transmission of HIV

Additional programmatic approaches to legal reform enhance legal aid and strategic litigation as well as to set up mediation procedures (community tribunals) for customary law

# Methodological Challenges for IE

A problem with assessing legal reform using standard IE tools should be readily apparent given national coverage

But there are issues even with legal aid and mediation (which can be randomly assigned) since a standard benefit cost analysis needs to be modified

Shifting the payment for support from one individual to another (which inheritance may achieve) or from the state to an individual (child support) is a transfer. Transfers, however, largely fall outside B/C assessment.

On the other hand, improved health or productivity gains can be used in B/C.

But the gains in terms of rights or even a 2<sup>nd</sup> best argument of reducing public outlays likely support the intervention above and beyond any results on health.