

Effects of an early stimulation curriculum and a nutritional intervention...

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Review

- The paper evaluates an **improvement** of FAMI
 - Parenting support services for children's development and parental behavior
- FAMI exists since 1991, but the intervention randomly implements a new comprehensive curriculum in 2014 in a selected group of towns
- Find positive effects on several indicators of ECD (e.g., cognition, language, motor)
- Also improved some health outcomes of nutrition!

Comments

- Great example of testing components of a program or new ways of implementing a program rather than the whole program
- Improving implementation and management can have large long term effects (Bloom 2014, QJE)
- May be more appealing to policy makers: threat of “shutting down” the entire program is limited if no results are found
- This type of interventions can be very cost effective

Comments

- The program is very comprehensive in the sense that there are a lot of components, but they are all interesting by themselves as well
- An example: Home visits vs group sessions
- The intervention varies the intensity of both
- Would be interesting to know how these work in isolation of the other and how they reinforce each other.
- Require more arms. Maybe in the next design?

Comments

- Any effects on stress, happiness or emotional well being of parents?
- Does increasing play activities with your child improves well-being (or not) of parents?
- Do you know what is the effect of FAMI in the absence of the intervention?
 - The effect of FAMI + Intervention vs. no FAMI at all could be very large
- Main results in ECD are driven by better nourished children (as measured at baseline). Little discussion of this, however important since they reflect complementarities between the program and health status.
 - Made me think on what should we do first: improve health outcomes and then ECD

Comments

- On another note, do we learn to be better parents? i.e., Do we have to be continuously intervene and be reminded about what are good inputs for child development?
- or if we are trained once, is it enough to generate long term changes?
- This could be answered by measuring longer term outcomes time after T and C parents leave FAMI
- Given the low number of towns, could you try alternatives for clustering? (e.g., Wild Bootstrap in Gelbach et al. 2008)