Providing Entrepreneurship Skills to Adolescent Girls in Uganda

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Female Entrepreneurship: Obstacles, Innovative Interventions, and Impacts

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These slides build on a working paper with the same title co-authored by Oriana Bandiera, Niklas Buehren, Robin Burgess, Markus Goldstein, Selim Gulesci, Imran Rasul and Munshi Sulaiman downloadable under:
http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/ELA.pdf
Why should we care?

Female Population by Age, 2010

60% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa is now aged below 25
Why should we care?

• The youth are confronted by interlinked challenges between
  – Economic dimension, e.g. unemployment
  – Health related dimension, e.g. early marriage, pregnancy, STDs and HIV infection

• In this study we evaluate an intervention that attempts to simultaneously tackle both dimensions faced by adolescent girls in Uganda
The ELA Program

- Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) was developed and is being implemented by BRAC.
- Operates through clubs, a social space for 20-35 girls within a community who meet regularly.
- Club sessions are led by an adolescent leader and center around recreational activities, e.g. reading, and playing games, as well as training.
- Two types of training:
  - Livelihood training (vocational & financial literacy courses)
  - Life Skill training (reproductive health, pregnancy, STDs, HIV awareness, family planning, rape, etc.)
Research Design & Data

• Randomized Control Trial
  – Implemented in 10 already existing BRAC branches
  – 150 potential program communities identified
  – 100 communities randomly assigned to treatment (ELA club established) and the remaining 50 communities kept as control

• Panel Data
  – Baseline data collection commenced in 2008
  – Adolescents were re-surveyed 2 years after the beginning of the intervention, creating a panel data set of 4,888 respondents
Impact on Income Generating Activities

• Engagement in IGAs increases by 32%
• Mostly driven by self-employment activities (increase by 71%)
• Income from self-employment activities (conditional) increases by about $32
• Corresponding increase in hours spent on self-employment activities and monthly expenditures
• No adverse effects on schooling outcomes, e.g. school enrollment or time spent on studying
Impact on Entrepreneurship Skills
Impact on Empowerment

[Diagram showing the impact on various activities such as washing, cleaning and cooking, looking after ill people, higher level of education, fetch water, earn money, feeding and bathing children, help children with studies. The diagram includes lines indicating ITT and 95% confidence interval.]
Impact on Health & Agency

- HIV and pregnancy related knowledge significantly improves
- Strong effects on fertility: reported motherhood decreases by 26%
- Proportion of those always using a condom increases by 27%
- No effect on use of other contraceptives or reported STDs
- Incidence of sex against their will drops by 76%
Conclusion

• Impacts can be contrasted with the overall cost per eligible girl of $17.9 in the second year of program operation.

• Findings suggest interventions that simultaneously provide skills & knowledge related to income generation and health, can have beneficial, quantitatively large and sustained impacts on adolescent girls.