Effects of economic status and family planning ideation on married women’s fertility intentions in Ghana and Kenya

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Objective

Determine and compare effects of economic status and family planning ideation on married women’s intention to stop, delay or continue childbearing
Background

• Fertility intention is a determinant of fertility transitions - “fertility must be within the calculus of conscious choice”
• Intentions to stop or delay childbearing associated with fertility decline in low-income countries
• Fertility decline tends to level off at the average desired family size
• Thus creating intention to stop or delay childbearing among married women is a requisite for family planning uptake and fertility decline
Background (2)

• Economic status and ideation are two main factors of fertility decline although there is still debate about which is the predominant

• How these two factors affect fertility intentions and how do their effects compare?
Data & Methods

Data
• Representative sample of 5,691 and 8,195 women respectively
• Dependent variable: 
  – \( Y \) = fertility intention
• Independent variables:
  – Wealth index
  – Ideation index
  – Ethnic group
  – # of living children
• Analysis restricted to women in union with two or more children
  – 2720 in Ghana & 3681 in Kenya

Methods
• Multinomial logit regression

  \( Y \) = Intention to have another child:
  \( Y = 0 \): want soon,
  \( Y = 1 \): want no more,
  \( Y = 2 \): want two + years later
Wealth and ideation indexes

• Wealth index:
  – Created from asset and household characteristics using principal component analysis
  – Available in the dataset
  – Split into quintiles

• Ideation index:
  – Created using variables related to family planning including knowledge, attitudes, exposure to FP on media, discussion about FP, visit by FP worker, ideal family size
  – Created using principal component analysis
  – Split into quintiles
  – Test of exogeneity of the ideation index using bivariate probit model
Fertility intentions
(married women with >= 2 children)

Want no more
Ghana: 47
Kenya: 60

Want to delay
Ghana: 32
Kenya: 24

Want soon
Ghana: 21
Kenya: 16
Partial model
Adjusted OR of intention to stop childbearing
(Base category: Want a child soon)

Partial models: model with all control variables + either the wealth quintiles or the ideation quintiles

*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.10
Full model
Adjusted OR of intention to stop childbearing
(Base category: Want a child soon)

GHANA

KENYA

** *** *** *** *** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; *p<0.10

Wealth Ideation

Quintile 1 (lowest) 2 3 4 Quintile 5 (highest)

Quintile 1 (lowest) 2 3 4 5 Quintile 5 (highest)
Partial model
Adjusted OR of intention to delay childbearing
(Base category: Want a child soon)

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*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.10
Summary of results

• Ideation has strong positive association with intention to stop or delay childbearing in Ghana and Kenya

• Wealth is significantly and positively associated with intention to stop childbearing only in Kenya

• Wealth is negatively associated with intention to delay childbearing in Ghana and non significant in Kenya

• Ideation mediates some of the effects of wealth on intention to stop childbearing in Kenya

• Ideation has stronger effects on fertility intentions than wealth
Implications

• Ideation is powerful for generating demands for FP, even in poor areas
• Continued attention to ideation factors to generate demands for family planning
• Continued attention to outreach programs and social network interventions for FP in FP interventions and communication programs
THANK YOU