



What if mothers are entrepreneurs? Non-farm businesses and child schooling in rural Ghana

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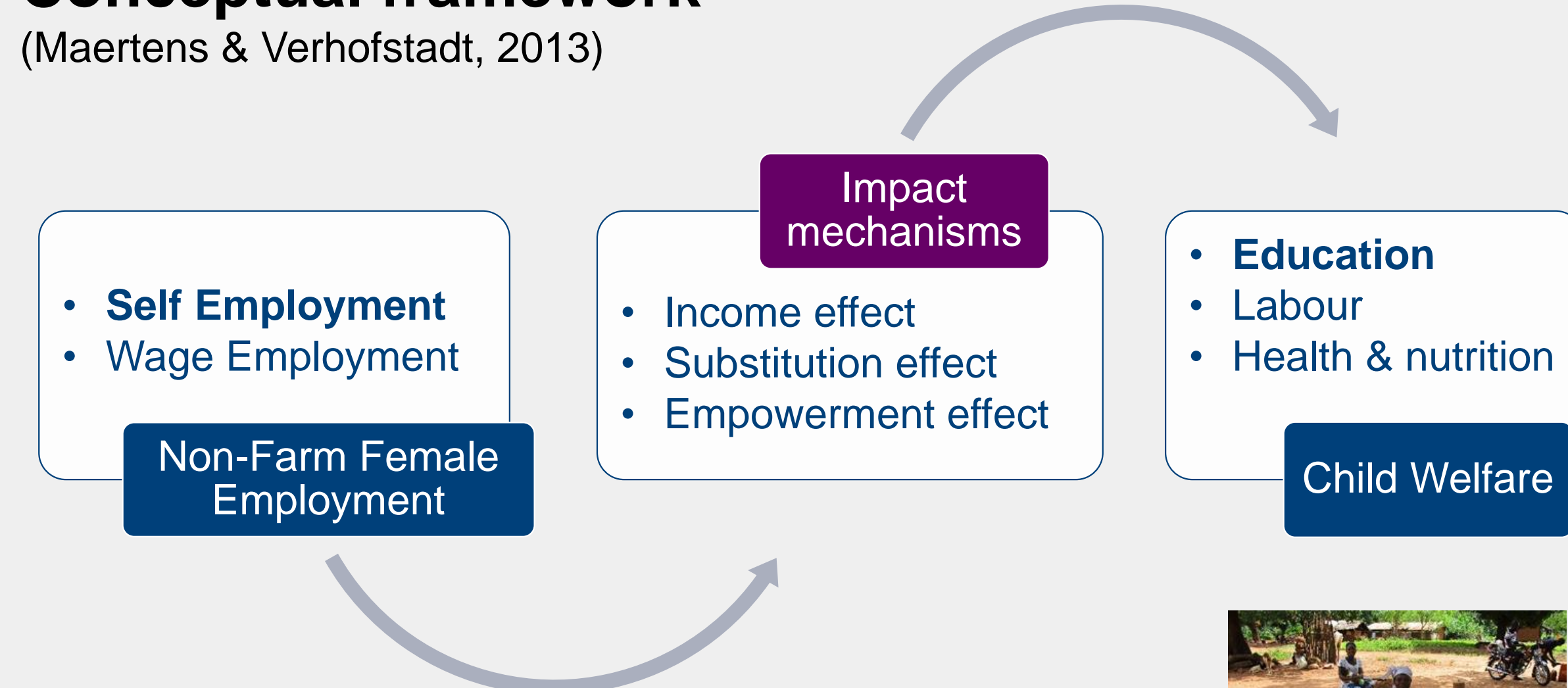
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1 Introduction

Conceptual framework

(Maertens & Verhofstadt, 2013)



Research context: Rural Ghana

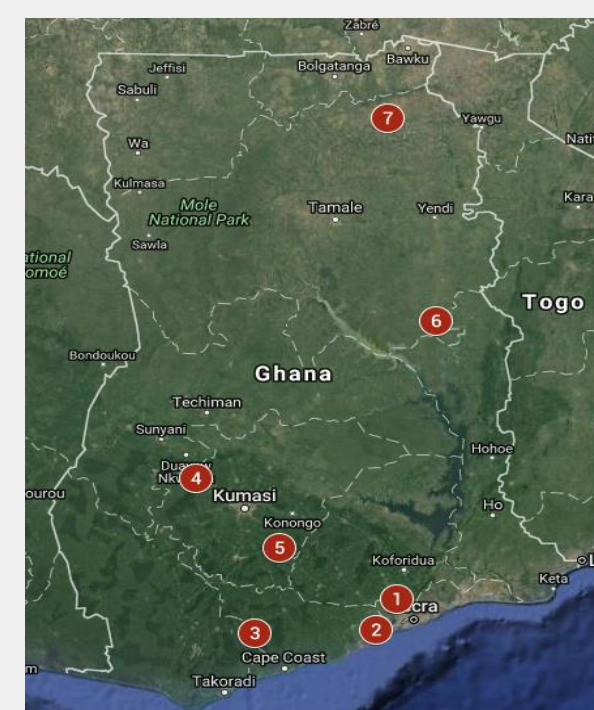
- High prevalence of non-farm enterprises (NFEs)
- Low enrolment rate in secondary school



2 Data and method

Qualitative data

- Regions: Eastern, Central, Ashanti, Northern
- 28 gender-separated focus group discussions (FGDs)



Quantitative data

Ghana Living Standard Survey Round 6 (GLSS6)

- 2012-2013
- Nationally representative

Sample restrictions

- 12 – 21 | 12 – 18 | 15 – 21 year olds in rural Ghana
- Mother present in the household



→ Final sample size: 6,616 | 4,608 | 3,674 subjects

Econometric analysis

1. Linear probability model (OLS)

$$P(Y_{ijk} = 1 | X_{ijk}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(NFE_m)_{ijk} + \beta_2C_{ijk} + \beta_3P_{ijk} + \beta_4H_{jk} + \beta_5M_k$$

Y_{ijk} : dummy for school enrolment of child i in household j and community k

NFE_m : dummy for ownership NFE by mother

Control variables: child (C), parent (P), household (H) and community (M) characteristics

2. IV – 2SLS

Instrumental variables for NFE_m

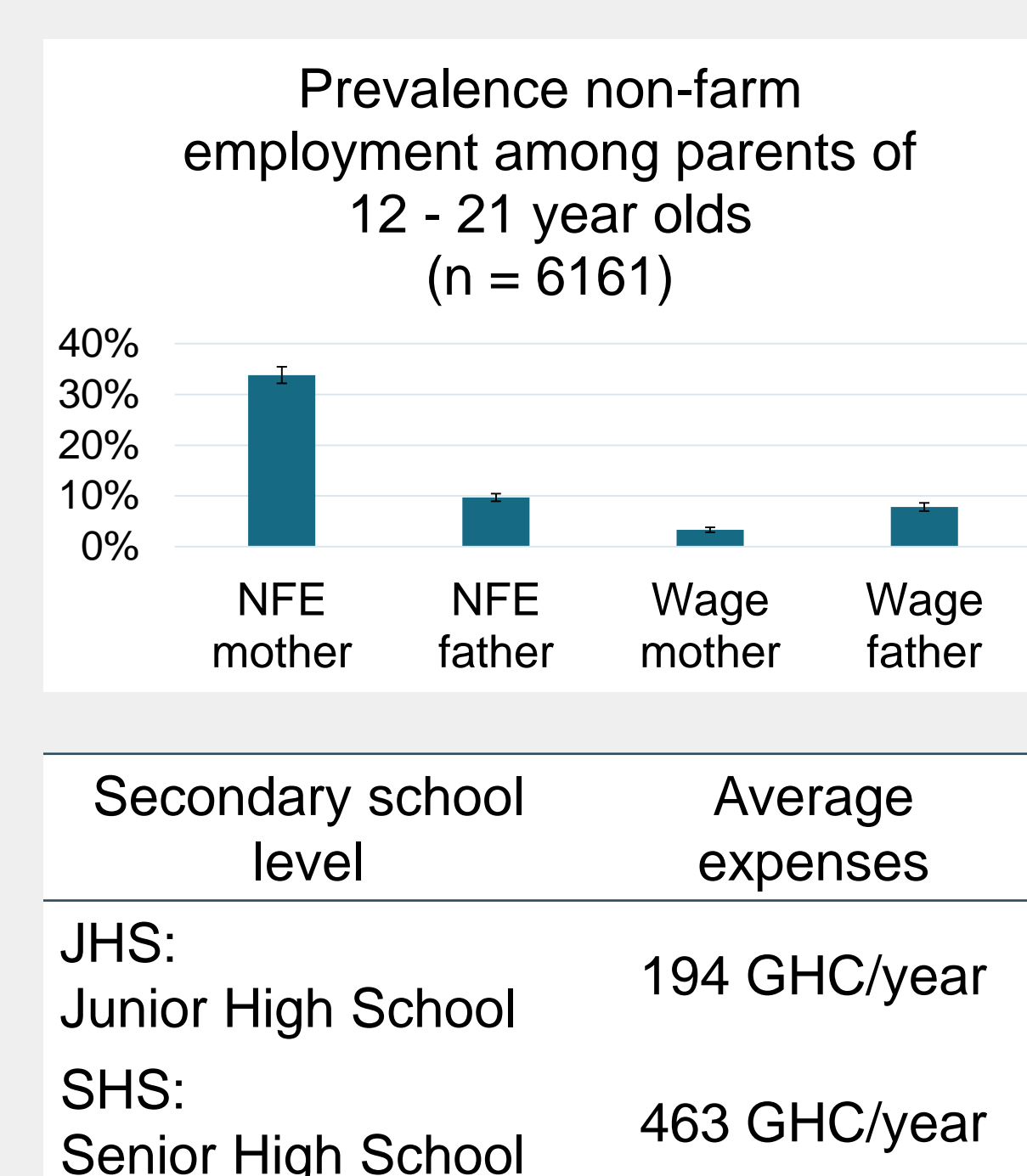
- Dummy for the agricultural work of the grandmother
- Percentage of women with an NFE in the community

3. IV – 2SRI

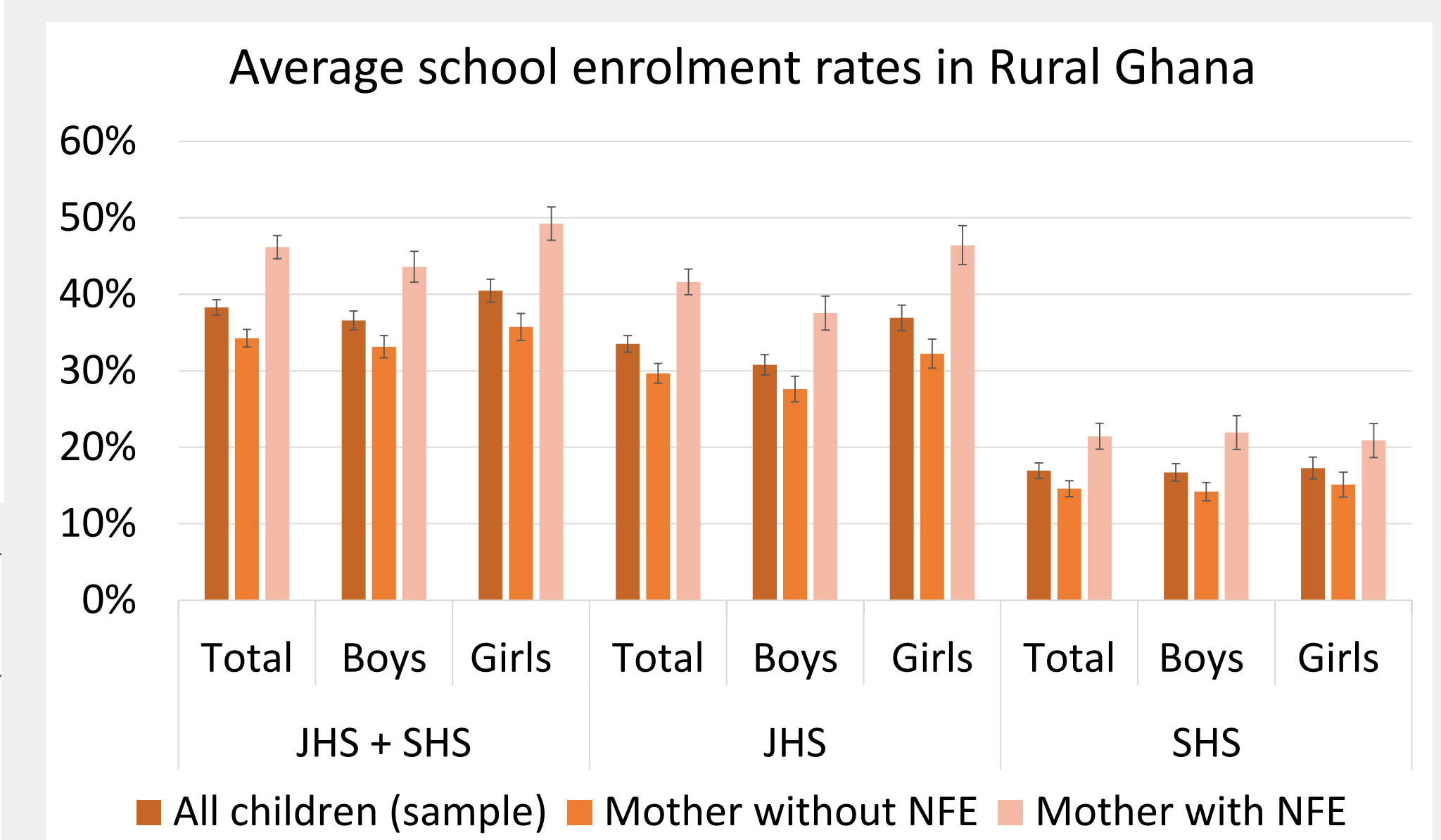
Interaction effects of NFE mother with gender child, education mother, household wealth and number of young siblings.

3 Results and discussion

Descriptives on parental employment and child secondary education



1 US\$ = 1.9 GHC



Link mothers' NFE and child secondary school enrolment

	Secondary school enrolment (12 – 21 year olds)		JHS enrolment (12 – 18 year olds)		SHS enrolment (15 – 21 year olds)	
	OLS	IV	OLS	IV	OLS	IV
Mother's ownership of NFE	0.05 *** (0.017)	0.107 ** (0.044)	0.047 *** (0.018)	0.091 * (0.048)	0.026 (0.018)	0.051 (0.045)
Gender child: girl	0.042 *** (0.015)	0.041 *** (0.015)	0.065 *** (0.016)	0.064 *** (0.016)	0.017 (0.016)	0.016 (0.016)

Included: child, parent, household and community characteristics

Robust standard errors between parentheses. Significant effects: *** p < 0.01; ** p < 0.05; * p < 0.1.

Interaction effects

- Insignificant with gender child and education mother
- Significantly negative with household wealth and number of young siblings

Mechanisms

Income effect ✓

Substitution effect ✓

Empowerment effect ?

Productive ✗

4 Conclusion

Main findings of mothers' NFE

- Positive link with JHS enrolment, not with SHS enrolment
- Equally strong for boys and girls, and for high- and low-educated mothers
- Stronger for poorer households

Implications

- Decrease SHS expenses, increase spread of payment, support female NFEs
- Inclusive pathway to reach Goal 4 of UN SDGs

