

Female Schooling, Non-Market Productivity, and Labor Market Participation in Nigeria

Adebayo B. Aromolaran

Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management,
University of Agriculture,
P.M.B. 2240, Abeokuta, Nigeria;
Email: eos@scientist.com and adebayo.aromolaran@yale.edu

January 2004

Abstract:

Economists have argued that increasing female schooling positively influences the labor supply of married women by inducing a faster rise in market productivity relative to non-market productivity. I use the Nigerian Labor Force Survey to investigate how own and husband's schooling affect women's labor market participation. I find that additional years of postsecondary education increases wage market participation probability by as much as 15.2%. A marginal increase in primary schooling has no effect on probability of wage employment, but could enhance participation rates in self-employment by about 5.40%. These effects are likely to be stronger when a woman is married to a more educated spouse. The results suggest that primary education is more productive in non-wage work relative to wage work, while postsecondary education is more productive in wage work. Finally, I find evidence suggesting that non-market work may not be a normal good for married women in Nigeria.

Keywords: Nigeria, Female Schooling, Women's Labor Market Participation, Non-Market Productivity

University of Agriculture, Abeokuta
<http://www.unaab.edu.ng>