

The Impact of Basic Education Reform on the Educational Participation of 16- to 17-year-old Youth in the Philippines

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The study measures the impact on the school participation of 16 to 17-year-old learners in the Philippines of the implementation of the Senior High School program (SHS), which came into full effect in school year 2017–2018. The SHS program, which extended secondary education in the country from four to six years, was the most ambitious education reform action in the country in recent memory. The study found that the SHS program resulted in an increase in overall school participation rate of at least 13 percentage points among 16 to 17-year-olds. Perhaps more importantly, the increase in school participation rate was found to be highly progressive with those 16 to 17-year-olds in the two bottom income quintiles experiencing the highest increase in school participation rates by a wide margin. The study also found that both male and female students benefited from the program, although the gains appear to be higher for female students. Most of the gains in school participation were also found to occur outside Metro Manila.

Keywords: impact evaluation, logit regression, education reform, senior high school, gender in education

1. Introduction

Kilpartrick et al. (2002) have argued that sustained and long-term educational participation of the youth boosts the collection of competencies and talents present in an economy. Additionally, it has been found to be a stable predictor of well-being among individuals and of states or countries. Education participation among the