

## **Intergenerational Relationships between Women's Fertility, Aspirations for their Children's Education, and School Dropout in the Philippines**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Educational attainment is a key indicator of social and economic development. While many studies have documented the relationship between women's fertility and children's education, few studies have examined mothers' aspirations for her their children's education and subsequent educational attainment. We use intergenerational data from a rich longitudinal cohort study in the Philippines to examine the association between maternal fertility and mothers' aspirations for their children's education, as well as subsequent educational attainment. Findings from the study indicate that mothers' educational aspirations impact children's subsequent educational attainment only among the highest parity mothers. Mothers' and fathers' characteristics significantly and independently influenced educational aspirations for children, as well as educational attainment. Gender-stratified models also indicated that socio-demographic, household, and women's status measures had differential impacts on sons and daughters' educational outcomes. The strong effect of mothers' educational aspirations on children's educational attainment found in this analysis, combined with the well-known benefits to women, families and societies of improved educational outcomes, points to the importance of determining and intervening on important structural factors (e.g., poverty, women's education), as a means of improving the health and well-being of current and subsequent generations of young adults.