

博士論文審査結果報告
Report on Ph.D. / Doctoral Dissertation Defense

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

政策研究大学院大学

Professor KIJIMA Yoko

教授 木島 陽子

審査委員会を代表し、以下のとおり博士論文審査に合格したことを報告します。

On behalf of the Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee, I would like to report the pass result of the Doctoral Dissertation Defense as follows.

プログラム名 Program	GRIPS Global Governance Program (G-cube)	
学位申請者氏名 (ID) Ph.D. Candidate (ID)	Nakawesi Claire Lwasa (PHD18606)	
Dissertation Title 論文タイトル (タイトル和訳)	ESSAYS ON EVALUATING A MATERNAL HEALTH VOUCHER PROGRAM IN RURAL UGANDA BY ITS IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY AND QUALITY ウガンダの母子保健バウチャープログラムに関するインパクト評価	
学位名 Degree Title	博士 (国際開発研究) Ph.D. in International Development Studies	
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審査委員会/ Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee	主査 Main referee	木島 陽子 Yoko KIJIMA
	審査委員 Referee	山内 慎子 Chikako YAMAUCHI
	審査委員 Referee	工藤 友哉 日本貿易振興機構アジア経済研究所 開発研究センター Yuya KUDO Development Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO
	審査委員 (博士課程委員会) Referee (Doctoral Programs Committee)	竹中 治堅 Harukata TAKENAKA

※ タイトルが英文の場合、文部科学省に報告するため、和訳を付してください

1. Summary of Defense and Evaluation

This dissertation evaluates a maternal voucher program implemented in the rural areas of Uganda. It aims to examine (i) the quantity-quality tradeoffs when decreasing the price of health service fees; (ii) the possible negative effects of financial incentives on Community Health Workers (CHWs)' activities that are not incentivized by the program; and (iii) sustainability of the program impact. There are no rigorous studies that examine these aspects of the maternal voucher program.

This thesis includes two main chapters. First, in Chapter 2, the author explores the impact of the Uganda Reproductive Health Voucher Program (URHVP) on numerous outcomes related to women's reproductive health. To this end, she used administrative data obtained from the Ministry of Health as well as own survey data collected from both the users (i.e., women that have recently had delivered multiple children) and suppliers of relevant health services (i.e., responsible officials), and compared temporal changes in those outcomes between program and non-program facilities. According to this difference-in-differences (DID) analysis, the program increased women's utilization of health facilities at delivery, the perceived quality of health services (particularly, relevant to antenatal and postnatal care and delivery), and the number of medical staff (i.e., doctors, nurses, and midwives). The impact on the utilization and the quality of service has also remained even after the program ended.

In Chapter 3, she examined the impact of the URHVP on the activities of CHWs using own survey data and a similar DID approach. The numbers of villagers and households visited by CHWs increased following the URHVP. However, the increased efforts made on CHW work did not discourage their provision of non-incentivized health services nor their engagement in community activities. Therefore, the URHVP model seems cost-effective for enhancing facility delivery even after the program ended without deteriorating the service quality and discouraging the CHWs to provide non-incentivized services.

Overall, this thesis addresses an important policy-relevant question and adds valuable findings on the literature. Committee appreciated the author's knowledge of the field and data collection effort.

2. Dissertation overview and summary of the presentation.

Maternal and child health are fundamental indicators of a country's socioeconomic development. The reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality crucially depends on women's access to quality care before, during, and after childbirth. In many developing countries, women face significant barriers to accessing formal healthcare services. The cost reduction by using voucher is one way of enhancing their access to health service. Little is known about the sustainable impact of these programs after they finish. Furthermore, increased usage of services may deteriorate the service quality at facilities. Financial incentives given to community health workers during the program may change their work ethics.

This dissertation evaluates a maternal voucher program implemented in the rural areas of Uganda. It aims to examine (i) the quantity-quality tradeoffs when decreasing the price of health service fees; (ii) the possible negative effects of financial incentives on Community Health Workers (CHWs)' activities that are not incentivized by the program; and (iii) sustainability of the program impact.

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In Chapter 3, she examined the impact of the URHVP on the activities of community health workers (CHWs) using own survey data and a similar DID approach if short-term financial incentives that are paid to CHWs affect their service delivery and work ethic. The numbers of villagers and households visited by CHWs increased following the URHVP. The program also

increased their hours spent on CHW work while decreasing their other economic activities. However, the increased efforts made on CHW work did not discourage their provision of non-incentivized health services nor their engagement in community activities. For a few outcomes, the author also found some impact heterogeneity in terms of the selection process of CHWs and their wealth level. Further, there were negative effects on the motivation of the poorer CHWs toward women counselling and health campaign services after the withdrawal of the incentives. These results illustrate that the efforts of CHWs are not sustained beyond the duration of the programs that support them, which brings to question what policy makers ought to do to sustain the performance of CHWs. Therefore, the URHVP model seems cost-effective for enhancing facility delivery even after the program ended without deteriorating the service quality and discouraging the CHWs to provide non-incentivized services.

Overall, this thesis addresses an important policy-relevant question and adds valuable findings on the literature. Committee appreciates the author's knowledge of the field and data collection effort.

3. Evaluation Notes from the Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee (including changes required to the dissertation by the referees)

Overall, the candidate has done careful analyses given the available data and nicely deals with important policy-related questions with a novel contribution to the literature. The committee members agreed that the presentation was clear and the dissertation was well written. Nevertheless, there were recommendations for the papers to be made stronger by addressing several points for future journal publications.

First, the different estimation models should be applied for showing robustness of the results. Specifically, one is intention-to-treat effect with district-level treatment variable and the other with utilizing yearly panel data with an indicator for facilities that were under the program in year t , the year fixed effects, and the facility fixed effects.

Second, description of the data and the program was not clearly stated. Possible sample selection and recall problems should be stated as limitations.

Third, some policy implications were not directly derived from her own results. Interpretation of the results should be rewritten.

4. Confirmation by the Main Referee that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the referees and final recommendations

About one month and half after the defense, the candidate submitted the revised manuscript to the committee members along with a note that described changes in response to the comments and questions at the defense. They checked the new version and found that the revisions were made appropriately. Thus, they left the final check entirely to the main adviser. The main adviser checked the revised version, together with a plagiarism check, and told the candidate to add a few minor revisions. On April 11, 2022, the final version was submitted, and the main adviser found it satisfactory.

The doctoral dissertation review committee recommends that GRIPS award the degree of Ph.D. in International Development Studies to Ms. Nakawesi Claire Lwasa.