

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	政策分析プログラム Policy Analysis Program	
学位申請者氏名 (ID) Ph.D. Candidate (ID)	Getrude Njokwe	
Dissertation Title 論文タイトル (タイトル和訳)	Essays on Impact Evaluations of Education and Health Policies in Southern Africa 教育・医療政策のインパクト評価：南部アフリカの事例	
学位名 Degree Title	博士 (開発経済学) Ph.D. in Development Economics	
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論文最終版提出日/ Submission Date of the Final Dissertation	2022年2月21日 February 21, 2022	
審査委員会/ Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee	主査 Main referee	木島 陽子 KIJIMA Yoko
	審査委員 Referee	WIE Dainn
	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 KUDO Yuya Development Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO
	審査委員 (博士課程委員会) Referee (Doctoral Programs Committee)	大野 健一 OHNO Kenichi

※ 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

Please add a Japanese title that will be reported to MEXT.

1. Summary of Defense and Evaluation

This thesis includes two main chapters and both chapters provide rigorous impact evaluations of government policies implemented in two Southern African countries. Chapter 2 examines the impacts of general education on HIV stigma and HIV-related knowledge in Zimbabwe where HIV prevalence and HIV stigma have been high. By using a fuzzy regression discontinuity (RD) design that exploits the educational reform in 1980, the candidate finds that educational attainment reduced overall HIV stigma and enhanced HIV-related knowledge. The impact of education on HIV stigma is larger for men than for women and for urban than for rural people. There is, however, no evidence that education decreased the refusal rate of HIV testing and improved the HIV status. Additional detailed analyses show that education did not improve the stigma related to disclosure concerns. Thus, the results suggest that increasing education is not a sufficient condition for people to get tested for HIV, and that other factors, such as stigma surrounding the test results in the event of testing positive, are critical. Chapter 3 examines the impacts of the 1996 abortion legalization reform in South Africa, which made it easier for females to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, on their welfare outcomes, specifically teen pregnancy, secondary school completion, and current employment. Applying a difference-in-differences (DID) approach, the candidate found that the reform reduced teen motherhood and childbirth while facilitating their educational attainment and employment.

The dissertation defense was held on August 30, 2021. Evaluation by two expertise, an external reviewer and sub-advisor was positive that the study covers important research topics and this dissertation has academic contribution and policy implications, which deserves a Ph.D. degree. The revised draft was submitted one month after the defense and reviewed by the referees. Except for a few comments that cannot be dealt with due to data limitations, the candidate made revisions following the comments. It was accepted one week later. The doctoral

dissertation review committee recommends that GRIPS award the degree of Ph.D. in Development Economics to Ms. Getrude Njokwe.

2. Dissertation overview and summary of the presentation.

This thesis includes two main chapters and both chapters provide rigorous impact evaluation of government policies implemented in two Southern African countries. First, in Chapter 2, the candidate uses data from multiple rounds of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in Zimbabwe (1996, 2006, 2011, and 2015) and examines the impacts of general education on HIV stigma and HIV-related knowledge. The HIV prevalence rate is still high in Sub-Saharan African countries and Zimbabwe is one the highest prevalence rate in the world. There has been extensive focus on reducing infection rates. However, the stigmatization of people living with the disease has made it difficult to reduce the number of new HIV infections as HIV-related stigma can deter people from getting tested, seeking treatment, participating in HIV educational programs (such as mother-to-child transmission programs), practicing safer sex (i.e., use of condoms), and disclosing HIV status lest they are suspected of being HIV positive and become outcasts in their communities. Stigmatizing attitudes toward people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) are strongly associated with inadequate knowledge and misconceptions about how the virus is transmitted. Hence, many HIV education and prevention programs focus on increasing HIV knowledge to reduce misconceptions about the disease. It has been shown that schooling ensures that people have better knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and perceptions of health-related issues and the world. According to the empirical analyses using a fuzzy regression discontinuity (RD) design that exploits the educational reform in 1980, educational attainment reduced HIV stigma and enhanced HIV-related knowledge. The impact of education on HIV stigma is larger for men than for women and for urban than for rural people. There is, however, no evidence that education decreased

the refusal rate of HIV testing and improved the HIV status. Additional detailed analyses show that education did not improve the stigma related to disclosure concerns. Thus, the results suggest that increasing education is not a sufficient condition for people to get tested for HIV, and that other factors, such as stigma surrounding the test results in the event of testing positive, are critical.

Second, and in Chapter 3, the candidate examines the impacts of the 1996 abortion legalization reform in South Africa, which made it easier for females to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, on their welfare outcomes, specifically teen pregnancy, secondary school completion, and current employment. Many African countries only allow abortion in situations where the pregnancy poses a risk to the mother. As a result of these restrictive abortion laws, the region has the highest cases of unsafe abortions, maternal mortality, teen mothers, and very short birth intervals in the world. Unsafe abortion is one of the leading causes of maternal death among teenagers in Africa. Furthermore, adolescent motherhood restricts many girls from reaching their full economic potential as they become mothers before finishing school. Applying a difference-in-differences (DID) approach to the 2016 DHS data, the candidate found that the reform reduced teen motherhood and childbirth while facilitating their educational attainment and employment.

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 good enough for awarding the degree. Nevertheless, there were recommendations for the papers to be made stronger by addressing several points for future journal publications.

First, the main outcome variable of chapter 2, HIV-stigma, is self-reported, which can be suffered from social desirability bias. It is necessary to show that possible social desirability bias may be taking place at random.

Second, the main treatment variable of chapter 3, access to the abortion services measured by the proportion of women living within 50 km from the nearest abortion facility in the province, can be suffered from potential endogeneity problems as the variable is not time-varying.

Third, both chapters need better motivations and explanations on how the findings could be applied in other contexts and how studying Zimbabwe and South Africa help us understand relevant economic and human behavior more generally.

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

About two months 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 February 21, 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 Development Economics to Ms. Getrude Njokwe.