



Abstract

This paper examines whether time and risk preferences mediate the causal effect of education on health behaviors among women in Indonesia. We focus on women for both practical and policy reasons: only women show a clear link between the education instrument and preferences, and improving women's health is widely recognized for its broader benefits to families and communities. Using data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS), we proxy preferences with responses to hypothetical choice questions and transform them into imputed measures. We study three outcomes: smoking, contraceptive use, and routine health checkups. To address the endogeneity of education, we instrument schooling with exposure to the 1970s INPRES school construction program. We apply a multi-method mediation framework using (1) an instrumental variable-probit approach, (2) the *ivmediate* method, and (3) the *mediate* method combined with a control function approach to allow for non-linearity. To increase statistical power, we tried combining data from IFLS waves 4 and 5 and explore transforming preference measures into binary indicators. We find no consistent evidence that time or risk preferences mediate the effect of education. Instead, economic status appears more important. The overall effects of education on health behaviors are mixed, highlighting the need for caution when designing education-based health interventions.

Keywords: Education, Health Behaviors, Instrumental Variable, Mediation Analysis

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