

Report

Policy Research Center
Research Project Accomplishment Report

Date: _____ 2020/2/25

Project Leader: Title: Associate Professor Name: Stacey H. Chen

Research Project Title: The Impact of Female Genital Cutting on Marriage, Education, and Health

Duration (yyyy/mm/dd): 2019/6/1 ~ 2020/3/31 1-year

Co-Investigator:	Title	Name	Affiliation	(Remarks)
Co-Investigator 1				
Co-Investigator 2				
Co-Investigator 3				
Co-Investigator 4				
Co-Investigator 5				

Project aims and goals:

This project has two empirical objectives. First, we aim to fill the gap in the previous literature on the impact of banning female genital cutting on the decision to cut. We will use all available representative data from the entire Africa to address omitted variable bias that the previous literature has not addressed. Second, we aim to estimate the long-term effects of FGC on a list of female outcomes, including marriage, education, and health, which have not been systematically and collectively examined in the past literature using large-scale data.

Accomplishment (s) of Project (400 words):

We use the rollout of female genital cutting (FGC) policy changes in 17 African countries between 1965 and 2008 to estimate the causal effect of FGC on female wellbeing. We find exposure to an FGC ban significantly decreases the probability of cutting below age 10. Increasing the share of exposure from zero to 1 (from no exposure to full exposure before age 10) reduces the likelihood of cutting by about 4 percentage points. Our findings from the two-stage least squares (2SLS) regression analysis show the abandonment of cutting for the compliers decreases the risk of early marriage and fertility, increases educational attainment, and the chance of getting a match to a better husband, and improves health status. Specifically, reducing the chance of cutting by 1 percentage point would decrease the probability of marrying before age 15 and 18 by 9 and 4 percent, respectively. Concomitantly, the probability of giving birth before age 15 and 18 also decreases. Moreover, we find that the abandonment of cutting induced by the policy improves female educational achievement. Specifically, a 1 percentage point reduction in the probability of cutting causes about a 9 and 7 percent increase in the probability of being literate and completing at least primary level education, respectively. The causal impact of FGC on education could be through its effect on marriage timing (Field and Ambrus 2008). The uncut females get the chance to stay more at school as they escape from early marriage. Additionally, uncut females tend to be healthier and are more likely to have a surviving child. Notably, they are less likely to be underweight, anemic, and to experience amenorrhea. Moreover, they are less likely to contract any sexually transmitted disease (STD), and to experience genital discharge, or ulcer. One mechanism for the better health outcomes of the uncut females could be through their better educational achievement (Brunello, Fabbri, and Fort 2013). Also, female education could be related to their husband's education through assortative mating (Hahn et al. 2018). Consistent with this evidence, we find that the uncut females are more likely to get a husband with better education and having skilled work. Moreover, they are more likely to have a wealthier family, possibly due to the attributes of their husbands as their education does not make them have work. As a result, a better lifestyle due to spousal attributes could also contribute to their better health status.

Accomplishments:

Please fill in [the list of Accomplishment]

Other things to report:

For projects that have been approved for the hiring of Research Assistant (RA) using Center RA funds please be sure to report published (or accepted) reports of research results obtained as a result of the employment of RA (e.g. research article; working paper in which the RA is listed as an author; conference presentation for which the RA is listed as an author).

(Please include all items within one page.)

List of Accomplishment

List of Accomplishment
(including forthcoming)
(If the description exceeds five in each item, please add a line as necessary.)

Article

Author	0 in total Title	The number of referred article		Pages (from)	Pages (to)	Referee Report (yes=1)	0 International DOI coauthorship (yes=1)	Open Access (yes=1)
		Publisher	Vol/No/ Chapte r/Section					
1			0					
2								
3								
4								
5								

Book

Author	0 in total Title	Publisher	Date of Publications	Total pages
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Verbal report / Conference presentation

Presenter	3 in total Title	Event Title	Venue	Date
1	Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta	Effectiveness of Female Genital Cutting Bans in Africa	5th Hitotsubashi Summer Conference Room, Mercury	Friday, August 2,
2	Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta	How have Female Genital Cutting Bans Affected the Practice? Evidence	Policy Analysis Research GRIPS, Room 5J	24-Jan-19
3	Hailegabriel Abebe Fenta	How have Female Genital Cutting Bans Affected the Practice? Evidence	7th GRIPS Student Conference GRIPS, Room 5G	4-Sep-18
4				
5				