THE EFFECTS OF WOMEN’S EDUCATION ON FERTILITY: A CASE STUDY OF UYO URBAN, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The pattern of the relationship between women’s education and fertility in an urban setting in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria is studied. The paper highlights the important factors linking women’s education to fertility. It is shown that women’s education has an inverse relationship with such fertility variables as duration of marriage, number of children ever born and the number of children surviving, length of breastfeeding, post-partum amenorrhea, and length of first and second birth intervals. For such socio-economic factors as annual household income, ownership of consumer goods, mass-media exposure and age at marriage, a direct relationship is observed. Multiple regression models of (i) the number of children ever born and (ii) the number of children surviving on education and other socio-economic variables show that education has an independent effect on fertility after controlling for these variables.

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