

Free Primary Education Policy and Pupil School Mobility in Urban Kenya.

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Abstract

This paper examines pupil school mobility in urban Kenya using African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) household survey data which contain information on pupil transfers between schools. The aim is to identify which school characteristics attract the greatest demand for incoming transfers. The analysis reveals that there are frequent transfers in the slums than in the non-slum settlements; that transfer are in favour of private schools; and that quality is the main motivation for the transfers. Quality schools are perceived to have good discipline and better teacher performance. Given these results, should the Kenya government recognise the "low cost" schools found in the slums which serve nearly half of the pupils and devise mechanisms of funding them?

Keywords: Informal schools, Free primary education, School transfers, Choice and Education finance

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