Mother’s Social Capital and Child Health in Indonesia

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Research aims

- To examine the relationship between mother’s social capital and her child health
Measures

- Mother's social capital is measured by mother's participation in five community programs
- Child health: child height and weight for age 0-5 years
Methods

- Instrumental variable estimation:
- To mitigate reverse causality between mother’s social capital and her child health
- To mitigate bias arises on the relation between mother’s social capital and her child health
Data

- Indonesian Family Life Survey 2007
- N Mothers = 3450, N Children = 4612 and N Communities = 309.
Results

- Mother’s social capital is positively and significantly associated with her child health. These results being true with least squares estimators (0.023, \( p < 0.05 \) for height for eight and 0.051, \( p < 0.05 \) for weight for age) and instrumental variable estimators (0.179, \( p < 0.001 \) for height for eight and 0.147, \( p < 0.001 \) for weight for age).

- All instruments are highly correlated with mother’s social capital; tests of their strength and relevance also reveal their usefulness to mitigate bias estimate of the relationship between mother’s social capital and child health.

- Community social capital is associated with child health but only for weight for age.
Conclusions

- Mother’s social capital benefits for child health in Indonesia.
- Community social capital also improves for child health but only for child weight.
- The significant of instrumental variables suggests channel for improving mother’s social capital in Indonesia.
- The significant of mother’s social capital on child health suggests channel for reducing child poverty in Indonesia.
For more information read:

- Sujarwoto and Gindo Tampubolon, Mother’s social capital and child health in Indonesia, Social Science and Medicine, 91 (2013) 1-9