

SØK 3001 Take home exam (40%)

1. What is the causal effect of female education on fertility?

It is usually believed to be a negative relationship between female education and fertility. Citing this pattern, policymakers have advocated educating girls and young women as a means to reduce population growth and foster sustained economic and social welfare in developing countries. In this exam you are asked to quantify the causal effect of female education on fertility. Enclosed you are given a dataset **takehome-exam-H2021.dta** that includes a set of variables for a sample of more than 4300 women from a developing country. If you have technical problems with downloading the data file in Inspera, the data file can also be found on the course site on Blackboard. The variables in the data file are:

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|----------|--|
| mnthborn | Birth month of the woman, 1=January, 2=February, etc |
| age | age in years |
| electric | =1 if electricity at home |
| radio | =1 if radio at home |
| tv | =1 if tv at home |
| bicycle | =1 if bicycle at home |
| educ | years of education |
| children | number of living children |
| urban | =1 if live in urban area |
| catholic | =1 if religion is catholic |
| frsthalf | =1 if mnthborn \leq 6 |

2. Additional instructions.

You should submit your paper in a **single PDF file no later than the deadline announced in Inspira. Please add a copy of your do-file** at the end of your paper.

You can submit your work in groups of up to 4 students.

You have no limit on the length of the paper, but as a rough guide it is likely that you will need around 3000 words to complete the assignment. Shorter assignments could still receive good marks. In other words, you should not worry about the length of your paper and rather focus on the clarity of your writing, appropriateness of the empirical methods chosen and critical assessment of your arguments. Your paper is expected to follow the structure of an empirical analysis as informed in lectures and earlier information on blackboard during the course.