**Does Education matter in the Relationship between Wealth Status and Risky Sexual Behaviour across Gender, Space and Time in Ghana?**

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**Abstract**

The key question of this study are (1) how, if at all, does the level of education change the relationship between wealth status and risky sexual behaviour? Second, is the observed change in the relationship preserved across gender, geographical location (measured by) and time (the different rounds of the demographic and health surveys)? Admittedly, the independent effect of education and wealth status on risky sexual behaviour (sexual debut, multiple sexual partnership, non-condom use) is well documented in the reproductive health literature. While the general consensus from the literature is that higher education appears to reduce risky sexual behaviours, the effect of wealth status is mixed. On one hand, it is argued that more wealthy people are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviours because they can use their resources in sexual networking. On the other hand, it is held that less wealthy (poor) people are rather more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviours as part of their survival means.

In order to examine the questions above, the study used three different rounds of the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) data – 2003, 2008 and 2014 and employed different estimation techniques including simple logit, ordered probit and OLS. On a whole, the study finds evidence of male-female differences in the role of education in the wealth status effect on risky sexual behaviours and also across different locations. Specifically, it was found that the role of education in reducing the effect of wealth status on risky sexual behaviours is stronger for females than males. For education effect was also stronger for rural dwellers relative to urban dwellers.