

Books and Reports by Human Development Research Staff (2009 – present)

- 📘 Books and Reports by researchers in the [Human Development Research Program](#) of [Development Research Group](#) at the World Bank.

2018

World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education’s Promise

This World Development Report is the first devoted entirely to education. Education has long been critical to human welfare, but it is even more so in a time of rapid economic and social change. The best way to equip children and youth for the future is to place their learning at the center. The 2018 WDR explores four main themes: 1) education’s promise; 2) the need to shine a light on learning; 3) how to make schools work for learners; and 4) how to make systems work for learning.

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2017

Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2017 Global Monitoring Report

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 includes achieving universal health coverage—financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, and vaccines for all.

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Cash Transfers and Child and Adolescent Development

The evidence from cash transfer (CT) programs throughout low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and their direct effects on the health and education outcomes of children and adolescents is reviewed in this chapter of Disease Control Priorities (Third Edition), followed by a discussion of the design of CT programs and why and how they could theoretically affect the outcomes of young children and adolescents.

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2014

Right to Work? Assessing India's Employment Guarantee Scheme in Bihar

February 2014

India's ambitious National Rural Employment Guarantee Act creates a justiciable “right to work” by promising up to 100 days of employment per year to all rural households whose adult members want unskilled manual work on public works projects at the stipulated minimum wage. Are the conditions stipulated by the Act met in practice, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)? What impact on poverty do the earnings from the scheme have? Does the scheme meet its potential? How can it do better?

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Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa

January 2014

This report examines obstacles faced by households and firms in meeting the youth employment challenge. It focuses primarily on productivity, in agriculture, in nonfarm household enterprises (HEs), and in the modern wage sector, because productivity is the key to higher earnings as well as to more stable, less vulnerable, livelihoods. To respond to the policy makers' dilemma, the report identifies specific areas where government intervention can reduce those obstacles to productivity for households and firms, leading to brighter employment prospects for youth, their parents, and their own children.

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2013

Risking Your Health: Causes, Consequences, and Interventions to Prevent Risky Behaviors

November 2013

Choices by individuals to engage in risky behaviors that endanger their health include using illicit drugs, smoking, overconsuming alcohol, overeating that can lead to obesity, and practicing unsafe sex. The consequences of these choices go beyond the individuals and constitute important threats for public health. Traditionally associated with high-income countries, these behaviors have become increasingly prevalent in low- and middle-income countries.

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2012

Localizing Development: Does Participation Work?

November 2012

This Policy Research Report brings analytical rigor to a field that has been the subject of intense debate and advocacy, and billions of dollars in development aid. It briefly reviews the history of participatory development and argues that its two modalities, community-based development and local decentralization, should be treated under the broader unifying umbrella of local development. It suggests that a distinction between organic participation (endogenous efforts by civic activists to bring about change) and induced participation (large-scale efforts to engineer participation at the local level via projects) is key, and focuses on the challenges of inducing participation.

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The Elderly and Old Age Support in Rural China: Challenges and Prospects

March 2012

This book examines projected demographic changes that will affect the economic well-being of China's rural elderly over the next 20 years, taking into account both China's sharp demographic transition and the continued migration of young adults to cities. The projected old age dependency ratio of 34 percent in China's rural areas by 2030 suggests that support of the elderly is likely to be an increasing burden on China's families.

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2011

Health Equity and Financial Protection: Streamlined Analysis with ADePT Software

May 2011

ADePT Health is a free-standing computer program that allows users to produce quickly - and with the minimal risk of errors - most tables that have become standard in applied health and equity

analysis. ADePT produces summary statistics and charts that allow inequalities to be compared across countries and over time. This manual explains the methods ADePT uses, how to prepare data for it, how to navigate the ADePT interface to generate the desired tables and charts, and how to interpret them.

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Making Schools Work: New Evidence on Accountability Reforms

February 2011

This book is about the threats to education quality in the developing world that cannot be explained by lack of resources. It reviews the observed phenomenon of service delivery failures in public education: cases where programs and policies increase the inputs to education but do not produce effective services where it counts – in schools and classrooms. It documents what we know about the extent and costs of such failures across low and middle-income countries. And it further develops the conceptual model posited in the World Development Report 2004: that a root cause of low-quality and inequitable public services – not only in education—is the weak accountability of providers to both their supervisors and clients.

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No small matter : the impact of poverty, shocks, and human capital investments in early childhood development

February 2011

Education is often seen as a fundamental means to improve economic prospects for individuals from low income settings. However, even with increased emphasis on basic education for all, many individuals fail to achieve basic skills to succeed in life. The book presents evidence that one core reason is that by the time a child is old enough to attend school, there is already a wide disparity in cognitive skills and in emotional and behavioral development among children from households of different socioeconomic backgrounds. Low levels of cognitive development in early childhood strongly correlate with low socio-economic status (as measured by wealth and parental education) as well as malnutrition. These disadvantages are often exacerbated by economic crises.

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2010

New Insights into the Provision of Health Services in Indonesia: A Health Work Force Study

April 2010

Indonesia has made improving the access to health workers, especially in rural areas, and improving the quality of health provider's key priority areas of its next five-year development plan. Significant steps and policy changes were taken to improve the distribution of the health workforce, in particular the contracted doctors program and later the contracted midwives program, but few studies have been undertaken to measure the actual impact of these policies and programs. This book is part of the inputs prepared at the request of the government of Indonesia's national development agency, Bappenas, to inform the development of the next national development plan 2010-14.

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2009

Reforming China's Rural Health System

July 2009

This book examines the performance and workings of China's rural health system leading up to the reforms of the 2000s, outlines the reforms, and presents some early evidence on their impacts. It goes on to outline ideas for building on these reforms to further strengthen China's rural health system.

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Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty

February 2009

This Policy Research Report evaluates CCT programs that offer qualifying families cash in exchange for commitments such as taking babies to health clinics regularly or keeping children in school. It finds that these programs—where the responsibility for breaking out of poverty is shared by the state and poor households—can reduce poverty both in the short and long term, particularly when supported by better public services.

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