Replication Materials for "The High Return to Low-Cost Private Schools in a Poor Country"

November 11, 2011

This file explains how to replicate the results in Bold, Kimenyi, Mwabu, and Sandefur, "The High Return to Low-Cost Private Schools in a Poor Country".

Data

The paper relies on three sources of data. In each case we provide an anonymized data file to enable replication, as well as Stata programs that demonstrate how the anonymized data extract was compiled from original data sources available from the Kenyan Ministry of Education and National Bureau of Statistics.

1. Household survey data from the 2006 KIHBS, conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). We provide an anonymized extract of the KIHBS data, containing only the variables necessary to replicate the results in the paper in kihbs_priv_fees.dta. While the KNBS terms and conditions explicitly prohibit us from distributing the raw data directly, the full data set is publicly available through the KNBS web site. Further details can be found here (http://www.knbs.or.ke/surveys.php), and a data request form here (http://www.knbs.or.ke/fillforms.php).

2. Standardized test scores from the KCPE exam. We provide an anonymized version of the school-level test score data from 1998 to 2005 in the file kcpe_panel_anonymous.dta. This anonymous file was created on the basis of raw test scores provided by the Ministry of Education. We have included the Stata program "Anonymize test scores - 11-11-03.do" which documents the steps taken to anonymize the data, and are happy to share the raw scores with school names with written permission from the Kenya National Examination Council. Permission can be sought by writing to the Council Secretary, Dr. Paul Wassanga, Kenya National Examinations Council, P.O. Box: 73598 00200, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel:+254 020 246919 / 020-247204. Fax: +254-020- 2226032)

3. School-level administrative data from the Education Management Information System (EMIS), provided by the Ministry of Education. Again, we provide an anonymized extract of the EMIS data base in the file emis_2005_anonymous.dta. Further details on the EMIS data are available here http://www.education.go.ke/ShowPage.aspx?department=52&id=1162.

Programs

The majority of the calculations were done in Stata, version 10. The "Private schools replication materials.zip" archive contains Stata two sets of ".do" files.

The main set of Stata programs uses the data files described above to produce all the results in the paper. These programs are:

- Test scores - data prep 11-11-11.do
- Test scores - regressions 11-11-11.do
- Funding - data prep 11-11-11.do
- Funding - picture 11-11-11.do

In addition, we also provide programs that use the original, raw data from the Ministry of Education and National Bureau of Statistics to create the anonymized data files included here for replication purposes. Users who wish to run these programs will need to acquire the raw data from MoE and KNBS.

- Anonymize hh survey data 11-11-11.do
- Anonymize school admin data 11-11-11.do
- Anonymize test scores 11-11-11.do

NB: The Stata programs are designed with the following folder structure in mind:

- An input folder where all data files included in this zip archive should be stored. These files are used but never altered.
- An output folder where all new data files will be saved.

You should redefine the global macros "input" and "output" in the Stata programs to correspond to the location of these folders on your machine.