

Menstruation, sanitary products and school attendance: Evidence from a randomized evaluation

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Description:

Policy-makers have cited menstruation and lack of sanitary products as barriers to girls' schooling. We evaluate these claims using a randomized evaluation of sanitary products provision to girls in Nepal. We report two findings. First, menstruation has a very small impact on school attendance: we estimate that girls miss a total of 0.4 days in a 180 day school year. Second, improved sanitary technology has no effect on reducing this (small) gap: girls who randomly received sanitary products were no less likely to miss school during their period. We can reject (at the 1% level) the claim that better menstruation products close the attendance gap.

Links:

<https://www.brown.edu/research/projects/oster/sites/brown.edu.research.projects....> [1]

Themes:

[Menstruation education](#) [2]

Regions:

[Asia and the Pacific](#) [3]

[Nepal](#) [4]

Populations:

[Women and girls](#) [5]

Resource types:

[Case studies and research papers](#) [6]

Keywords:

[absenteeism](#) [7]

[adolescent](#) [8]

[educational attendance](#) [9]

[girls](#) [10]

[girls education](#) [11]

[hygiene](#) [12]

[puberty](#) [13]

[sanitation](#) [14]

Languages:

[English](#) [15]

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[3] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/region/asia-and-pacific

[4] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/region/nepal

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[6] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/type/case-studies-and-research-papers

[7] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/absenteeism

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[9] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/educational-attendance

[10] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/girls

[11] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/girls-education

[12] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/hygiene

[13] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/puberty

[14] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/keyword/sanitation

[15] https://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/library/search/_all_/language/english