

**CAPITATION, COSTS AND
ACCESS TO SCHOOLING
IN RURAL GHANA**

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Introduction

Key Questions

- Given the capitation fee free policy in public schools in Ghana, to what extent has it reduced direct cost of schooling and therefore made public schooling in rural areas a viable choice?
- What factors determine rural households' spending on schooling?
- What factors determine the economic burden of educational expenditure of rural households?

Specification of the models

Determinants of Educational expenditure:

1. $\ln Ex_h = \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$ ---Equation 1

Where $\beta_1 > 0$; $\beta_2 > 0$; $\beta_3 > 0$; $\beta_4 > 0$ and ε =error term

Determinants of Economic burden of educational expenditure:

2. $\ln Ec_b = \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$ ---Equation 2

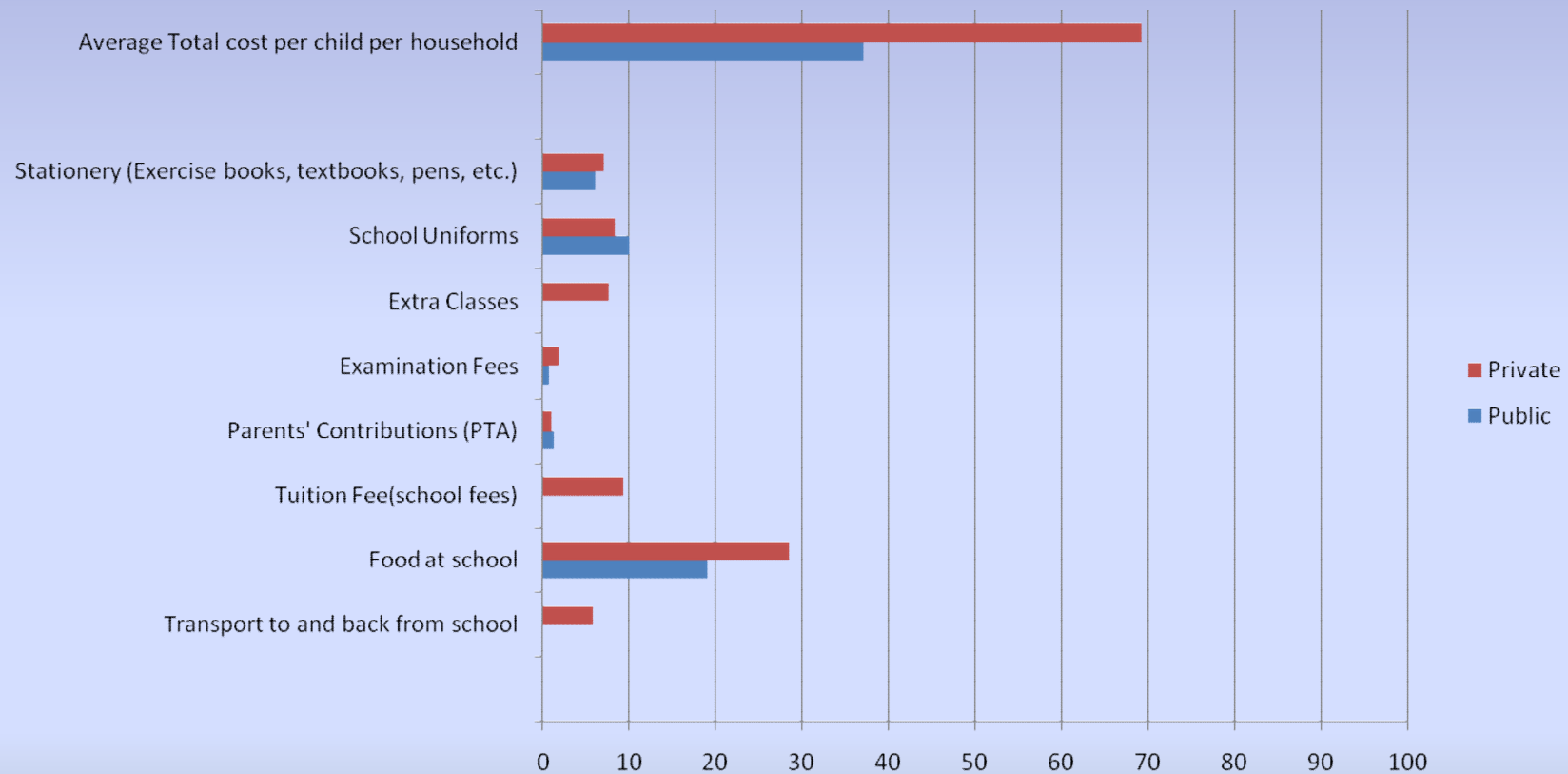
Where $\beta_1 > 0$; $\beta_2 > 0$; $\beta_3 > 0$; $\beta_4 > 0$

Key issues/findings

1. There is significant difference between the average cost per child per household in public and private schools. It cost rural household about a quarter more when they enrol in private school.
2. Social network (i.e. regular cash and/or in kind support) to rural households reduces significantly the economic burden of educational expenditure. In fact it reduces the burden by about 93%.
3. Rural households place a high value on education – as household incomes increases they are more willing to increase their expenditure in education
4. The number of children in private school in real terms imposed less educational expenditure and burden on households.

key findings con't

5. Food cost is the most significant component of household expenditure on education in both public and private schools.



Has the capitation made schooling more accessible?

Household views -1

‘.....yes, **but** now what we have to do is to give the child money for food and the child goes to school...’

Household views -2

‘....yes, it has helped some parents to send their children to school.... It is true that the government has removed fees....but government will not give you exercise books and pens.... as I speak some parents have never sent their children to school..... probably there is no money to buy food for the child to go to school....’

Household preference: public versus private

'...Public schools in this community these days.. are not really good at all. During our time public schools used to be good and they used to learn a lot.. but these days the young teachers we have don't care . They treat children's behaviour at school with apathy and they think that 'the children will reap what they sow' after all at the end of the month the teacher will still receive his salary. then some children go to town during school hours.

Household preference: public versus private

'....some teachers in public school go to town to drink alcohol during school hourssomeone who is drunk what can he teach. The private school really teach the children. The way the children (6-7 years) from the private school rattle the English language. I can't find this in the public school ... The government has employed these teachers and is paying them well, but what do they do, they leave the children ... And go on drinking. But a private man who has set up his school and is incurring expenses has an eye on the children..if a child does not go to school for a day, the teacher comes home to find out why the child was not at school and ensures that the child reports to school the next day..that is what I wouldn't mind paying for to enable my child have good education....'

Capitation grant has impacted on the direct cost of schooling.

There is statistically significant difference in household direct cost of rural public and private schooling

SCHOOL TYPE	MEAN	MEAN DIFF	P-VALUES
Public A	4.877	4.827	
Public B	4.335	4.285	
Public C	4.661	4.611	
Private A	9.365	9.315	Sig at 5%
Private B	6.477	6.427	Sig at 5%
Private C	8.123	8.073	Sig at 5%
Private D	10.628	10.578	Sig at 5%

Policy Issues

1. Extending school feeding programme as a complement to capitation would improve demand for education particularly among the poor.
2. Improving educational performance in public rural schools would encourage more households to choose the public schools over the private.

THANK YOU

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