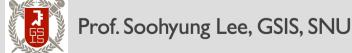
DISCUSSION:

BETTER VISION FOR BETTER LEARNING?: EVIDENCE FROM AN RCT IN VIETNAM

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SUMMARY

Research question and design

- 안경 보급이 학력에 미치는 영향
- 베트남 초등학교 4 5학년생
- 학교 단위 RCT
- I년 후 성적 변화도 측정 (ITT)

• Findings

- 11% need eyeglasses but 9% have none
- Both reading and math test scores increased (0.16 to 0.22/23 s.d.)

COMMENTI: UNDERLYING CAUSES

- Why not using eyeglasses?
 - Limited resources (this paper)
 - Lack of proper information
 - Behavioral reasons
 - * e.g., studies on mosquito net usage, technology adoption

Coping mechanism without the treatment

- Seat assignment
 - * front row nearsighted

COMMENT2: SCHOOL DYNAMICS

- Dynamics among students w.r.t. treatment
 - Possibly being bullied because of wearing eyeglasses
 - ITT varying over no./share of treated in a classroom
- Peer effects w.r.t. academic achievement
 - Rich literature on economics of education
 - More info needed: how to get assigned to classes, etc.
- School/Teacher responses
 - Classroom dynamics: classroom disruption
 - More info needed: any changes in curriculum, etc.

COMMENT3: FAMILY RESPONSES

- Link to underlying causes
 - limited resources: big but possibly only short-term TE
 - lack of info: possibly big and long-term TE
 - behavioral: small and short-term TE
 - * survey of parents

• Other responses

- educational investment
- spillover effects on other children

COMMENT4: IMPLICATIONS

Medical studies on eyesight

- evolution of eyesight among typical children (esp.Vietnamese)

* if new eyeglasses are needed every 6 months, this TE seems unsustainable

- Institutional background
 - health care and access to hospitals
 - social welfare system
- Economic implications
 - implications for lifetime income
 - risk of disability

CONCLUSIONS

• Exciting and important work

• Further investigation may be beneficial

- vs. another RCT...