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Female Education and Fertility in Egypt Based on 2003 EDHS Data.

This study has examined the effect of education, especially female education, on fertility (total number of children ever born) by various background characteristics of currently married women in Egypt, using data of DHS 2003. The investigation showed that women in Egypt exhibit a childbearing pattern observed in many societies. Women with low level of education have larger number of children than those with higher level. 63.9% of the variation in children ever born is explained by socioeconomic and demographic variables. Educational attainment has direct effect of fertility and indirect effect through intermediate variables such as current age of women, region, age at first marriage, contraceptive use and intention, exposure to learning, economic status and husband currently working. Education is an investment that stays with a woman throughout her life. The study observed that education does have a major impact on fertility. Problems of education include large class sizes, often exceeding 45 students per class in urban schools; poorly trained teachers with low wages and status. The expenses and low quality of education have contributed to a high drop-out in primary school and a corresponding low rate of adult literacy (53.7% overall and only 41.8% of women). The major contextual factor shaping technology use in education is the general growth and role of information and communication technologies in Egypt today. The significant number of young women (26%) marry before the legal age, especially in rural areas. The legal age at marriage of women is 16 years and for men it is 18,