

## **Early Childhood Investment and Women's Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence of a Causal Link**

**Edouard Pokou Abou\***

*Department of Economics and Management  
Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé, Daloa, Côte d'Ivoire*

**Antoine N'gratier**

*Department of Economics and Management  
Université Félix Houphouët Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire*

**Auguste Konan Kouakou**

*Department of Economics and Management  
Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé, Daloa, Côte d'Ivoire*

**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze the effect of early childhood investments on women's employment in sub-Saharan Africa over the period 2010 to 2020, using data from 24 countries and applying the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM). Findings suggest that, overall, early childhood investments are associated with a decline in women's employment. However, when these investments are accompanied by increased public spending on primary education, the female employment rate shows a significant increase. Furthermore, a higher fertility rate appears to contribute positively to women's employment. These nuanced effects underline the importance of complementary policies. It is therefore recommended that early childhood investments be subsidized and integrated with education funding to reduce income inequality, foster inclusive growth, and enhance labor force participation among women in the region.

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\* Corresponding author. Email: [abou-pokou@ujlg.edu.ci](mailto:abou-pokou@ujlg.edu.ci)

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