



Cash Transfer Programmes' Influence on Early Childhood Development in Urban Slums of Malawi: A Six-Month Follow-Up Analysis

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Abstract

Cash transfer programmes (CTPs) have been implemented in Malawi to mitigate poverty and improve social welfare. However, their impact on early childhood development remains a subject of debate. The research employs a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative data from standardised assessments and qualitative insights through interviews with parents and educators. Data collection occurred across three urban slums in Malawi's capital city. Results indicate that early language acquisition improved by an average of 15% among children who received CTPs compared to controls, suggesting a positive impact on cognitive development. While the study highlights improvements in early literacy skills, further research is needed to explore other developmental areas and long-term impacts. Policy makers should consider integrating targeted interventions with existing CTPs to maximise developmental benefits for young children. Cash Transfer Programmes, Early Childhood Development, Urban Slums, Malawi

Keywords: *Geographic, Urban, Slums, Early Childhood, Developmental Impact, Policy Analysis, Quantitative Research*

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