

Motivation

The study was motivated by the implementation of an Information campaign to provide citizens' voice. This study evaluates the impact of informational innovations on leakage in non-wage education spending in Uganda, and assesses the relationship between individual schools and the government, as well as possible externalities in the acquisition of information across schools.

Objectives

After the 1996 PETS, the Government of Uganda implemented a proactive information campaign on non-wage education spending. The objective was two-fold. First, to replicate the 1996 PETS and to measure the difference between the resources disbursed by the central government and the resources actually received by primary schools; Second, to collect data on access to information (and access to means of acquiring information) on the grant program, and other variables that may influence the bargaining position of individual schools, in doing surveys of local school districts.

Main findings

With an inexpensive policy action, the provision of mass information, Uganda dramatically reduced the capture of funds. A strong relationship is found between the proximity to a newspaper outlet and reduction in capture of school funds since the newspaper campaign started. These results show the value of transparency and efficiency of mobilizing civil society against corruption.

Leakage

There has been a substantial improvement in the flow of funds reaching the schools: reduction of leakage from 87% in 1991-95 to about 18% in 1999 and 2000. Information campaign is estimated to account for about ¾ of the improvement in leakage. These results show the value of transparency and efficiency of mobilizing civil society against corruption.

Sample

16 districts; 218 public primary schools

Sample design

Due to security concerns, not all schools in the original sample could be resurveyed; 2 districts were dropped reducing sample by 20 schools. Later 11 additional schools were dropped, while 1 original school ceased to exist.

Resources monitored

- Capitation grants
- Data for 1999 and 2001
- 2 levels (Central government (enrolment) and facilities)

Contact

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Main report

Reinikka, Ritva and Svensson, Jakob (2004) "The Power of Information: Evidence from a Newspaper Campaign to Reduce Capture of Public Funds," June.