The effect of secondary school fees on educational attainment

Regina T. Riphahn
Univ. Erlangen-Nuremberg

(September 2008)
LASER Discussion Papers - Paper No. 21
(edited by A. Abele-Brehm, R.T. Riphahn, K. Moser and C. Schnabel)

Correspondence to:
Regina T. Riphahn, Lange Gasse 20, 90403 Nuremberg, Germany, Email: regina.riphahn@wiso.uni-erlangen.de.
Abstract

This study utilizes the heterogeneity of the fee abolition process in West German secondary schools to identify the effect of school fees on educational attainment and to obtain an estimate of the price elasticity of upper secondary education. The analysis is based on administrative school statistics as well as on representative individual-level data from three annual surveys of the German Mikrozensus. Estimates suggest that on average upper secondary school attainment hardly increased in response to the fee abolition. The educational attainment of females appears to be more price sensitive than that of males.