

Female Education



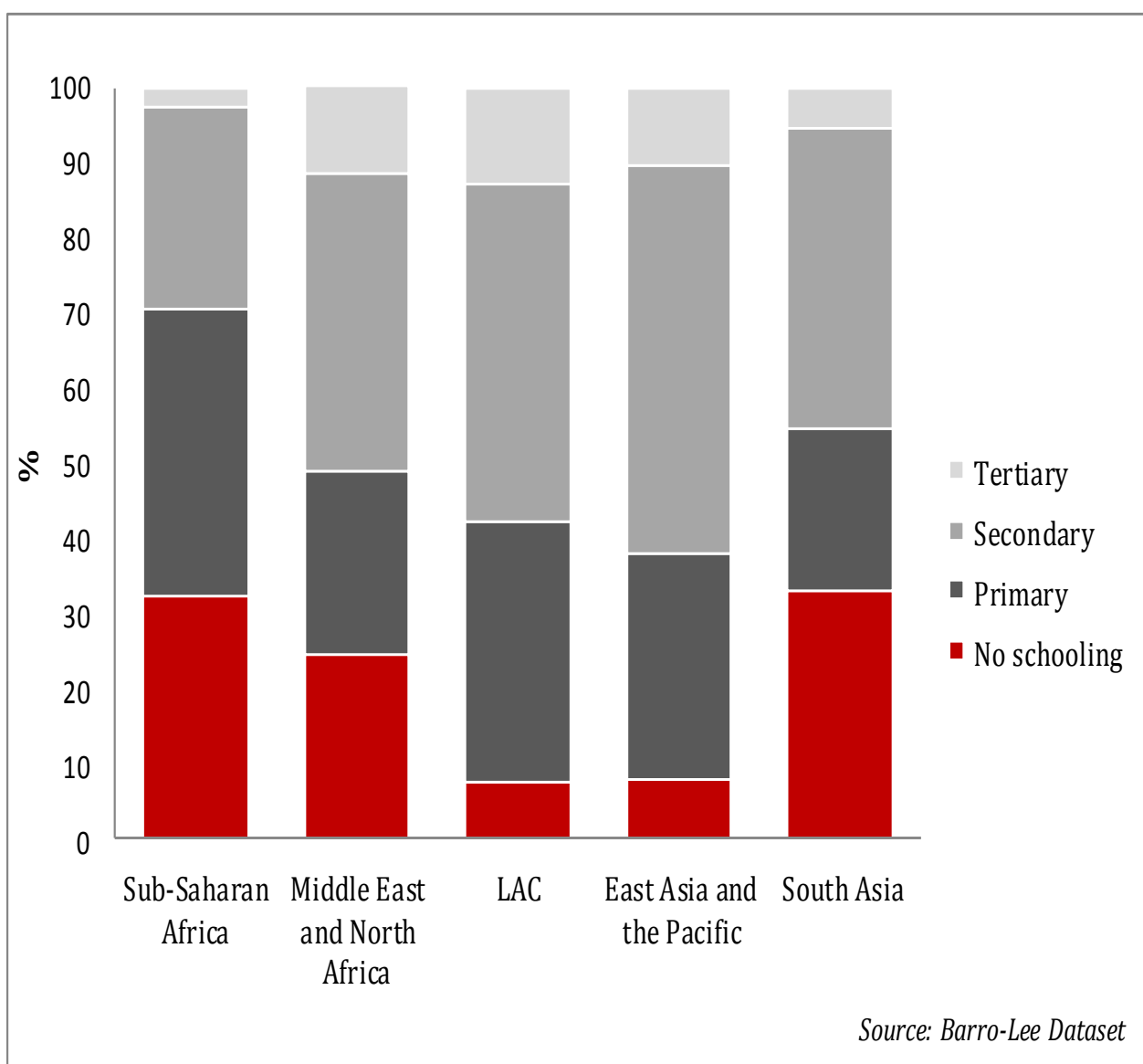
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Data from the World Fertility Surveys in the 1970s and the later Demographic and Health Surveys have been extensively mined and analysed to examine the relationship between female education and childbearing patterns. Behind all the complexities that these data have revealed there lies a solid and near universal association between higher levels of education and lower levels of fertility.

In 2010 more than 30 per cent of African and South Asian women over age 15 had no schooling at all, compared to fewer than 10 per cent of those in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and East Asia and the Pacific. Conversely, while 52 per cent of women in East Asia and the Pacific have been to secondary school, the corresponding figure is only about half that percentage among African women.

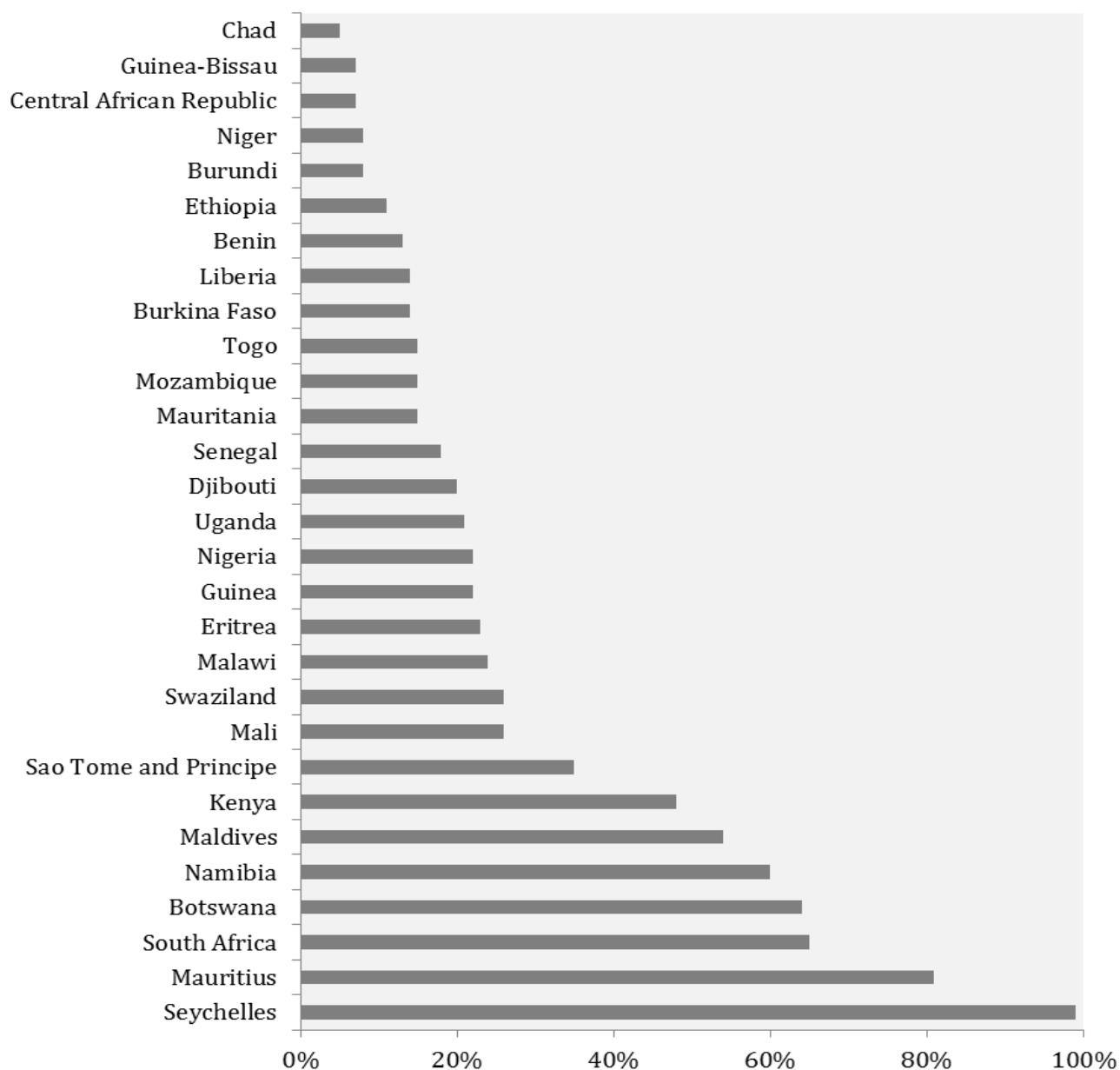
Highest level of education attained in 2010, by region, women aged 15+ (%)



Access to education for girls and the level of education that they achieve shows considerable variation within Sub-Saharan Africa. This can be measured by looking at different educational variables: the average years of schooling; the percentage of girls

completing primary school or secondary school; the percentage of girls enrolled in secondary school etc. In 13 of the countries in the region (45%), fewer than one in five girls enrol in secondary school (figures for 2000-2010).

Secondary School Enrolment, Net, Female, 2000-2010



Source: PRB Population and Economic Development 2012 Data Sheet

References

Barro, R. J. and Lee, J. (2010) *A new data set of educational attainment in the world, 1950-2010*. NBER Working Paper Series.

Population Reference Bureau (2012) *Population and Economic Development 2012 Data Sheet*