ADULT LITERACY CREATES HIGHLY SATISFIED WOMEN (RCT)

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RESEARCH QUESTION
- What is the impact of an adult literacy program (ALP) on the life-satisfaction of participants?

OUTCOME OF INTEREST
- Cantril's Self-Anchoring Ladder of Life Satisfaction (adapted version)
- Outcome: High life-satisfaction – Cantril ladder score of 6 and above

INTERVENTION AND TIMELINE
- 'World's fastest literacy program'
- Tara Akshar + implemented in Uttar Pradesh, India
- Illiterate mothers aged 15-45 years
- RCT – 242 treated and 197 control
- Randomization successful but not 100% compliance
- Endline data – 7 months after intervention

RESULTS
- Intent to treat – OLS of outcome on random assignment indicator (Column 2)
- Impact of participation – 2SLS of outcome on participation instrumented by random assignment indicator (Column 4)

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<tr>
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<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participated in ALP</td>
<td>0.11*</td>
<td>0.12*</td>
<td>0.65*</td>
<td>0.18*</td>
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<tr>
<td>(0.06)</td>
<td>(0.06)</td>
<td>(0.05)</td>
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<td>(0.09)</td>
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<td>Treatment indicator</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Strata fixed effects</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Control variables</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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- Baseline proportion of highly satisfied women was 22%.
- ALP participation led to an 18% point increase in the proportion of highly satisfied women

CONCLUSION
- Mechanisms:
  - Increased respect within families
  - Increased social interactions

- Heterogeneity analysis
  - Higher impact on optimistic women
  - Higher impact on women with some formal schooling
  - Higher impact on younger women
  - No differential impact based on number of children

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- SSHRC of Canada
- IKEA TA+ Project
- Prof. Ashwini Deshpande, Ashoka University, India
- Dr. Annemie Maertens, University of Sussex, UK
- Dr. Christopher Ksoll, Mathematica Policy Research, US

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