How does the South African Child Support Grant (CSG) impact lone mothers’ dignity?

Prof Michael Noble and Dr. Gemma Wright from Oxford University and the Southern African Social Policy Research Institute (SASPRI) and their team tried to answer this question. The study was funded by DFID and the ESRC. For a detailed discussion of the findings follow the link.
Convergence in scientific publishing?
Two new interesting info graphics shed light on the state of research production in the Global South. While countries such as China, Brazil and India seem to catch up in terms of scientific publishing, this development appears to have not taken-off in Africa yet. South Africa and Egypt present the only featured African countries with a research output comparable to New Zealand. Furthermore, Africa has the lowest research capacity with only 70 researchers per million people compared to 550 in Latin America or 340 in Asia.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A new Giving Evidence report assesses what education systems in less developed countries can learn from evidence-based medicine. It finds that encouraging evidence-based practice has a role to play in improving education systems, and that we can learn valuable lessons from healthcare on how to institutionalise evidence-based practice in education.

A World Bank research report finds that few people actually read World Bank reports. While this report clearly received a fair amount of attention, analysing the Bank’s website traffic data revealed that nearly one-third of their PDF reports have never been downloaded, not even once.

Why is there no equivalent to NICE in development? asks Owen Barder in his talk on ‘Evidence & Scale’. Making the case for the production of rigorous evidence of what works in development, he points out that in international development there are no institutional mechanisms in place, which would ensure that this knowledge reaches and benefits practitioners.

3ie announces a challenge for the impact evaluation community! Having launched its newly revamped Impact Evaluation Repository, 3ie now wants to know from the evidence community if they have missed something? Stand a chance to win Amazon vouchers if you can find an impact evaluation they have not recorded!

Evidence from academia

New UCT research paper: ‘Randomised trials for policy: a review of the external validity of treatment effects’

New journal article (AEN member): ‘Microbiological investigation for tuberculosis among HIV-infected children in Soweto, South Africa’

New journal article: ‘Towards a better understanding of the nomenclature used in information-packaging efforts to support evidence-informed policymaking in low- and middle-income countries’

Call for Special Issue: Evaluation Review is asking for paper submissions to feature in a special issue on ‘Systematic reviews

In our next newsletter: Launch of the new AEN website + Information on the Centre for Social Development in Africa’s newly launched RCT on how to improve youth unemployment in South Africa!