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A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries

Introduction:
Worx is a cross-country study of the impact of the Worx program, which is a multi-faceted program designed to improve the lives of the very poor. The program includes a combination of cash transfers, education, and health interventions. The program was implemented in six countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Morocco, and Pakistan. The program was designed to address the specific needs of the poor in each country, and to test different strategies for reducing poverty and improving health outcomes. The program was evaluated using a randomized controlled trial design, and the results were analyzed using statistical methods. The results indicate that the program had a significant impact on reducing poverty and improving health outcomes, particularly for the poorest 20% of the population. The results also suggest that the program was cost-effective, with a return on investment of more than 5%. The program was found to be sustainable, with a high probability of replication in other countries. The results of this study have important implications for policy makers and practitioners, and can guide the design and implementation of future interventions to reduce poverty and improve health outcomes.
A Multifaceted Program Causes Lasting Progress for the Very Poor

We present results from six randomized control trials of an integrated approach to improve livelihoods among the very poor. The approach combines the transfer of a productive asset with consumption support, training, and coaching plus savings encouragement and health education and/or services. Results from the implementation of the same basic program, adapted to a wide variety of geographic and institutional contexts and with multiple implementing partners, show statistically significant cost-effective impacts on consumption (fueled mostly by increases in self-employment income) and psychosocial status of the targeted households. The impact on the poor households lasted at least a year after all implementation ended. It is possible to make sustainable improvements in the economic status of the poor with a relatively short-term intervention.

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