

Submission from Jay Ginn

1. Which policies or practices, that you know of, have had a transformative impact on gender equality?

The pilot project in India, where matched villages were chosen. In one set of villages each individual was paid an unconditional Basic income instead of govt allocations to each household of subsidised rice and paraffin. In the other set, nothing changed.

2. What happened as a result of the policy or practice?

After 18 months women in the first group were more likely to be economically active and children's school attendance increased, especially for girls. Where there was a pre-existing women's organisation, the benefits to women were enhanced, with co-ops formed to share equipment and start new successful businesses.

3. Was the policy or practice implemented at local, regional, national or international level?

The region of the experimental villages was Uttar Pradesh in N India, one of the poorer states.

4. Could the policy or practice be implemented in other contexts? If so, how? If not, why not?

With modifications this experiment (or long term policy) could be implemented in other developing countries to provide women with economic independence. This enables them to have more control of their reproduction, as well as incentivising smaller families and better educational opportunities for the next generation of women.

The chief losers in India were the moneylenders. Otherwise a win win.

But in countries with established social security such experiments or pilots require govt cooperation to replace existing benefits with BI.

An experiment in Finland paid BI only to a set of unemployed people, so was not a Universal BI. Those receiving BI were after a period compared with others who had the existing social security. The BI had little effect on propensity to enter employment, but the group receiving BI experienced less stress, more wellbeing.

For More details of these and other pilots/ experiments with BI see Standing G. 2019. Report for the shadow Chancellor.

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