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The Effect of Gender Inequality on Growth: A Cross-Country Empirical Study

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Oral Presentation O7.2

**THE EFFECT OF GENDER INEQUALITY ON GROWTH:
A CROSS-COUNTRY EMPIRICAL STUDY**

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Recently, a large amount of economic literature has focused on the empirical determinants of economic growth, especially the impact of human capital. These studies have established that human capital is a very significant determinant of growth. However, relatively few studies have examined the effect of misallocation of human capital on the basis of gender. Furthermore, those that have studied gender inequality include different measures of inequality and use different control variables. Therefore, this study attempts to investigate what measures of gender inequality are the most significant, using Ordinary Least Squares regressions and more recent data than past studies. The results show that gender inequality in primary education has a significant negative effect on growth, indicating that governments and international organizations should concentrate on promoting primary education equality for females.