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Subject: Mothers Education on children's health  
Posted by [simotom](#) on Sat, 20 Feb 2016 15:15:38 GMT  
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Hi  
I'm running a linear regression analysis to calculate the impact of mothers' education on children malnutrition in Zambia. I choose to use the KR recode file for the analysis because it has all the data I need about parents education and children health. I have a lot of independent variables and I choose Child Height for Age SD (New WHO, HW70) as the dependent variable. I recoded some of the variables so that 0 would have been the case with lack of something (no education, no toilet facility, bad type of cooking fuel...) and 1 to better situations. However the  $R^2$  and the adjusted one are very little significative. May be the way I recoded the variable? I also tried to recode in several other ways such us giving value between 1 and 5 to all the modalities of the variables, but still the results are not even sufficient to demonstrate something.  
I know this is a general statistical problem but I hope someone could help me.  
Thank you very much,  
Simo

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Subject: Re: Mothers Education on children's health  
Posted by [Reduced-For\(u\)m](#) on Thu, 25 Feb 2016 02:18:17 GMT  
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Simo,

In general, the  $r^2$  in these kinds of regressions is very small. That is not, in and of itself, any cause for concern. At least not if you are just interested in the effects of particular variables on child HAZ. What is relevant is the t-stat/p-value/std-error on the coefficients of interest.

The  $r^2$  is just a bad metric of a "good model" in this instance. Sure - you could up the  $R^2$  by, say, adding dummy variables for age-in-months, but really, that will be orthogonal to everything you care about and so will not affect the estimated variability (t-stat/std-error) of your regression coefficients.

This all assumes that you are just trying to accurately estimate conditional correlations. If you are trying to do something else, you might care about  $r^2$ , but you'd have to explain what you were hoping to accomplish. If you look at the  $r^2$  in most published economics research on this (for instance) they are all very, very low, but it isn't really the thing to be worried about.

Help?

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Subject: Re: Mothers Education on children's health  
Posted by [simotom](#) on Sat, 27 Feb 2016 09:52:41 GMT

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Thank you very much!

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Subject: Re: Mothers Education on children's health  
Posted by [r01efa16](#) on Tue, 08 Nov 2016 20:30:26 GMT

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Hello Simo,

Could you please write down your syntax has been used or the code that you used to run the regression ?!

Regards  
Beky

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