

Granting support to Ethiopia's future researchers

Post-graduate students often struggle to financially support their research. Recognizing this, ESSP provided grants to deserving students to help and to encourage them in their research.

77 students have been supported in this way, but *what difference has this support made to their careers a few years on?* A survey revealed that overwhelmingly, the grant money was used to fuel better quality research, largely through the collection of data. But the extra financial help also impacted students psychologically as well as practically, by encouraging talented economists to take up future careers as economic researchers in Ethiopia.

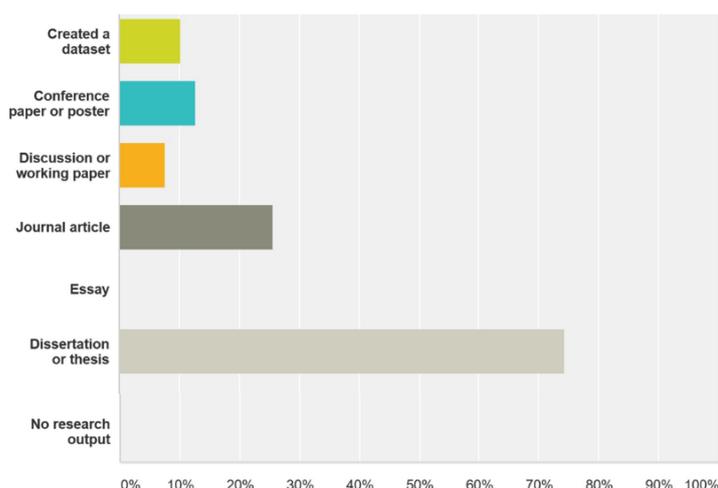
ESSP has supported young research students by:

- i) Providing small grants to help finance their post-graduate university studies
- ii) Encouraging quality research as a solid base from which to conduct research
- iii) Building enthusiasm for developing research careers that will help Ethiopia in the future
- iv) Raising awareness of organizations, such as ESSP, that are actively engaged in helping economic policy decisions in a rapidly changing country.



Photo: Students at Addis Ababa University

Source: ESSP photos



Graph: Research output from work done using the grant money

Source: ESSP Survey of grant recipients

Over a 3 year period, ESSP's has upheld its commitment to improving the quality of research in Ethiopia by issuing grants to post-graduate university students who, at the time, were studying an economic discipline. In order to capture the difference this small financial support made, the communications team at ESSP conducted a short survey. Almost 60 percent of the grant winners responded to questions that enquired how the money was spent and the research output generated from their work.

We found that 12 percent presented their research at a conference, others contributed to journals (26 percent), and many noted that they were able to finish their theses in a timely manner because of the financial assistance in data collection and access to important resources. The majority used the money to help fund field work (78 percent) – the basis of their research – which ultimately improved the quality of their output.

The survey provided valuable information on ESSP's practical engagement with new researchers, and how a small contribution can make a *huge difference* to the lives of young researchers through a financial award of this kind.