

A black and white photograph of a woman and a young child. The woman is on the left, looking down at the child. The child is on the right, looking up at the woman. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

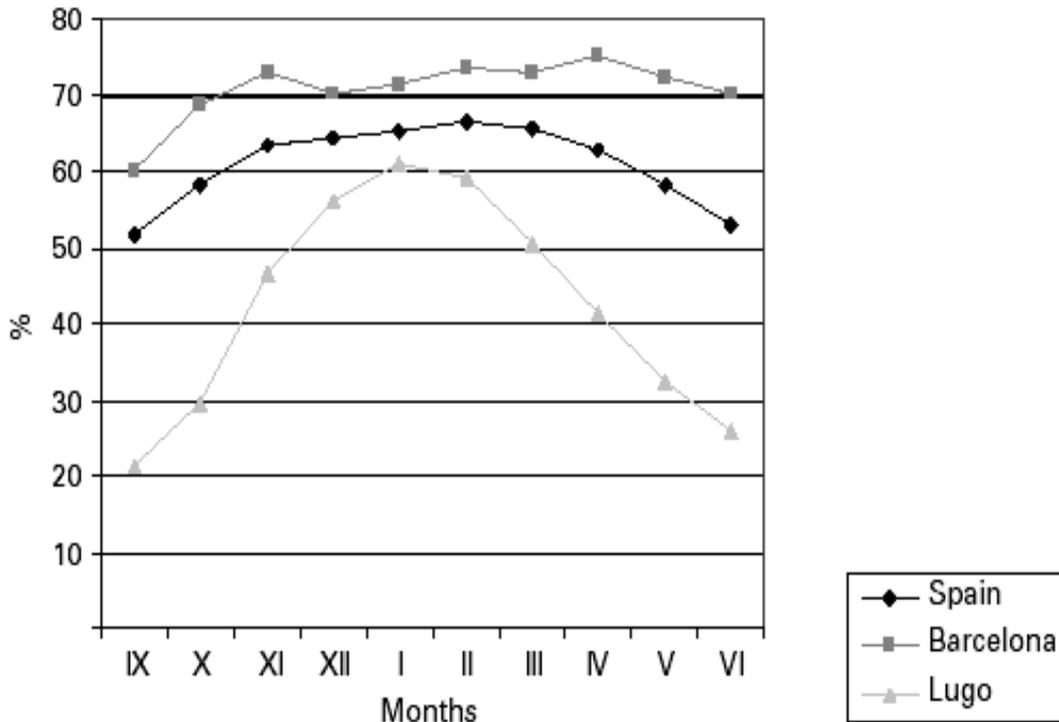
Seasonality and Access to Primary Education

Sierd Hadley

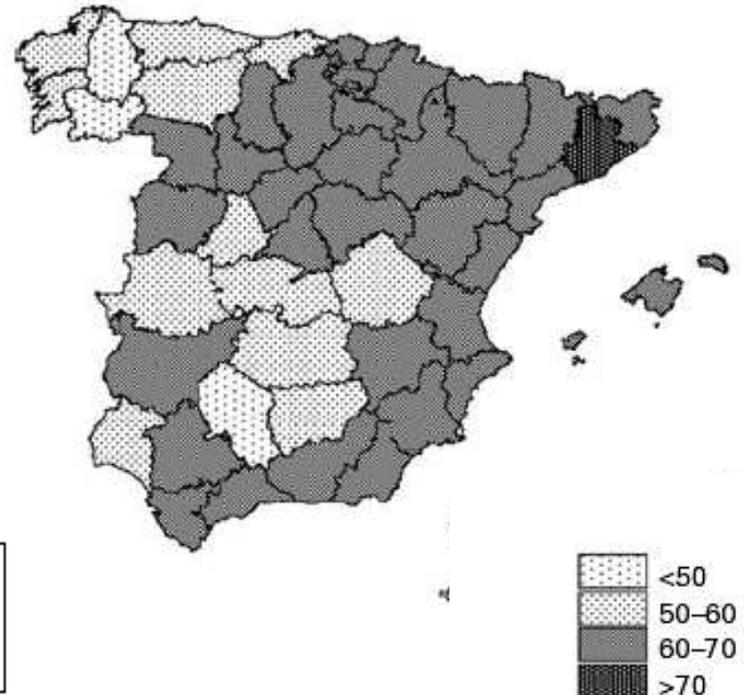


Origins of the Euro/American school schedule

Monthly school attendance rates in state schools in Spain (1922-23)



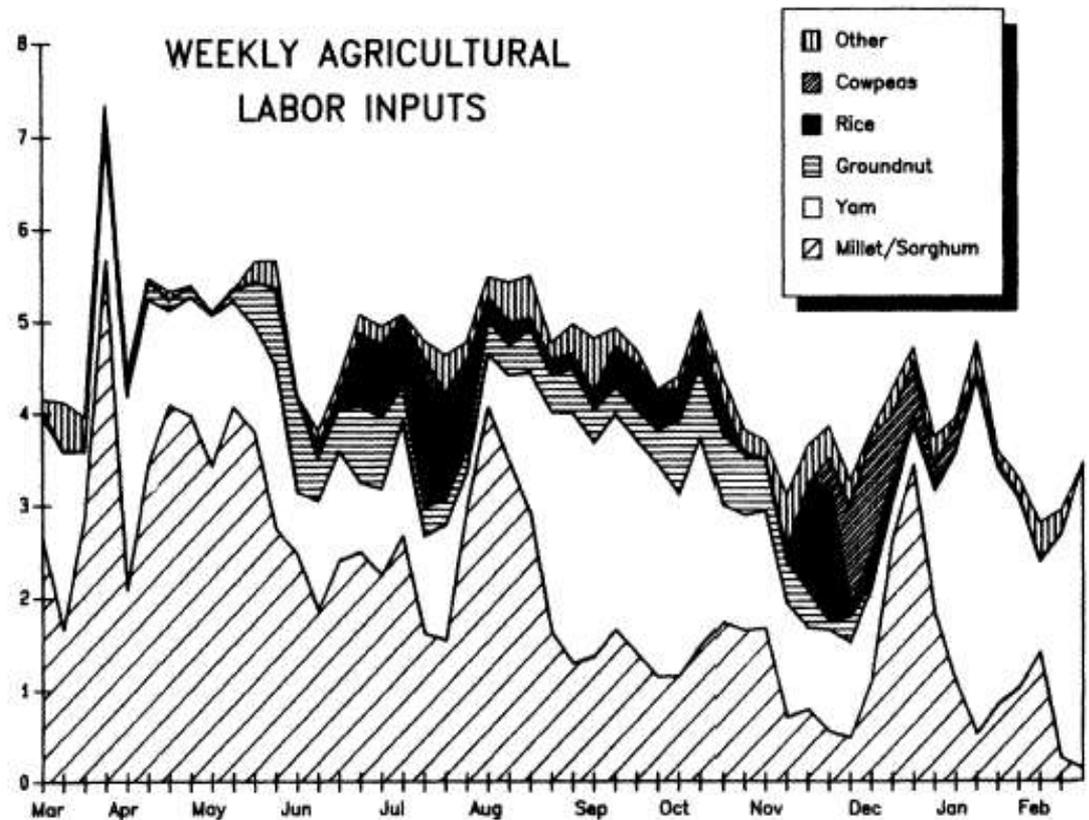
Mean provincial school attendance rates in Spain (1922-23)



Seasonal Demand for Child Labour

- Child labour patterns closely follow adult labour patterns.
- Girls from poor, rural families, with younger siblings usually shoulder the burden.
- Strong demands for education and poor policy can impact livelihoods.

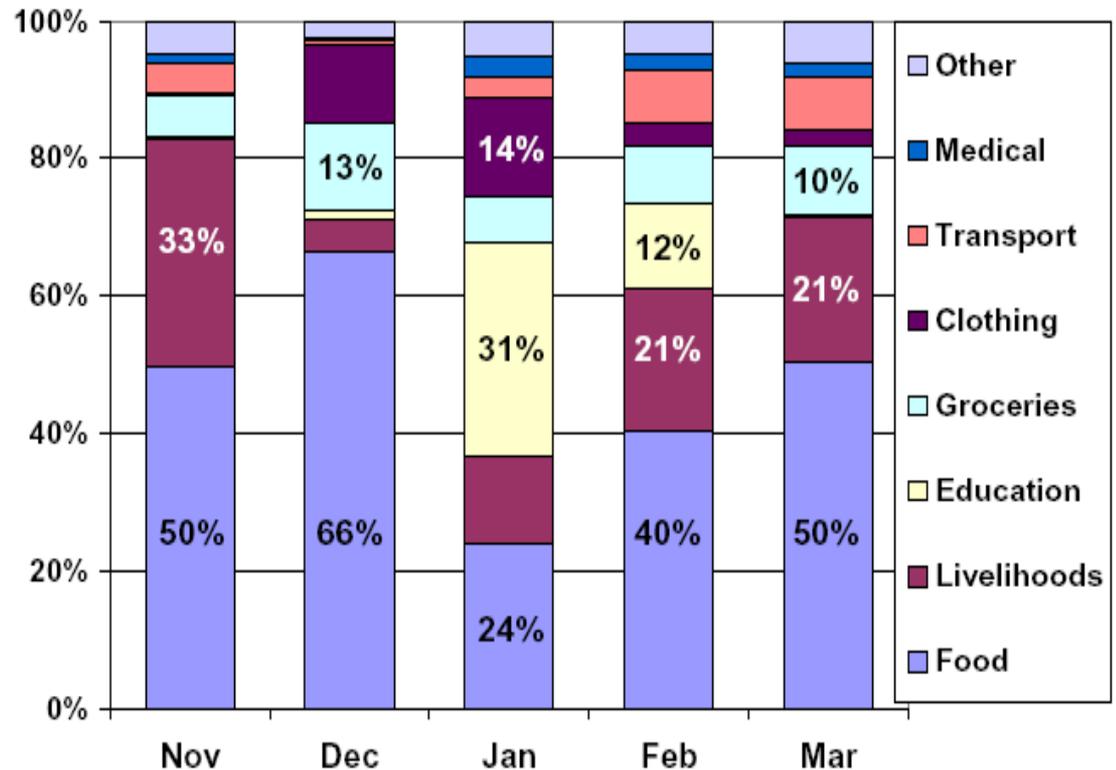
Mean daily labouring hours of the Kofyar in Nigeria's savannah



Direct Private Costs of Education

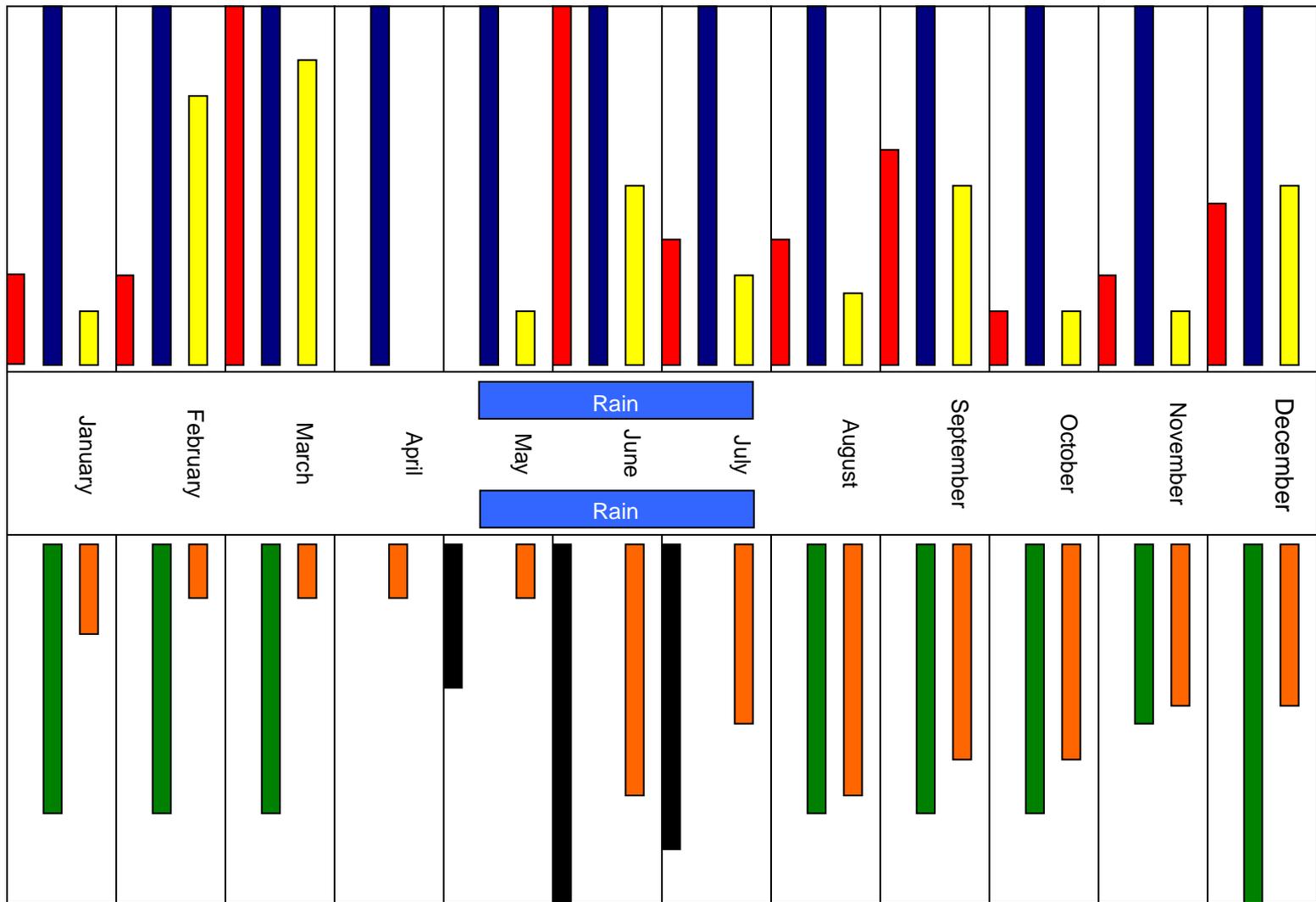
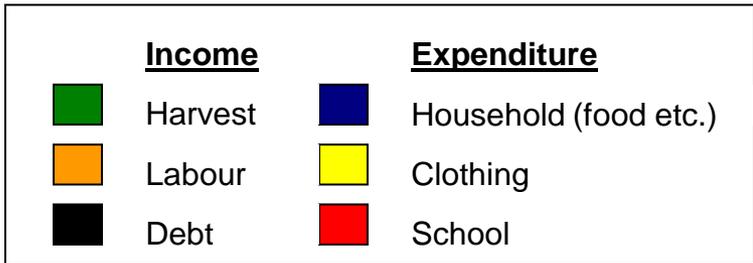
- Some direct private costs may be seasonal...
- Others vary relatively to overall purchasing power and consumption.
- Poor policy can exacerbate these conflicts.

Monthly spending of households of 'food only' recipients, 2007/08



Seasonal income and expenditure on education in Palawan, Philippines

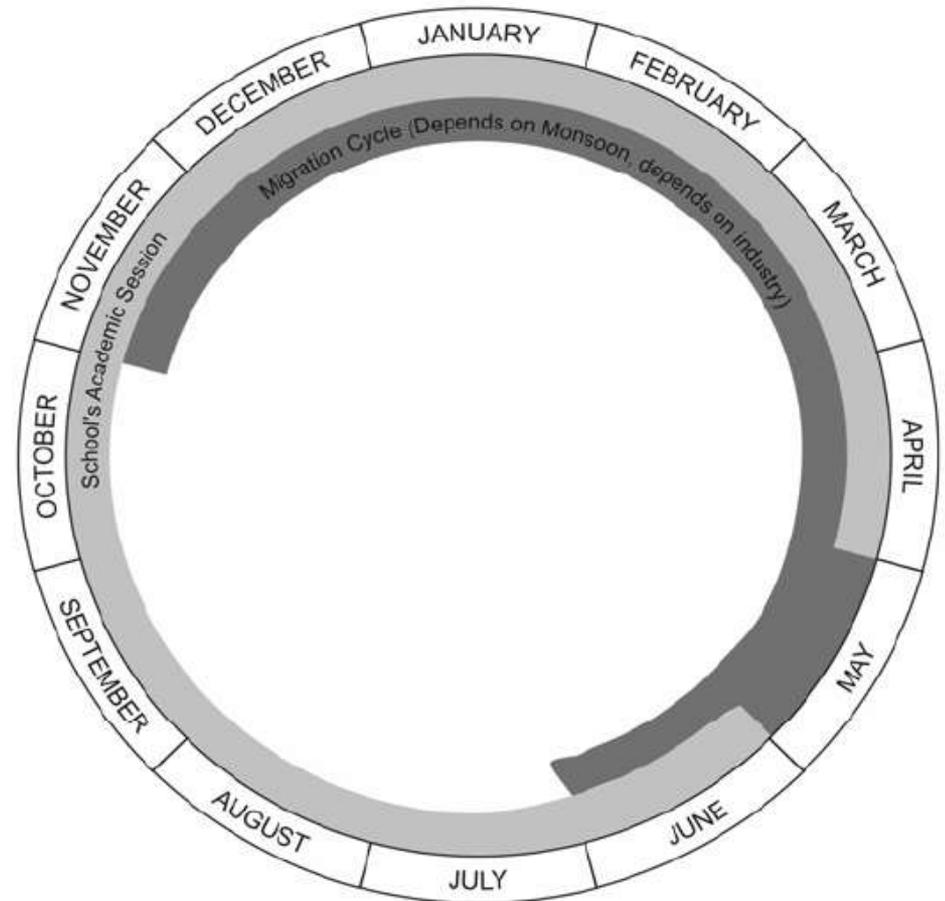
Source: Chambers 1995



Seasonal Distress Migration

- The effects of migration on education depend on the industry and the type and pattern of migration.
- Political, social and legal exclusion is key.
- Unaccompanied migration is the most dangerous for educational access.

Overlap of seasonal migration cycle and school calendar in India.



Seasonality of Health

- Some conditions affect cognitive development, even before a child is born.
- Others may impact school attendance more directly.
- Is death a barrier to educational access?

Dry Season	Wet Season
Measles Meningitis Pneumonia Tetanus Scabies Acute respiratory diseases	Low birth-weight Lessened capacity to lactate Malnutrition Intestinal Worms Malaria Typhoid Diarrhoea Guinea-Worm Iron-deficiency anaemia Vitamin A deficiency

Other Issues?

- Physical access...?
- Teacher absenteeism...?
- Timing and cost of exams...?
- Transhumanism...?
- Man-made seasons (Christmas)...?
- Cold/shelter...?

All of these are likely to exhibit some seasonality.

What else is important? What can be done?

Seasonally-Sensitive Reforms

Examples:

- National
 - Brazil
 - Colombia (*Escuela Nueva*)
 - The Gambia
 - Uganda + Kenya
- NGO
 - BRAC
 - Mali
 - Action Aid India

Further spaces for calendar reform:

- Participatory/flexible time-tabling
- Holiday periods
- Start-dates
- School days/hours
- Enrolment age
- School fee due-dates
- Teacher's wages and the curriculum may also be a factor...