

As we close out this unforgettable year, the SIEF team wishes you a happy and restful holiday season.

How portable are evaluation results?

Randomized control trials are typically done in samples of convenience, and impact tends to vary across sub-groups of the population. How can we know if results estimated in the evaluation generalize to the rest of the population of the country? How can we know if results estimated in one country would be applicable in another country? In a recent virtual seminar ([slides](#), [video](#)), Associate Professor of Statistics Beth Tipton summarized how researchers can affect generalizability in their research design – from before an evaluation starts (through the choice of which sites, schools, or individuals get recruited into the study) to afterwards (through the choice of post-estimation analyses to assess which populations results might generalize to).

Group sessions or home visits for parenting interventions?

Many parenting interventions in which parents receive counselling on best practices for early nutrition or early stimulation take place through home visits, including many programs evaluated in [SIEF's Early Childhood Development portfolio](#). This one-on-one approach can be expensive, however. In a [SIEF-supported evaluation](#) in India, researchers tested this approach against group sessions, where multiple families received counselling at the same time. Their [results](#) were recently published in the medical journal *Pediatrics*. Although participation was lower for the group sessions, they generated the same improvements in children's cognition and language as the home visits but at less than one third of the costs.



In the news

National Public Radio (NPR) [recently highlighted](#) research from a [SIEF-supported evaluation in Kenya](#). Researchers used the data collected during a randomized control trial of a book distribution and parent-child shared reading intervention to examine the

quasi-experimental impacts of older siblings on their younger siblings' development. They found that the presence of older sisters positively affects development.

This is not the first time that SIEF and its research has appeared in an NPR story. You can also explore their coverage of a [kindergarten teacher training program in Ghana](#), SIEF-supported researcher Berk Ozler's [interpretation of the evidence on cash transfers](#), and SIEF program manager Alaka Holla's [reaction to a study on natural disasters and aspirations](#).

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