These findings indicate that education is an important mediator of gender differences in cognitive function, as measured with the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE). We used data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) from 1998-2016 (n=11,532). This analysis estimates the absolute additive contributions of seven somatic and neurodegenerative conditions to mortality among Hispanic, non-Hispanic White, and non-Hispanic Black older adults in the United States.

The study aimed to investigate education as a mediator of gender differences in dementia. Older women are at higher risk of dementia nowadays. This may be due to higher levels of education among men compared to women. The findings indicate that education is an important mediator of gender differences in cognitive function, as measured with the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE). The total effect was -0.60 (95% CI: -0.90; -0.32), indicating a statistically significant difference in MMSE score compared to men, because women completed fewer years of education. The direct effect was 0.24 (95% CI: 0.18; 0.44), indicating that if women had the same number of education years as men, their MMSE score would on average be 0.24 points higher than the average MMSE score in men.

The indirect effect was -0.84 (95% CI: -1.11; -0.59), indicating that women on average had a 0.84 lower MMSE score than men. The direct effect was 0.24 (95% CI: 0.18; 0.44), indicating that if women had the same number of education years as men, their MMSE score would on average be 0.24 points higher than the average MMSE score in men. The indirect effect was -0.84 (95% CI: -1.11; -0.59), indicating that women on average had a 0.84 lower MMSE score than men.

The direct effect was 0.24 (95% CI: 0.18; 0.44), indicating that if women had the same number of education years as men, their MMSE score would on average be 0.24 points higher than the average MMSE score in men. The indirect effect was -0.84 (95% CI: -1.11; -0.59), indicating that women on average had a 0.84 lower MMSE score than men.