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Title:

The Impact of Family Size on Child Education Attainment: A Longitudinal Study of a Rural Area in Thailand

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Abstract:

Objective of this study is to investigate the influence of family size on child education attainment. Unit of analysis is children who 7 – 13 years of age in 1984. Data for this study is Nang Rong data 1984 and 1994. Nang Rong is a district of northeastern region, Thailand. The sample group of this study is 6,064 children. Multiple regression is employed for data analysis.

Dependent variable of this study is child education attainment, which measure from number of years that children completed their highest education in 1994. The independent variables' group composes of 13 variables. Family size, one of the independent variables, is measured from children ever born (CEB) of the child's mother. The other variables compose of age, gender, amount of land own, amount of cultivated land, family's activities to earn extra income, child dependency ratio, mother's education, family type, mother live with children or not, existence of canal or stream in the village, ethnicity, and distance from village to secondary school.

Results of the study found that family size has inverse association with child education attainment. In addition, male, amount of lands that a family and amount of land that a family used for cultivation, had positive association with child education attainment. While age, mother's education, mother do not live with children, child dependency ratio, and major dialect is Lao had inverse association with child education attainment. It is to accept the hypothesis of this study that family size had inverse association with child education attainment.

Suggestion from this study, It is found that family size had inverse association with child education attainment. Therefore, if we want to promote child education attainment, we should have to pay attention on children from large families.