

Does Child Labour Have a Negative Impact on Child Education and Health?

—A Case Study in Rural Cambodia—

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Abstract

In rural Cambodia, many households live under the poverty line. The local residents belonging to the poor rural communities do not perceive child labour to be harmful to children because they believe that children understand the difficult lives their parents lead; thus, child labour is regarded as an important source of income for maintaining household consumption.

This paper aims to examine whether or not child labour affects the acquisition of child human capital, such as child education attainment and health and nutrition status, by focusing on the rural setting of Cambodia. For that purpose, we employ the standard hybrid model and simultaneous-equations models with limited dependent variables to examine the determinants of human capital formation and its relationship with child labour.

We cannot find a trade-off relationship between child labour and child education attainment. Although we can find that child labour is not detrimental to children's health and nutrition, it improves them if children work within a critical threshold level.