

Women's Education and Fertility: Empirical Investigation Based on Evidence from Taiwan

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Abstract

Women's education has been increasing at a faster pace than men's education over the past decades around the world. Especially, female's enrollment rate at the tertiary level has been growing much more rapidly than male's. The driving forces of the number of female college enrollments encompass the market and non-market net returns to college education. However, one of the market returns, the female labor force participation grows a slower pace over time. To further explore the reason, I present the implication of women's education for fertility based on the belief of a trade-off between child quality and quantity. I utilize the huge expansion of educational opportunities in Taiwan and thus apply IV method to account for the endogeneity of educational attainment. The results show that parental education is an important factor in reducing the fertility rate. In addition, mother's schooling is a stronger determinant than a father's schooling. The result also implies that women's education has greater weight on child quality.