

Child Labor and Intrahousehold Allocation in Agricultural Households in Interwar Japan

Kota Ogasawara

JSPS Research Fellow PD

Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo

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Abstract

In this paper, we use the recorded working hours of children in agricultural households in interwar Japan in order to investigate child labor from the viewpoint of intrahousehold resource allocation. From this newly available data source, we find that the child labor force participation rate in this period was higher than previously thought and that girls of compulsory education age were more underprivileged than boys in terms of both participation rate and working hours. The empirical analysis presented herein also indicates that the degree of child labor was not affected by parental bargaining power but that additional maternal work increased the work burden of girls relative to that of boys.