Essays on Child Education, Child Labor
and the Agricultural Economy

av

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Akademisk avhandling

Avhandling för filosofie doktorsexamen i nationalekonomi,
som kommer att försvaras offentligt
fredagen den 11:e september 2015 kl. 13.15
BIO, Forumhuset, Örebro universitet

Opponent: professor Arne Bigsten
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Abstract


This dissertation consists of four different papers. In the first paper we ask if children’s probability to be in school differ among children with different ethnolinguistic backgrounds. In Kenya, approximately one million school-aged children are still not enrolled in school. Our paper contributes to the literature by providing empirical evidence about the relationship between ethnolinguistic background and the child’s probability of being in school. Regardless of specification, Somali and Maasai children are least likely to be in school.

In the second paper we investigate how households’ livelihood diversification strategy influences the child’s probability to work or go to school. We find that children living in households that rely solely on production of their own farm are about 3 percentage points more likely to work and about 2 percentage points less likely to be in school than children from more diversified households.

Continuing with the subject of income diversification, paper three is about income diversification of female headed households. Female-headed households have been found to have less education, less productive resources, and less access to credit than male-headed households. This will limit the options available to them. We find that female-headed households have a larger probability of getting all their earnings from production on their own farm and are also more reliant on transfers than male-headed households.

In the last paper, we explore the short-term welfare impact of higher maize prices on different regions and socioeconomic groups in Kenya. We find that approximately 80% of the population would be negatively affected by higher maize prices. Furthermore, we relax the standard assumption that consumer and producer prices change in the same proportions and allow for heterogeneity in marketing margins among districts. We demonstrate that relaxing this assumption substantially affects the results.

Keywords: Education, Child labor, Income diversification, Prices, Kenya

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