

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Jan Nykl
Advisor:	Jaromír Baxa, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Relation of Debt Relief to Social and Military Expenditures: Empirical Evidence

OVERALL ASSESSMENT *(provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):*

Contribution

The author examines the effects of debt relief. Specifically, he inspects the relationship between debt relief and spending on health, education and military. This is a very interesting topic as even such simple insight can provide a lot of information about the debt relief efficiency. The contribution of the paper is thus significant.

Methods

The estimation methods are carefully explained, sometimes even with too much care. It would be enough to refer to others describing the GMM method. There is some occasional cheekiness too, such as in section 4.5. However, that is fine with me.

The only issue I see is that the author does not provide enough rationale on the models themselves. Why do the regression equation look like they do? Is it based on the previous literature, data availability? It would help the paper tremendously, if there was more justification of the used specification.

Literature

The literature review provides an overview of relevant literature with special emphasis on methods used. It is also presented with the research goal of the paper always in mind. I have no reservations about this section of the paper

Manuscript form

The manuscript is well-structured, well-written and meets the requirements of the bachelor's thesis.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

In my opinion, the thesis meets the requirements of the program at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade A. It is relevant, the analytical work is adequate, and the manuscript is satisfactory. Moreover, the results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

During the defense, I would like the author to explain in detail the specification of the models. I would also like the author to elaborate on the lessons his thesis provides not only for debt relief programs but also development aid in general.

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	16
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Pleticha

DATE OF EVALUATION: 13/5/2021

Digitálně podepsáno (13.5.2021)
Petr Pleticha

Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F