

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Katarína Gömörýová
Advisor:	PhDr. Mgr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Payoff of having children: Do elderly parents of more children live in a nursing home less often?

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

Short summary

The thesis examines whether the number of children influences the probability of elderly staying in a nursing home. The data from easySHARE survey from 2015 are used along with the logit model to examine the effect of several independent variables (e.g. health status, number of children, demographics or functional and cognitive limitations) on the probability of being put in a nursing home. Two more dependent variables are used: long- and short-term stay in a nursing home. It turns out that having children decreases the probability of the overall admissions in nursing homes, regardless of the length of stay. Interestingly, when elderly share a household with e.g. a spouse, the effect of children is no longer significant. Furthermore, residential proximity of children significantly decreases the probability of admission, as well as short- and long-term stay. The number of grandchildren is used instead of the number of children in the robustness check.

Contribution

The thesis contributes to current literature by broadening existing research on this topic and also examining other factors which could possibly influence the probability of elderly being put in a nursing home. As the population is aging rapidly and the number of elderly is increasing, the demand for nursing homes will probably increase. However, if children live closer to their parents and are willing to take care of them, the need of nursing homes may not be as large which may save public finances. Furthermore, being taken care of by own relatives is much more pleasant than being put in a completely new environment with unfamiliar staff.

Methods

Research questions are clearly stated and explained. The tools used in the analysis are relevant to the research questions being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The data used in the thesis are presented well, the variables chosen for the analysis are nicely described. The methods are carefully introduced and results are nicely presented and interpreted. I especially appreciate the computation of average marginal effects and the predicted probabilities of interaction terms, which serve for interpretation. It is also great that the thesis includes several robustness checks.

Literature

The author does a good job summarizing other studies available on the topic of parents' support when they become elderly. The relevant studies are very well presented in the thesis and demonstrate the author's knowledge of related literature, with clear referencing.

Manuscript form

The thesis is structured well, with clear referencing to tables, results and bibliography. Sometimes the level of English disturbed the fluency of reading, but everything was understandable. The tables with results were also placed a little irregularly. For instance, I would prefer placing Table 5.5 much earlier (before all the tables with predicted probabilities of interaction terms) so that the reader can refer to the table more easily as he reads the interpretation of results. However, this can be very subjective.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The thesis confirms the hypothesis that having more children has a negative and significant effect on the probability of being institutionalised. The main hypothesis is tested using appropriate methods,

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robustness check is performed and results are carefully interpreted and summarized. The thesis is written in moderate English which sometimes disturbs the fluency of reading, nevertheless everything is understandable. In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade A. The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

For the defense, the author could discuss:

1. What is variable *Sphus*, which is missing description in the thesis?
2. Mental disability has negative effect (contrary to our expectations) on institutionalisation in all 3 models (Table 5.5), even though in the interaction with physical disability, the effect is different. Would it have opposite effect if the interaction term was omitted?
3. Maybe the fact that children are insignificant in the model with NHLS and significant in model with NHSS also suggests that children are not able to take care of their parents in the long term as it may be very time consuming and difficult. Could this be a possible explanation?
4. How are the NA's handled?
5. Are there any other variables that you would think could affect the institutionalisation? Possibly some variables that were not available in the dataset, but other studies found that they have significant effect?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	14
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	94
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Mgr. Petra Landovská

DATE OF EVALUATION: May 23, 2021

Digitally signed (May 23, 2021):
Petra Landovská

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.*

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.*

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

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.*

Overall grading:

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