

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Katarína Gömöryová
Advisor:	PhDr. 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):

Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Short summary

The thesis aims to find out whether the number of children determines whether the elderly parents live in a nursing home or not. Alternative dependent variables are employed in logit models in order to find out whether the length of residency – long-term or temporary – report different results. Interestingly, the thesis finds out that the number of children does not affect long-term stays but is deterministic in case of short-term stays. It suggests that children take over caring responsibilities for their parents when temporarily necessary but long-term care is not the case. In addition, proximity to children showed even more important than the number of children per se in determining nursing home placement regardless of the type of arrangement.

In a robustness check, the number of children was replaced by the number of grandchildren.

The thesis leaves a number of questions for further research and has potential implications for social policy.

Contribution

The thesis contributes to a gap in empirical research. It has potential implications for social policy of ageing countries too.

Methods

The thesis applies standard methodology, which is however beyond undergraduate curricula. The thesis is an econometric exercise. Katarína studied the methodology independently, based on acquired theoretical knowledge, she decided on the best models, carried out necessary testing and interpreted the results.

Literature

Katarína provides core literature reviews in chapter 2, however, she nicely backs-up her claims with the help of the literature throughout the thesis too, particularly when interpreting the results. She sets up her research in the context of theoretical and empirical literature.

Manuscript form

Manuscript form and logical argumentation is the weakest part of the thesis although Katarína very much improved both the form and flow of her thoughts based on my supervisor feedback throughout the process of writing of the thesis.

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Given that it is probably one of her first research texts ever, there is a scope for improvement in the manuscript form. Katarína uses unnecessarily complicated structures which distract reader's attention without bringing any additional information. Although Katarína can logically argue for her model selection orally, her written argumentation is not that clear. While writing, Katarína should think of the reader who will read her ideas to make them clear for him/her. Also, result interpretation deserve a deeper analysis.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

As a supervisor, I appreciated Katarína's sense of responsibility and hard-work. It was a pleasure to work with Katarína.

In overall, **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

Questions for the discussion during the defense:

1. The thesis revealed that children may provide short-term care for their parents but when long-term care was considered, the number of children was not deterministic. Provide explanation from the empirical research in the literature for this phenomenon.
2. Do the results change if the variable „children“ is measured as a dummy, i.e. having children yes/no?

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)	13
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	93
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: May 27, 2021

digitally signed (May 27, 2021)

Jana Votápková

Referee Signature

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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