

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Dominika Šubáková
Advisor:	Julie Chytilová, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	How the Composition of Siblings Affects Child Health Quality

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

In her thesis Dominika Šubáková studies the effect of gender, birth order and siblings' structure on child health in three countries – India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The study complements the existing literature on this topic by studying the effect on the probability of a child's height-for-age measure, being sick with diarrhoea and receiving medical treatment. Consistent with the existing evidence, girls are found to be more likely to be stunting while children with higher proportion of sisters are less likely to be stunting (in India and Bangladesh). Interestingly the results are stronger for richer households. The effects on diarrhoea and receiving medical treatment are mostly insignificant.

I believe that the thesis fulfils the requirements on the bachelor thesis defended at the Institute of Economic Studies. The hypotheses are clearly defined and the methodology and data used is appropriate to test them. The manuscript is relatively well structured, although the language is at some places a bit difficult to follow.

It would be worthwhile to provide a description not only of health systems of the three selected countries, but also of the payments related to marriage (dowry, bridewealth). This is important because these payments may affect the preference of the parents towards male and female children. This is actually mentioned at several places in the text but the discussion could be more detailed and clearer. A potential question for the discussion during the defence is why male children should be preferred in countries where bride wealth is paid (p. 2 and 12) – this is typically considered to be the case for dowry (paid to the family of the bridegroom) but not for bridewealth (paid to the family of the bride).

I am happy to recommend the thesis for the defence and suggest grade A (výborně, 1).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	27
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	15

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TOTAL POINTS	(max. 100 points)	82
GRADE	(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Julie Chytilová

DATE OF EVALUATION: August 20, 2013



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

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

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

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

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 POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě