

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Effects of Education on the Economic Growth in the Russian Federation
Author of the thesis:	Ksenia Samuseva
Referee (incl. titles):	Dr. Mgr. Aleš Vlk

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	10
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	9
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	10
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	12
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	51
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	3

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background:

The thesis contains theoretical fundamentals that are relevant for the topic – a theory of human capital. The issue of human capital is connected with the education system, therefore it helps answer the research questions stated in the thesis. A selected theory fits the analyzed topic properly.

2) Contribution:

The topic chosen by the author is very relevant, although rather challenging to be fully described and analyzed in a rather limited format such as thesis. Nevertheless, a topic of relationship between education system and society or more specifically higher education system and economic development in particular is worth further elaboration. What should be valued the most in the thesis is the case study of Russian federation, which is having some peculiar features comparing for example to developed countries from Western Europe or North America. Very interesting could be find mainly the comparative analyses of federal subjects of the Russian federation by the level of education and analyses of factor influencing the income level in Russia and vocational and qualitative of labor. On the other hand, some examples from other countries could have been used in the description of the topic since the theme has been subject of many contributions in various fields including public policy in general, economics or higher education studies.

3) Methods:

Research questions are stated clearly: *Is the system of education capable of providing demanded education? What changes should be made to respond these challenges? Can the system of education function effectively under the current conditions and become the factor of innovation economy?* What is not so clear is the transposition of research questions into tentative answers / hypotheses and explanation how the author is going to answer the questions and which tools is she going to use. However, this rather a matter of better connection between various parts of the thesis than a matter of content (see also part 5). The hypotheses are stated clearly only at the concluding part (p. 44), they should could have been stated at the introductory part as well.

All the methods used in the thesis are relevant and appropriate to the aspiration level of the study. The thesis does not include any irrelevant detours with respect to the topic of the study and research questions. Rather on the contrary. It seems that for detailed and full answering of research questions more space would be needed. Probably the original ambition was too high, and research questions could have been narrowed.

4) Literature:

It seems that the thesis contains a relevant body of literature including monographies as well as scientific journals. At the same time there are certain claims or statements or definitions which are not trivial and probably not original (meaning invented and formulated by the author herself) at the text or at the footnote. For example catching up economic development (p. 21), market economy (p. 22), “in developed countries increase in economic inequality slows down and stops due to high level of human capital and the quality of institutions” (p. 42), nominal income (p. 42), etc. These definitions or statements were probably found somewhere in some literature, therefore should have been cited as well.

5) Manuscript form:

The structure of the thesis is adequate. Nevertheless, a better bridging between various parts could have made the flow of the text clearer. The hypotheses should have been clearly stated in the introductory part, or even better, the introductory part could have contained only the motivation for picking up the topic and main the aim of the thesis. An additional part could have been added describing a “research design” – research questions, tentative answers / hypotheses and methods/tools which the author is going to use while answering the research questions and proving or declining hypotheses.

The language which is used in the thesis is appropriate as well as the academic format for quotations, graphs and tables. Apart from a few misspellings the text is clear and the language correct.

DATE OF EVALUATION:



Referee Signature

The referee should give comments to the following requirements:

1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

2) CONTRIBUTION: Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

3) METHODS: Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

4) LITERATURE REVIEW: The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

5) MANUSCRIPT FORM: The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading	US grading
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= A
61 – 80	2	= good	= B
51 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= C
41 – 50	3	= satisfactory	= D
0 – 40	4	= fail	= not recommended for defense