

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Brittney Hrabik, B.F.A.
Advisor:	PhDr. Lubomír Cingl
Title of the thesis:	Evaluating the effectiveness of interventions to promote the education of girls in rural Cambodia: a qualitative approach.

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

The author Brittney Hrabik provides in this thesis an original piece of research on an up-to-date topic – she qualitatively evaluates the effect of a conditional cash transfer program on the promotion of female education in Cambodia. She helped to collect the data herself which is spectacular alone. In her thesis she first provides a nice overview and the discussion of the relationship between the economic development and inequality which explains the general importance of the topic of her thesis - gender equality, education and the economic growth. Then she describes the current situation and the historical development in Cambodia with a particular focus on the education system and gender equality. She discusses the potential barriers to education for girls and the development efforts exerted by various stakeholders in order to improve the situation, with a detailed discussion of the conditional cash transfers (CCTs), which is the center of her attention afterwards. The empirical part of her thesis concerns the qualitative evaluation of the CCT program, which is administered by an NGO she cooperated with. The results obtained from the focus group discussions suggest that the lack of finances is still the biggest barrier to education, but the lack of information about the benefits of education seems important, too. Based on her results in the final part Brittney suggests two possible intervention programs that might help improve the educational outcomes of girls in the area – female role models and counseling programs.

Manuscript form: the thesis is well structured and organized, the length of chapters and of the thesis itself is balanced and it gives reader all information needed. Her argument is well developed and in general I enjoyed reading it.

Methodology: The qualitative research is looked upon rather skeptically from the side of economists, but Brittney did a great job in acknowledging the weaknesses of her approach and she does not over-interpret her findings. The fact that she was part of the data-collection team shows her deep interest in the topic and should be appreciated. The formulation of the two possible quantitative interventions shows she understands the "big picture" and I believe she will be able to proceed in this direction (the role of female education in development) in her future research career, if she decides to pursue it.

Summary:

Generally speaking, the thesis is a demonstration of a strong knowledge of the development economics literature as well as of research abilities and it is thus an original contribution to the research field.

Suggested question for defense:

What are the main policy implications of your findings? Could NGOs and the government cooperate and make use of your results? Are your findings generalizable to other regions of Cambodia, potentially to other developing countries?

In case of successful defense I recommend the commission to give the **grade 1 (excellent/výborně)**.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	95
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

PhDr. Lubomír Cingl

DATE OF EVALUATION:

June 15, 2016



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