

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Martin Štrobl
Advisor:	Prof. Ing. Karel Janda, M.A., Dr., Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Group lending with peer monitoring: A theoretical model of microcredit

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

Mr Štrobl presents master thesis that deal with theoretical models of microcredit. Mr. Štrobl concentrates more on teoretical aspects of microcredit rather than on practical issues.

The topic of microcredit, Mohammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank, Bangladesh, (and his subsequent Nobel price (2007)) was a big issue in 1990s and later on. A lot of praised articles were written on all aspects of microcredit. Later also some critique was added, as not everywhere (and everytime) the project proved successful.

I understand the thesis is aimed at theoretical aspects of the issue, but still I largely miss more detailed description of the functioning of microcredit: better description of the relationship within the group, formation of the group, drivers of their activity, cash flow profile, representation of different lending strategies and their successfulness. The analysis of internal drivers and functioning would help to understand the whole topic much more than theoretical models. Also analysis of failure in certain microcredit set-ups would add value to the thesis.

I am afraid, nowadays students tend to analyse the topic theoretically with massive aplication of econometrics without thorough knowledge of the problem.

Contribution – generally I think the master’s thesis is well structured, sourced and well reasoned. But I have doubt about the contribution of the thesis. I understand that the econometric analysis is interesting, but from my point of view serves only itself. There is little practical knowledge that would deepen the overall knowledge of the topic. That is why I do no give the full score for Contribution.

Methods – I can not identify any shortcomings in methods used, all parameters (variables) for analysis applied were well sourced and described.

Literature – I can not identify any shortcomings in student’s work with literature, the literature used was up-to-date and well sourced.

Manuscript form – I can not find any shortcomings in the manuscript form, the level of (English) language is very high. The structure of the text follows logic, the orientation is easy. The student adheres to academic format for graphs, tables, references.

The Master’s thesis presented by Martin Štrobl demonstrates high quality in assessed categories, that is why I asses his Master’s thesis positive and grade it with **1 - excellent**.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	90
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Mgr. Magda Pečená, Ph.D.*

DATE OF EVALUATION: 5.6.2017

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