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Does Mother's Employment Affect Children's Schooling? An Empirical Evidence from Indonesian Households

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Abstract

In almost all society in the world, women are assigned by culture to be the primary caregiver for the children in the households (UNDP, 1995 in Glick, 2002). Despite their primary role in the household, mothers can also contribute to their family by involving themselves in employment activity. This can potentially improve the well-being of their family, including their children's education. Using multilevel mixed-effects probit, this study examines the effect of mother's employment on children's schooling with panel data from Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) 2000 and 2007. Result shows that mother's employment have a positive impact on children's schooling decision. The results also demonstrate the effect of variables such as mother and father education, mother and father income, numbers of siblings, and family wealth. In addition, this study also compares the effect in urban and rural area, different regions, and different religions. However, this study confirms that mother's employment have an important role on children's schooling decision.
