

Thesis Title

Factors Affecting Decision to Invest in Education
for Daughters in Rural Northern Thailand

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to investigate the effect of woman's non agricultural income in rural villages with different economic development structure on young girls' education opportunity. The study also explores other factors which may affect households decision making with regard to education investment for daughters. Primary data were collected by interviewing 201 households heads who have daughters aged between 12-18 years from 4 types of villages as follows :

1. Advanced agricultural villages ; 53 households from 2 villages in Chaingmai province.

2. Rainfed agricultural villages ; 49 households from 2 villages in Chaingrai province and Mae Hong Son province.

3. Industries related or handicraft villages ; 50 households from 2 villages in Chaingmai province and Lamphun province.

4. Entertainment and services related villages ; 49 households from 2 village in Chiangrai province.

Woman's non-agricultural income was found to affect young girls' education opportunity. Girls were found to enter earlier into labor force than boys when employment opportunity exists. Education opportunity does not differ much between daughters and sons in most households despite the fact that most households perceived that sons have more opportunity to contribute more to society and therefore are more recognized socially than daughters. However married sons normally have to move out to live with their in-laws while married daughters remain at home. Most parents also perceived that with only primary education boys can earn more than girls as employment available to them is mainly unskilled requiring physical strength. The difference in expected income earned between male and female diminishes with higher education.

The Logit model (Maximum Likelihood Estimates) was used to study factors affecting households decision making in daughter education investment. Factors found to have positive effect on daughters education investment and therefore their education opportunity include the girls' own education achievement, household income, and parents' expectation that girls with higher than compulsory education can earn higher non-agricultural income than boys with the same level of

Education opportunity for girls in villages with different structures also varies ranking from higher to lower opportunity in mixed agricultural villages, entertainment and services related industries related or handicraft villages, and rainfed rural villages respectively.

Factors which were found to be statistically not significant

to the following :

1. The number of sons in households. This result could be explained by small variations in the proportion of sons in total number of children.
2. Parents' expectation. Parents' expectation that girls with more than compulsory primary education can earn more non agricultural income than girls with only compulsory education was found not to be a significant factor limiting girls education opportunity.
3. Parents' education level. It cannot be concluded from this that girls' education opportunity is affected by their parents' level of education. Most parents interviewed have only compulsory primary education and therefore this variable has hardly any variation