
Child Labor and Market Access: Identifying Excluded Households

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Abstract

The paper aims at identifying households making their children work more because their access is constrained on the land and the labor markets. Data from the EPM 2005 collected in Madagascar provide information on the amount of hours worked by each household member along with measures for market imperfections. A simple theoretical model highlights that land when constrained on the land and the labor markets and wage when not, have respectively no effect on child hours of work. Using a switching regression model with unknown sample separation to classify households in the two regimes (constrained or not), this paper shows that not belonging to the largest ethnic group at the local level significantly decreases access to the market. The same result holds for religion highlighting the importance of the informal market.

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