

Submission of Abstract

Title- Quantitative Analysis of the Linkage between the Breastfeeding Rate and the Mother Educational Level: Comparison between Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam
母乳育児と母親の教育レベルに関する定量的分析－ミャンマー、ラオス、ベトナムの比較－

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the quantitative analysis of the effect of the maternal education level on the breastfeeding rate for Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. As breastfeeding can enhance physical and intellectual wellbeing of next generation, it can also be regarded as a poverty reduction and economic development tool for developing countries. Knowing the effect of the maternal education level on the breastfeeding rate would be helpful for all stakeholders in promoting the breastfeeding rate in each country.

Years of education of the mother have a positive and significant effect on her breastfeeding rate in Vietnam, but an insignificant effect in Laos and a negative and significant effect in Myanmar. Moreover, I found that the effect of mothers' education on the breastfeeding rate varies depending on the wealth level of households. In Vietnam, the positive effect of mothers' education is larger for wealthier households, while the negative effect found in Myanmar is larger (in absolute terms) for wealthier households. These results imply that more educated Vietnamese mothers are more likely to choose to breastfeed their children probably because wealthier mothers tend to have knowledge about benefits from breastfeeding. In Myanmar, because of lack of diffusion of knowledge about the benefits, wealthier mothers who face smaller financial constraints are more likely to rely on artificial milk, rather than to breastfeed their children. The other factors such as low government healthcare expenditure, poor infrastructure development across the country and insufficiencies of healthcare personnel for conducting righteous breastfeeding practices training after delivery might have impact on limited diffusion of breastfeeding knowledge in Myanmar. Vietnam and Laos, in general, have less such constraints than Myanmar for knowledge diffusion of breastfeeding practices.