DETERMINANTS OF CHILD LABOUR: EVIDENCE FROM TAMIL NADU, KERALA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

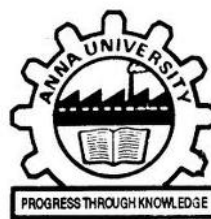**ARPITA CHAKRAVORTY**

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ABSTRACT

This paper highlights the determinants of child labour across the three states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This is done with special emphasis on the occupational profile of household members, mother's educational attainment, gender and head of the household, and the wealth index. The analysis was conducted using the National Family Health Survey data (NFHS-3) of the year 2005-06. The analysis is done using a logit model and a zero inflated negative binomial model. The regression results show that while mother's education is a significant factor determining child labour in the urban regions, the household head's education plays an important role in explaining child labour in the rural regions. Also, the effect of the gender of the household head is more significant in deciding if the child should work within the household over them working outside the household. A family having higher number of dependent members is observed to have a higher magnitude of child labour. More number of family members working in the agricultural sector results in higher chances of a child working within, and outside the household. Andhra Pradesh, which records the highest magnitude of child labour as per the 2001 census, is also observed to have higher number of children working outside the household than working within the household. On a relative basis, it was found that the chances of a child working within the household is higher in Tamil Nadu and in Kerala.