Report on Bachelor Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	**Adriána Lelovská**
Advisor:	**Julie Chytilová, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Does remedial education help disadvantaged children in the Czech Republic? Evaluation of Education Support Programme**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT *(provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):*

In her thesis Adriána studies the effects of the education support programme run by the NGO People in Need in number of towns in the Czech Republic. Adriána estimates the effects of the programme on participating children's grades and absence at school as well as on their parents' attitude towards education. In order to do so, she collected large amount of data about the children through questionnaires for children, volunteers who work with them and their teachers; and from the schools they attend. The aim was to collect the data also for a control group which should have been formed by children who fulfil the criteria of the programme, however do not participate in it because of the lack of volunteers. However, it turned out that it was very difficult to identify these children and get the data about them. Therefore, she created a secondary control group formed by the classmates of the treated children. To estimate the effects of the programme, Adriána uses the diference-in-difference method.

The main results are interesting: (1) she finds that short-term effects are either negilible or negative (parents seem to substitute the additional remedial education by reducing attendance of children at school), (2) in the long-run there are positive effects of the programme on school performance and absence of the children.

I do not have any major comments to the thesis – Adriána discussed it with me regularly and frequently and has already incorporated all my suggestions. I appreciate the amount of work and time she devoted to this research which will be definitely very interesting for People in Need who may – based on the metodology used in this thesis – continue to evaluate the programme in the future. Rigorous evalutions of social programs (even though this one could not be implemented perfectly) are still extremely limited in the Czech Republic, although they are a very useful tool for assessing which programs work and which do not and thus should inform the public policy debate.

I am happy to recommend the thesis for the defence and suggest grade A ("výborně"). I also recommend to the defence committee to consider awarding the thesis a distinction for an extraordinarily good bachelor thesis.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED *(for details, see below):*

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	20
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**100**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Julie Chytilová
DATE OF EVALUATION: June 7, 2010

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Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě