GENDER-SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES IN CHILD SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATES IN INDIA

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Abstract

In this paper an attempt to made to analyse the gender gap in the determinants of school enrollment rates of children aged 5 to 14 years in India within the household production framework. The gender differences in child schooling are explored by estimating gender-specific equations. The empirical results based on the econometric analysis of aggregate district level data for 16 major Indian states lead to several key findings. Completed educational levels of adult male and females have a significant positive impact on the enrollment rates of both boys and girls. Educational levels of the female population affects the enrollment rates of female children but does not affect the enrollment of boys in schools. The empirical results also suggest that the economic variable namely the per capita net domestic product of the states is a much more important determinant of schooling for both male and female children. In districts where the percentage of rural and muslim population is substantial, child enrollment is significantly reduced much more for girls than boys.