

Time Allocation of Single Mothers as Compared to Married Mothers in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

A number of single mothers in the Thai society has gradually been increasing since 2000s. However, most existing studies focused on the impact of living with a single mother on children, none has ever mentioned and paid attention to well-being of a single mother. This paper intends to study the time allocation of single mothers compared to married mothers in Thailand. Using the national Time Use Survey in the years 2004, 2014, and 2015, this paper applied the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression and the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition in the estimation. Main findings indicate that there is a large gap in the average time use in paid work between married mothers and single mother, but a small gap in housework. However, there is no difference in time uses in childcare, and leisure activities. To explaining the difference in time use in paid work and housework activities, living in extended family is the most influence factor; while the age of children is the second factor. This main finding indicated that there is a need for childcare facility, subsidy, as well as financial assistance that the Thai government should particularly provide for assisting and reducing the burden of a single mother in the country.