

The Role of Maternal Education on Child Care

Zeynep Elitas

Anadolu University, Turkey

zeynepelitas@anadolu.edu.tr

Abstract:

Human capital theory suggests that higher education means a pull to work that the greater the investment a person has made in their marketable skills, the higher the wage rate they will command, and the stronger will be their attachment to the paid workforce. Therefore, educated women are expected to allocate more time to market work and are likely to spend less time to child care. However, education may also imply a pull to the home. There are substantial evidence that maternal child care increases by level of education. Using data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) Time-use Survey (TUS) 2006 and 2014-2015, this study investigates the role of these two contradicting effects in explaining the relationship between maternal education and time with children. Results suggest that more educated mothers spend more daily time with their children in physical care and developmental activities compared to their less educated counterparts.

Keywords: Maternal Education, Time Allocation, Childcare, Turkey

JEL Codes: C21, I21, J13