

Tobacco, Poverty, and Socioeconomic Status in Cambodia

Research Team:

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Description:

Econometric analysis will be applied to household consumption data to determine the relationship among tobacco consumption, food (and other expenditures, like health care, etc.), and socioeconomic indicators. The analysis will segregate different expenditure groups to determine whether tobacco consumption takes a greater share of income for the poor than the non-poor.

Specific Aims:

1. Among those who consume tobacco, estimate the relationship between tobacco consumption and food, health, education, and housing expenditures, controlling for all other consumption.
2. Determine key differences between tobacco consuming households and non-tobacco consuming households across these and other socioeconomic indicators.

Hypotheses:

1. Among households that consume tobacco, those households below the poverty line consume more, as a share of per capita consumption, on tobacco products than non-poor households
2. Households that consume tobacco differ in key ways from households that do not consume tobacco: they tend to consume less per capita, receive less income, and have lower educational attainment.

Data:

Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 1999
6,000 nationally representative households were surveyed.

Methods:

Least squares regression and other estimation methods will be applied to alternative functional forms and transformations (linear, log-linear, and log-log) of a model explaining food, health, education, and housing expenditure.

<i>Dependent Variables:</i>	<i>Independent Variables:</i>
Food expenditure per capita = Health expenditure p.c. = Education expenditure p.c. = Housing expenditure p.c. =	$b_0 + b_1*(\text{tobacco consumption per capita}) + b_2*(\text{total expenditure p.c.} - \text{food} - \text{tobacco}) + b_3*(\text{interaction term: tobacco consumption p.c.} * \text{total expenditure p.c.}; \text{ dummy variable for non-poor/poor} = 0/1 * \text{tobacco consumption p.c.}) + b_4*(\text{dummy for urban/rural}) + \dots$

Human Subjects Issues:

None.

Policy Relevance:

Findings from this study will provide evidence of how tobacco consumption impacts food, health, education, and housing expenditures. Poverty status and other socioeconomic differences between tobacco consuming households and non-tobacco consuming households will demonstrate the importance of adopting poverty reduction strategies that take tobacco control policies into account. The work will also highlight the importance of increasing tobacco-related questions on future socioeconomic surveys.

Estimated Costs: To be determined.