Subjective Well-Being, Parental Child Care and Income—A Multidimensional Polarization Attempt

Joachim Merz Leuphana University Lüneburg, Research Institute on Professions (FFB)

Normen Peters Leuphana University Lüneburg, Research Institute on Professions (FFB)

Paper Abstract: Neither market income nor consumption expenditures provide a complete picture of individual standard of living and its distribution. It is non-market time use which is a further brick to a more comprehensive picture of individual well-being. In our study we focus on a prominent part of non-market services: it is child care which contributes not only to individual but also to societal well-being.

Within a novel approach we ask for multidimensional polarization effects when compensation of time for child care and income is interdependently evaluated by society's subjective well-being. The new interdependent 2DGAP measure thereby provides polarization (for the poor and the rich) intensity information of single child care time use and income and its socio-economic characteristics respecting revealed compensation. The microeconometric estimates are based on the German Time Use Surveys 1992, 2002 (and 2012/13 if available in time) and the German Socio-Economic Panel. The empirical results will discover income dependent child care time use under a common evaluation frame and contributes to the question of dimension specific targeted policies.