

Identifying Poor Children: Understanding the Differences Between Poverty Approaches

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Abstract

Poverty measurement is crucial to be able to identify the most vulnerable children. This study aims at explaining to what extent and what are the conditions under which monetary, subjective and child multidimensional poverty approaches identify the same children as poor. When measuring poverty, children are often not distinguished from the other household members. However, children's experiences of poverty may be significantly different from adults. Using national representative individual microdata from the 2015 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS) for Zambia, we show that many characteristics of the child and the household significantly affect the probability of a joint identification of the child as poor according to the different poverty measures. The analysis reveals that 19.6% of children are identified as poor irrespective of the poverty measure adopted. The extent of this overlap varies significantly at the subnational level.

JEL Classification: I31, I32, I38.

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