

Year: 2014
Volume: 59
Issue: 1

STUDIA Universitatis Babes-Bolyai OECONOMICA

GENDER ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD POVERTY – AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

Tshediso Joseph Sekhampu*
Milpark Education, South Africa

Paul-Francois Muzindutsi
North-West University, South Africa

Abstract. The study reported in this article used household level data to comparatively analyse the determinants of poverty amongst female and male-headed households in a township of Bophelong, South Africa. A random sample of households was divided into two sub-groups. A logistic regression model was estimated based on this data with the poverty status of a household as the dependent variable and a set of demographic variables as explanatory variables. The poverty rate was calculated at 68% and 59% for female and male-headed households, respectively. Further analysis revealed household income and household size as predictors of poverty in both sub-groups. The age of the household was statistically significant in female-headed households while it was not significant in male-headed households. The employment status of the household head appeared to decrease poverty in female-headed households but in male-headed this variable was not significant. There was a strong negative relationship between the labour force and poverty status in male-headed households but this relationship was weak in female-headed households. The results of the study draw attention to a number of policy interventions necessary to reduce poverty in South African townships.

JEL Classification: D31, I32, O12

Keywords: poverty, gender, household head, township, South Africa

* Corresponding author: Address, Milpark Education, Cnr Main and Landau Terrace, Melville, Johannesburg, South Africa. Tel: +2711 718 4000. E-mail: joseph.sekhampu@milpark.ac.za