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GENDER, CREDIT CONSTRAINTS, AND EDUCATION
IN RURAL THAILAND

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Note: Center Discussion Papers are preliminary materials circulated to stimulate discussions and critical comments. Dr. NaRanong was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Economic Growth Center and is a Research Assistant I at the Thailand Development Research Institute. This is a revised version of the paper originally written in September 1995.

Gender, Credit Constraints, and Education in Rural Thailand

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Abstract

The study examines the effects of gender and credit constraints on rural students' advancement to secondary education, which is arguably the major bottleneck in Thailand's education system. Credit constraints are measured indirectly through rainfall variation, availability of informal lenders in the village, and household specific variables – especially titled land owned by the household.

The empirical evidence from two provinces in Northern and Northeastern Thailand, based on the results of probit estimation, consistently confirms that gender differences affect investment in boys' and girls' secondary education differently. However, there are also some indications that the gender effect has been diminishing over time.

Key Words: Credit Constraints, Education, Gender, Thailand

JEL Codes: J24, J16, O15

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