**Report on: *Stature and Status: Height, Ability, and Labor Market Outcomes***

Wanjun Gu Econ 121

Dr. Case et.al address the correlation between height and earning in this article. Acknowledging that correlation between height and earning can be explained in various ways, the article argues that greater height is associated with better-developed cognitive function, which further, to a great extent, dictates positive earning and labor market outcomes.

Author argues that height is influential to the development of cognitive function mainly because it effects two stages of development: infancy and adolescence. During the infancy stage, despite that height and some hormone levels related to intelligence are proved to be genetically haplotypes, some other factors, such as maternal habits or nutrition can mutually effect height and cognitive function development. During the adolescence stage, greater height is associated with better participation in social events and higher self-esteem, which are both crucial to cognitive function formation.

Linear regressions are used show that there is a positive correlation between height and wage at any single age. On a different note, height is proved to be a function of cognitive ability, an unobserved endowment of wage.

Even though the study can show how height is related to cognitive function, it is nevertheless subjective to limitations. One of the main concerns is the lack of longitudinal study. As shown in the article, children raised with good nutrition status by mothers with healthy pregnant habits are more likely to develop better cognitive functions. Furthermore, the author shows that tall children tend to be tall adults. With that said, due to the short time span of the data collection process, there is insufficient evidence showing that exactly the tall children who were raised in better conditions grow to be tall adults. It is possible that other factors such as wealth condition or individual diet play a role in adolescence growth in height. Another limitation of this study is the lack of biological support. Although it has been suspected that some genetic variations can be attributed to intelligence-related hormone level change and height. A systematic cascade of how height and other physiological factors are spontaneously regulated is yet to be elucidated. Finally, since most height measurements collected are medical records, people who rarely visit the doctors tend to have fewer records. Therefore, the variance of height can potentially be a function of physical health condition, which can be used to partially explain variations in height. Such heteroskedasticity can introduce bias given that the model is weighted.

Aside from limitations, the result of this study should be carefully interpreted. It is not evident that there is causal effect of height on cognitive function or career outcome. Nonetheless, the strong correlation between ability and height can be taken advantage of by employers to statistically discriminate against short people when only limited information about the applicants are provided. In most cases, height, as a piece of information that is easily accessed, cannot be properly confided. Thus, affirmative actions and legislations protecting shorter people may be an interest of discussion. On the flip side, as applicants, appearing to be taller, e.g. wearing heeled shoes, during an interview may increase their chances of getting the job, given that the correlation between height and ability is tacit. Moreover, the result of this study should raise attention on infancy and adolescence nutrition status. Apparently, intaking enough nutrition for infants and teenagers is not only about helping them become taller or stronger, but also helping them become smarter and more capable.

Works Cited

Case, Anne, and Christina Paxson. 2008. “Stature and Status: Height, Ability, and Labor Market Outcomes.” *The Journal of Political Economy* 116 (3): 499–532.