Article: THE ‘‘MINCER EQUATION’’ THIRTY YEARS AFTER SCHOOLING,

EXPERIENCE, AND EARNINGS

What is the research question of the article?

The Mincer earnings equation is appropriate to describe the link between earnings, years of schooling and years of experience. One of the questions is about education and its multiplier effect on earning, specially in the log specifications. Another is related to the quadratic equation of experience, if it could help us to explain the earnings or we add a higher-degree equation.

Or maybe we have to separate this last term from the function of schooling and potential experience.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the document's approach to answering that question?

In the case of strengths of the document’s approach is the new data sets which the authors used. It is important because those didn’t exist before. The technology in this time was another advantage since it helped them to make many estimations and run regressions to accept or refuse the hypothesis if the parts of the Mincer equation are important in this time.

On the other hand, the authors show studies only from the USA to see how the Mincer equation developed for many years. The authors didn’t consider many problems of the labor markets that happened in countries like South America, informality, for example. It will affect the relationship of the earnings with education, experience and age.

How does this document advance knowledge about the question, that is, what is the contribution?

In my point of view, this paper helps us to understand how the Mincer equation was a tool to study the labor markets. To see many estimations to make this study better and evidence to make evaluations. Maybe this paper would be a great reference to find trends in investigation, or continue to make better and answer questions about this new reality, in which Covid-19 could make a different labor market.

What would be one or two valuable and specific next steps to advance this question?

As I said before, the authors would make a better specification if they review data from places where the labor market is different, for example, countries like Perú, Colombia or Bolivia have high percent of people who work in informality. The main idea about the relationship between earnings, years of schooling and years of experience needed more factors.