

Adult literacy achievement: Its correlates and consequences

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Outline

- About ALLS
 - ▶ Measuring adult literacy
- Modelling influences of literacy...
 - ▶ (and other factors) on employment status
 - ▶ on wages (productivity)
- Implications
- Discussion

About ALLS

- ALLS
 - ▶ The Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey
 - ▶ Conducted in 2006 (following IALS in 1996)
 - ▶ An international survey to assess foundation skills in 15 to 74 year-old populations
 - prose and document literacy
 - numeracy
 - problem solving
 - (and health literacy)

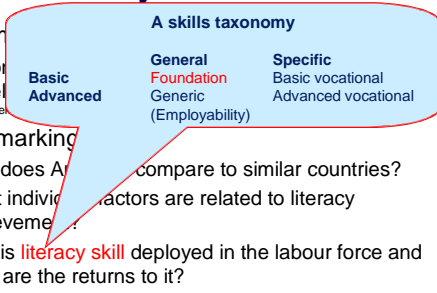
Measuring literacy skill

- ▶ Individuals are assessed using a selection of items
- ▶ Each person is scored on each literacy scale (0 to 500, Mean \cong 260, sd \cong 60)

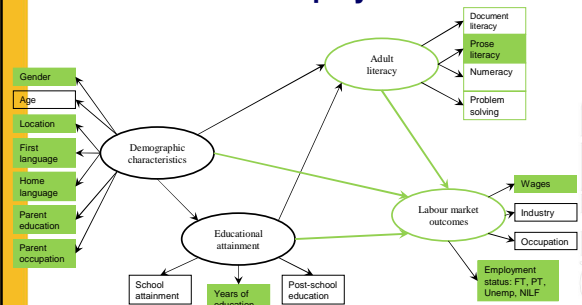
Performance level	Range		
1	0	225	
2	226	275	
3	276	325	Minimum level for
4	326	375	effective participation in
5	376	500	a knowledge economy

Why ALLS?

- Direct n...
 - ▶ National... (Hanushek)
- Benchmarking
 - ▶ How does A... compare to similar countries?
 - ▶ What individ... factors are related to literacy achievement?
 - ▶ How is **literacy skill** deployed in the labour force and what are the returns to it?



Influences on employment status



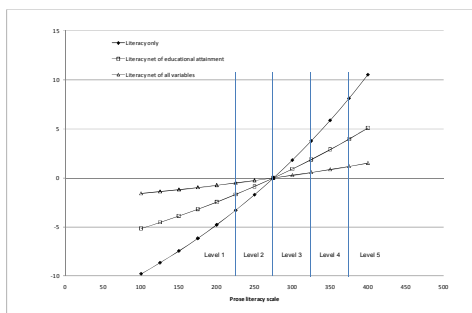
Influences on employment status

Males	Employment status relative to full-time work Relative likelihood (%) of being in this state		
	Part-time work	Unemployed	NILF
Prose literacy (50 points)	-18.1		-25.9
Years of education		-9.6	-14.1
Part-time study			-77.5
Location			
First language (OTE)	-	-	-
Home language (OTE)			+207.3

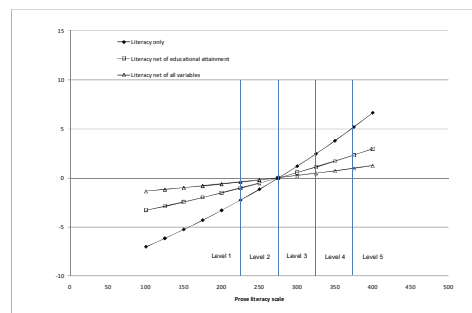
Influences on employment status

Females	Employment status relative to full-time work Relative likelihood (%) of being in this state		
	Part-time work	Unemployed	NILF
Prose literacy (50 points)			-21.2
Years of education	-6.9	-17.4	-20.4
Part-time study		+222.1	-48.5
Location		+178.6	
First language (OTE)	-	-	-
Home language (OTE)		+240.7	+169.2

Wages returns to literacy: Males



Wages returns to literacy: Females



Implications

- Differences in wages returns to literacy for males and females
 - ▶ Does this occur by choice or by chance?