ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the effects of education and employment on household living standards in developing ASEAN countries during the 2017–2025 period, while controlling for inflation and economic growth. This study uses secondary panel data from six developing ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Household living standards are proxied by Household Final Consumption Expenditure at constant 2015 US$, while the independent variables consist of Expected Years of Schooling (EYS), vulnerable employment, unemployment rate, GDP growth, and inflation. The data were obtained from the World Bank, the International Labour Organization Statistics (ILOSTAT), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The analysis was conducted using panel data regression, with the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) selected as the most appropriate estimation model. The results show that Expected Years of Schooling has a positive and significant effect on household living standards. The unemployment rate has a negative and significant effect, while GDP growth has a positive and significant effect on household living standards. Meanwhile, vulnerable employment has a negative but insignificant effect, and inflation has a negative but insignificant effect on household living standards. Simultaneously, all independent variables significantly affect household living standards, with the model explaining approximately 99 percent of the variation in household living standards. These findings indicate that improvements in education and economic growth contribute to higher household living standards, while unemployment remains a factor that constrains improvements in living standards in developing ASEAN countries.

Keywords: household living standards, education, employment, economic growth, ASEAN.