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How road improvement reduces poverty: the case of LaosPeter Warr ^{a,*}^a Arndt-Corden Division of Economics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia*Corresponding author: Tel.: 61 2 6125 2682; fax: 61 2 6125 3700. *E-mail address:* Peter.Warr@anu.edu.au (P. Warr).**KEYWORDS**

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KEYWORDS

Asia • Laos • Rural roads • Poverty incidence • General equilibrium

ABSTRACT

A general equilibrium modeling approach is used to study the effect that rural road improvement has on poverty incidence in Laos. Household survey data are used to distinguish three categories of rural villages according to their road access: (i) no vehicular access; (ii) dry season only access; and (iii) all weather access. A general equilibrium model of the Lao economy is then used to simulate, first, the effect of upgrading category (i) to category (ii) roads, and second, category (ii) to category (iii) roads. The former has a larger poverty-reducing effect but is also more costly.

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