Consequences of Inequality for Education

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Inequalities are associated with:

- rates of obesity
- teenage birth
- mental illness
- homicide
- low social capital
- hostility
- racism
- imprisonment
- low social mobility
- child conflict
- poor educational performance among school children
Rules of education

• “Secondary socialization”
• Transmitting knowledge, skills, values
• Developing in children a certain number of physical, intellectual and moral states
• Important link between the individual and society
PERFECT WORLD
=
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES?
Causes of educational inequalities

Differences among countries:
- Industrial state or developing country
- Rich/poor
- Welfare state
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Differences within the society

Introduction ➔ Reasons ➔ Consequences ➔ Countermeasures ➔ Conclusion
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Social class background

- Inteligence
- Owners
- Working class
- Peasants
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Maternal and paternal educational level

Introduction ➔ Reasons ➔ Consequences ➔ Countermeasures ➔ Conclusion
Money and origin

• Income:
  – Rich
  – Poor

• Racial group:
  – White
  – Black
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Neighborhood

State education

vs.

Private education
According to PISA
According to PISA

Mean SES and mean student achievement

Mean socio-economic background

OECD

all countries

Mean student performance

Introduction → Reasons → Consequences → Countermeasures → Conclusion
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According to PISA

Introduction → Reasons → Consequences → Countermeasures → Conclusion
Observations

• The most powerful predictor of student achievement is the economic, social, and cultural status of student family

• Socioeconomic status: sum of father and mother occupational status

• Maternal and paternal educational level; not speaking national language at home; born in another country
Observations

- Parental education has a steeper coefficient on school performance in Germany, a flatter one in France and Italy
- Not speaking the national language and born in another country has a stronger negative effect in Germany than in Italy and France
Different spending on education...

12454: Vergleich der Bildungsausgaben 2006 in % BIP

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Bildungsausgaben im Volksschul-Bereich*

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Consequences of Inequality for Education

leads to different quality of education

Different quality of education in different countries (PISA)
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Example: East Chicago

Education:
• College degree < 2%
  (national average=24%)

• Impact on employment:
  ~40% of the Adult population incapable of attaining a professional job
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Example: East Chicago

Introduction → Reasons → Consequences → Countermeasures → Conclusion
Increasing Importance of Education for Job

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Introduction → Reasons → Consequences → Countermeasures → Conclusion
Vicious circle I

Inequalities (familiar background / culture, income situation / welfare, ...) among

• people
• different social groups
• different countries

→ Inequality in educational possibilities (e.g. children with rich parents in general attain higher education level than those with poor parents)
Vicious circle II

Better education leads to

- Higher income
- Smaller risk of unemployment
- Better social status

➔vicious circle: gap between the rich and the poor, the educated and the non-educated widening!
What to do against inequality for education?

**Thesis:**

- Inequality in access to education due to parents' different income levels (hypothesis: children out of poor families have NO possibility to get education)
What to do against inequality for education?

Solution: 2-tracks system

• 1st track: estimated high quality of education, high tuition
• 2nd track: education at estimated lower quality level, tuition-free

• 2nd track financed by fees for 1st track

→ through self selection rich parents finance education for poor parents’ children
Conclusion

Discussion:

- Suggestions for other definitions of education
- Reasons for inequality
- Vicious circle
- Counter measures