

THE EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF VENEZUELA

Alberto GRUSON

Tito LACRUZ

José Manuel ROCHE

Paola SIGNORINI

Centro de investigaciones en Ciencias Sociales (CISOR)

The present study was carried out in Venezuela by the Social Science Research Center (CISOR) for “Fundación Polar” using the National Household Survey (1995). This study tries to optimize the information contained in the survey in order to understand the educational condition among the people involved in, or related to agriculture in Venezuela.

Firstly, the educational situation of the concerned population is characterized, mainly on: (a) the educational accomplishments, (b) the educational level according to the household work activities, and (c) the relation between what it has been defined as the family atmosphere regarding to the educational accomplishment. It has been found that the schooling prosecution is more difficult, and the abandonment is also more common in the agricultural households than in the non-agricultural ones. For this matter, specific indicators have been calculated in order to optimize the information contained in the National Household Survey.

Secondly, the study tries to recognize distinctive features and circumstances that have a positive or negative impact, in that population’s educational progress. It has been sustained that the low schooling prosecution of the young in the agricultural households is influenced, in one hand, by the weak support the Venezuelan educational system offers to the agricultural activity. On the other hand, the family atmosphere doesn’t stimulate the young to pursue in higher level schooling, because the family doesn’t appraise it. In addition, it seems that the schooling prosecution anticipates a further migration from the agricultural activity to a non-agricultural one.

The study ends with an analysis of correspondence and cluster analysis, which give some results about what different populations should be differentiated while the intention is to intervene in the educational condition of this population sector.