

25.5.2026

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Title

Unequal origin, unequal treatment, and unequal educational attainment : Does being first generation still a disadvantage in India? / Rashim Wadhwa

Publication year

2018

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education. - 76 (2018) 2, S. 279 - 300

Inventory number

47276

Keywords

Ausland : Indien : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Ausland : Indien : Studenten, Studium, Lehre

Abstract

The Indian higher education system is supposed to be the source of equal opportunities to all students irrespective of their life circumstances. Does it succeed in realizing this ideal? In fact, the system of higher education inadvertently plays a critical role in constructing and recreating the inequalities between groups. The prime victims of inequality are first-generation students, whose disadvantages are unseen, their voices ignored and left on their own. In India, first-generation students are typically confronted with the dynamics of caste-based inequality in addition to their deficiency in the cultural and social capital. In this context, the purpose of this study was to examine if being a first-generation student had a significant influence on educational attainment. The field survey data of 900 senior secondary students was employed for the analysis. For the purpose of analysis, educational attainment was measured in terms of completion of higher secondary school and entry into higher education. The findings of the study confirm the difference in educational attainment between first-generation students and their counterparts. Results of logistic regression indicate that the location, category,

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family income, academic achievement, stream of education, and social and cultural capital are the pertinent factors which influence the educational attainment of first-generation students. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Wadhwa, Rashim, E.Mail: nunha84@gmail.com