

Education and Employment Perspectives for Mexican Rural Youth

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Economic development is closely related to education attained by the (rural) youth. This paper deals with the match between economic development, levels of education and employment. The research question is; does investment in education lead to an increase of wealth and to a reduction of poverty of households in rural areas? A comparison with urban youth is made.

The Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares provides information about households' incomes, the economic activities, job type, and the sector of employment. More detailed information on employment and education is derived from the Encuesta Nacional de Empleo and from the Encuesta Nacional de Educación, Capacitación y Empleo.

The results of the analyses on these surveys are discussed in the paper. It provides insight in the returns to education for urban and rural youth, and in the relations between education, employment, and poverty. Ideal however would be to perform an analysis at the level of the individual, because research at the micro-level can provide more detailed insight into the reasons for differences in achievements between rural and urban youth, and questions such as: are school-leavers able to find a job at a level that matches with their level of education? This requires administrative or representative survey data at the individual level.