



Inequality in Primary Education under the Policy on Consolidation of Primary Schools in Rural China

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Abstract:

Based on a random sample of 9179 primary school students in western rural China, this paper describes the current situation of rental accommodations for primary school students, and explores the differences in the selection of rental accommodations among households under different economic conditions. The results show that one quarter of parents in this sample choose to rent an accommodation for their children. Households with lower incomes are more likely to rent accommodations. Poor households need to take higher cost to get quality education for their children under the policy on consolidation of primary schools, which is a new feature of inequality in rural primary education. The study suggests that, besides continuing improving the facilities of boarding schools, the government should pay more attention to students of low income households to promote educational equality, and start to implement pilot projects like “Special Low-rent Housing for Education” and “Subsidies for Educational Rental Accommodations”.

Keywords:

Rental accommodation; Rural Education; Inequality in education; Rural China