

ECONOMÍA DE LA EDUCACIÓN
BA in Economics, and in Economics & International Studies
UC3M.
Syllabus, academic year 2020-2021

I.- Introduction

1.- Introduction

Human capital indicators: Gross and Net enrolment rates, Indicators on educational expenditures and the stock of human capital. Cross-country comparisons.

Human capital and economic growth: Is there any causal relationship? Is school quality driving countries' economic growth or is it that richer countries have better education systems?

(Chapter. 1)

II.-The Demand for Education

2.- Education Demand

Why do some individuals decide to study after finishing compulsory education? Which are the factors explaining the demand for education?

The Human Capital Model and its implications. Education as a Consumption Good. The Signaling Model. Intergenerational transmission of inequality.

Empirical implications of the models. Determinants of individual education investments: socio-economic background and employment perspectives after graduation.

(Chapters. 2 and 3)

3.- The Economic Returns to Education

Are there economic returns to investments in education?

Mincer Earnings Equation. Empirical Estimates of the Return to Education: methodology, main results, limitations (biased estimators) and possible solutions. Effects of educational attainment on labor market outcomes. Applications. Are there too many university graduates (over-education)?

(Chapter 4)

III.- The Production of Education

4.- Educational Costs

Which are the costs of studying?

Educational Costs and Expenditures. Public and Private Expenditure on Education. Educational Costs Functions. Economies of Scale and Scope in Education.

(Chapter 5)

5.- The Production of Education

How is school quality measured? Which are the factors explaining school quality? How can we explain the fact that two students with the same number of years of education acquire different levels of human capital? Which is the impact on school quality of increasing class size? Which are the determinants of school dropout?

School Inputs and Outputs (Student Achievement): definitions and measures. The Impact of the Coleman Report. Education Production Functions: the cumulative education production model, and the “value-added” model.

The Determinants of School Quality. Main results in the literature on the relative impact of school inputs on student achievement: education spending, class size, peer-group effects, teachers’ quality, school quality, ‘tracking policy’ etc.

(Chapter 6)

IV.- The Financing of Education

6.- The Financing of Compulsory Education

State and Local funding of publicly provided education. School vouchers: models and experiments. Publicly financed Private Education. Equity and Efficiency. School choice issues. Which are the effects of different school systems and school choice programs on equality of opportunity?

(Chapter 7)

7.- The Financing of Higher Education

How may an increase in university fees affect equity and efficiency in higher education?

Fees, scholarships, loans and taxes. International experiences across OECD countries. The Financing of Public Universities.

(Chapter 9 and parts of 8 and 10)

Main references:

- Book “Economía de la educación”. Editorial Síntesis, Madrid, 2001. M^a Jesús San Segundo.
- References for each topic will be presented in the lectures along the course, covering some parts of the syllabus not included in the book, and they will be uploaded in Aula Global.

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