

EVALUATION AND PROSPECTS OF METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES CONCERNING PRIMARY EDUCATION IN COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH: THE POINT OF VIEW OF DEMOGRAPHERS

Richard MARCOUX

Département de sociologie, Université Laval, Québec, Canada

Marc PILON

IRD and UERD, Université de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Abstract

Scientific interest for family practices on school enrolment is relatively recent in Africa. The literature on this issue over the last ten years focuses mostly on demand for education, and this is linked to the persistent under-enrolment of girls. Yet establishing the links between family and school enrolment requires access to information about both elements. This poses, as we will see, major methodological challenges, notably in describing these complex social processes. The aim of this chapter is to evaluate recent methodological prospects developed by demographers and the data sources they use which will make it possible to link children's school history with certain components of family dynamics. After having revealed the inadequacy of current school statistics in addressing these challenges we will successively present the different methodological approaches we feel are adapted and the corresponding sources of data. Using the new paradigm made available by event history analysis for the study of demographic behaviours, in the last section we will attempt to see what prospects this approach may offer for the analysis of children's school history.