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| Does Israel Offer Equal Opportunities For Higher Education?  האם מדינת ישראל נותנת שוויון הזדמנויות להשכלה גבוהה?  Dr Zehorit Dadon-Golan  School of Education, Bar Ilan University and Hemdat Hadarom College of Education, Israel. | |
| **Abstract:** (300 words) Inequality in educational outcomes is currently at the heart of public and academic debate throughout the world in general, and in Israel in particular. Educational inequality is a key factor leading to future social and economic inequality. Therefore, the **objectives** of this research are: to measure to what extent Israel offers equal opportunities for Higher Education to all of its citizens by conceptualizing an innovative framework for measuring educational inequality (based on the matriculation exam which  constitutes a prerequisite for admission to higher education); to measure trends in educational inequality over time; and to analyze the underlying origins of this equality, based on educational quality indices developed in this work.  The research **method** is based on applying the Gini coefficient to the field of education in order to determine the extent of inequality.  **A unique database** was specifically developed for this research by the Ministry of Education. This database includes data on student levels throughout the last decade (2012-2016).  **The findings** of the inequality analysis based on the Gini coefficient indicate that the level of overall inequality decreased throughout the years 2012-2016 (by 4%). This trend is salient in cross-sectional analysis because of the variables of gender, region, and maternal education.  The theoretical and empirical importance of this research lies in its conceptualization, development, and measurement of the factors affecting educational inequality. More specifically, as well as being descriptive research that deals with educational inequality, this study empirically examines the causes, origins, and trends of educational inequality. | **Photo** |
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| **Biography**  Dr Zehorit Dadon- Golan has a master’s degree in Logistics and Economics as a part of a unique project for graduate students, and a Ph.D in the field of Economics of Education from Bar-Ilan University, where she was awarded a Presidential scholarship for excellent Ph.D students. She subsequently completed her post-doctoral research on Higher Education from the Department of Economics under the supervision of Prof. Adrian Zaiderman and Dr Iris BenDavid Hadar.  Dr Dadon-Golan has presented her work at a number of international conferences, such as the conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), and won “excellent article” for her research on inequality in education in Israel. She has also won several grants from the Research and Planning Administration of the National Insurance Institute in Israel.  **Her areas of expertise are:** Economics of Education, Poverty and Inequality in Education and Higher Education. | |