

Socioeconomic segregation of students

Claudia Prieto Latorre^{1,2}; Oscar D. Marcenaro-Gutierrez³; Anna Vignoles⁴

Summary: School segregation may be questioning the equity of the Spanish educational system. In this research, we analyse the school segregation by socioeconomic status using the Hutchens Index. Specifically, we decompose the effect of attending public vs semiprivate schools in terms of segregation. The analyses is based on data collecting information from the population of Andalusian students attending 5th grade. We found significant differences in the level of segregation between both schools types. Particularly, the results show that students from high socioeconomic and cultural status are more segregated in public schools, while students from a low socioeconomic and cultural status are more segregated in semiprivate schools. These differences provide evidence of the inequity of the education policy, which should rethink funding mechanisms as a means to fight against inequality.

Key words: school segregation; socioeconomic level; public schools; semiprivate schools; Hutchens Index.

JEL Classification: I24

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¹ Departamento de Economía Aplicada (Estadística y Econometría), Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales, Universidad de Málaga, C/ Ejido, 6, 29013, Málaga, España. Tel.: +34 95 213 7003; Fax: +34 95 213 7262. email: claudiaprieto@uma.es

² University of Malaga PhD Program in Economics and Business

³ Corresponding author. Departamento de Economía Aplicada (Estadística y Econometría), Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales, Universidad de Málaga, C/ Ejido, 6, 29013, Málaga, España. Tel.: +34 95 213 7003; Fax: +34 95 213 7262. e-mail: odmarcenaro@uma.es

⁴ Faculty of Education and Jesus College, University of Cambridge, 184 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8PQ, UK. Phone: + 44 (0)1223 767626. e-mail: av404@cam.ac.uk