

Abstract

The thesis addresses the topic of educational aspirations, which is perceived as one of the important issues in the field of educational inequalities. Specifically, the thesis focuses on the factors influencing the educational aspirations of fifteen-year-old students from elementary schools in the Czech Republic and how these factors have evolved from the year 2003 to 2022. The theoretical part of the thesis describes the key concepts related to educational aspirations and also introduces social stratification models, which partially underpin the study of such aspirations. The thesis also presents the results of previous studies on educational aspirations, particularly from the Czech context, which were subsequently utilized in the practical part. This section of the thesis is dedicated to the analysis of data from the international PISA survey, specifically its editions spanning from the year 2003 to 2022. The analysis focuses on identifying significant factors influencing educational aspirations and their development over the observed period. The most important factors influencing educational aspirations were found to be gender, mathematical abilities, parental education, as well as socioeconomic index, and cultural capital of the family. The evolution of these factors over time appears to be predominantly stable; the presumed weakening of the influence of social background on educational aspirations across the observed years was not evidenced, and rather opposite trends of this influence can be observed.