

23.12.2024

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**Title**

Creating (in) equalities in access to higher education in the context of structural adjustment and post-adjustment policies : the case of Chile

**Publication year**

2008

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education. - 55 (2008) 3, S. 269 - 284

**Inventory number**

23886

**Keywords**

Ausland : Chile : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Ausland : Chile : Studenten, Studium, Lehre ; Hochschule und Staat : allgemein ; Hochschule : Privathochschule

**Abstract**

By analyzing the access of different socio-economic groups to post-secondary institutions by quintile, this paper examines the impact produced by higher education financing policies in Chile during the Pinochet (1973?1990), the Aylwin (1990?1994) and the Frei (1994?2000) administrations. To this purpose, CASEN databases and semi-structured interviews conducted with former and current government officials as well as higher education administrators provide valuable information to measure the impact that higher education financing policies had on different socio-economic groups. Access to post-secondary institutions is seen in relation to two aspects: (a) enrollment rates by type of institution and sector and (b) access of students (18?24 year-old group) by family per capita income level. Major conclusion set up that despite increased participation across all socio-economic groups within the post secondary system, upper and upper-middle income students gained access to higher education disproportionately compared to lower, lower-middle, and middle income groups during the

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1987?1998 period. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Espinoza, Oscar, E-Mail: oscar.espinoza@udp.cl