FACTS THAT ACCOUNT FOR UNIVERSITY DROP-OUTS

Andrea Canales*
Danae de los Ríos*

ABSTRACT
The paper presents a qualitative approach to the results of a research study on the main causes and determining factors that underlie university drop-outs in Chile. Research results suggest that dropping out occurs in two forms: permanently and temporarily with major differences underlying each case. Temporary drop-outs are caused mainly by vocational, sociocultural and motivational factors. Permanent drop-outs are due to socioeconomic reasons. Factors that account for either type of drop-out reflect the different opportunities and limitations that students face in the present day educational system. Thus, consideration of these factors is essential for drafting educational policies in order to reduce the negative effects involved.

Key words: reasons for university drop-outs, temporary drop-outs, permanent drop-outs.

* Centro de Investigación en Creatividad y Educación Superior (CICES), Universidad de Santiago de Chile. Chile. Contactos: acanales@usach.cl; ddelosrios@usach.cl