VULNERABLE STUDENTS STAYING AT HIGHER EDUCATION

Andrea Canales, Danae de los Ríos

ABSTRACT
This paper is aimed to understand from a qualitative point of view the main determinants allowing vulnerable students to stay at university. The research found that more vulnerable students face numerous obstacles at the moment of entering into the higher education system: inadequate high school education, lack of resources or poor social capital to fit into the educational system, among others. Beyond these challenges, vulnerable students who successfully stay at the university system are provided with institutional and family support facilitating their educational development. Likewise, they have personal skills such as achievement orientation, self understanding and awareness about their own vulnerability.

Key words: staying, retaining, vulnerable students, educational equity, resilience

1 Centro de Investigación en Creatividad y Educación Superior (CICES). Universidad de Santiago de Chile. Chile Contactos: andrea.canales@usach.cl, danae.delosrios@usach.cl