ABSTRACT

An increasing number of students is going on to higher education in Chile. Outstanding among these are young people from less well-to-do economic sectors who—at a notorious disadvantage—must compete with their fellow students from wealthier income levels. This undermines their possibilities of completing their studies. However, these young people represent the system’s capability to promote social mobility. Consequently, higher education establishments need to provide them with special attention and support. Identifying these young people by means of vulnerability indicators such as the one proposed—in addition to carrying out specific actions for their protection—brings in to the University the idea of equality and favors their retention, promotes social mobility and the development of the country.