Abstract

There are authors that attribute the decline in the academic performance of the offspring left at home to parents’ migration for work. The main argument explains the phenomena through the impairment of the family structure due to migration. I used survey data from 1811 high school students from Oradea and multi-level regression to show that the bi-variate relationship between GPA and the situation that both parents have migrated recently for work masks the simple fact that both the lower academic performance and migration are the products of a lower socio-economic status. The conclusion is that parents’ migration for work is not an academic risk for students.

Keywords: transnational families, academic performance, multilevel modeling

Introduction

Between 60,000 and 170,000 Romanian children¹ are in a situation where, according to official and research data, one or both of their parents have gone abroad for work, most of them in countries of Western Europe, like Italy, Spain or France. Several tragedies, especially suicide, which had been attributed to the

¹ The smaller figure was made public in June 2007 by the National Authority for the Protection of Children’s Rights (Realitatea, 2007) while the greater is an approximation based on a survey of the Romanian Gallup Organization and made public in October the same year (2007).