

According to Gary Becker's theory, human capital is a combination of features such as knowledge, skills, health, and various personality traits that affect the productivity of individuals. The level of human capital is usually determined by the level of education. And investments in education are considered in the economic literature as one of the most important elements of building the human capital. The stock of the human capital brings benefits for individuals, for example, in the form of higher wages, but it also beneficial for the whole society and economy. That is the reason why investing in education is good for us all. In Poland, as in the most countries in the world, the state offers free public education.

The purpose of this study is to identify parents' expenditures on children's education that are made despite access to public education, and to examine the impact of the factors described in literature that may affect their amount. It is particularly important in this project to examine how parents' education influences their spending, but also their attitudes towards education and the ways in which private and public education services are used by them. I plan to use quantitative data for this purpose, but also qualitative material from interviews with families.

Because in Poland, as in many other countries, education is decentralized, that is, management and funding lies with local governments, I plan to see if there are links between public and private spending on education. Affluent local governments can afford to spend more than the poorer. At the same time, wealthy families live in affluent local governments' territories, and they also have more financial opportunities. If the amount of private and public expenditure is thus linked, this may affect the persistence of educational inequalities in the country.

To accomplish the goal of my project I will use data collected during two studies conducted by the Educational Research Institute. Study on the Economic Determinants for Objectives and Guidelines on Allocation of Private and Public Education Spending in Poland 'BECKER, 2012-2014' and Study on Determinants of Educational Decisions 'UDE, 2012-2015'. I will supplement them using available statistics on public expenditure of local governments.

This study will fill the gap in knowledge about expenditures on education incurred by parents in Poland. Verification of the relationship between public and private spending may also show one of the mechanisms for the formation and maintenance of territorial educational inequalities, which should be of interest for Polish educational policy, as well as for policies of other countries with a similar system of education funding.