

Neighbourhood effects on Educational Outcomes: A Systematic Literature Review Protocol

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Abstract

Over the past 30 years, an increasing interest has arisen pertinent to the effects that neighbourhood might have on its residents' life potential that goes beyond any possible effect that their individual characteristics might have. Outcomes related to educational attainment and school dropout, social marginalisation, health and negative conduct have been examined through the process of a systematic literature review. However, a causal relationship between the neighbourhood and its potential effects is hard to determine as most relevant studies are correlational and fail to provide a robust causal relationship. The objective of the present paper is to present the protocol/theoretical basis of a systematic literature review (SLR) conducted on Scopus in June 2022 that aims to critically synthesize the last decade's relevant literature findings on the potential effects of a number of neighbourhood-related aspects on educational outcomes. The time frame was set from 2012 to the present day. The initial search yielded 7.277 hits. Filters were used to limit the results to studies written in English published in peer-reviewed journals only. Twenty nine articles were analysed. From each article, the following elements were recorded: sample size, sample age, sample gender composition, context, method and position of the construct "neighbourhood". The proposed SLR will be used as a means of linking studies' evidence that examine neighbourhood effects on educational outcomes. The results of this procedure will be (re)considered for reinterpretation and interconnection purposes in order to theoretically evaluate the degree of causality these studies report.

Keywords: achievement, attainment, community, socioeconomic status, SLR