

Well-being of youth with migration background in Germany

From

Elena Gross
University of Göttingen
Development Economics Research Group
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3
37073 Göttingen
Email: egross@uni-goettingen.de

This is an empirical study about youth in Germany. The intention is to explain fundamental factors and differences between well-being of youth with migration background and their native counterparts. The paper analyzes monetary factors, education, health and subjective related aspects contributing to well-being, and it improves the understanding of why immigrant and German youth differ from each other in subjective and objective dimensions. Data is taken from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) where a sample of teenagers who answered the special youth questionnaire is extracted. Information from the youth questionnaire then is pooled with information from the individual and household questionnaire to acquire information about teenagers, their parents and the socioeconomic background of the household. Then the analysis on well-being is done applying discrete choice models to investigate well-being from different perspectives.

The results show that youth with migration background lag behind their native counterparts in education but they feel more healthy and satisfied with their lives than Germans. Furthermore foreigners have a worse socioeconomic background compared to natives. The foreigner status per se is not a necessary condition for worse school performance of youth with migration background but their worse socioeconomic conditions are crucial determinants of their well-being and their future.