

Youth in Rural Migration towards Fez – Impact upon Academic and Socioprofessional Paths

Bernard Schlemmer¹

¹IRD, UMR 196 CEPED, Paris, France

bernard.schlemmer@ird.fr

This paper is based on fieldwork conducted in Morocco between 2000 and 2004, among young people who live in poor class neighborhoods of Fez (Fes-Medina mainly). It aims to compare the socio-professional careers of youth who have left school early, if they ever went to school, and the others who have go on studying beyond the legal age of schooling. 177 people from 174 different families were interviewed. The interviews aimed to gather information about themselves as well as about their siblings. The first results show that a significant proportion of those who have received only an informal training (apprenticeship in traditional crafts) managed to gain a social and professional status equivalent to the ones of many of their peers who had been to school. We then showed how the professional training system as it exists in Fez promotes inclusion by promoting non-formal knowledge. Having sum up these results, we will here attempt to see to what extent the family origins had an impact on these careers according to their status : the family is still rural (i.e, only the child moved to town or the whole family migrated after he was born) or the family is half-rural (parents migrated to town before their child was born) or it is an urban family (the father of the child was himself born in town). By comparing the individual careers of social and professional integration with the one of these three categories of family, we will attempt to see if the relation to knowledge and the use of academic knowledge (school), professional knowledge (apprenticeship)) legitimated by the urban population remains a key factor for plotting routes leading to employability socially recognized and valued, or not. Our hypothesis is that the geographical origin of the family is, in this case more important than the cultural level of the parents or the father's occupational status. But we emphasize that these results are to be connected with the weight of traditional crafts in the economy of this city, and is therefore not possible to extrapolate to other situations of urban migration.