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Intergenerational educational mobility in Serbia from 1980s to 2010

The aim of this paper is to examine different opportunities of the youth to enter in the educational system and to obtain certain educational diploma. Precisely, our goal is to investigate the influence of parents' education on the education of their offsprings. This phenomenon of intergenerational educational mobility will be investigated comparing two periods: the first one is the crisis of socialist system (1980-1991) and the second is period of post-socialist transformation in Serbia (1991-2010). Taking into consideration our aim, in this paper we will offer answers on three related questions:

1. What are the characteristics of intergenerational educational mobility in two aforementioned periods?
2. In what manner parents' education affect educational level of their children? (Has this factor had the same influence or it has changed during these three decades?)
3. What are the other factors which affect unequal access to different educational levels as well as drop-out? What is the influence of class, gender, settlement, ethnicity etc.?

In order to explain the process of intergenerational mobility in Serbia, we will highlight two crucial groups of factors. The first group reflects the importance of macro/structural factors such as the rise of industrialization (the development of secondary and tertiary sector), urbanization, institutional policies, and expansion of educational system. The second group of factors stresses the effect of micro mechanisms (the individual and family level) on the educational achievements.

Investigating the first group of factors, we will focus on the rate and extant of education throughout of time (also the influence of structural factors will be taken into consideration). Furthermore, we will examine second group of factors shading a light on unequal access to education, achievements on different educational levels and different individual chances to capitalize acquired cultural capital on the labor market.

For explanation of intergenerational educational mobility and the possibilities for young people to obtain certain education, it is especially useful classification (Lazić and Cvejić, 2004: 46–47) of class relations and social mobility in Serbia in three phases: 1. Crisis of socialism, 2. Blocked post-socialist transformation and 3. Unblocked post-socialist transformation. The first phase began in the late 1970s and it is characterized by gradual class closure due to the stagnation of industrialization and the reach of certain limits of economic system. Blocked and unblocked post-socialist transformation brought new changes in intergenerational mobility rates. The period of blocked post-socialist transformation led to drastic pauperization and the rise of class polarization, due to embargo, the civil war in surrounding countries and lack of readiness for change in politics and economic spheres. Finally, in the last phase of unblocked, unhindered

post-socialist transformation, we witnessed certain level of economic, political and social stabilization.

For analysis micro mechanisms of educational reproduction, we will use cultural capital theory, based on understanding of social stratification presented in Bourdieu's work (1986). According to this author, the position of the one holds in stratification system depends significantly on cultural capital of the family of origin (together with other sorts of capital). The two crucial institutions for reproduction of social positions are educational system and family. Additionally, educational system is, from this standpoint, in favor for those families and their descendants who have high level of cultural capital. In other words, the key function of educational institutions is reproduction of class relations.

For analysis we will use three methods: 1. Visual: self-reproduction and mobility rates (total and according to educational categories) using moving averages in ten years 2. Odd-ratio based on five-year age cohorts and 3. linear regression model which is used to measure the influence of parents' educational level on children's education.

In order to get big sample we will merge databases from three researches and we will use them as one sample. The first sample is from research „Social structure and life quality“ held in 1989 on the territory of ex-Yugoslavia and we will extract sample from Serbia without Kosovo (N=3769). The second sample is research in 2003 held in South East Europe (South-East European Social Survey Project - SEESSP), from which we will extract sample for Serbia (N=2709). Finally, the third sample is from survey held by Institute for sociological research – „Structure and changes of social relations“ from 2014 (N=1602). Total sample after merging all three databases is N=8080.