

A REVIEW ON REFUGEES, EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES

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EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION

How do **institutional** and **socioeconomic** factors shape the **access of refugees to secondary education** in **Sweden and Germany**, and how do these factors jointly determine **labour-market outcomes**?

BIBLIOGRAPHY



LITERATURE GAPS

- 1 **Broad focus made by other studies**
- 2 **Weak connection to labour market**
- 3 **Lack of comparative analysis**

RESEARCH AIMS

- 1 Conduct a **comparative** analysis of **Sweden** and **Germany** in terms of educational systems, to examine how the policies **enable / restrict refugees' access to secondary education**.
- 2 Examine the connection between **educational access** and **labour market outcomes** to understand how educational integration affects refugees' **long-term integration** and **economic participation**.

EDUCATION & INTEGRATION

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- Obtain recognized qualifications
- Expand labour market participation opportunities
- Reduce poverty for refugees in host society

*Education = Human capital
→ Employment opportunities*

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

- Contact with native-born students
- Cultivate cultural adaptation
- Support acculturation
- Impact social and political structures in host country

*Education = Social contact
→ Inclusion*

CASE STUDIES



SWEDEN

- Comprehensive
- Delayed sorting
- More flexibility
- Decentralised
- Fast access
- Inclusive integration model



GERMANY

- Competence of the federal states
- Early tracking
- Limited upward mobility
- Reduced flexibility
- Partially integrative model

COMPARISON

SIMILARITIES

- Rights to education
- Limited resources
- Funding issues
- Language proficiency

DIFFERENCES

- S: practical obligation
- S: administrative barriers
- G: early tracking
- G: partially integrative model

TABLE 1: Employment rate and secondary education enrollment in Germany and Sweden, for native-descendants and refugees

	Sweden		Germany	
	Native	Refugee	Native	Refugee
Secondary education enrollment (%)	78	78	77	23
Employment rate (%)	76	67	77	70

EFFECTS ON LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

- Education strongly affects employment opportunities
- Refugees face worse outcomes than native-born populations
- This discrepancy is explained by education, skills and language

REFUGEE-SPECIFIC DISADVANTAGES

- Interrupted education
- Non-recognized prior qualification(s)
- Late arrival + language barrier → delayed entry or inappropriate placement
- "Skill downgrading" – employment below qualification level

KEY INSIGHTS

Differences in educational pathway shaped by institutional design is reflected by unequal labour market outcomes

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Translate right to education directly into compulsory schooling
- Slowing placement delay by enforcing stricter immediate school attendance
- Reform early tracking in Germany
- Make higher educational pathways more accessible
- Move towards Swedish-style integration model
- Early interaction with native-born students

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- More funding for municipalities with high refugee inflow
- Prevent over-crowded classrooms
- Ensure high-quality school infrastructure
- Mandatory training for teachers on teaching the host country language as a second language
- Accessible trauma consultations for refugee students
- Address poor housing conditions of refugees
- Encourage extracurricular activities