THE ILLUSION OF SOCIAL CLASS IDENTITY AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF FATHER EDUCATION AS AN INDICATOR OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

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Abstract

The academic achievement of low social class students has been attributed to lack of ability and their socioeconomic Status (SES). However, a recent meta-analysis reported decreasing relationship between SES and academic achievement in the U.S. population (Sirin, 2005). The present study attempted to explore the relationship between social class identity processes and academic performance in an Indian context. The study took students’ self report on all indicators of SES and separated high and low social class students on the basis of their fathers’ education. The result showed that social class based identity process has less important role in explaining the existing academic achievement gap. Thus the need arises to explore other identities that may collaborate with the social class identity in an educational domain.

Keyword: socioeconomic status, social class, identity processes, academic achievement

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