

GAPS BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN STUDENTS IN COMPUTER AND INFORMATION LITERACY: INITIAL RESULTS FROM A CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISON

Plamen V. Mirazchiyski
International Educational Research and Evaluation Institute, Slovenia
plamen.mirazchiyski@ineri.org

Eva Klemenčič
International School for Social and Business Studies, Slovenia
eva.klemencic@pei.si

Abstract:

Today's modern society is increasingly driven by the new technologies and skills related to them become increasingly important for the future of today's youth. Student abilities in using technology, however, differ on various student socio-demographic characteristics, among other things. This study explores the differences in terms of a more specific aspect of technology related abilities – Computer and Information Literacy (CIL). It explores the gaps between students attending schools in different locations (rural and urban), using data from 18 countries participating in IEA's International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS). Statistically significant gaps between urban and rural students were found in 13 countries. The study also identifies the factors related with these gaps and how their relative effect varies across the countries. The main factors that explains the gaps are individual students' Socio-Economic Status (SES) which closes the gaps in four countries and the school-level SES which closes the gaps in all but one country.

Keywords: computer and information literacy, rurality, lower-secondary education, inequalities, cross-country comparison.