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Reconciling the Returns to Education and Employment in Rural China

Journal Article

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Previous studies have found that the returns to education in rural China are lower than estimates for other developing economies. In this paper, we provide more accurate estimates of the returns. Whereas estimates for the early 1990s show an average return of 6.4 percent. Furthermore, we find even lower returns for women, migrants, and for post-primary education. The difference between our estimate and previous estimates is due to the methodology used during the 1990s, a larger part of the difference is due to the methodological approaches used by other authors.

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