



The Private Tutoring Education in Bragança Region, Portugal

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Abstract

The use of remunerated tutoring service is a growing phenomenon in Portugal, particularly, due to the increase of this service demand, the high number of private tutors and the emergence of tutoring centres. The main objective of this investigation is to understand the expansion and the nature of the private tutoring phenomenon in Bragança Region, Portugal. To carry out this study, 249 students from the last year of Portuguese secondary education were surveyed during January 2011. Data from 148 questionnaires were received that corresponds an answer rate about 59.4%. In the same period, two managers of private tutoring centres and a private tutor were interviewed to understand the tutor's perspective. Descriptive statistics was computed with PASW Statistics 18 (Predictive Analytics Software). The results show that, 55.4% students are female and 44.6% are male. Most students (79.1%) learn science and technology and already had or have private tutoring during 2010/2011 (78.2%). The main reason to use tutoring services is to improve school results. Mathematics is the discipline with more demand (90.3%); 53.4% make use of 2-3 hours per week in private tutoring and 63.1% spends between 30 to 70 Euros per month. In tutor's perspective, the success rate is high and the strongest motive that justifies the demand for this type of service is to "achieve higher levels of excellence" and, that way, choose the course and the institution of higher education preferred.