

The influences schooling, urbanism and gender on level and structure of intelligence, and on school achievement

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Abstrak

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the influences of urbanism, schooling and gender on intelligence. An additional purpose was the investigation of the influences of urbanism and gender on school achievement. The first question pertinent to the problems in this investigation is: What is the impact of urban culture as compared to rural culture on the development of abilities? Will there be differences in the abilities of urban and rural children, not only in terms of level or quantity but also in terms of the kinds of strategies used in solving problems? The term urbanism in this study is taken from Wirth (1938) and has the meaning of way of life that is characteristic of people living in the cities. According to Wirth the study of urbanism can be approached from three inter-related perspectives: (1) as a physical structure, (2) as a system of social organization, and (3) as a set of attitudes and ideas and a "constellation of personalities". In the discussion he paid much attention to the last two perspectives. Defined as a way of life, urbanism then is identical to urban culture, because culture is defined as including a material aspect, as well as values, norms and knowledge that is made by humans for the regulation of social interaction and the enhancement of group living (Selo Soemardjan and Soelaeman Soemardi, 1964). Recent developments in social psychology are paying much attention to the non-material aspect which is given the name subjective culture, i.e. "... a cultural group's characteristic way of perceiving the man-made part of its environment. The perception of rules and the group's norms, roles, and values are aspects of subjective culture." (Triandis, 1972, p. 4). Based on the studies of anthropologists on urban (e.g. Basham, 1978) and rural (e.g. Koentjaraningrat, 1964) communities it can be concluded that the way of life in the cities is different from the way of life in the villages. The supposition in this study is that urban and rural people would develop different abilities and skills.