Quality and equity issues related to the integration of immigrant students in education

Petra Stanat
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Aileen Edele
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Abstract
The integration of immigrant students is a major concern in many countries. Children who immigrate with their parents to another country (first generation) typically face a number of challenges in adjusting to the new environment. Yet, even children of immigrants who were born and raised in their parents’ new country of residence (second generation) are often less successful in school than their peers from native families. The process of integration is complex and involves several aspects, as the distinction between structural, cultural, social and identity-related integration implies. In addition, factors at various levels have been suggested to affect the integration process in education, such as state-level regulations for immigration and integration, the composition of neighbourhoods and schools, and approaches to language teaching and learning. The presentation will provide an overview of research findings on some of these facets, with a special focus on those that are specific to an immigration background rather than the socioeconomic status of the family. These include issues related to identity and language. If time permits, research findings on effects of the student composition in classrooms will be discussed as well. The presentation will close with an outline of remaining challenges and open questions.