Abstract:

The main concern of the dissertation is to study the relationship between education and mental/manual division of labor in Jamaica within the Modern World-Economy. Who goes where at what level in schooling? What types of skills they obtain? What types of jobs and Income they get at the work place after going to these schools? What is the relationship between education, economic development, occupation and income? What roles does education play in the division of labor and social inequality. What are the consequences of these relationships? And what are the policy implications? The main argument is that differentiated access to educational system is a reproducer of differentiated labor power in a wage labor system characterized by a complete hierarchical social division of labor, which may reproduce patterns of social inequality. A summary of economic theories relevant in studying determinants of earning is made, Determinants of income and their relative importance between sectors and social classes of the Jamaican economy were investigated and estimated in order to adequately answer the above mentioned questions. A data - analytic study of determinants of earnings, using a stratified sample survey of 1200 industrial workers in 40 firms representing 10 industry types in Jamaica, is carried out. A basic model, which includes 10 variables and generating 10 hypotheses, .... is specified. The analysis involves descriptive and analytical statistics including recursive analysis. It was found that workers in lower level jobs face lower rewards to schools (lower slopes) than workers in higher level jobs; and the marginal returns to an increase in the mean level of education are higher among managers and supervisors than other workers. Finally, the study gives evidence of: 1) a threshold effect of education with an extremely limited payoff to primary education; 2) work experience and specific on-the-job training, trade union membership, social class and school type are more important and powerful predictors of income inequality than age, sex and color in Jamaica.