

Rural mothers' accounts of parental involvement: a case in a Mexican community**Azaola, Marta Cristina.** University of Bristol, UK

This research focuses on parental involvement in their children's education in a Mexican rural community. Applying Bourdieu's theory of practice, the key concepts under investigation were the parents' habitus, social, cultural and symbolic capital. The field of study comprised the educational domain within the village. From an ethnographic perspective, data was collected through a variety of research methods in the autumn of 2005. I managed to interact closely with participants in order to investigate their understandings of the value of formal and informal education in their lives. The values they transmitted to their children were also important objects of study. Investigating parents' background and their interaction with the community school was crucial in order to understand their constraints in getting involved in their children's education. Most of the findings demonstrate that parental involvement in the community was regarded mainly as a mothers' task and this paper attempts to illustrate this.