
THE RISE OF THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF GREEK MOTHERS AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE ORIENTATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

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ÖZET

Ulusal Yunan İstatistik Hizmeti bütün eğitim seviyelerini kapsayan verileri basmaktadır. Bu tür veriler yüksek eğitim öğrencilerinin ait olduğu sosyal sınıfı göstermektedir. En dikkat çekici görüş, ailelerin eğitim seviyeleri öğrencilerin hedeflerine ulaşmalarında ve de üniversite seçimlerinde önemli rol oynamaktadır. Bu çalışmanın odak noktası, Meslek Yüksek Okullarında öğrenim gören öğrencilerin anne ve babalarının eğitim seviyeleri arasındaki farklılıklardır. Babalarının eğitim seviyelerinin genellikle annelerinkinden yüksek olmasına rağmen annelerinin eğitim seviyelerinde son onbeş yıl içinde (1984/1985-1999/2000) önemli yükselme görülmüştür. Bu çalışmanın bulguları, Meslek Yüksek Okullarında öğrenim gören öğrencilerin, lise ve yüksek okul mezunu annelerinin oranı yükselirken ilkökul mezunu annelerin oranı ise düşmekte olduğunu ortaya koymuştur.

ABSTRACT

The National Greek Statistical Service publishes data covering all educational levels. Many such data pertain to the social provenance of higher

education students. One of the most interesting aspects is the parents' educational level which, in addition to a university student's choices, plays a very important role in the attainment of the student's goals. Our interest focuses on the difference in the educational level between the two parents of Technical College (T.E.I.) students during a series of academic years with the intent to demonstrate that, although the fathers' educational level is generally higher than that of the mothers', the latter has shown a significant rise during a fifteen year period (1984/1985-1999/2000). Our findings reveal that the proportion of mothers of T.E.I. students with an educational level higher than high school is increasing, while, at the same time, the number of mothers of the aforesaid students with an elementary school educational level is decreasing.

DATA

The data used in our study are based on the distribution of the educational level of the parents of first year students in the T.E.I. of Greece for the academic years 1984/1985, 1988/1989, 1992/1993, 1996/1997 and 1999/2000, the last available year provided by the National Statistical Service. During the period examined in our study, we have used data

for the following T.E.I.: the T.E.I. of Athens, Crete, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Western Macedonia, Larissa, Patras, Piraeus, Serres, Mesolonghi, Kalamata, Chalkida, Lamia and Epeiros. The T.E.I. of Kalamata, Lamia and Epeiros began to function later in relation to the others. The technological specialization of these Institutes often depends on their locality. Thus, some of them are oriented toward agriculture, forestry, fishery and some toward other traditional occupations.

For every academic year examined in our study, in order to make comparison more accessible, we have chosen to use the percentage of students whose parents have a specific level of education in relation to the total number of students in a particular T.E.I. This is presented in a table for every Institution as well as for the total number of these particular students in the country as a whole. Every table is accompanied by the corresponding graphs.

RESULTS

The trends we examine pertain mainly to two educational levels located at the two ends of the educational spectrum: post-secondary and elementary school.

POST-SECONDARY

This category includes parents who have graduated from higher technical schools and

universities or those who have done post-graduate studies. From tables 1 and 2 we can state that for the five examined academic years the percentage of fathers who have completed higher education is higher than the corresponding percentage of mothers. In general, though, the percentage of parents who belong to this category is constantly increasing. In regard to this aspect, two things must be pointed out:

1. As it is shown in Tables 1 and 2 and as it is demonstrated in Figures 1 and 2, in every T.E.I. as well as in their totality, there is a significant increase in the percentage of both parents who have followed higher education in the period between 1988 and 1992 and between 1992 and 1996. The increase between 1984 and 1988 as well as between 1996 and 1998 applies to the totality of students in all technical schools T.E.I., but does not apply to every particular institution.

2. There is an interesting difference between the graduation percentages of fathers and mothers from institutions of higher education during the period examined in this study. This difference is demonstrated in Tables 1 and 2.

In 1999 there were 2,39 times more fathers holding higher education degrees than there were in 1984. In certain T.E.I. there is an even more impressive increase: this increase is 3,16 times greater for the Serres T.E.I., 3,01 times for the Larissa T.E.I., 2,97 times for the Kavala T.E.I., and 2,90 for the Thessaloniki T.E.I.

Table 1: Percentage of fathers with higher education degrees

	1984 (1)	1988 (2)	1992 (3)	1996 (4)	1999 (5)	(5):(1)
GREECE	9,63	11,03	17,34	22,77	23,09	2,39
TEI of Athens	12,52	15,37	22,06	28,74	28,24	2,26
TEI of Crete	8,24	9,76	14,39	22,30	22,40	2,72
TEI of Thessaloniki	8,64	9,74	18,26	23,12	25,04	2,90
TEI of Kavala	7,18	7,52	11,52	17,87	21,31	2,97
TEI of Western Macedonia	7,88	9,39	15,31	18,36	20,32	2,58
TEI of Larissa	7,47	9,30	14,44	21,75	22,46	3,01
TEI of Patras	8,44	8,50	15,40	19,97	21,89	2,59
TEI of Piraeus	13,60	13,65	20,00	23,35	26,88	1,98
TEI of Serres	6,72	8,58	13,14	16,74	21,23	3,16
TEI of Mesolonghi	6,72	9,23	14,88	21,91	18,48	2,75
TEI of Kalamata			11,32	20,00	15,19	1,34*
TEI of Chalkida	15,51	10,76	18,94	21,80	23,03	1,48
TEI of Lamia				24,70	25,11	1,02**
TEI of Epeiros				22,81	18,44	0,81**

* (5):(3) ** (5):(4)

Table 2: Percentage of mothers with higher education degrees

	1984 (1)	1988 (2)	1992 (3)	1996 (4)	1999 (5)	(5):(1)
GREECE	3,59	4,61	9,79	14,51	15,48	4,31
TEI of Athens	4,56	6,20	13,43	19,21	20,78	4,56
TEI of Crete	3,20	4,61	8,66	14,65	14,26	4,46
TEI of Thessaloniki	3,73	4,60	10,99	16,02	18,18	4,87
TEI of Kavala	3,87	3,28	6,15	9,07	13,68	3,53
TEI of Western Macedonia	3,19	2,90	8,15	11,42	12,55	3,93
TEI of Larissa	2,71	4,06	8,06	13,40	14,63	5,40
TEI of Patras	2,81	3,48	7,43	13,00	13,74	4,89
TEI of Piraeus	4,83	5,96	11,49	15,19	18,71	3,87
TEI of Serres	2,13	2,98	6,94	11,26	15,01	7,05
TEI of Messolonghi	2,52	3,26	6,92	12,70	11,71	4,65
TEI of Kalamata			5,66	11,60	10,19	1,80*
TEI of Chalkida	3,16	3,95	8,12	10,63	12,32	3,90
TEI of Lamia				16,16	16,40	1,01**
TEI of Epeiros				13,93	12,47	0,90**

*(5):(3) ***(5):(4)

Conversely, for certain T.E.I. the increase is smaller than the mean rate of 2,39. These are: the T.E.I. of Chalkida (1,48 increase), Piraeus (1,98 increase), and Athens (2,26 increase). It is then evident that the level of higher education among fathers of students has increased more rapidly during the fifteen-year period studied here in the T.E.I. of northern Greece than in those of the region of the capital and its environs. The students in these three institutions (Chalkida, Piraeus and Athens) come mainly from the capital whose residents enjoy a higher level of education.

Along with the rise of the educational level of fathers, there has been an even more significant increase in the percentage of mothers who have followed higher education. On a national level, this percentage has more than quadrupled during the fifteen years under examination. Specifically it has risen from 3,59 in 1984 to 15,48 in 1999.

The most noteworthy changes have taken place in the T.E.I. of Serres, Larissa, Patras and Messolonghi. In the Serres T.E.I. the percentage of degree holding mothers has gone from 2,13% to 7,05%, in Larissa from 2,71% to 4,89% and in Messolonghi from 2,52% 4,65%.

Based on the comparison between fathers and mothers, we can conclude that the rate of increase of college graduates was twice as much for mothers than for fathers. This may be due to the fact that during the period between 1984 and 1999 there are records for more women in the age to have college age-children (older than 18 years old) as well as to the fact that a college graduate

mother plays a more decisive role in a young person's admission in a T.E.I.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Having examined the changes of the percentage of parents who have completed higher education, we will examine the state that exists at the other end of the educational spectrum. In 1984 there was a large percentage of adults in Greece who had not finished elementary school. This category included 14,53% fathers and 19,53% mothers of T.E.I. students. Fifteen years later these percentages had decreased significantly and the situation among the parents of T.E.I. students was as follows: 2,47% of fathers and 2,33% of mothers had not finished elementary school. Having examined the changes of the percentage of parents who have completed higher education, we will examine the state that exists at the other end of the educational spectrum.

1. Tables 3 and 4 and Diagrams 3 and 4 show that there was a consistent decrease of the percentage of mothers and fathers who had not finished elementary school during the entire period we examine on the national level as well as for every T.E.I. without exception. In the case of both parents, we note a more significant decrease between 1992 and 1996 and also between 1996 and 1998.

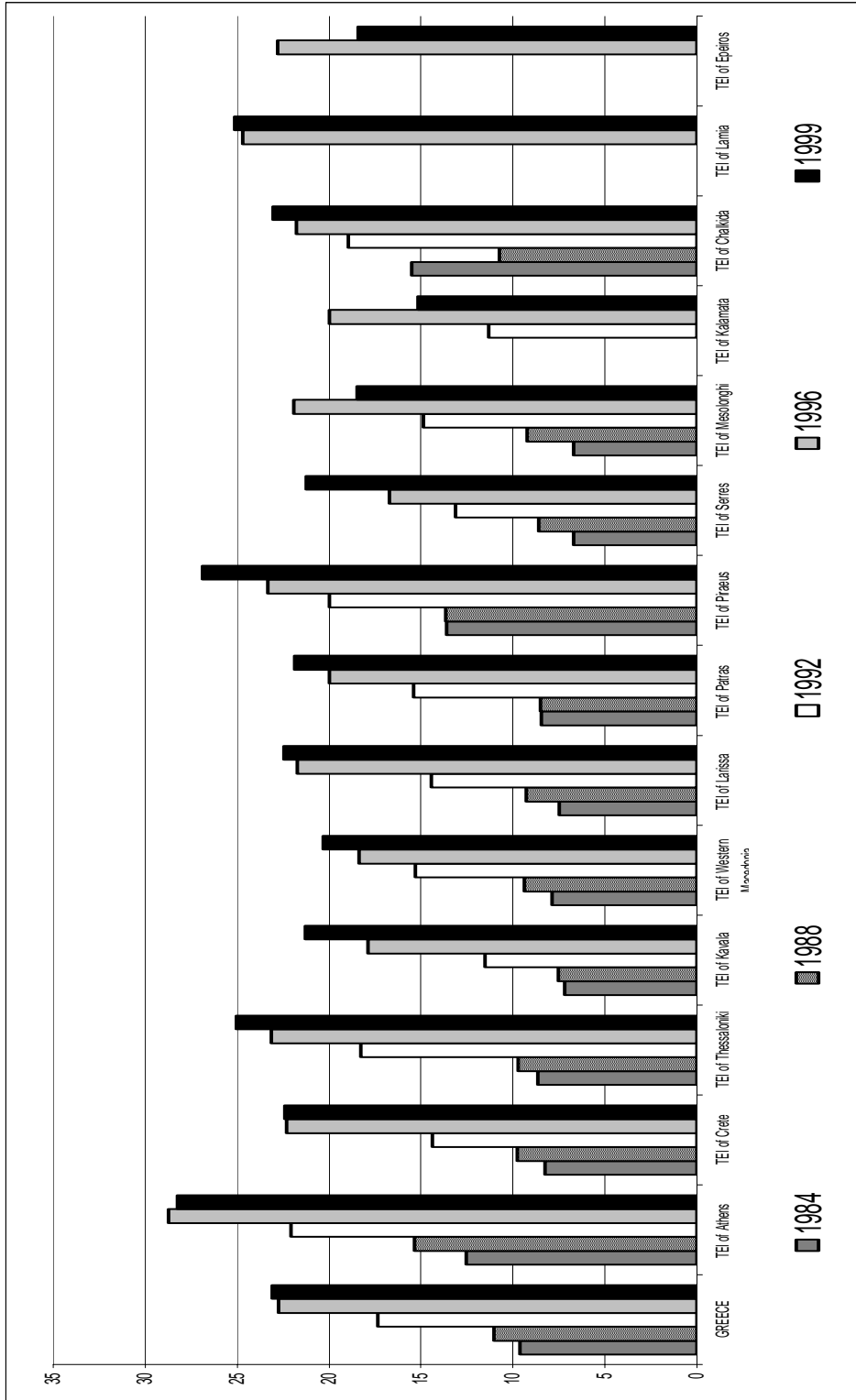


Figure 1: Timeline of percentage of fathers with higher education degrees

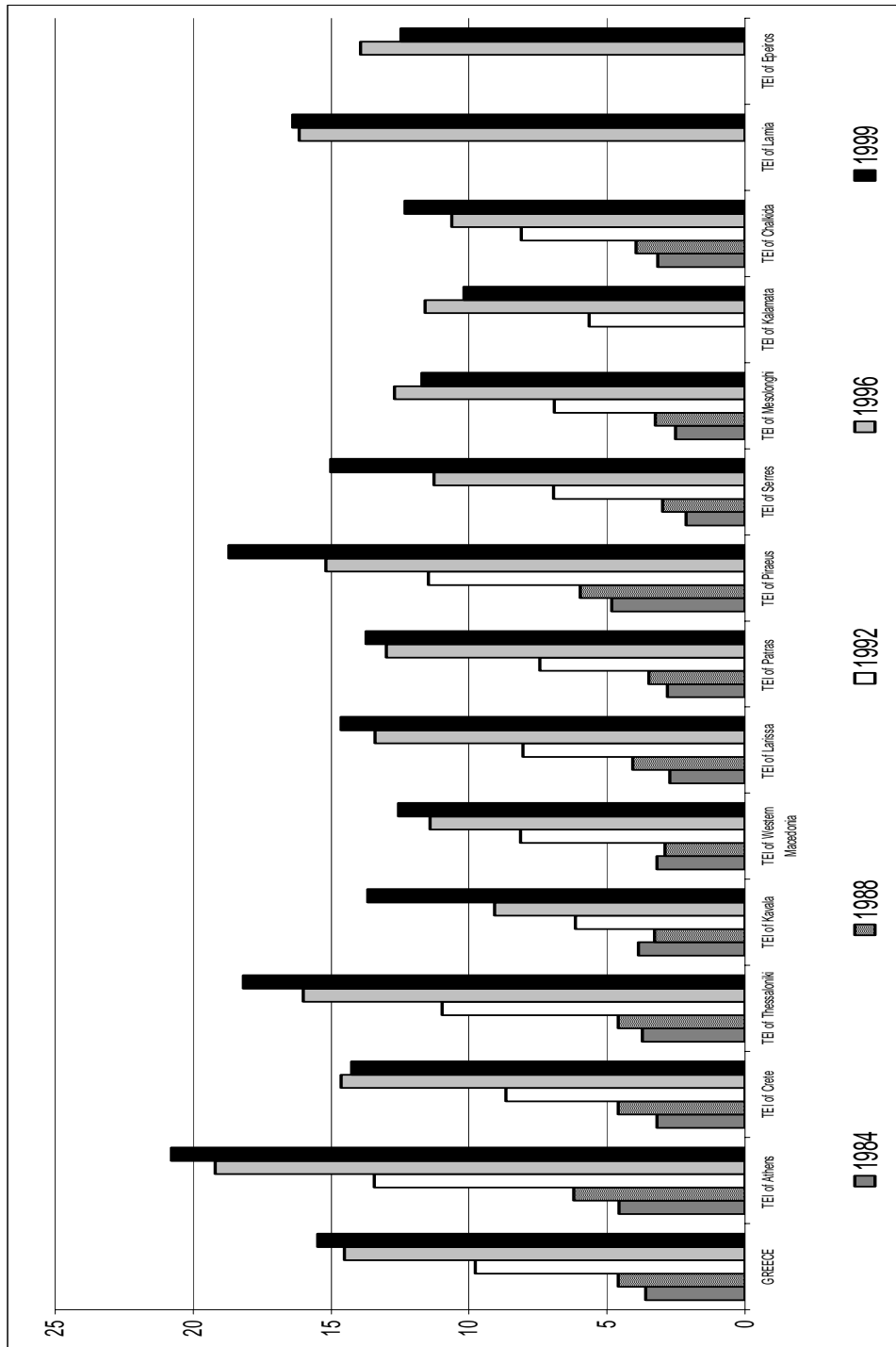


Figure 2: Timeline of percentage of mothers with higher education degrees

2. Equally impressive is the rate of the decrease in the number of the parents of this educational level. The data of Tables 3 and 4 are revealing. During the time period we are examining the percentage of fathers who had not completed elementary school had decreased by 5,88 times. The most significant decreases took place in the T.E.I. of Serres (from 15,57% to 1,42%), of Kavala (from 14,81% to 1,91%), of Messolonghi (16,11% to 2'37%), of Western

Macedonia from 17,07% to 2,63%), and of Larissa (from 16,61% to 2,72%).

As already mentioned, the decrease in the number of mothers who had not finished elementary school was even more impressive: In 1999 there were 8,38 times fewer students in comparison to 1985, whose mothers belonged to this category. The most impressive changes are observed in the T.E.I. of Patras (a decrease from

18,58% to 1,53%), Serres (decrease from 22,07% to 1,83%), Larissa (decrease from 21,58% to 2,11%) Kavala (decrease from 19,93% to

2,04%), Western Macedonia (from 21,36% to 2,32%), and Halkida (from 16,57% to 1,82%).

Comparing the data of fathers of T.E.I students who have not finished elementary school with those of their mothers, we conclude that the decrease of this

category was 42,5% higher for mothers. This is indicative of the more rapid decrease of the percentage of women who have not completed primary education. Moreover, Tables 3 and 4 lead us to conclude that in the last two periods the percentage of mothers of this category was in absolute terms smaller than the corresponding percentage of fathers. In 1996 the percentage of fathers was 4,53% while that of mothers was 4,50% and in 1999 the respective percentages were 2,47% and 3,33%.

Table 3: Percentage of fathers who had not finished elementary school

	1984 (1)	1988 (2)	1992 (3)	1996 (4)	1999 (5)	(5):(1)
GREECE	14,53	11,37	9,93	4,53	2,47	5,88
TEI of Athens	13,98	10,60	8,29	3,95	2,44	5,73
TEI of Crete	13,71	10,01	9,94	4,96	3,29	4,17
TEI of Thessaloniki	14,72	12,38	11,04	5,05	2,47	5,96
TEI of Kavala	14,81	11,49	11,23	4,58	1,91	7,75
TEI of Western Macedonia	17,07	13,12	9,99	4,91	2,63	6,49
TEI of Larissa	16,61	13,23	10,06	4,84	2,72	6,11
TEI of Patras	13,85	11,81	10,44	5,42	2,35	5,89
TEI of Piraeus	12,71	9,37	9,99	4,00	2,76	4,61
TEI of Serres	15,57	12,40	11,38	4,97	1,42	10,96
TEI of Mesolonghi	16,11	5,97	11,45	4,55	2,37	6,80
TEI of Kalamata			16,98	5,07	3,17	5,36*
TEI of Chalkida	10,24	11,09	8,02	3,36	1,75	5,85
TEI of Lamia				3,81	1,99	1,99**
TEI of Epeiros				4,44	2,42	1,83**

*(5):(3) ***(5):(4)

Table 4: Percentage of mothers who had not finished elementary school

	1984 (1)	1988 (2)	1992 (3)	1996 (4)	1999 (5)	(5):(1)
GREECE	19,53	14,21	11,53	4,50	2,33	8,38
TEI of Athens	18,68	13,87	10,18	4,16	2,49	7,50
TEI of Crete	18,00	12,73	11,15	5,08	2,86	6,29
TEI of Thessaloniki	19,76	14,87	11,93	3,82	2,47	8,00
TEI of Kavala	19,93	13,41	13,04	4,76	2,04	9,79
TEI of Western Macedonia	21,36	18,09	11,51	3,79	2,32	9,21
TEI of Larissa	21,58	15,68	12,67	4,43	2,11	10,23
TEI of Patras	18,58	16,59	12,23	4,49	1,53	12,14
TEI of Piraeus	18,20	12,68	10,34	5,57	2,46	7,40
TEI of Serres	22,07	15,02	12,36	5,17	1,83	12,06
TEI of Mesolonghi	21,99	7,73	11,64	6,06	2,91	7,56
TEI of Kalamata			14,15	4,27	2,79	5,07*
TEI of Chalkida	16,57	11,75	10,66	4,12	1,82	9,10
TEI of Lamia				4,74	1,70	2,79**
TEI of Epeiros				4,08	2,68	2,23**

*(5):(3) ***(5):(4)

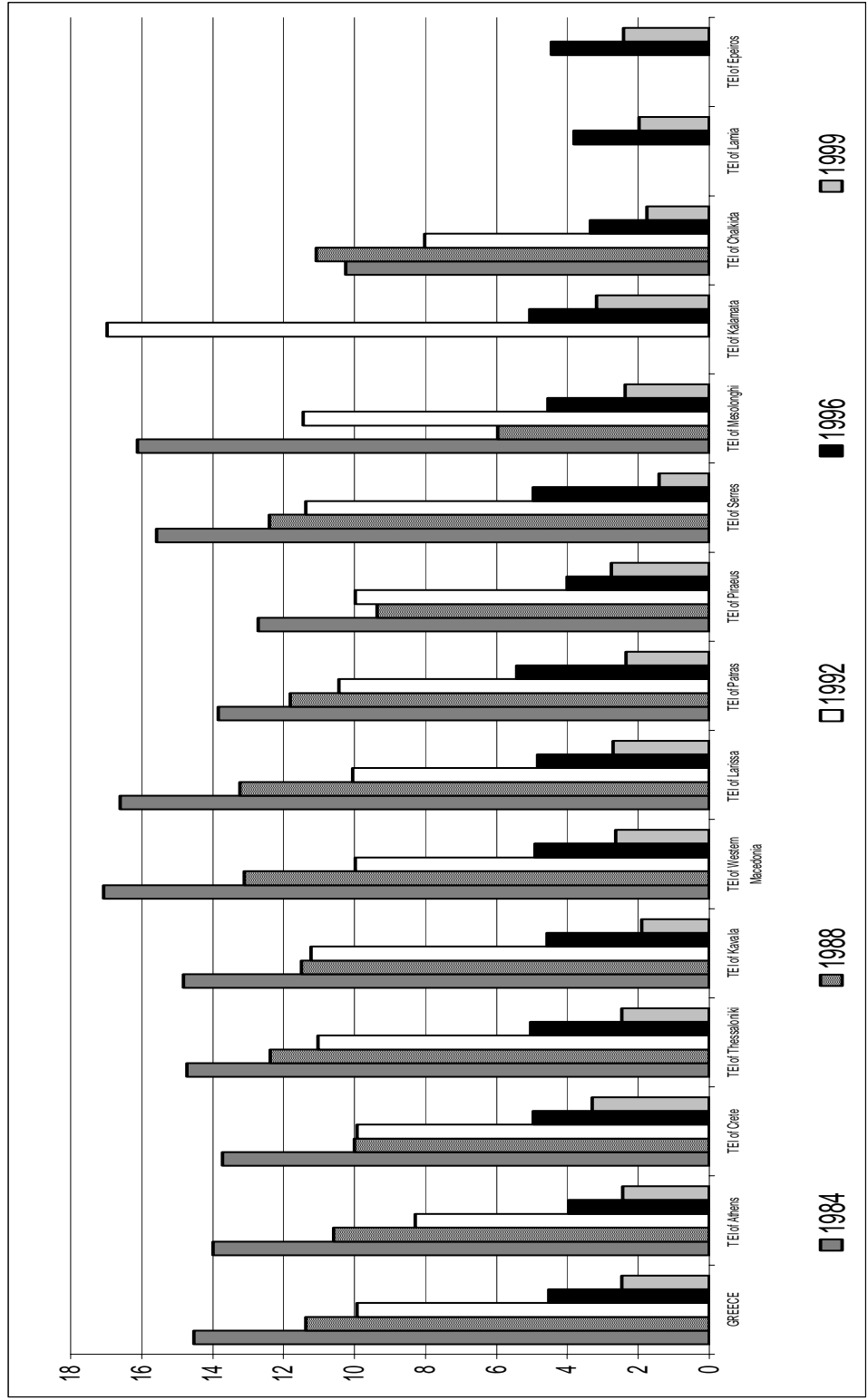


Figure 3: Timeline of percentage of fathers who had not finished elementary

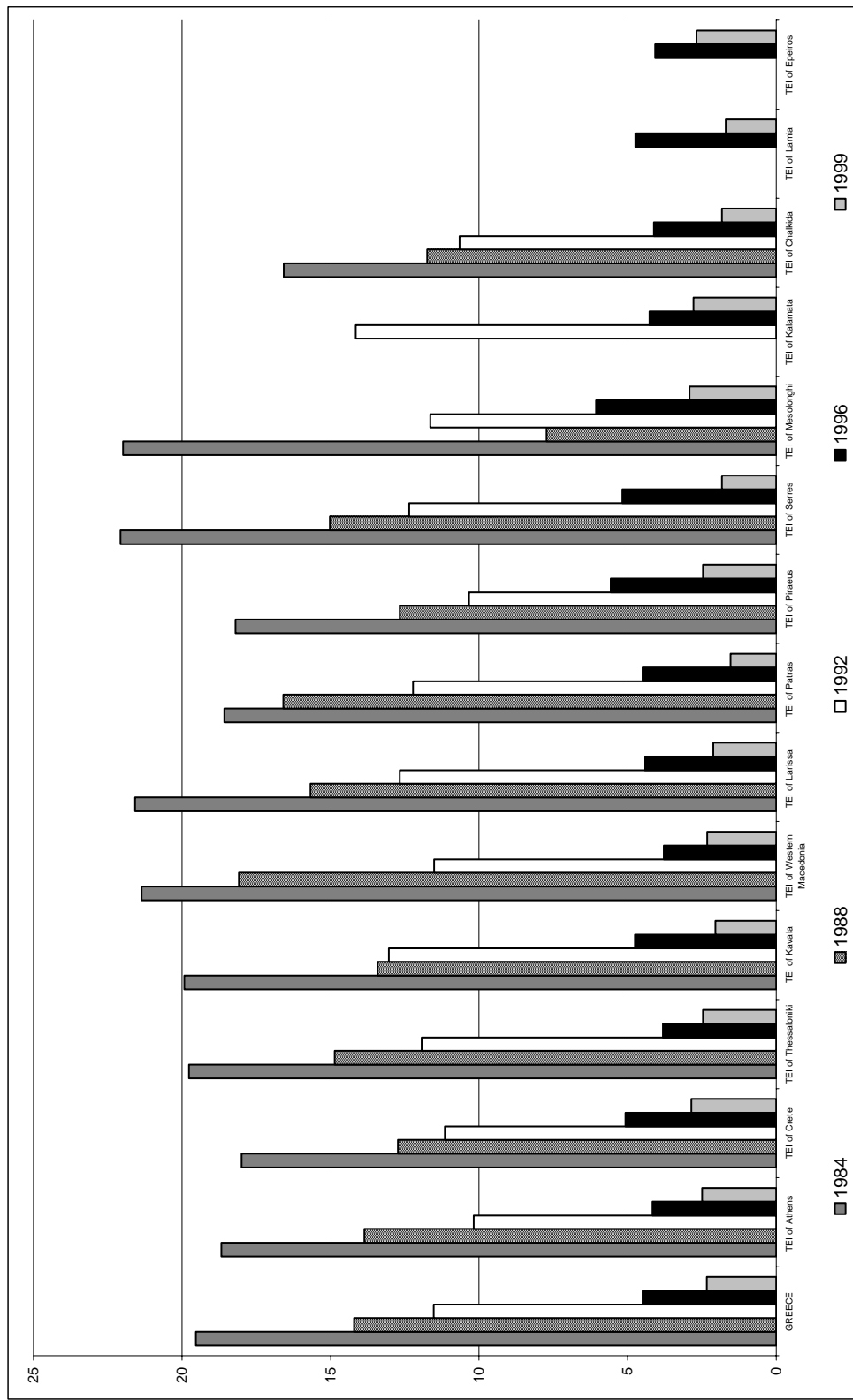


Figure 4: Timeline of percentage of mothers who had not finished

CONCLUSION

The tables and diagrams we provide indicate a significant increase in the number of degree-holding parents of first-year students in one of the fourteen T.E.I. of Greece between 1984 and 1999.

If, at the same time, we compare our data with those provided by the general Census of 1981, 1991 (and 2001), we can ascertain that in 1981 the percentage of male college graduates was 7,80% and of their female counterparts 4,12%; in 1991 the corresponding percentages rose to 10,40% and 7,06% respectively, and in 2001, to 13,46% and 11,15% respectively.

We are confronted, however, with a problem of comparability between college graduates in the general population and the corresponding number among parents.

This does not prevent us from ascertaining that for the students admitted to the T.E.I., the percentage of degree-holding parents is constantly rising and, during these last years, the rise in the percentage of degree-holding mothers is much higher than that of fathers: in average it is 80,33% higher among mothers.

The above data and analysis lead to the conclusion that the presence of mothers with higher education plays an increasingly significant role for the admission of young people to T.E.I., particularly after 1992.

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