Abstract. The present study focuses on the relation between parents’ cultural capital and their cognitive representations upon education which affects their investment in children’s education. The data used are provided by the Public Opinion Barometer from March 2004, which includes a set of questions related to the educational system. Social classes tend to culturally reproduces themselves through investments in their children’s education. The habitus of the classes differentiate among investments strategies and practices concerning the children’s education. The rural space, generally deprived of a high volume of cultural capital, is associated with short term investments strategies, because work allow financial profits earlier (11.9% of the rural population advise their children to work, compared to 7.4% of the urban population, $\varphi=0.113$, $p<0.001$). The data analysis shows that the investment in cultural capital is differently acknowledged by the social actors depending on the amounts of cultural capital possessed.

Key words: educational investment; representations upon education; public opinion; social classes.

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