

CCTs and education in Argentina and Brazil: synergies and challenges

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**How do we produce knowledge
about education policies?
Data... but also systematic reviews
(of research, theories of change)**



Theories of change on CCTs and education in Argentina and Brazil

- Expected effects of CCTs on poverty: activation, empowerment, strengthening social capital, improving conditions for learning.
- In Arg and Brazil, can CCTs also compensate for huge inequality and the consequences of financial crisis (by 2000)?
- In Arg and Brazil, can CCTs contribute to child-centred pedagogy (CCP) “targeted to the poor”?



Argentina

- Regional decentralisation, curriculum reform and CCP targeted to the poor at the same time as structural adjustment (early 1990s).
- Progressive broadening of CCTs after 2002: emergency (Household Heads Plan), plus inclusion (the extremely gendered Family Plan), then 'allocation for children'.
- Pro-poor CCP became the main Federal activity in education. Impact on pedagogic capacity building.

Brazil

- Curriculum reform and national plans in Const. Regional educational equalisation funds (1996-). Municipal CCTs and CCP experiences (mid1990s-).
- CCTs broadened, with higher contribution to individual income (2003-). Less poverty and child labour. Persisting very low academic performance.
- National plan aims at universalising CCP + full day schools, improving school facilities and generalising school targets.

Conclusions (1): on redistribution

- CCTs may alleviate income poverty directly, and improve social conditions for education indirectly (pedagogic capacity building, full day schools, national plans).
- Do CCTs + regional equalisation policies + national plans account for improvement in Brazil (national and PISA data)? Need for further research.

Conclusions (2): on recognition

- Ethnographic evidence of teacher's class- and ethnic-based stereotypes against poor children in both countries (and Chile, too).
- 'Professional skepticism' because CCP reforms did not meet the expectations in Argentina (and Chile, too). Need for further research on stress of street-level bureaucrats.



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