

Impact Assessment of Educational Policies: Applying a Quasi-Experimental Model

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ABSTRACT

The present article presents a methodology for assessing the impact of educational policies. Because of the high costs and limitations of experiments with individuals, the quasi-experimental evaluation design using secondary data constitutes a valid alternative methodology for evaluating policies and programs in the social sectors. The example used in this article refers to the analysis of a primary education finance reform in Brazil in 1996. Specifically, it uses the methodology to assess the effectiveness of the *Fund for the Maintenance of Primary Education and Teacher Enhancement* (Fundo de Manutenção do Ensino Fundamental e Valorização do Magistério – FUNDEF) in favoring increases on wages and, therefore, making the teaching career more attractive. FUNDEF reform is an exogenous event that has changed the per pupil revenues for primary education in public schools in Brazil. The objective of the analysis was to evaluate the extent and character of the changes achieved in the available per pupil revenues at state and municipal schools, and to observe whether these changes affected the average wage of primary teachers relative to the average wage of individuals in other occupations before and after the reform. The design allows estimating the average impact on wages due to the reform, even though interpretation of estimated parameters capture aggregated effects.

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