

The Education Landscape In Latin America

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The Education Landscape

- Lack of equity
- Poor quality of the teaching-learning processes
- Poor teacher training and conditions
- Out of date methods, materials and technologies
- Low student achievement
- Gaps between education and work
- Insufficient funding
- Excessive centralism

Intervening Factors

- Difficulties to address structural factors causing poverty in an integrated manner
- Resistance from interest groups
- Weak technical and institutional capacities
- Distributional issues
- Sustainability of innovations
- Duplication and lack of flexibility
- Inadequate data and information tools
- Stereotypes

Sources of Opportunity

- Political and institutional commitment
- Poverty reduction strategy
- Integrated approaches to human development
- Focus on quality, relevance and equality
- Public-private partnerships
- Donor collaboration
- Local ownership
- Decentralization and accountability
- New technologies: ICTs

Where to Focus

- Distribution of opportunities: Access, Retention
- Improvement of quality of teaching-learning: Teachers
- Relevance of curricula: Competencies
- Low-cost innovations: Replication
- Building institutional capacities: Accountability
- Promoting life long learning: Continuous education
- Seeking political commitment: Culture of reform
- Seeking complementarities: Donor collaboration

What is Required?

- Clarity of mandate and framework: PPR, SDP, BEAP
- Address competing priorities and tradeoffs
- Articulate: Policy, programming and delivery
- Set short / long-term perspective: Policy environment
- Measure progress: Realistic objectives, time-frames
- Set clear technical and operational criteria
- Look for partnerships and complementarities: Branches, Government Departments, Agencies
- Adopt a multi-sector and multi-disciplinary approach

What Strategic Directions to Adopt?

- Fully implement the PPR-SDP vision: Mainstreaming
- Identify effective approaches: Beyond sectoral niches
- Focus on value added: Comparative advantage
- Re-define partnerships: Building on lessons learned
- Strengthen in-house expertise: Multi-disciplinarity
- Enable a responsive environment: Consultation
- Embrace a culture of ownership: Accountability
- Shift the project mind set: Promoting coherence

What Operational Steps to Take

- Set realistic milestones and measurable targets
- Monitor and choose the right tools
- Apply social analysis
- Assess risks and opportunities with partners
- Develop decision criteria
- Develop / update “How to” guidelines
- Reassess indicators systems
- Keep data systems and knowledge networks current
- Adapt reporting systems to workload