

Comprehensive Care for Urban Minors Living in Extreme Poverty, 1977

Summary:

This project, which could be classified traditionally as “social,” was a human capital investment project that made a positive contribution to the country’s development by impacting economic efficiency and personal income distribution. It was a project in which the bulk of what has traditionally been called “current expenses” went to investment in human capital

Work was conducted with a prefeasibility focus, so some aspects had to be analyzed in greater detail before being fully implemented. The study of localization at the micro-level and the availability of pre-school educators was especially important. One of the highlights of the analysis was the methodology proposed for social assessment, as it represented a valuable and innovative intellectual contribution by the group of professionals that helped to prepare the study.

In regard to limitations in the work, it should be noted that in general, very little reliable statistical information was available about variables crucial to the project assessment, such as repetition and dropout rates in extremely poor versus other sectors, measurements of the intellectual abilities of children in different socioeconomic strata, etc. The participants skillfully compensated for this situation by using figures that were

“plausible” considering the lack of available evidence, and they adequately dealt with the results by assigning them values within what were deemed to be reasonable ranges.