

## Assignment – Education and Development course:

1. A large international foundation would like to donate part of its funds for a program to prevent student dropouts from primary and secondary schools in Latin American Countries (LAC). However, before donating it wants to be sure that the money is spent well, i.e., that the program is effective and, to do so, it hires you for an assessment of the program it wants to invest in. Before the assessment, it asks you to provide a review of the findings from other programs aimed at reducing school dropouts in developing countries. Were these programs effective at reducing dropouts? Why should students find it convenient to drop out of school instead of continuing education?
2. After an overview of the literature, the foundation decides to look at the impact evaluation of the program implemented in Guatemala with the World Bank's support, which is available at this [link](#)<sup>1</sup>.

*Consider the Introduction and Context sections of the document.*

- What is the issue the authors are trying to address?

*Now consider Section 3 (Intervention and study design).*

- How would the program help solving the issue mentioned in the last point?
- Can you identify one potential threat to the program effectiveness?

*Consider, then, Section 4 (Experimental design and data).*

- What type of evaluation does this program imply?
- What is the counterfactual?
- Would you say that the results are causal? Why?
- What are the potential problems that might arise from this evaluation?

Finally, consider sections 5 and 6 (Results and Final remarks).

- How would you comment on these results?
- Would you suggest the foundation to donate for such a program?
- Is there anything you would change to increase program's effectiveness?

3. Write a 2-page (Times New Roman, 11 points; not including the bibliography) proposal on an education policy or program type you would recommend the foundation to invest in. The report should be structured as follows:
  - Brief discussion of the **relevance** of the issue the policy would help solving (e.g., why is it important?)
  - Reporting the **existing evidence from the literature** on similar policies
  - How you would **evaluate the impact of the policy** (data and potential identification strategy; assumptions; potential outcomes and expected results)

[Note: you shall combine both resources from the course and external resources, just be sure to use high-quality papers and reports]

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<sup>1</sup> If you cannot open the link, copy and paste the following:

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/983591622568486300/pdf/Scalable-Early-Warning-Systems-for-School-Dropout-Prevention-Evidence-from-a-4-000-School-Randomized-Controlled-Trial.pdf>