

EDUCATODOS (Honduras)

EDUCATODOS is an alternative basic education delivery system created by the Ministry of Education and USAID for out-of-school youth and adults to complete a primary and lower secondary (grades 7-9) education. Serving a dramatically different student body than the formal school system—almost all above primary school age—EDUCATODOS provides a cost-effective way to help young adults recapture schooling, including literacy instruction, they did not obtain as children. A cost-effectiveness analysis found that EDUCATODOS is five times as cost-effective as the Honduran public school system at producing a sixth grade completer and fifteen times as cost effective at producing a ninth grade completer.

Using interactive radio instruction methodologies with audio cassette tapes and print materials, the program delivers a curriculum aligned with the official curriculum of the Honduras Secretary of Education. It was developed around performance standards in four basic areas—mathematics, communications, science and technology, and social science. To better address the needs of youth and adult learners, the standards focus on concepts and content that is pertinent to the daily lives of participants. Work skills and values are incorporated into the program.

A flexible schedule that requires only an average of two and a half hours of group work per day, complemented by homework, increases access to youth and adults. Access is further increased by the accelerated curriculum which enables students to complete primary school in 3 years instead of the normal 6 years. Volunteer facilitators with diverse academic backgrounds implement the program from learning centers situated in factories, businesses, schools, and community centers throughout the country, greatly lowering costs while increasing access. Classrooms are multi-grade and multi-age with students ranging from eight to forty years old.

The program began in 1995 in southern Honduras with 12,000 participants. During 2008, the program will be available in all of the 18 departments of the country, enrolling over 100,000 participants annually and increasing the levels of education of low income participants by over 125,000 grade levels of schooling each year, with programs of instruction for the 1st through the 9th grade. Financing for EDUCATODOS during 2008 is \$2,000,000 from the Ministry of Education and \$1,500,000 from USAID, with the Ministry of Education increasing its financing for the program while USAID funding for EDUCATODOS is being reduced, with the goal of achieving sustainability for the program when USAID funding ends in 2009.

The goal of EDUCATODOS is to increase the economic participation and incomes of low income sectors of society. To realize this goal, EDUCATODOS is increasing the life-time earnings of over 750,000 participants by over \$680 million.¹ In addition to realizing the program's goal of increasing the economic participation and earnings of low income sectors of society, there is substantial evidence that participation in the program is associated with improvements in the quality of the lives of participants and their families with improved academic achievement in primary schools for the children of EDUCATODOS's participants, improvements in the health of participants and their families, and increased civic participation.

¹Participants have obtained more than 750,000 person years of schooling from EDUCATODOS from 1995 through 2007. The average age of participants is 24.5 years and participants should have an economically productive life of about the 35 years before retirement. The average annual increase in incomes of participants, with one additional year of schooling from EDUCATODOS, is \$48.99 and 53% of the participants are economically active: $(750,000 \times 35 \times \$48.99 \times 53\% = \text{income increase of } \$681,573,370)$. Note: While an average of 53% of EDUCATODOS' participants were economically active when data was gathered on the characteristics of participants from 1997 through 2004, 1 of 3 EDUCATODOS' participants is 16 years of age or younger and many of these young people have not yet entered the labor market. It is anticipated that as these youth mature, the percentage of EDUCATODOS' economically active participants will increase and the projected increases in the life-time earnings of participants will be higher than the estimate provided above.