

PROGRAM: Primary Education Monitor

INSTITUTION: National Administration of Public Education, Uruguay



The Primary Education Monitor is an integrated database that contains information on administrative records and surveys. It is an instrument that supports the annual monitoring of trends within the educational system at the national, provincial, and public school levels. The Monitor allows school principals as well as district, provincial, and national authorities to gain an overall, contextualized idea of the educational system. It also provides information on the students' efficiency, personal data, and grades (registry, grades repeated, dropout rate, etc.); the schools' human resources and physical facilities (libraries, school cafeterias, etc.); and the social context where they are located.



Innovation

The Education Monitor incorporates various innovative features, such as: i) bringing together sources of information that allow for the reporting on different analytical units; ii) systematizing administrative records through an annual survey of all school principals and compiling data on their social and cultural environment; iii) including a permanent section of the questionnaire and optional modules that are applied as needed.

Furthermore, the system of consultation makes it possible to compile statistical data from all the schools and incorporate reports presented to school inspectors and authorities. Supervisors and decision makers have permanent, real-time access to this information.

Usefulness of the Data



The Education Monitor is used in schools by teachers to evaluate the results of their work. Also, it gives school supervisors and educational authorities the technical input they need to plan ahead, and contributes educational statistics that are incorporated into the Education Observatory, whose public website is located at <http://www.anep.edu.uy/observatorio/>.

The Monitor's quality databases help to evaluate the impact of educational policies and programs. They also provide key input to educational researchers from a systems, academic, and professional standpoint at both the national and international levels. They maintain publicly accessed metadata and microdata. The Education Monitor has a regular calendar known to participants who are involved in both data collection and dissemination.



Lessons Learned

The annual dissemination of the results of the performance of schools within similar social and cultural environments has stimulated the ones with the worst performance to do better. Because it is now possible to refer system trends to school structure and context, the equity issue has been included in the evaluation of school performance. Generating a common language based on an integrated report to schools and school inspectors has converted the Monitor into a mechanism for dialogue between the different levels of the system. Finally, the Monitor's reports have become part of the schools' institutional memory, which is essential in view of staff rotation.

