

# EDUCATION AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZIL

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*A fast continuous process of educational expansion is a fundamental condition for equitable and sustainable socioeconomic development. In fact, on one hand, educational expansion is essential for improvements in labor productivity leading to economic growth, higher wages and less poverty. On the other, education expansion is essential to improve equity and mobility, since education is a non-transferable asset, which is much easier to distribute than land and most other physical assets. In addition, education is a reproducible asset that can be and usually is publicly provided to the poor. In short, education expansion is essential to foster economic growth and to reduce inequality and poverty.*

*Nevertheless, the impact of education expansion goes beyond its direct influence on equity and economic growth. For instance, education has also an important direct impact on population growth, parental care and political participation. Through these channels education can further improve efficiency, reduce poverty and facilitate social mobility.*

*The goal of this paper is twofold. First, it seeks to provide some empirical evidence on the importance of a continuous process of educational expansion for equitable and sustainable socioeconomic development. Second, it provides an evaluation of the Brazilian educational performance and seeks to identify the major impediments for faster educational expansion in the country.*