

Highlights

Achieving transparency in pro-poor education incentives

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The book assumes that different models of design, targeting, and management of pro-poor incentives can prove more or less successful in maximizing efficiency, transparency, and accountability, and in minimizing the likelihood of errors, fraud, and corrupt practices.

Each model is characterized using the following variables:

- **universal versus categorical targeting**
- **conditional versus unconditional transfers**
- **cash versus in-kind transfers top-down versus community-based approaches.**

More specially, it reviews seven pro-poor educational incentive programmes on the basis of these different variables, namely:

- **the quintile ranking system (South Africa),**
- **the CESSP Scholarship Programme (Cambodia),**
- **the universal Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme (India),**
- **the Primary Education for Disadvantaged Children programme (Viet Nam),**
- **the Opportunity NYC (New York City) programme (United States),**
- **the National School Feeding Programme (Brazil), and**
- **the Juntos programme (Peru).**

Some Key Points:

- **It shows that some models may pose greater challenges to transparency and accountability than others (i.e. targeted, in-kind, locally managed, or community-based).**
- **At the same time, these models may be the most adequate for local needs, especially if there are budget constraints, a vast and diverse territory, or demand for food at school.**
- **It further argues that deliberate actions taken to address corruption risks are of greater importance than adopted incentive models.**
- **Within this framework the book reflects on the adequacy of different ‘accountability systems’.**
- **It concludes on the importance of mutual accountability systems’, whereby all actors are mutually accountable and subject to checks and balances.**

Read the full report at the official website:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226982e.pdf>