

SECTION 7. DEMOGRAPHY, LABOR ECONOMY,  
SOCIAL ECONOMY AND POLITICS

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**ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INEQUALITY:  
THE CASE OF BRAZIL**

In the last few years there has been a growing interest in studying relations between economic growth and inequality. New researches show that when income inequality rises, economic growth falls. And it is usually reported that human capital positively affects growth. These works tend to confirm the idea that low education and unequal access to education are obstacles in economic growth. Even, education could be viewed as the main factor contributing to the reducing income inequality and to accelerate human capital and development.

We focus on the case of Brazil. On the basis of this paper, we wish to investigate whether the programme Bolsa Família is effective in the fight against the poverty and inequality through the improvement of education system.

We have considered the impacts of Bolsa Família on education in Brazil and it is not hardly surprising that Bolsa Família has a positive impact on school attendance, literacy rate, dropout rate and pass rate. But access and quality of school system are distributed among sexes and regions unequally. Bolsa Família has the best successes in northeast region, the poorest region of the country. With regard to sexes, women reach better results than men in all indicators related to education. Summing up the results, it can be concluded that the Bolsa Família has one important weakness: the low proficiency of recipients of Bolsa Família.

Continuing research on relations between education and inequality and on impacts of Bolsa Família on education system in Brazil appears is fully justified.