

THE ENHANCED DELIVERY MODEL AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DONOR FUNDED EDUCATION PROJECTS IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Abstract: *This article examines the role of education in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and economic growth, and the contribution of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in financing education expansion and enhancement in small developing states. The article addresses these issues by studying three MDBs' financing of education projects in two Caribbean countries, namely Jamaica and Guyana, and analyses the effectiveness of official development assistance to education in these borrowing member countries (BMCs). The research utilized a multiple case study approach to assess the capacity of governments and the efficacy of development assistance in meeting policy goals. The author collected data from six projects, with the sources of information being loan agreements, project progress and completion reports. Documentary analysis was conducted to give the background to the study and inform the design of interview schedules. Twenty (20) interviewees, comprising education specialists and economists from the donor agencies and project coordinators and permanent secretaries from the borrowing countries, were selected. A stratified sampling criterion was used to capture the perspectives of development banks and local counterpart project staff in order to have a holistic understanding of programme delivery. Interview transcripts were prepared and uploaded to NVivo 11 Pro for thematic analysis and interrogation of the interview data. The results show that the drive towards national development, institutional and individual constraints, collaboration, and country ownership are key to explaining the outcomes of aid-funded education projects. Based on the findings, an enhanced project implementation model is proposed for improving the effectiveness of education aid and the overall interaction between MDBs and BMCs.*

Keywords: *borrowing member countries; delivery model; education financing; multilateral development banks; negotiations*

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