Colombia RCT – 2021

Implementing partner: Fundación Escuela Nueva – FEN
Independent evaluation made by Innovations for Poverty Action – IPA
Funding: Interamerican Development Bank – IADB
Experiment design & implementation: Source IPA

1. Recruitment (baseline)
   - Sample 363 HCB
   - HCBs were randomly allocated to treatment and comparison groups

2. Randomization
   - 181 Treated HCB
   - 182 Comparison HCB

3. Think Equal implementation and monitoring
4. Evaluation (endline)
   - 167 Treated HCB
   - 159 Comparison HCB
   - Outcomes are measured in both groups (only using endline info.)

- 661 children
- 660 caregivers
- Children and caregivers received the treatment status of their HCB
- 810 children
- 562 caregivers
RCT participants: Source IPA
Direct outcome in children
Self-awareness behavior:

On average being a treated child increases the frequency of self-awareness behavior in 0.14 standard deviations compared to a comparison child.
Direct outcome in children
Prosocial behavior – SDQ prosocial scale:

Treated children show prosocial behavior on average 0.13 standard deviations more often than the comparison children.
Results with statistical significance: Source IPA

Indirect outcome in children
Cognitive learning:

Treated children show directly better performance than comparison children with a difference of 0.15 standard deviations. According to caregivers, treated children have higher cognitive development than comparison group (0.16 standard deviations).

According to OECD socio-emotional skills positively correlate to cognitive skills, according to them “being curious and open-minded and having an active approach towards learning is an important prerequisite for developing and improving innate cognitive capacities”
Results with statistical significance: Source IPA

Indirect outcome in community mothers (teachers)

Empathy:

The program had a positive indirect effect on empathy for community mothers of 0.253 std.
Indirect outcome in community mothers (teachers) & caregivers Mental Wellbeing:

- Treated caregivers are 0.14 sd below the comparison group when reporting negative symptoms.
- Treated community mothers are 0.2 sd below comparison community mothers reporting negative health symptoms.
Child’s care indirect outcome:

- Caregivers in the treatment group stimulate their children emotionally and cognitively 0.35 standard deviations more than caregivers in the comparison group.
- Caregivers in the treatment group had a higher score in the care index of 0.36 standard deviations more than caregivers in the comparison group.