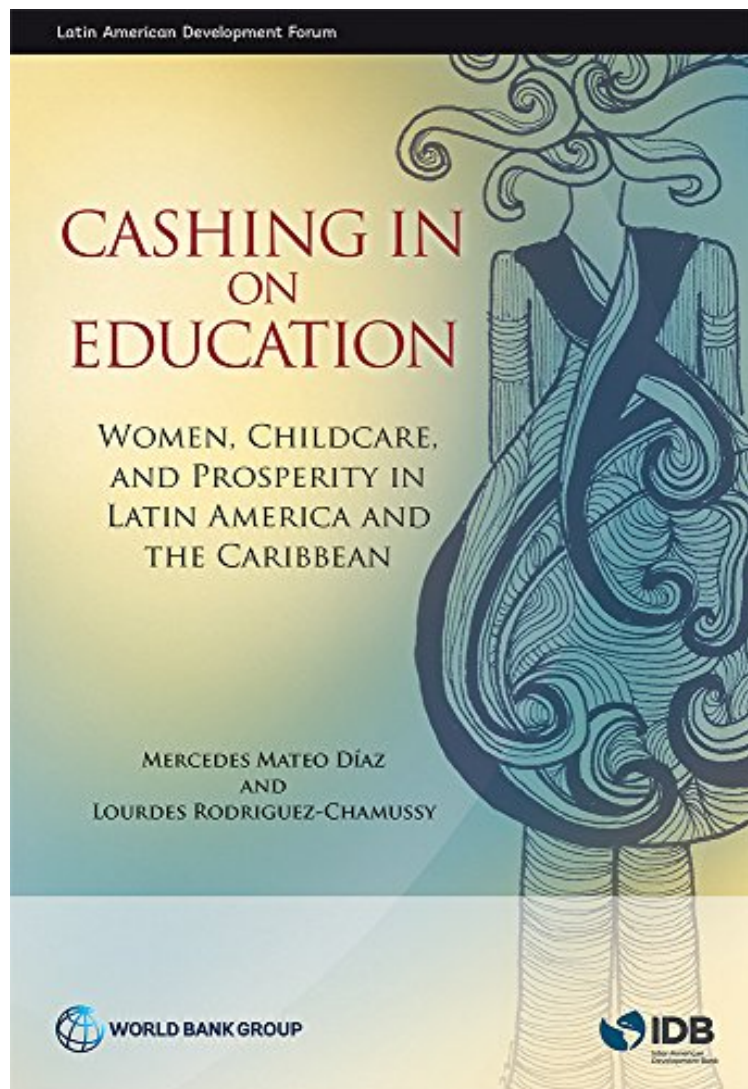


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Cashing in on Education: Women, Childcare, and Prosperity in Latin America and the Caribbean (Latin American Development Forum)

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Mercedes Mateo Diacute;az, Lourdes Rodriguez-Chamussy : Cashing in on Education: Women, Childcare, and Prosperity in Latin America and the Caribbean (Latin American Development Forum) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cashing in on Education: Women, Childcare,

and Prosperity in Latin America and the Caribbean (Latin American Development Forum):

Investments in education across countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have transformed the lives of millions of girls and the prospects of their families and societies. Unleashing the full economic potential of women is nevertheless still a curtailed issue in the region: just about half of women are unable to participate in paid work. The majority of the population out of the labor market is women between the ages of 24 and 45. This is the largest share of the available pool of unused human capital countries have, and where mothers of young children are concentrated. This book argues that more and better childcare constitutes a fundamental policy option to improve female outcomes in the labor market, but countries need to pay particular attention to the design and features of such services. First-rate educational programs will be useless if children are not enrolled or do not attend formal education centers. A large program expansion will be wasted if parents cannot enroll their children because they are unable to reach the center, don't trust its quality, if the program is too expensive, or if work and care schedules are not compatible. Through an integrated framework applied to each country and an overview of the existing evidence, this book addresses the why and what questions about policy relevant instruments to achieve female labor participation. Parts I and II of the book lay out the motivation for Latin-American and Caribbean countries to act depicting their current situation both in terms of women's labor participation and the use and provision of childcare services. Moreover, this book tackles the how question contributing to the incipient evidence about factors affecting the take-up of programs and demand for childcare services and other informal care arrangements. Part III of the book explores how to improve services and implement more and better formal, center-based care arrangements for young children. It looks at international benchmarks, discusses different experiences and proposes specific actions to solve potential inequalities in access to childcare.

The long struggle for equality between men and women in Latin America has borne real and significant changes, especially in terms of education. Across the region, the gender gap in access to education has closed or even reversed. Paradoxically, women still face difficulties to transform their increased education into better economic, social, and political opportunities. Among other disparities, they continue to experience salary discrimination, low representation in top positions, and important obstacles to reconcile work and family, with serious impacts on their prosperity, their families, and society as a whole. Based on rigorous research, this book analyzes how specific policy instruments, such as provision of child care, can expand women's opportunities and simultaneously address equality and efficiency challenges. As such, it constitutes a valuable tool for evidence-based policy design in favor of gender equality. -- Rebeca Grynspan, Ibero-American Secretary-General, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General, and former Vice President of Costa Rica Providing good formal jobs for poor women is one very effective way to reduce income inequality, enhance social cohesion, and stimulate economic growth. Instead of arguing whether, we should be discussing how. This book does exactly that, providing a necessary guide to a range of policies intended to improve labor market outcomes for women. Indispensable reading for policy makers across Latin America and the Caribbean. -- Andrea Velasco, Professor of Professional Practice in International Development, Columbia University; former Finance Minister, Chile