

An analysis of social policy implemented in Mexico and its relations with decentralization: a revision of programs implemented by SEDESOL from a local point of view

Adolfo Rogelio Cogco Calderón*
Miriam Rodríguez Vargas**
Jorge Alberto Pérez Cruz***

Abstract:

The main purpose of this article is to analyze, from a local perspective, the process of decentralization of social programs, designed and implemented by the Secretary of Social Development (Sedesol). Three aspects are presented: the first addresses model change and reform of the state in Mexico; the second discusses decentralization and social policy at a national level; finally, the last one revises Federal Government's social programs implemented in the municipalities, through qualitative techniques, then shows the empirical evidence of local governments in Ciudad Madero and Tampico (Tamaulipas), San Nicolás de Garza and General Escobedo (Nuevo León), both federal entities of the northeastern Mexico. The work leads to the conclusion that state governments are more involved in social policies through two areas (education and health), while municipal governments have better access to the distribution of fiscal resources such as the so-called contributions and participations. However, even with decentralization, Federal Government controls a significant amount of resources and the design and implementation of major programs intended to attack poverty in municipal areas, leaving the municipalities out of the decision- making of how to serve their most vulnerable population.

Key words: decentralization, social programs, local government.

* acogco@uat.edu.mx

** millyrv@uat.edu.mx

*** japcgica@msn.com
