



Labor Markets and Wealth Jóvenes em Acción (Colombia)

Implemented by the country's government, between 2001 and 2005, and financed by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, the program intended to increase labor market attachment and job quality among disadvantaged youth aged between 18 and 28 years old. After an evaluation of the curriculum of applicants in the seven largest cities of Colombia, an offer to participate in the program was sent and 97% of the individuals accepted it. The intervention lasted approximately 6 months and was based on three main components:

- (i) three **free** months (280 to 350 hours) in **private institutions**, where trainees:
 - a. received **in-classroom practical training** for administrative (e.g. secretary or archivist), manual (e.g. kitchen assistant) and skilled occupations (e.g. accounting assistant or IT specialist);
 - b. developed **soft skills** (proactive behavior, resourcefulness, openness to feedback, teamwork, etc);
- (ii) three months of **on-the-job training** provided by legally registered companies in the form of an **unpaid internship**;
- (iii) throughout the six months of the intervention, participants developed a "**project of life**", orienting youth towards a positive visualization of their personal abilities, and work perspectives.

Training providers were paid according to students' progression in the courses and received a bonus if the trainees were hired by the firms that employed them during the internship. Students received a stipend to cover transport and lunch costs.



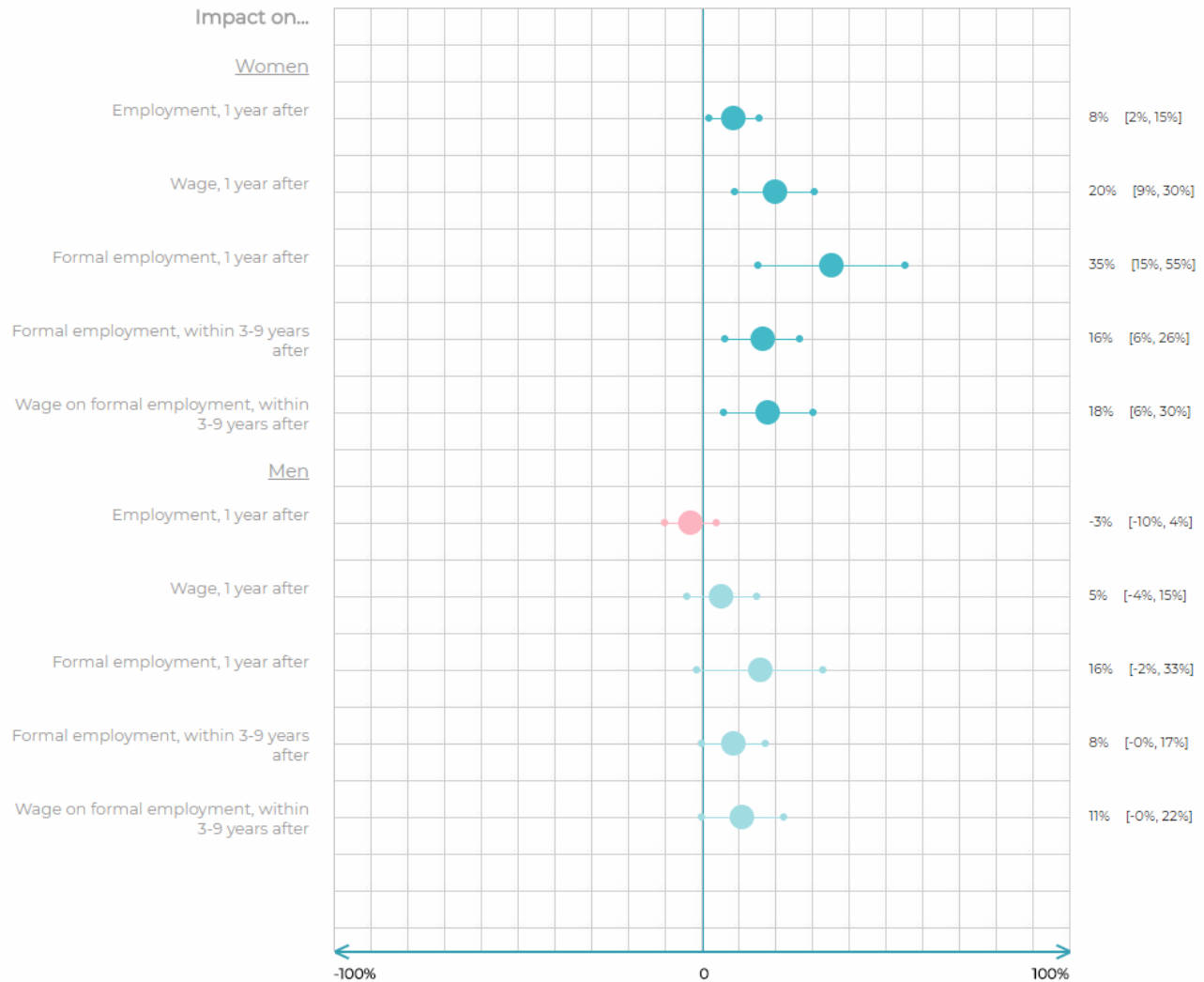
Impacts of the program

- Women were **8% more likely to be employed**, earned **20% higher salaries** and were **35% more likely to have a formal employment**, 1 year after the end of the program
- From **3 to 9 years** after the end of the program, the impacts on women's formal employment were maintained and **salaries** on these jobs were **18% higher**
- In the same period, there is some evidence that the program also stimulated employment formalization and increased salaries among men



(for more information click here)

Support:



The presented results were taken from the academic articles of [Orazio Attanasio](#), [Adriana Kugler](#), [Costas Meghir](#) and [Arlen Guarín](#)

References:

- Attanasio, O., Kugler, A., & Meghir, C. (2011). Subsidizing vocational training for disadvantaged youth in Colombia: Evidence from a randomized trial. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 3(3), 188-220.
- Attanasio, O., Guarín, A., Medina, C., & Meghir, C. (2017). Vocational Training for Disadvantaged Youth in Colombia: A Long-Term Follow-Up. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9(2), 131-143.

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Updated in: January/2018