

Discussion "State of the Art and Perspectives of Poverty Research and SDG1"

June 6, 2019

Report of the event

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Background

As a result of recent research on the role of research centers in the promotion of knowledge carried out as part of the network *International Network for Government Science Advice* (INGSA), The importance of the promotion of knowledge in a context that favors interaction of researchers, users and research promoters.

A mechanism to strengthen the institutional environment in which research is carried out in Bolivia could include the establishment of explicit relationships between professionals with extensive knowledge about thematic of poverty in Bolivia. In this way, we would expect a better understanding of the dynamics of research on this aspect and, above all, greater relevance of future analysis topics.

The discussion "State of the Art and Perspectives of Research on Poverty and SDG1" represents a first attempt to move in this direction. The general idea is to establish a fluid dialogue between experts on the subject of poverty who, although working in different institutions, have the possibility of improve the connection between the studies carried out by different research centers and the potential users of them.

The event was held in the offices of ARU, following the following activities: 1. The presentation of the objectives; 2. The presentation of the results of the research sponsored by the INGSA; 3. Comments to the presentation; 4. Implications on the research agenda and on the role of the centers.

The following people attended:

- Verónica Paz. Responsible for political advocacy at OXFAM.
- Osvaldo Nina. Director of the INESAD research center.
- Wilson Jiménez. Director of ARU.
- Milenka Figueroa. UNDP researcher
- Fernando Landa. Researcher economist of UDAPE (center of government thought).
- Julio Velasco. Economist country of the World Bank.

- Guillermo Guzmán. Researcher at the Social Research Center (Vice Presidency of the State).
- Ernesto Pérez. Responsible for the Humando Development Report in UNDP.
- Natalie Echenique. Principal investigator at ARU.
- Miguel Vera. Associate researcher at ARU.

Marisol Quenta was responsible for the systematization.

Goals

The objective of the meeting is to assess the production of *knowledge generated by the research centers and their relevance in the current economic, social and political context*.

Specifically, it is expected:

1. To have a diagnosis (state of the art) of the production of knowledge generated by the centers around the issue of poverty.
2. Identify perspectives for future research on the area of poverty according to the agenda of national public policy and the global development agenda.

Development of the event

Two elements were specified at the beginning of the event: 1. The event contributes to the closure of the INGSA project on which can mark an adaptation of the research agenda of ARU to make it more relevant to the context needs; and 2. Participations are considered at the individual and non-institutional level.

The presentation of Miguel Vera (Attached to this report) summarized the background of the investigation on the role of centers in the framework of the project financed by INGSA. He highlighted the findings on "Ecosystem" facing research centers including aspects such as the use patterns of the research on the part of the government and relevant actors in public policy and promotion mechanisms used by the centers.

The main *reactions* to the presentation are summarized as follows:

- Milenka Figueroa highlighted the importance of the study, especially because of its implications on the

Relevance of the investigation: "the investigation alone (without considerations of public policy) does not work".

- Along the same lines, Verónica Paz differentiated "academic" research from useful research.

- With regard to the possibility of influencing public policy, he mentioned that a

"Heterogeneous" state, which implies that the potential use of research will be differentiated depending on the public actor that is exposed to them.

- At the same time, the "public policy cycles" oblige us to consider "ideal" moments for present and promote the use of research. He mentioned that "there is no single way" to achieve the use and therefore a "systemic vision" is required.

- Suggested to explicitly consider a "map of interests" of the centers that includes in a makes explicit the financing requirements and the political interests. In this way, it could be advance in the definition of an advocacy strategy.

- Fernando Landa suggested the possibility of a disagreement between the "traditional" investigations that focus on the evolution of monetary poverty and the requirements of the public agenda that they would be focused on measuring "other dimensions" of poverty.

- Regarding the possibility of achieving an impact on policies, Guillermo Guzmán (CIS) highlighted the

Importance of: 1. Using "international knowledge"; and 2. Conduct inter-institutional studies which could ensure the diversity of the approaches but also their use.

- However, he also mentioned that "there are no concrete channels" to achieve the use of the and often depends on the "institutional capacity" of the ministries to take advantage of the generated results. He mentioned as successful experience, in that sense, the "Study on socio-economic mobility "and as a low-incidence experience the" Study on the quality of job".

- In the same vein, Julio Velasco mentioned that the possibility of using investigations varies with the "Moment and appetite" of governments. Currently, a "comfort bubble" would be living in which we should not make very important decisions about policies to reduce poverty and, therefore, the studies on the subject would not have greater incidence.

- Regarding the role of the centers, he suggested differentiating the products they offer. For example, it is important to differentiate the most academic articles from the communication products and the compilation studies.

- When evaluating the possibility of use, he mentioned that possible "factions" should be considered of government ", each with a different interest in the results of the studies.

- A particular issue of poverty, has to do with the apparent stagnation in the reduction of poverty. He asked why nobody is investigating the issue?

- Among the restrictions faced by the centers, he said, would not only be the lack of financial resources but also the lack of information.

- Regarding the issue of poverty, he suggested that monitoring and analysis of poverty should not be neglected trends of monetary poverty even if it represents

only one dimension of development. Is a conjuncture indicator that requires specialized analysis.

- Ernesto Pérez highlighted the following aspects related to the possibility of influencing policies: 1. Take advantage of the opportunities that result from the concrete needs of governments; 2. Identify "Public policy outputs" to the results of the investigations, which may require a look multidisciplinary; 3. The possibility of influencing is greater in the agenda and less in the implementation; Y

4. Identify concrete channels for the incidence.

- Osvaldo Nina highlighted the importance of the creativity of the centers to achieve this influence.

- Wilson Jiménez suggested that the strategies of the centers are different. For example, some they specialize in the quality of the data while others concentrate directly on activities of incidence.

Implications for the work of the centers

A synthesis of the implications on the *practice* of the centers includes the following topics:

- The emergence of new questions and research topics relevant to public policy (the case of "stagnation" in the fall of poverty is one of them).

- The need to create collaborative spaces between centers and with allied actors to identify better communication mechanisms.

- The importance of a multidisciplinary analysis that addresses different categories of analysis and investigation.

- The importance of including a prospective analysis (not only of diagnosis) in the investigations for so show the potentials that these could have.

- The possibility of defining good data and using it in comparative analyzes with other countries.

- The importance of including new dimensions in the analysis of poverty.

- The potential of partnerships between public centers and private centers to facilitate development of research and its use.