Title: The Impact of ACSI Accreditation on National Christian Schools in Latin America

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Abstract: This study uses mixed methodology of the convergent design to examine stakeholder perceptions toward a transferred model of accreditation for national, Christian schools in Latin America. Parents, teachers, and leaders from five accredited schools participated in an accreditation survey. One parent, teacher, and leader from each of the five accredited schools were selected for a semi-structured interview. Survey results were very positive toward the accreditation, but there were significant statistical differences in the perceptions of the stakeholder groups. Interview results were also very positive with five themes that were confirmed by all participants. Stakeholders acknowledged that the transferred model was appropriate for the region, but the model needed to be further contextualized.

Key Findings:
1. Stakeholders held very positive perceptions toward ACSI accreditation
2. A difference existed among the perceptions of stakeholder groups toward certain factors of accreditation. Teachers’ perceptions were significantly more positive than the perceptions of parents. One’s level of involvement in the process may lead to more positive perceptions.
3. ACSI accreditation had a favorable impact on the schools
4. Stakeholders felt a transferred model of accreditation was appropriate for national Christian schools in Latin America.
5. National Christian schools are choosing ACSI accreditation for a variety of reasons.

Conclusion: Stakeholders in Latin American national Christian schools value the ACSI accreditation process and realize its potential for bringing about genuine school improvement. God is using ACSI accreditation as a tool to dramatically improve the quality of Christian schools in Latin America.

Selected References: