

Childonomics – Social and Economic Return on investment in Children

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Childonomics

What is Childonomics?

- A **research project** that developed a complex methodology to help users to understand the very **complex interactions** between the **long-term social and economic returns of investment in children and families**, and the **outcomes produced** by this investment, at individual, family, community and national context



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Why Childonomics?

- Lack of clarity on the responsibilities of families, communities and the society to ensure the optimum development and well-being of children – Does it take a village to raise a child?
- Who's best interests are the wellbeing of children – social and economic return
- Childonomics responds with a rights-based and outcomes-focused approach - an alternative perspective that focuses on services and support to children and families and demonstrating the advantages of early, high quality services and avoiding later more expensive and specialised ones and the possible harm and loss caused.



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Conceptual framework

- **Rights based** foundation: UNCRC, UNCRPD, Guidelines on alternative care for children (UN GA, 2010)
- Focus on **supporting children, families and communities** to ensure well-being and prevent developmental delay, harm and unnecessary separation of children from parents and family
- Emphasis on importance of **broad range of inputs/investments** from universal through specialized to alternative care
- Links to **outcomes for child, family, community and society**
- Emphasis on **monitoring and understanding short and long term outcomes**

How could we better specify the roles and responsibilities of the states and communities to ensure that families can fulfill their responsibilities in meeting the best interests of their children?



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