

Essays on Public Policy in the Informal Sector Context

Carolin Sjöholm

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There is a global consensus that social protection represents a key policy tool for implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure inclusive development where no one is left behind. Despite significant progress in expanding coverage in many countries, approximately half of the world's population lack access to adequate social protection. A number of questions regarding how to create inclusive, cost-effective, and sustainable social protection systems still remain. This thesis addresses some of these issues by evaluating the importance of common policy tools in contributing to universal coverage of social protection programs and to decrease poverty among households in the developing country context. In the first chapter, I study the impacts of premium subsidies on insurance coverage and financial self-sustainability of a community-based health insurance scheme in Rwanda. In the second chapter, I investigate the importance of a national subsidized daycare program on the performance of female-run microenterprises in Mexico. In the last chapter, I document disparities in the quality of healthcare between rural and urban primary health clinics in Rwanda, and investigate how much of the gap can be explained by differences in structural inputs.



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