

Occupational choice in the developing world

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Propositions Accompanying the Dissertation

OCCUPATIONAL CHOICE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

By Paula Nagler

1. The decision to enter entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa is affected by external circumstances, which can be roughly described as push and pull factors. (Thesis, Chapter 3)
2. Necessity driven entrepreneurship reflects push factors such as poverty, the riskiness of agriculture and a lack of insurance or social protection; opportunity driven entrepreneurship reflects pull factors such as the recognition of good business opportunities, and is associated with skills, experience and wealth. (Thesis, Chapter 3)
3. The labor productivity of enterprises depends on the motivation for operating a business in the first place. (Thesis, Chapter 4)
4. Unemployment insurance savings accounts present an alternative form of precautionary measure during periods of unemployment. (Thesis, Chapter 5)
5. Workers react to changes in the social security framework, even if changes are not directly perceived, and only affect opportunity costs. (Thesis, Chapters 6 and 7)
6. The creation of jobs in rural Sub-Saharan Africa presents a key challenge for the next decades to come, due to a large and young rural population that is reaching working age.
7. Developing countries are and should be innovative in designing social protection schemes that are different from those in advanced economies, and that accommodate their labor market characteristics.
8. Governments play an important role in shaping the labor market framework, significantly affecting the occupational choices of people. Policy interventions (or a lack thereof) influence decisions.
9. Having the possibility of making occupational choices that account for one's own preferences and abilities, can lead to the realization of a PhD thesis.
10. The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. – Amelia Earhart