

Structural change in developing countries

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Propositions Accompanying the Dissertation

Structural change in developing countries: patterns, causes and consequences.

By Emmanuel B. Mensah

1. The study of structural change in Africa is limited by a great statistical problem. This problem has resulted in knowledge and policy deficits (Chapter 2).
2. The structural change of Africa is atypical, characterized by a process of informal tertiarization, labor market turbulence and de-agriculturalization driven by the push effect (increasing agricultural productivity) (Chapter 3).
3. Successful productivity convergence within Africa requires the combination of technical progress and technological catch-up. Structural change exerts significant influence on the speed of technological convergence within Africa (Chapter 4).
4. There is a general view that Africa is deindustrializing prematurely. This argument is often based on hasty inductive generalizations. Further scrutiny of these generalizations reveals a process of industrial stagnation not premature deindustrialization (Chapter 5).
5. Structural reforms affect productivity growth through the intra-allocative efficiency channel but not the inter-allocative efficiency channel, helping explain why many developing countries had structural adjustment programs without structural change (Chapter 6).
6. Without a strong manufacturing sector and intra-African trade in manufacturing, the economic development of Africa will be a long painful process.
7. Leaving industrial policy to the whims and caprices of market will be disastrous for Africa. There is a prima facie rationale for African governments to pursue active industrial policy.