

Essays on the economic effects of non-contributory social protection

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Valorization

Relevance - The relevance of the present dissertation entitled “Essays on the economic effects of non-contributory social protection” is related to global policy recommendations to end poverty, promote inclusive economic growth, and reduce inequality, which are all part of the sustainable development goals (SDG). This book is a scientific contribution to social justice, and it is an attempt to connect social and economic policies. The feasibility of poverty eradication and inequality reduction depends not only on economic growth, but also on redistribution. Moreover, the implementation of social protection floors in developing countries must not be seen only from a human rights and social development perspective, but also as an investment and a powerful solution to poverty traps and to promote social mobility and economic capacity.

This thesis acknowledges that poor people have specific context conditions. In the case of labour supply, it is not possible to think of people fully enjoying leisure without being able to cover their basic needs. Investing in human capital is not only a matter of rational choice, but it is conditioned on the capability to cover opportunity and transaction costs. Social mobility is not just the result of personal effort, but it is conditioned to poverty traps. In addition, giving money to the poor is more than charity, because it is a commitment to strong economic policy to enhance aggregate demand and to foster local economies.

Target groups - Apart from the academic community, this book has informational value and policy recommendations for national governments,

non-governmental organizations, and other international organizations that are committed to the sustainable development goals.

Activities and products - All the contributions have been presented at academic conferences, and they are being published in academic journals. In addition, the models are detailed presented and Op-Ed articles have been published looking for a broad impact on public debates. Even more, results have been presented to government representatives of Cambodia and Ecuador.

Innovation - The innovation value of this research is due to new empirical evidence regarding poverty and poverty reduction in Ecuador and Cambodia. In addition, new theoretical insights were generated regarding labour supply, accumulation of human capital, and social mobility. Finally, microsimulation models were proven to be a powerful tool for *ex-ante* evaluation and analysis of cost-effectiveness.

Schedule and implementation - I foresee a plan for the next few years that is based on the efforts made in this dissertation to generate policy recommendations and complementary theoretical and empirical research projects. Moreover, results were presented to government official both in Cambodia and Ecuador. In the case of Ecuador results are being used to design policy reforms to the BDH and social pension in order to increase coverage and to complement social transfers with additional social and economic programmes.