

Essays on entrepreneurship in Colombia

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SUMMARY

Motivated by the debate around the role of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship policies in the economic and social development of developing countries, this doctoral thesis explores several aspects of the micro-entrepreneurial sector of Colombia and its contribution to inclusive social development. It contains six essays, analysing the factors associated with the genesis of entrepreneurship policies (Chapter 2) and the start-up motivation of small business owners (Chapter 3), presenting detailed characteristics of micro-entrepreneurs (Chapter 4) and their mental well-being and psychological profiles (Chapter 5), and the extent to which entrepreneurial support interacts with social policy participation and outcomes (Chapters 6 and 7). These Essays seek to widen and refine the prevailing views on the relationship between entrepreneurship and economic and social development, by building finer-grained profiles of household enterprises and entrepreneurs in Colombia and then analysing their results achieved through the interaction of entrepreneurship interventions and social policy interventions.

Chapter 2 contributes to the policy analysis by showing the entangled dynamics between entrepreneurship policies and entrepreneurship as a field of research. It shows some similarities between the Colombian process and that of Latin-American countries. Chapter 3 contributes to the debate on necessity vs motivation, shedding light on the occupational choice analysis and its connection to small-scale business performance. Chapter 4 contributes to the understanding of entrepreneurs living in vulnerability and poverty by adding finer detailed information on micro-entrepreneurship in developing countries. Chapter 5 contributes to an expanding literature on psychological factors of entrepreneurs, it provides evidence of microentrepreneurs, a group understudied in this type of studies. Chapters 6 and 7 contribute to the literature on policy evaluation, in particular, through the interaction of entrepreneurship and social policies. Chapter 8 summarises the main findings of the analyses presented in this dissertation, offers policy implications and suggestions for future research.