

Review of: "A Review of Informal Employment Research"

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This is an interesting article that tackles an important problem that is relevant for both academics and policymakers.

I would have wanted to see a theoretical framework grounding the review of the literature developed in this article. For instance, how and why do individuals choose informal work over formal work? Is it a forced choice under all circumstances? What are the institutional and other constraints that promote informal work? Gender is highly relevant here since in many countries women either drop out of the formal labor market or are forced to leave it due to unpaid work and childcare responsibilities, but without a theoretical framework it is currently just an afterthought.

The other aspect that the article is lacking is a discussion of measuring and valuing informal work, which is much more difficult compared to formal work. I would have wanted to see a discussion of the challenges and solutions to measuring informal work, with a discussion of solutions in developed and developing countries. In developing countries in particular, data quality is often problematic for even straightforward concepts such as GDP per capita or inequality, so where do we stand when it comes to informal work? Are there any creative solutions in different sectors or contexts?

Finally, I would have also wanted to see a much more detailed section on future research directions and their relevance for policymaking. Based on the article, what are some directions for future research that can be pursued so that we have a deeper knowledge about informal work? Are there particular countries or contexts that are fruitful to explore? And how can such knowledge help us with designing policies? How can researchers and policymakers collaborate and what topics should they focus on?