

# Review of: "A Review of Informal Employment Research"

Suelen Emilia Castiblanco-Moreno<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidad de Los Andes

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper considers a very relevant topic for the developing world. Much literature has been developed since the 1970s to understand this phenomenon. Also, in recent years, there has been a growing interest in understanding how the informal economy interacts with different individual characteristics such as gender, education, and socioeconomic level, among others.

Considering this, I strongly recommend strengthening the section oriented to explain the informal sector, economy, and employment. It would be essential to incorporate the structuralist and institutionalist approaches to explain the emergence of the informal economy. Here, there is only a brief mention of the structuralist explanation. Also, it is crucial to update the literature, for instance, the ILO definitions.

On the other hand, regarding the different sections, the scope of the reviewed literature worries me. Though informal employment is widespread in Africa and Latin America, as pointed out in the introduction, in this section, the majority of literature seems to be based on Asia, specifically on China. This element can lead to the wrong idea that the informal economy has the same characteristics in all countries of the developing world.

To alleviate this likely source of bias, I consider it essential to present the systematic process implemented for the literature review. Maybe the PRISMA approach to guarantee systematic reviews can help accomplish this goal.

Finally, I recommend checking the references section because there are some documents cited that are not referenced—for example, the one of Marcela et al.'s.