

Review of: "A Review of Informal Employment Research"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Title: A Review of Informal Employment Research

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1.-Main shortcomings

a) Goals and results mismatch.

The goal “is to contribute to policy formulation aimed at ensuring the robust development of the informal economy and its practitioners” (page 2). Nevertheless, there aren’t clear suggestions in this way in the text.

b) It isn’t clear in what way “ensuring the robust development of the informal economy and its practitioners”:

- Is it ethical if we take into account the ILO definition (page 2): “a form of employment in which the labor relations of employees are not protected by national labor regulations, income taxation, and other systems” (ILO, 1972).
- What would be the measures devoted to foster the development of informal economy? For ex. in page 4, the authors propose: “Therefore, safeguarding the working conditions and quality of informal employment contributes to the stability and further development of rural areas.” But how can be safeguarded the working conditions if they are not subject to regulation or inspection?

c) Statistical sources

The paper doesn’t address the question of statistical sources and this is a starting point problem in research focused in informal employment. For ex. (page 4), “Active entrepreneurial activities make unemployment rates in these rural areas lower than the overall national unemployment rate. Informal enterprises in rural areas create more informal jobs than in urban areas.”, this quote taken from a Ukrainian paper, opens a methodological problem: Are informal employers recognized as employers by statistical sources? In what way? Can statistical sources take into account informal activities? What would be the alternative sources?

2. Main contributions

The main contribution is a clear and well-structured state of the art of informal employment research, based on a comprehensive bibliography.

