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FDI and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan African Countries: A Panel Data Analysis

Taiwo Akinlo and O T Apanisile

Abstract

The paper investigates the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) on economic growth for a panel of 30 Sub-Saharan African countries for the period 1995-2011. A modified Cobb Douglas production function is used whereby investment is decomposed into domestic investment and foreign direct investment. The results indicate that foreign direct investment has significant positive effects on economic growth. Government expenditure and human capital have a positive effect on economic growth and are statistically significant in all the models. Inflation is negative in both pooled OLS and in GMM results and statistically significant.

New Economic Policy and Regional Disparity: Women Employment Perspective

Sonam Choudhry and Vani Aggarwal

Abstract

In the last two decades, India has travelled a long way in terms of growth and economic development, and is now amongst the fastest-growing economies in the world. This paper traces the pattern of changes in female employment in the pre- and post-liberalisation periods in rural and urban India. The study examines the overall impact of globalisation and economic reforms on the nature of Indian labour market, making a conscious effort to highlight the glaring disparities between men and women in terms of nature and growth of employment and unemployment, the changes in the status of employment across various sectors and the trends in relative wages and earnings. Further, the paper focuses on the regional disparities in labour force participation, workforce participation and unemployment rate among the states of India. The study mainly uses secondary data collected from NSS quinquennial surveys which provide the most exhaustive data on employment trends and conditions in India starting from 1983 till the latest NSS round, which is the 66th round (2009-10). It is seen that despite India's economic boom, the condition of women has not improved since the 1980s.

Practising Cost-Effective Connectivity Solutions for Rural Empowerment: A Case Study of AirJaldi Wireless Broadband Initiative at Dharamshala

Pradeep Nair

Abstract

In recent years, the low-cost communication activities performed in rural communities of developing countries have been greatly expanded due to new communication technologies that make it possible to deliver development messages at high speed at affordable cost.

This paper deals with a case study of a technically and economically viable connectivity solution for geographically complex rural areas developed by AirJaldi, a social enterprise which established advanced and cost-effective community-based wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi)

networks in the foothills of the Himalayas at Upper Dharamshala, spread over 70 acres, more than 7,000 ft. above sea level. Since the available knowledge about these cost-effective communication technologies is highly fragmented and difficult to access, this article will provide a comprehensive account of the strategic and operational framework required to practise these technologies and their further scope.

Planning the Look of the City and Street Vendors of Kolkata

Arunita Mukherjee

Abstract

Operating in sidewalk spaces of Kolkata, hawkers sell a large variety of goods. Among the guavas of *Baruipur*, sweets from *Chandernagore* and jute bags of *Hugli*, one can easily find 'Reebok' T-shirts at ₹ 50 a piece on the Grand hotel boulevard on Jawaharlal Nehru Road. Some public places in the city have become almost synonymous with the sellers or the goods they sell: most people correlate *Gariahat* in Kolkata with hawkers, and the office 'para' (locality) arranges most of its lunches from the food vendors of Dalhousie area. Cities and metropolitan centres are now the focal points of planning and urban development. The idea that cities should 'look' good is being expressed in various plan documents of civic bodies. Looking through the prism of these plan documents, this paper attempts to perceive the status of street vendors. Instead of any comprehensive planning of public space, these plans deal indirectly with activities such as vending. These activities in public space should also be a part of successful city plans for the overall and actual development of the city.