

Contextual development economics: a holistic approach to the understanding of economic activity in lowincome countries /

Altmann, Matthias P.

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Monografía

Poverty still persists in today's low-income countries despite decades of international aid, and extensive research on the determinants of growth and development. The book argues that meeting this challenge requires a holistic understanding of the context-specific factors that influence economic behavior and structures in poor countries. Contextual Development Economics approaches this task by offering a methodology that allows analysing the dynamic interrelations between economic, cultural and historical determinants of economic life in low-income countries. The book starts with an empirical inquiry into the economic characteristics of lowincome countries that create the context by which the specific forms of organising economic activity in these countries are determined. It then looks at how different generations of development economists sought to explain economic realities in low-income countries from the 1940s through today. The book finally synthesises the results from this empirical and methodological analysis with insights from an inquiry into contributions of the German Historical School, from which it borrows the concept of the economic style as a methodological alternative to the universal and hence often irrelevant models of mainstream development economics. This book offers a promising perspective for the future of development economics that will be of interest to researchers and development practitioners alike. It will also be relevant for academics and students with an interest in applications of the method and concepts of the Historical School to contemporary problems. "Altmann writes with uncommon insight about the economic style of low-income countries and the prospects of development assistance to become more effective and sustainable by delivering context-specific solutions that build on the needs and ingenuity of the poor." -- Wolfgang Schmitt, former head of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ--German Technical Cooperation)

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Baratz Innovación Documental

• Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid

• (+34) 91 456 03 60

• informa@baratz.es