DOSSIER "CHALLENGES IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

PRESENTATION

It is with great satisfaction that we present you, in this edition of IPARDES's renowned *Revista Paranaense de Desenvolvimento*, the Dossier "Challenges in Regional and National Socioeconomic Development", which aims to contribute to extremely relevant topics in addressing economic and social development in different regions of the country. Further studies are thus encouraged which would support the public policies aimed at overcoming some of the barriers presented.

With the contributions from several prominent authors occupying research positions in several Brazilian universities, mainly in Paraná, we bring you this dossier, in order to analyze the topic of socioeconomic development.

The first article, by Lucas Andrade and Maurício Bittencourt, both from the Federal University of Paraná, analyzes trade indices between Mercosur member countries. Goods and service trade between countries is one element that stimulates productivity growth through better allocation of production factors, for example. The authors point out that the degree of trade integration between Mercosur countries is still low, and that the integration process has not intensified over the last decade.

The second study, by Thiago Simonato, Aline Magalhães and Edson Domingues, from CEDEPLAR/UFMG, discusses the role of conjunctural economic aspects in environmental/urban disasters such as the one in Mariana MG, which involved the mining sector. The authors point out elements of the economic conjuncture that may have contributed to the circumstances in which the tragedy occurred, its economic consequences and its impact on the living conditions of the affected population represented, for example, by the damage to public and private urban/rural infrastructure (loss of crops and interruption of rural production, death of livestock, loss of agricultural machinery).

Next, Joana Honesko, Augusta Raiher and Alysson Stege, from Ponta Grossa State University, analyze agglomeration determinants for development-inducing service subsectors in Brazilian municipalities. Their results show spatial concentration of development-inducing subsectors and dispersion of these activities in capital cities. Their results also indicate that municipalities housing high-tech industries are more likely to undergo clustering of development-inducing service subsectors. The identification of this spatial effect in most Brazilian regions is important for the planning of joint public policies, given the spillover effects observed in their surrounding regions.

The fourth article addresses population dynamics in the municipalities of Paraná through Exploratory Analysis of Spatial Data (EASD), with Umberto Sesso Filho (UEL), Paulo Brene (UENP), Luan Bernardelli (UNESPAR) and Ronaldo Rangel (FGV) as authors. The results indicate high-high clusters in municipalities of metropolitan Curitiba and Londrina and low-low clusters in central portions of the state. Municipalities near areas of higher HDI and population growth can be impacted by migration, with an increase in population. In cities of intense population growth, the daily commuting of inhabitants brings about the need for more efficient intercity transport systems. The increased demand for public services and urban planning are challenges to city administrations.

Solange Inforzato de Souza, Higor Theodoro and Magno Gomes from Londrina State University analyze the effects aging on job opportunities and income in Brazil. From a labor opportunity perspective, the probability of offering their labor decreases with age for white and female individuals. On the other hand, the availability of job opportunities is higher for more educated individuals in this age group. Jobs in the service sector and other formal occupations increase the chances of elderly individuals remaining in the job market. Finally, given the counterfactual decomposition of wages, the results do not indicate wage discrimination against the elderly in Brazil. As population ages, importance shifts to the formulation of inclusion policies for the elderly in the job market through educational and professional instruction programs, with special emphasis on elderly women and non-whites, as these are the ones facing greater salary penalties.

The sixth article, contributed by Tatiane Mattei and Pery Shikida from Toledo Unioeste, addresses the agricultural sector in the 100 largest Brazilian sugarcane producing municipalities in 2017. From 19 indicators, the four factors with accumulated variance that make up the Agricultural Modernization Index (AMI) are presented. Of the total sample, 28% of the municipalities are classified as highly modernized, 37% are classified as moderately modernized and 35% are considered to have a low degree of modernization. Of the highly modernized municipalities, 78.6% are located in the State of São Paulo, thus showing a high heterogeneity, even among municipalities of the same region. This implies the need for specific policies and investments for each region in order to reduce the present inequalities.

In the following article, researchers from FEARP/USP Leandro Anazawa, João Victor Buscariolo, Amaury Gremaud, Luciano Nakabashi, Nícolas Scaraboto, Thiago Sinzato and Rudinei Toneto Jr. map the performance of students of the 5th and 9th elementary grades and the 3rd high school grade between the regions that form the state of São Paulo between 2007 and 2017. The results show a positive evolution in the performance of these students in most regions, which is positive given the importance of quality education for regional economic development. The best-performing regions in one education grade

also tend to stand out in other grades, showing that some elements affect the quality of the different education grades in the same direction.

Finally, Amaury Gremaud, André Menegatti, Luciano Nakabashi, Nícolas Scaraboto and Rudinei Toneto Jr. from FEARP/USP analyze crime indicators in municipalities of São Paulo and their evolution between 2010 and 2019. The results portray a significant crime indicator drop among municipalities. Additionally, municipalities located further east present higher crime indicators. Variables such as economic development level, income inequality and population size show correlation with indicators of crimes against property.

Have a nice reading.

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Organizer