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Abstract

This article reviews the main theoretical and empirical literature on the links between distribution, poverty and economic growth. Additionally, some works on populists experiments in Latin America are discussed, which main feature is to produce sudden improvements in income distribution as well as in poverty that causes economic growth. Besides, economic populism, no matter the ideological direction, records an important reborn in the region. A panel regression is estimated to capture effects of economic growth, distribution and fertility on poverty rate for a 14 Latin American countries sample over 1990-2005. The results show evidence for positive effects from distributive improvements, economic growth and fertility decreases on the poverty rate. Particularly, impacts from the first ones are greater than that of the last one. Nevertheless, this result must be taken carefully and adequately otherwise it could lead to bad policies.

Keywords

Distribution, growth, poverty, populism, fecundity.

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