

Thi Thuy Linh Le : Essays on Vulnerability and Inclusive Development in Developing Asia: A Focus on Vietnam

This PhD dissertation is dedicated to the issue of 'exclusivist' growth and vulnerability characterizing Vietnam as well as developing Asia today. The chapters address three important aspects of vulnerability and inclusive development, namely: Informality (chapter 1), Education dilemma (chapter 2) and Non-standard employment (chapter 3). The contribution of this work lies in the novelty and relevance of research topics; the wide range of data used, both quantitative and qualitative, including Household Business and Informal Sector Surveys in Vietnam, and national Labor Force Surveys of various countries in Asia; as well as the originality of methodology. Chapter 1 investigates the heterogeneity of the informal sector in Vietnam, based on a unique quali-quantitative approach. Chapter 2 focuses on the variation of the returns to higher education across the Vietnamese population with different estimation models. Chapter 3 is the first study that systematically examines the wage differentials induced by temporary job status in Asian developing countries. Overall, the whole thesis implies that human capital, employment, and income are interrelated facets of individual well-being, and that some development phenomena should be analyzed in their heterogeneity.

Keywords : Vulnerability, Inclusive development, Informality, Returns to education, Non-standard employment, Developing Asia, Vietnam