

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this thesis is to provide, through various articles and empirical analysis, some responses about the role of the informal sector in labor market and poverty in Madagascar, with a focus on the case of Antananarivo. The thesis is organized in four chapters. The first one presents methodologies for investigating the informal sector in Antananarivo : the 1-2-3 survey in two steps on the informal production units and household consumption, and the development of economic aggregates deflators in the informal sector. The second chapter of this thesis presents the characteristics of the informal sector in Antananarivo. The third chapter is devoted to relationships between the informal and the labor market. The fourth and final chapter is dedicated to the analysis of the role of the informal sector on poverty. The thesis examines the social or economic interests justify the informal sector support in the fight against poverty: the contribution of informal sector activities on the incidence of poverty and the impact of exercise of informal activity on the individual happiness. This leads to focus the analysis on its characteristics, dynamics, weaknesses, barriers to its development and aid desired by the operators, in particular the need for microcredit. Complementary analyses are also provided concerning the choice of self-employment and discrimination on the labor market along a formal/informal line.

KEY WORDS

Informal Sector, Poverty, Development, Madagascar, Microfinance, 1-2-3 Survey
