

Gender Inequality and Gender-Based Poverty in Mexico

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Abstract:

A precise measurement of inequality and poverty is necessary for the development of public policies that enhances the welfare of any country's population. The Mexican government measures them through the Gini and Theil indexes, which are criticized by overweight the importance of the middle class. This paper proposes the use of the Palma index (inequality) and the Foster–Greer–Thorbecke index (poverty) as an alternative to the previous indexes. These indexes allow us to analyze the relationship between inequality and poverty by gender and employment type (salaried and self- employed).

Although our main results do not differ from those found by the Gini and Theil indexes, our approach lacks their theoretical issues. We observe a positive, albeit weak, correlation between both problems. However, in the gender analysis we find results in contrary directions: men present greater inequality than women, while the opposite prevails in the context of poverty.

Keywords: Gender inequality; income poverty; Palma index; FGT index