

Essay Question: How significant is the informal sector economy, especially in poorer countries? What kind of legal and policy framework is most likely to be effective in managing the development of this sector? Give examples. Is management actually needed in this sector and, if so, by whom and by what means?

Annotated Bibliography:

1. Bhalla, S. (2017). From 'Relative Surplus Population' and 'Dual Labour Markets' to 'Informal' and 'Formal' Employment and Enterprises: Insights about Causation and Consequences. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, [online] 6(3), pp.295–305. Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2277976017745460> [Accessed 5 Mar. 2024].

In this article, Labour Economist Sheila Bhalla evaluates several prominent theoretical frameworks that encompass the informal sector economy. The theories that were explored range from Karl Marx to the likes of W.Arthur Lewis, Barry Bluestone, Keith Hart and S.V Sethuraman. The article seeks to explore these frameworks as the 'forerunners' of thought in relation to the informal sector and showcase how these theories have advanced and differ. Limited insights about 'causation and consequence' were provided despite its suggestion in the article title, making the article more informative on existing theories rather than analytical. This article will not play a formative role in my essay, but provides useful insight into theories that may be applied briefly throughout.

2. OECD (2019). Addressing the Gender Dimension of Informality. In: Tackling Vulnerability in the Informal Economy. [online] Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. Available at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/addressing-the-gender-dimension-of-informality_cfd32100-en.pdf [Accessed 4 Mar. 2024].

This book created by the OECD seeks to address the pervasive issues that emanate from the informal economy, while providing policy suggestions to tackle these issues. It aims to remove the negative connotation often afforded to the sector by highlighting the importance of the informal economy through the economic and social development that it contributes. The book covers various issues including the gender disparity evident in the sector as well as risks associated with the sector. It provides extremely useful statistics and insights into the informal economy. The policy suggestions featured are well crafted and aided by real-life examples. This work will play a critical role in my essay, by providing baseline statistics and policy suggestions that will be developed on.

3. Steiler, I. (2022). Informal Work and Intersectionality: Understanding Worker's Exclusion in Two Tanzanian Sectors. In: *Global Rupture : Neoliberal Capitalism and the Rise of Informal Labour in the Global South*. [online] Brill, pp.102–126. Available at: <https://brill-com.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/display/book/9789004519183/BP000013.xml> [Accessed 9 Mar. 2024].

This book chapter seeks to dismantle the “pre-given” character of the informal economy, by investigating the complex and interconnected nature of activity within the sector. The chapter compares two forms of informal economy within Tanzania, which effectively provides insight on the notion of intersectionality within the sector as matters of gender, race and class are exposed in an interconnected nature. The findings were based on primary and secondary sources, with the inclusion of interviews within Dar es Salaam conducted by the author. Unique perspectives are provided in the analysis, through exploring the colonial legacies evident in the informal economy in Tanzania, as well as the suggestion of using intersectionality as an analytical tool within research on the sector. These notions will be useful in crafting my argument and will support a more nuanced examination of the informal sector in my essay.

4. Tripp, A.M. (1997). *Changing the Rules: the Politics of Liberalisation and the Urban Informal Economy in Tanzania*. 1st ed. [online] JSTOR, University of California Press, pp.1–28. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/jj.2430461.7> [Accessed 9 Mar. 2024].

This book examines the contribution of Liberalisation and Urbanisation to the development of the informal economy in Tanzania, as well as the consequences that these developments have had on its management. The book focuses directly on Tanzanian politics and the various developmental policies that led to an economic crisis during the 1970s and 80s within Tanzania. While detailed in its analysis, the perspective on the informal economy is relatively outdated, which may merely be a symptom of the period in which this work was written. Activity within the informal sector is regularly referred to as “evasions” and is perpetuated by several negative stereotypes of the sector. The book is useful in providing an understanding of the initial growth of the informal sector, but will not be significant in the critical analysis of the sector within my essay.

5. Eremionkhale, O. (2016). *Oshodi Market demolition: One man's Policy Is Another man's Pain*. [online] Ventures Africa. Available at: <https://venturesafrica.com/features/oshodi-market-demolition-one-mans-policy-is-another-mans-pain/> [Accessed 5 Mar. 2024].

This article, though not academic in nature, poignantly expresses the human element often ignored in discourse surrounding the informal economy. The article reports on the demolition of a popular market in Lagos, Nigeria that hosted hundreds of informal vendors daily. The article features an interview with one of the vendors following the demolition of the market, in which he expresses his distress and fears for the livelihood of himself and hundreds others who will be affected. The article provides an excellent real-life example of the importance of the informal economy and the ways in which government policies can detrimentally affect the sector. The article will play a crucial role in a case study of the Oshodi Market in my essay.

6. Sabatini, C. (2021). *Developing Social Insurance Schemes for Informal and 'Gig' workers*. [online] Chatham House. Available at: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/2021-03-23-developing-social-insurance-informal-workers-sabatini.pdf> [Accessed 9 Mar. 2024].

This Briefing Paper examines the traditional policies of International Finance Institutions towards the informal economy, particularly in relation to Social Insurance. The paper establishes that the traditional approach is flawed in its understanding of employment in the sector, as most informal labour consists not of entrepreneurs but of “own-account workers” with no employees. The author provides an alternative approach to policies within the sector given this understanding, arguing that the informal sector is not primarily driven by too many business regulations, but rather too few labour regulations within countries. The paper issues a detailed examination of this alternative approach and will be extremely useful in influencing the policy suggestions within my essay.