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Institutions and gender gap in developing countries: an economic approach

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the extent to which different aspects of public institutional quality are associated to the magnitude of the gender gap in terms of economic opportunities. Specifically we analyse the relationship between the Public Institutions Index and its five components, and the Economic Participation and Opportunity Index. To this end, we carry out a panel data dynamic analysis in 82 developing countries during the period 2006–2017 by using the system Generalized Method of Moments estimator. We find that property rights, security and government efficiency seem to be main factors associated to lower values of the economic gender gap. By geographical areas, we reveal that public institutions quality seem to be particularly associated with lower values of gender gap in Latin America and the Caribbean countries while in MENA and East and South Asia and Pacific countries this association is not significant. In Sub-Saharan countries ethics and corruption stands as a significant component.

KEYWORDS Institutions and gender; Economic gender gap; Developing countries

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