

## EDITORIAL:

One of the most written, talked about and debated issues of the past decade and half is inequalities in earnings and wealth. In as much as it is the case that the issue, under the rubric, socioeconomic inequality, is not at all new in the social and economic sciences, (indeed, it has never been under the radar), it could be argued that Thomas Piketty's 2014 *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, gave more oxygen of concern to the issue. From the literature, it is clear that studies, empirical and theoretical, on the issue highlight different aspects and their role in its widening: education, family composition and family structure, family wealth, employment status and employment type. For example, some of the studies on education and its relationship to inequalities in incomes and wealth, focus on grades attained at high school level and how these are more likely to predict whether some one gets on in life by setting in motion a chain of 'accumulative advantages and disadvantages.' Here, the point is made that admission to universities or elite educational institutions is dependent on grades made at secondary school. One's education and attainments have been shown to shape one's possibilities in the labour market. The questions asked in this regard include: to what extent does family structure influence the outcome of a child's schooling? Such a question is critical in matters of social inequality and indeed social stratification.

It is commonplace that inequalities in earnings and wealth are growing rapidly in Africa and most societies in the world. For those who are exceedingly wealthy in Africa, there is the possibility that they might be able to advance their privileged positions. Such individuals or families are more likely to have children with good education outcomes, which then somehow translate into good employment, access to such basic things of life as housing and also good health care. Two papers in this issue serve as relevant baseline empirical studies that point to the direction of what is highlighted here: Acheampong Yaw Amoateng, Tim B. Heaton and Camille McAlmont's 'Effect of Family Structure on Children's Schooling in Sub-Saharan Africa' and Chinwe Obuaku-Igwe's "Employment status, medical support and Income as significant factors in Access to Essential Medicines." To be clear, the focus of both papers are hardly the same; the one examines the impact of family structure on children's education outcome and the other on the correlation between employment status, medical support and income and access to essential medicines. However, as earlier mentioned, both point to the direction of problem of inequalities in income. Both contribute, as empirical studies, to advancing theoretical and empirical case for a sound socio-economic policy dealing with inequalities, generally, in Africa

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L'un de problèmes les plus écrits, parles a propos et debatus il y a une decennie et demi est inegalites dans le gain et richesse. Comme c'est le cas, le probleme sous etude, inegalite socio-economic, n'est pas du tout recent dans les sciences sociales et economiques, (en effet, il n'a jamais ete sous le radar), il aurait pu etre argumente que Thomas Piketty's 2014 *Capital dans le vingt-et-unieme siecle*, donna plus d'oxygene a la preoccupation de ce probleme. A partir de l'etat de la question, il est clair que les etudes, empiriques et theoriques, sur le probleme soulignent different aspects et leur role dans son extension: instruction, structure et composition familiale, richesse familiale, type et statut economique. Par exemple, la plupart des etudes sur l'instruction et ses relations aux inegalites en termes des revenus et richesse, focalisent sur les grades acquis au niveau de l'ecole secondaire et comment ceux-ci sont plus en mesure de predire si quel'un se positionne dans la vie dans une motion d'une chaine d'avantages et desavantages accumulatifs. Ici, le point a preciser est que l'admission aux universites ou institutions de l'elite instruite est facteur de l'education d'un chacun et acquisitions qui avaient ete demontrees pour donner forme aux possibilites d'un chacun sur le marche d'emploi. Les questions posees a cet egard incluent: dans quelle mesure la structure familiale influence-t-elle le rendement scolaire d'un enfant? Une telle question est critique en matieres d'inegalite sociale et tout a fait stratification sociale.

Il est commun que les inegalites en gains et richesse s'accroissent rapidement en Afrique et dans la plupart des societies dans le monde. Pour ceux qui sont excessivement riches en Afrique, il ya la possibilite qu'ils devraient etre capable d'avancer leurs positions privilegiees. De telles familles ou individus sont disposes d'avoir des enfants avec des rendements d'une bonne instruction, qui du reste se traduit dans un bon emploi, l'accès aux commodites de base de la vie comme reconnu et aussi le bon soin de sante. Deux exposes dans cette etude sont pertinents comme etudes empiriques de la ligne de base qui pointent a la direction de ce qui est souligne ici: Acheampong Yaw Amoateng Tim B. Heaton et Camille McAlmont's "Effet de Structure familiale et scolartite des Enfants en Afrique Saharienne" et Chinwe Obuaku-Igwe's "Statuts economiques, support medical et revenu comme facteurs significatifs d'accès aux medecines essentielles". Pour etre clair, le point focal de ces deux exposes sont les memes; l'un examine l'impact de structure familiale sur le rendement de l'instruction des enfants et l'autre se base sur la correlation entre statut economique, support medical et revenue; et accès aux medecines essentielles. En effet, comme mentionne tot, tous les deux exposes pointent a la direction du probleme d'inegalites en revenu. Tous contribuent, comme etudes empiriques, a l'etude de l'avancement empirique et theorique pour une politique economique plausible s'occupant des inegalites, generalement, en Afrique.

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