ACHIEVING LOCAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT: CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

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ABSTRACT

We examine critically four global case studies of varied entrepreneurial approaches to local regeneration. We deploy Amartya Sen’s Capability approach, and Elinor Ostrom’s Critical commons theory, and draw from other social movement theories to develop a conceptual framework for our analysis of the case studies. This framework allows us to reinterpret entrepreneurship as a form of social movement for regional or local economic and social development. Our study covers Glasgow in the United Kingdom, Medellin in Colombia, Rio De Janeiro in Brazil and West Bengal in India. Although each of these places have distinctive spatial, environmental and cultural characteristics, our purpose is to investigate the commonalties of citizen involvement and organisational stakeholding constructs in reshaping agendas for local governance and productive economic and social transformation. We use multiple secondary sources for our research. We find that articulating community-based priorities by disparate stakeholders and adopting an entrepreneurial approach to facilitate different types of social movement, offers a basis for resolving entrenched economic development problems and achieving regeneration. We conclude with implications for policy development at the local level and suggest a set of propositions for further development as part of future research on the subject.