

BREAKING THE POVERTY CODE

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BREAKING THE POVERTY CODE

An Integrative Approach to
Measuring Multidimensional Poverty
in Mexico

BY

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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I dedicate this dissertation to my mother María Esther, from whom I have learnt that science is the way to achieve truth. I thank her love and support in all my life projects.

This book is dedicated to academics and students who are motivated to study poverty for contributing to its eradication. I hope this study helps define objective criteria for the measurement of multidimensional poverty.

This research represents a vote for the eradication of poverty.

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ABSTRACT

This study formulates a theoretical and empirical link to integrate two frameworks for measuring multidimensional poverty in Mexico, which are the ‘Consensual approach’ and the ‘Social Rights-based approach’, with the purpose of updating the living standards established in the Mexican norms and evaluating the official Multidimensional Poverty Measurement Methodology in Mexico (MPMM). The Consensual approach, developed by Mack and Lansley (1985) in the United Kingdom, will help us to inform the socially perceived necessities for identifying new needs and updated poverty thresholds. On the other hand, the Social Rights-based approach has been officially advocated in Mexico for the measurement of multidimensional poverty since 2008. Both frameworks are based upon social needs and aim at promoting that every person must achieve a decent standard of living, as well as to acknowledge that all citizens should accomplish their entitlements for being free of poverty. Also, both approaches lead us to understand that needs are determined socially and can be defined based on ‘social consensus’. However, the Mexican legal frameworks do not inform continuously about the changing needs resulted from the socio-economic and technological progress, because of its normative nature. Therefore, the consensual approach creates an important association with the social rights, not only for the evaluation of the official method of multidimensional poverty in Mexico but also to inform institutions and scholars about objective poverty measuring criteria, as well as to show a more accurate picture of poverty. This research also contributes with a statistical application for obtaining an objective poverty measurement for Mexico, based on the application of multivariate statistical techniques as part of the ‘Consensual Method’.

Yedith Betzabé Guillén-Fernández