

Human Capital and the Innovation System: A Case Study of the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Authors : Maria E. Eggink

Abstract : Human capital is one of the essential factors in an innovation system and innovation is the driving force of economic growth and development. Schumpeter focused on the entrepreneur as innovator, but the evolutionary economists shifted the focus to all participants in the innovation system. Education and training institutions are important participants in an innovation system, but there is a gap in literature on competence building as part of the analysis of innovation systems. In this paper the education and training institutions' competence building role in the innovation system is examined. The Mpumalanga Province of South Africa is used as a case study. It was found that the absence of a university, the level of education, the quality and performance in the education sector and the condition of the education infrastructure have not been conducive to learning.

Keywords : education institutions, human capital, innovation systems, Mpumalanga Province

Conference Title : ICBEIM 2014 : International Conference on Business, Economics and Innovation Management

Conference Location : Cape Town, South Africa

Conference Dates : November 06-07, 2014