

EXPANDED ABSTRACT

Characteristics of the Colombian solidarity economy. Approaches to influential currents in Colombia

In Colombia, the theoretical and doctrinal origin for the definition and conceptualization of what is understood by solidarity economy is not very clear, for this reason we consider the realization of a research project that will lead us to this. The first result is presented in this article. The objective is to present the theoretical reflection that will allow us to have an analysis guide to define the solidarity economy in Colombia.

Through a qualitative methodology based on the method of documentary analysis and using different information collection techniques, we analyze two demographic trends that have had an impact on the definition of solidarity economy in Colombia. The first is the Latin American current and the second is the current social and solidarity economy. Finally, we review the regulatory framework to propose some theoretical elements that are the basis of the investigation. This article is the realization of the first specific objective of the project in mention.

As results, we find that in Latin America we can mention two currents. The first refers to the ethical-moral current that has as main authors Luis Razeto and Pablo Guerra. The second is the economic current of the solidarity economy with important authors such as José Luis Coraggio, Max Neef and Singer. In Europe, we find a vision called social economy, its main exponents are Jose Luis Monzón and Rafael Chávez in Spain and Jean Luis Laville in France. These definitions allowed us to discuss the denomination used in Colombia and confirm that the term solidarity economy represents in Colombia an important sector that encompasses countless organizations in different parts of the national territory. These organizations are based on collective and community work seeking the solution to specific problems. Solidarity economy is another way of looking at the relationship between economy, human and his context, where he bases his actions on loyalty practices with culture, humanity, territory, in search of a balance between being, having and living. In Colombia, through Law 454 of 1998 two types of organizations are distinguished, those of solidarity economy and solidarity developed, there are organizations of a solidary nature such as cooperatives, employee funds, mutual associations but also We recognize associations, corporations, foundations, volunteer groups, community action boards, among many others that respond to the conceptual and empirical characteristics of the solidarity economy mentioned below.

The main conclusions refer to the characteristics of the solidarity economy in Colombia. From the social point of view, the solidarity economy is the means to achieve the social development sought by the territories. From the economic point of view, it is a new rationality of movement, use, accumulation and relationship between the economic factor and being. From the political point of view, self-management seeks the independence of the State in relation to its decisions. However, it is a movement that projects changes within public policy focused on equity between the social, economic, cultural and environmental. From the territorial aspect, it seeks to protect the development of the territory, coexisting with its geographic and cultural context, exploring new rationalities of territory from its socio-economic and cultural practices. From the cultural point of view, it seeks to recognize its origin in solidarity, cooperative and mutualist practices, striving to rescue them again, invigorate them and encourage them from and for the territories with new forms of organization. From the environmental aspect, it seeks the generation of territorial development balanced with the environment and its social context. From the organizational point of view, it is based on the participative, valued activity towards the human being and his capacities, the self-management, the associativity, the solidarity and cooperation are transversal in the organizational structures. From the individual, considers that the person is the end and not a means, take it to their freedoms is one of the purposes so that once free contribute to the overall development of society. Finally, it seeks the participation of the human being as the end of social, political, economic and cultural relations and realities, as a leading actor that seeks continuous but dynamic and changing development, guaranteeing solidarity, cooperative and respectful coexistence with others and their environment.

Unlike Latin American countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, in Colombia the solidarity economy hardly emerges as an incipient social movement, because it does not have enough identity to give it meaning given the existing heterogeneity and diversity of practices that could be categorized as solidarity economies. The social actors that are participating in the construction of the solidarity economy are varied and diverse; unions, universities, entities of the solidarity economy system, the State, the private sector, the church, international cooperation, organized civil society, popular rural and urban movements, which are called to the strength of the social movement seeking public policies that recognizes the importance of the solidary sector in Colombia.

Some Colombian universities have developed since the mid-twentieth century, research programs made up of research groups that have different lines of work related to solidarity economy, as well as formal undergraduate and postgraduate and non-formal teaching programs such as continuing education programs. extension programs that mean work with the community and dissemination actions represented by journals, books, texts and academic events to present research results as well as national university networks (the Unicossol Network Corporation and Ciriéc Colombia) related to international networks since decades ago, which have advanced significantly in the construction not only of the concept, but of a culture, movement and social force of the solidarity economy.

These networks and research processes allow the solidarity economy to be recognized as a growing sector in the country, with important challenges in terms of the territorial reorganization that Colombia is currently experiencing, as a result of the negotiation processes with the armed groups. The solidarity organizations have emerged and continue to appear as a result of the absence of the State and the urgency of solutions to social problems that have arisen because of the war in Colombia. This particularity in Colombia makes the study of the solidarity economy urgent and necessary in a country where research has been difficult to develop, public investment in rural development processes, access to different territories, among others. Finally, the contribution of this article is based on the effort made by the Unicossol Network in recognizing the solidarity economy as the main source of development in Colombia. The union of researchers from different universities at national level, with different points of view and with experiences in the territory has facilitated the discussion and the approach to the definition of a term little studied in Colombia.

KEYWORDS: Solidarity economy, development, social innovation, socioeconomy, cooperation, solidarity.