Review of: "Digitalization of research: do ICT improve scientific production in developing countries?"

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I quite agree with the remarks of the other referees. Instead, I will provide additional comments. The fact remains that the paper, in its current state, cannot be published by an academic journal, even if ranked at low levels.

The introduction is much too long and, above all, does not introduce the subject of the paper; it must be refocused on the academic production of developing countries and not on growth in general productivity per se. The reference to the “Walrasian model” is completely irrelevant. ON THE PROBLEM OF THE PAPER, I believe that there are two confusions; the authors talk about measuring the impact of ICT on scientific production while only the impact of the internet is studied. ICT is a more general concept, and studying the impact of the internet is reductive. Reference should be made here to the work of Arora and Gambardella (1994), showing that “computational capabilities and instrumentation are encouraging a new approach to research”. Likewise, works around mode 2 of producing new knowledge deserve to be noted and exploited (Nowotny, Scott, Gibbons, 2003). A second confusion is introduced with the consideration of patents alongside academic publications. Both refer to different types of knowledge production: technology versus science. My opinion is that only the publications indicator should be considered primary.

As far as data is concerned, I cannot go into details, but does the World Bank take into account the scientific production of researchers from developing countries when it appears in a collective publication with researchers from developed countries and when the institution of the former researcher is in a developed country? Last point. The construction of variables can also be questioned. According to me, the best indicator of scientific productivity at the macro level is the number of publications divided by the number of researchers.

Arora, A., & Gambardella, A. (1994). The changing technology of technological change: general and abstract knowledge and the division of innovative labour. *Research policy*, *23*(5), 523-532.

Nowotny, H., Scott, P., & Gibbons, M. (2003). Introduction:'Mode 2'revisited: The new production of knowledge.*Minerva*, *41*(3), 179-194.