

Review of: "Institutions and Socioeconomic Development: Do Legacies and Proximity Matter? Case Studies of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand"

Anis Khayati¹

¹ University of Bahrain

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This is a very interesting paper that compares the impact of institutions on socioeconomic development in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

The study highlights a topic that needs to be addressed, in order to further understand country-specific factors that might lead to variations in socioeconomic patterns. The main research questions related to the topic are adequate. However, despite extensive textual information, it is suggested to write the article in a more coherent and cogent way. For example, different parts in the paper, including the introduction seemed to be unnecessarily long. Besides, the abstract could be written in a way that gives an accurate and overall view about the subject and the analysis. For instance, the first sentence should preferably be: "The overarching objective of this paper is to analyze relationships among institutional development, democracy, and socioeconomic well-being in three Asian countries, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand during the period 2006-2018.

In the article, the conceptual model is coherent and the concepts and variables are appropriate for the investigation. They were properly defined and analyzed. Results and explanations are also clear and coherent, but instead of being direct and related to policymakers, they seemed at times much related to the theoretical background.

Concerning results, the article adequately documents, acknowledges, and references the existing findings, research and literature in the field. Specifically, analysis results showed that government effectiveness is important for a functional and reliable institutional framework. Besides, the following variables: Rule of law, political stability and absence of violence, human development index, and competitiveness and control of corruption have a positive and strong association with government effectiveness. The results also confirm the ambiguity of the relationship between democracy and economic development (Murphy, 2022; Khodaverdian, 2022) as the process of democratization seems to be associated with a decline in the business climate.

There is a need to articulate and develop further the main recommendations, since the topic is practicable. It can be of important use to academicians and government policy officials. In effect, the article demonstrates direct applicability, relevance, and effectiveness of the practice it analyzes.

Murphy, R. H. (2022). The constitution of ambiguity: The effects of constitutions on economic freedom.*Economic Affairs*, 42(2), 240-258.

Khodaverdian, S. (2022). The African tragedy: the effect of democracy on economic growth.*Empirical Economics*, 62(3), 1147-1175.