

Review of: "Innovative Financial Services and Commercial Banks' Profitability in Africa"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper.

The authors examine the effect of innovative financial services on bank financial performance in Africa. The authors employed the random effects regression and found that automatic teller machine services, mobile banking services, and internet banking services have a positive effect on the profitability of commercial banks operating in Africa. While the paper analyses an interesting topic, there are some limitations that the authors need to address for the paper to be published.

1. The introduction should be reorganized. In the penultimate of the introduction, extant studies are not substantiated in the positioning of the study within the remit of extant literature. The study is poorly motivated, and the following questions are not clearly answered. (i) What is the policy syndrome or problem statement? (ii) What has been done by the extant contemporary literature to address the problem statement? (iii) What are gaps in the engaged literature? (iv) How does this study address the identified gaps? (v) How is addressing these gaps relevant to policy? Without clear answers to these questions, the study is not clearly situated within the context of extant knowledge economy literature.

2. I recommend that the authors add additional control variables, such as indicators of the structure of the banking market and the nature of the bank's ownership.

3. Authors should conduct several robustness and sensitivity analysis.

4. Finally, what are the policy implications of this study?