

Review of: "Mediating Role of Outsourcing on The Relationship Between Lean Manufacturing Practices and Profitability"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper raises an interesting issue, but needs greater elaboration in terms of methodology, implications and literature review.

At the current state it is quite short and the methods used are rather unsophisticated.

I recommend:

- 1). Adding more sources to the literature review, including the broader discussion of corporate profitability, the threads in profitability research, the discussion of mediating and intervening variables in organisational research.
- 2). Setting regression model with a reasonably complete list of regressors. Then, determine the appropriate econometric methodology.
- 3). Providing a more in-depth discussion of the findings with the relevant implications in terms of policy and decision making.

The authors need to justify why particular methods are used, need to provide a better description of the variables and data, and may also need to fix stylistic issues (e.g. such expressions as "restless researchers").

Profitability is a core variable in capitalist economy that underpins its vibrancy, while the decline or sluggishness in profits may exacerbate stagnation tendencies in capitalism. Outsourcing is a deliberate strategy by the business to restore the profits. The macroeconomic and political economic dimensions of the profitability crisis and outsourcing needs to be present in the paper.