

Review of: "Encounters with Others: Student Growth through Fieldwork Studies in Rural Areas"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to read the paper titled "Encounters with Others: Student Growth through Fieldwork Studies in Rural Areas". First of all, I would like to congratulate the author(s) as they have done a very simple yet significant work in the domain of rural studies. Here are some of the minor issues that I have listed, I believe with minor revision it can be accepted.

Figures:

1. Figure 1 could be a little clearer. (Try to select a different color gradient or symbol)
2. High School Persistence rate and High School Residual rate, are they the same? Please clarify it in the section above or below the graph.

General suggestions:

1. Refrain from writing phrases like 'many developed countries', (para 2, introduction), 'some urban areas' (same para), 'many regions tried working with universities...' (para 3), 'in one university' (counterpart communities, 2nd para). Rather provide specific and critical examples that will rather help contextualizing the situation.
2. 'Thus, migration to and visits to rural areas....' (Rural development and universities in Japan) this line needs a little clarification.
3. Research questions, research problems and the novelty of the work (research gap it is addressing) should be mentioned properly.
4. A methodology section is needed for a better understanding of samples and their regional context.
5. The term 'Others' mentioned in the title should be clearly defined.
6. A conclusion and limitation section has to be added.