

Review of: "Factors Influencing Access to Credit for Rural People in Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Title of the manuscript: Factors Influencing Access to Credit for Rural People in Ethiopia

The issue of rural households' access to credit is relevant in developing countries like Africa, where the majority of the population in rural areas, works in the informal sector and agriculture. The availability of credit could help them to expand their activities, increase their income and strengthen therefore their livelihood. Here you have my comments and suggestions for your work. I hope they will help you to improve your manuscript. Thank you

1. Introduction

You did the repetition in your introduction. Apart from the first paragraph the other paragraphs from *Unfortunately, the access to microfinance services* ... To *"This study aims to fill the gap and explore an untouched section of major socio-economic, demographic, institutional, and other factors that influence credit access for rural people in the Bilate Zuria district"* are repeated.

2. Literature review

From my point of view, the literature review presents some insufficiency. You have not thoroughly reviewed the theoretical debate on the subject. Empirically, though the literature on studies carried out in developing countries exists, this review is not critical and is essentially narrative. One should see a progression in your ideas and the orientation of your criticism about these previous empirical studies.

3. Methodology

-The econometric method (binary model) used to analyze the factors influencing rural households' access to credit is appropriate. However, the econometric model is not well theoretically and empirically specified. Furthermore, we have the probit and logit model. It would be good to explain why you chose the Logit model.

- In your variables used in Table 1, there is a measurement issue. For example, "high interest rate", "distance", "operating cost", "low repayment rate" are considered as dichotomous variables. Based on which scientific criteria do you consider the interest rate is high or it is low? based on which scientific criteria do you consider the repayment rate is high or it is low? based on which scientific criteria do you consider the distance is short or long.... Many of your variables must be taken as a continuous variable.

-You mentioned that a multicollinearity test was conducted, however you did not include that table summarized the collinearity statistics.

-For the different equations, I suggest you use the mathematical function to write your equation.

4. Results and discussion

-In the results and discussion section improvements must be made. You must provide a coherent descriptive (Descriptive statistics of variables sub-section) analysis that includes, on the one hand, the descriptive analysis of the entire sample and, on the other hand, a comparative analysis of rural households who have access to credit and those who do not.

-The results of the three tables (Tables 1, 2, and 4) are not sufficiently well presented. For instance, Table 2 could include descriptive statistics for the whole sample, the two different groups (respondents who have access to credit and those who do not), and statistical tests comparing the mean differences between groups. Regarding the "empirical result" subsection, we note that you do not discuss your results. You present the econometric result and make a comparison with previous studies. Yes, the econometric analysis explains how gender, marital status, collateral, lending procedure, group lending, high interest, distance, number of dependents, and the availability of a limited microfinance institution influence the access to credit for rural residents in the study area. But the econometric analysis does not tell us why. You must clearly discuss the econometric results based on economic theory and existing research. From there, we can understand your contribution and in your conclusion you can clearly make your recommendations to policymakers.

5. Conclusion

In your conclusion, you only recalled the aim, the method, and the results of your study. You must provide policy implications, recommendations, based on the results of your research.

6. Abstract

In the abstract, you wrote "It is recommended that policymakers, the government, and other stakeholders emphasize and improve the accessibility of microcredit and increase its availability in rural areas", the question is by doing what? As a researcher, you should clearly suggest or recommend what policymakers should do to address the issue you have raised based on your findings. You need to rewrite your abstract with improvements

7. Quality of Communication

Overall, you need to improve your scientific writing. You probably have not taken the necessary time to proofread or read your work. There are entire paragraph repetitions, especially in your introduction, and significant style issues in the text.

Reviewer's Decision: Manuscript Rejected