

Review of: "Exploring the Role of Social, Economic, and Cultural Factors in Community Development: A Social Work Perspective in T/A Chimwala, Mangochi"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear author(s),

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. I agree that this is an important and pertinent topic. Although the idea is a good one, unfortunately, the way in which the study is operationalized holds back its potential contribution. There are a few areas where I would encourage the authors to give further thought, as follows:

The introduction should clearly illustrate (1) what we know (the key theoretical perspectives and empirical findings) and what do we not know (major, unaddressed puzzle, controversy, or paradox does the study addresses, or why it needs to be addressed and why this matters). And, (2) what will we learn from the study and how does the study fundamentally change, challenge, or advance scholars' understanding. Much sharper problematization is required so that the introduction draws the reader into the paper. The introduction therefore needs to do a better job in setting the stage for the articulation of the theoretical contributions of the study. At the end of the introduction, we should have a clear idea of what the paper is about (i.e. its motivation, the gap in understanding that the paper is trying to address and summary of theoretical contributions).With references of 2022- 2023-2021.

Paragraph 1, with no references, explaining the context of the research.

Paragraph 2, with references, explaining very generally what we know about the topic introduced in Paragraph 1.

Paragraph 3 explaining what we need to find out.

Paragraph 4 explaining briefly what this paper will do to find out, method etc.

Paragraph 5, with no references, explaining the structure of this paper.

- You need a discussion section. The discussion challenges your findings and determines the degree of compatibility with previous research.
- The discussion section needs to highlight what is new in your findings and what we can learn from a study conducted in this interesting and understudied context. Whilst the introduction sets the stage for the study by justifying the relevance of the study, the discussion is the most important section as it is in the discussion that it is all brought together, and the authors illustrates how and why the study findings advance the literature. Therefore, the discussion needs to illustrate

the new insights—the contributions—in a clear and compelling manner. In other words, illustrate what we know now that we did not know before or, in effect, to clearly illustrate the contribution of the study to the different bodies of literature. Furthermore, what are the future research directions based on this new framework?

- Theoretical Contributions: Addressing all the points mentioned above will lead to a more in-depth presentation of your data which has a clearer theoretical contribution. What is the theoretical contributions?
- The authors need to draw substantive conclusions from their results, and suggest, develop recommendations for further research.