

Review of: "Digitalization of research: do ICT improve scientific production in developing countries?"

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The paper deals with the question of whether ICT improves scientific production in developing countries. The authors analyse 70 developing countries with a macroeconomic model containing a variety of variables, in particular scientific publications and patents for the period 2000-2016. The paper discusses the relevant literature in an appropriate way. The analysis is made carefully. The results are convincing. The paper shows in an impressive way the influence of ICT on scientific production.

Therefore, only a few comments are made.

First, the statement "The Anglo-Saxon countries have better performances than the Francophone ones." has to be put into a broader context of bibliometrics. There exists a well-known language bias towards English-speaking countries; for example, the UK has many more publications with reference to scientists than France.

It should be clarified which types of publications and patents are considered. Web of Science, Scopus ...? Domestic patents? The use of transnational patents would be the most appropriate approach because of comparability.

It should be formulated in a more concrete way that the internet does not simply provide access to worldwide knowledge, but primarily provides access to worldwide scientific publications due to the increasing use of open access free of costs.

Furthermore, it would be helpful to have a list of the analysed countries. It would also be useful to see the results for the different countries.

Finally, the difference between publications and patents should be discussed and analysed in a more detailed way. Publications primarily reflect scientific output, and patents reflect the output of industrial research. The performance of countries in terms of publications or patents is often quite different.