

# Review of: "A Review of Informal Employment Research"

Florah Modiba<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Mandela University

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The study on the review of informal employment research provided discussions on the informal economy and informal employment and its relevance in creating employment. The study aimed "to contribute to policy formulation to ensure the robust development of the informal economy and its practitioners". The focus and coverage of rural informal employment is a well-identified niche which can be further strengthened so that the paper can contribute to the body of knowledge. Another limitation of this article is that the policy discussion was not adequately addressed yet cited as the key focus. The authors can improve this manuscript by attending to the following:

1. Ensure that the title reflects the contents of the study.
2. Reformulate the research goal to align with the paper's main discussions.
3. In addressing 1 – the scope of the study to the Asian rural context, most of the discussions seem to focus on rural informal employment in Asia.
4. Including "A review" in the title creates an expectation of a systematic review, which is missing in the study. The study can be maintained as a literature study, but the review must be removed. Alternatively, use a systematic literature review method for a rigorous review of the topic, yielding a strong contribution from this study.
5. Some sections need to be referenced. Also, ensure that all citations are consistent throughout the manuscript. Refer to the following for an example of sections that need to be revisited:

- Introduction section

1st paragraph – provide sources for the informal employment in the first paragraph.

2nd paragraph – provide sources for China's informal employment statistics.

3rd paragraph – provide evidence for the research gap highlighted in the first sentence; a few citations should be included.

- Section 2

Correct "(Schneider F, 2005; McFarlane C, 2012; Xue D S, Huang G Z, 2015)" citations to be consistent with other references.

The last two statements must be referenced correctly.

- Section 3

The reliance of the formal sector on the informal economy must be referenced.

- Section 4

Apply consistency in referencing.

- Section 5

The migration of Indian labourers needs to be referenced.

6. In Section 6, the title needs to be revised to suit a sub-heading as it reads like a primary heading.

7. It might even be good to include a theoretical framework since there are several ones; there is already a discussion on Lewis' – those discussions can be extracted and expanded under this subheading. The discussion section should then highlight the relevance of the used theories in understanding rural informal employment.

8. Look at the work of Chen & Carre' (2021) "The informal economy revisited".