

# Review of: "The Intelligence of Nations. National IQs. Update 2023."

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

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the article, which I consider interesting for the educational scientific field.

The manuscript entitled "The Intelligence of Nations. National IQs. Update 2023" addresses an interesting reality about Intelligence, the most important human trait. This is true at both the individual and national level. The average cognitive performance of its inhabitants is the most important determinant of the social, cultural and economic development of nations. In recent decades, two prolific branches of research have accumulated an enormous body of empirical data on national intelligence. On the one hand, psychometric research on intelligence and, on the other, international student assessment studies, such as PISA, TIMSS and others. However, although the topic is interesting, a more comprehensive analysis of this study is needed for comparative studies.

- In terms of strengths, it analyzes a problem that deserves further study. In addition, it makes use of up-to-date references that are very pertinent to the topic.
- As for its limitations, a number of specific considerations are presented below to try to improve or reflect on some elements of the manuscript.

Regarding these considerations, we highlight the following:

- The title should not end with a period.
- The abstract has a good structure, but lacks sociodemographic information: number of students, percentage of women or men, average age and standard deviation.....
- The article lacks keywords, an important aspect in scientific articles. It is therefore necessary to include them.
- The introduction addresses the problem and is supported by recent references; however, it lacks information and justification of the analyzed content, and should be supported by more current scientific literature. In addition, a more exhaustive description of the general and specific objectives (numbering the latter) should be included at the end of the introduction.
- The part related to methodology should be much more structured, presenting the following: design and procedure, participants, instruments and data analysis. These sections should be clearly differentiated. Thus, the statistical part of the study is scarce and poor.
- The instrument used should contain information on its correctness, internal consistency coefficient, etc.
- As for the results, the descriptive analysis needs figures to complement it.
- It is recommended that the "Results" section have the same subsections as the specific objectives at the end of the

introduction.

- It is mandatory that there be a Discussion section, before the conclusion, in which objective by objective -or hypothesis by hypothesis if this structure is chosen- information is given on what has been done, why it has been found, on what studies the proposals are based to explain the results, etc. The conclusion should be a single paragraph that summarizes everything.

- The discussion should also clearly define: the applicability of the study, future lines of research and the limitations of the present study.

In short, the article lacks structure (Introduction, methodology: participants, procedure, instrument, data analysis, results, discussion, conclusion), it does not follow the scientific criteria for publication. And the bibliographic references do not follow the norms.

In short, I do not consider that the article is ready to be published; it requires an exhaustive modification and restructuring in order to be published.

Thank you very much for your attention.