

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

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The paper titled "Digitalization of Research: Do ICT Improve Scientific Production in Developing Countries?" provides a comprehensive analysis of the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs), particularly internet penetration, on scientific production in developing countries.

The paper's strength lies in its clear aim and methodology, focusing on the analysis of ICT's impact on scientific production. However, concerns are raised about the extended introduction, suggesting a need for concise focus on academic production in developing countries. Recommendations to incorporate more recent references and consider the last decade for analysis are sensible to capture recent trends accurately.

The utilization of a panel dataset covering 70 developing countries from 2000 to 2016 is commendable, enhancing the study's credibility. However, there's a valid point regarding potential changes in scientific article numbers over the last 10 years that should be acknowledged.

One notable critique is the lack of specificity in measuring scientific production variables (number of scientific journal papers and patents). Providing more details on these metrics is essential for a deeper understanding.

While the paper discusses correlations between variables, there is a call for deeper exploration to establish causality, strengthening the research's validity. We recommend a more profound discussion of the implications of the findings and suggest offering insights into why these correlations exist, along with potential policy implications.

In summary, while the manuscript is recognized for its contributions, addressing the above-mentioned suggestions would likely enhance its clarity, depth, and overall impact before publication.