

Peer Review

Review of: "Strategic Synergies: The Untold Interactions Between Global Competitiveness and Logistics Performance in Sub-Saharan Africa"

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The article provides a valuable regional focus and uses advanced analytical techniques; however, several weaknesses should be addressed to strengthen its scientific rigor. First, the study relies on an **unbalanced panel with limited time points (six years)** and only **27 countries**, which may reduce statistical power and generalizability; the authors should justify sample adequacy using power analysis or robustness checks and consider extending the dataset or conducting sensitivity analyses. Second, **causal inference appears overstated**, since both TAN-BN and PLS-SEM are largely associative or predictive methods rather than true causal frameworks; the authors should moderate causal language and possibly incorporate longitudinal or panel causality tests. Third, treating **each GCI pillar as a single-item construct (AVE = 1.0)** weakens measurement validity and ignores multidimensionality; future revisions should use disaggregated indicators or reflective/formative measurement models. Fourth, the **R² values for several endogenous variables are extremely low**, indicating weak explanatory capacity that requires deeper discussion and potential model refinement. Fifth, the study lacks **control variables** such as governance quality, trade openness, or political stability, which may confound results; adding these would improve model robustness. Finally, the policy recommendations are somewhat broad and not sufficiently tied to empirical effect sizes; the authors should prioritize recommendations based on statistical magnitude and feasibility analysis. Addressing these limitations would significantly enhance methodological reliability, theoretical contribution, and policy relevance.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.