

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The idea of the article is interesting. To improve the quality of the article, we would like to make a few observations and suggestions to the authors

- 1- Authors should improve the quality of the abstract by giving the policy implications of the study
- 2- Page 4: The objective of the article needs to be clarified. The authors speak sometimes of the effect of ICT on scientific production, sometimes of the effect on productivity (see page 4).
- 3- The authors use Internet and cell phones as proxies for Information and Communication Technologies. But equation 2 says nothing about how this variable was constructed?
- 4- Variables such as "total population" and "the proportion of female university teachers" mentioned in the text do not appear in the equation specified on page 4.
- 5- The authors need to clarify the choice of explanatory variables introduced in equation 2. I believe that research capacity also depends on the access, availability, and quality of the statistical data that are produced. In the majority of developing countries, such statistical data is a major handicap to the progress of scientific work. This is an important factor that must not be overlooked.
- 6- Graph 1 could be improved to highlight the relationship between scientific production and the evolution of information and communication technologies. A commentary on the graph should be provided, and the title of the axes should be specified.
- 7- How did you handle the issue of missing data? As seen in Table 1, they are missing information. The number of codes is less than 70, and you failed to present the number of instruments (see page 8 for this comment)
- 8- The authors need to improve the quality of their interpretation of certain results, in particular the coefficients linked to higher education and health expenditure.
- 9- Authors should reread the text to eliminate repetitions (see pages 9 and 10 of the article).
- 10- As a proxy for information and communication technologies (ICT), I believe that authors should exploit several variables in addition to the Internet, as this can give more credibility to the results, e.g., broadband Internet access,

computer usage,

11- My final comment is that the analyzed subject is interesting, but the paper is not ready to be used as a trusted reference.