

Review of: "Exploring the Role of Social, Economic, and Cultural Factors in Community Development: A Social Work Perspective in T/A Chimwala, Mangochi"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article, which addresses an important consideration in engaging with communities to support development. While the topic is of critical value, I struggle with the methodology and novelty of the research, for the following reasons:

1. It is difficult to place confidence in the findings of survey data when no information is provided regarding the sample size, number of respondents, or statistical analysis of responses beyond percentage breakdowns. I'd like to know so much more!
2. Concurrence of findings from previous literature for every instance of identified influence collectively suggests to me that there is nothing new in this study. This may be the result of insufficient data analysis, or it may suggest that this is a basic regurgitation of past research with case study numbers as evidence.
3. I'd like to see some analysis where data appears to conflict. For example, Figure 2 suggests that education level is perceived to be the most powerful influencer of community development, while Figure 3 indicates education has the least significant impact on development. Why do these numbers conflict so strongly? Is it the result of the way the terms were defined in the survey, or is there something else at play here?
4. I'm particularly unclear about the survey design to quantify conditions and factors that are qualitative in nature. If respondents were simply asked to check off factors they consider influential, were those factors defined for them? In fact, were respondents given a clear understanding of what Community Development means, since the academic term may conjure very different meanings among non-academic research participants.