

Review of: "Factors Influencing Smallholder Farmers' Preference for Veterinary Services Providers in Zimbabwe"

Kolawole Odubote¹

¹ University of Zambia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review of: Factors Influencing Smallholder Farmers' Preference for Veterinary Services Providers in Zimbabwe

Firstly, let me congratulate the authors for this work which I believe is an extension of their earlier paper titled Enhancing Veterinary Services for Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe: A Comprehensive Literature Review. It is, however, surprising that despite the closely related factors, this second paper did not make reference or relate with the first paper submitted in the same journal. This second paper would have benefited from the wealth of knowledge in the first paper.

Secondly, I agree with the sentiments that more studies on the livestock smallholders are necessary to address the issues of production and productivity given that the sector hold close to 70% of the national herd.

The authors are advised to be consistent in the styles and formatting used. Please find below, specific comments and suggestions on the paper.

Introduction

The background to the problem and literature review sections should be combined with the introduction and structured to give a flow of thoughts on the development of Veterinary services, challenges currently being faced and research questions to find possible solutions.

Materials and methods chapter:

This section should focus on how the study was conducted. There should be no room for conjecture at this stage.

The authors should specify the species of interest in the study. Lumping all the livestock together would assume equal economic value for the various species which is not correct. I believe this is central to the success of the study. It is logical that a chicken for instance, would not be given as much attention as a dairy cow in need of veterinary care.

The authors should present the summary statistics of the variable in table format for better understanding of the data collected and analyzed.

The authors should be concise in reporting the mixed methods approach in the study area, sampling procedure, data collection, and data analysis. Well presented table, diagram and or models would be succinct. Nevertheless, the analyses should be rerun after satisfying necessary assumptions especially for the multivariate analysis.

Results chapter:

This section was poorly presented. The authors should present the results of the quantitative and qualitative analyses separately for clarity of thoughts. The relevant information from the outputs from the statistical software should have been properly organized and presented in appropriate tables. The software outputs made a mess of the paper.

Some discussions were already presented here. So, it may be useful to bring up here the other discussions from the Discussion and Conclusion chapter. The authors should mention what was in the literature and compare with their results with the aim of drawing inferences or filling up gaps.

There was no attempt to triangulate results obtained from the three data sources: Semi-structured questionnaire administered respondents, focus group discussions (FGDs) informants, and interviews with key informants.

Discussion and Conclusion:

This section should be for the Conclusion only. The conclusions should come out clearly as a result of the discussions above. It should not be another round of deliberations.

References:

The authors should take time to go through literature cited in the text and ensure they are referenced. Referencing should be complete with name of Journal, Vol, Issue, and pages.