

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

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The main contribution of the article lies in its comprehensive analysis of the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), particularly the internet, in shaping the productivity of researchers in developing countries. The study employs a panel model estimated by the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) method, drawing on data from the World Bank, ICRG, and World Happiness databases for 70 developing countries spanning the period 2000-2016. The findings highlight the positive correlation between internet diffusion and scientific production, emphasizing the importance of good governance, transparency, and the detrimental effects of corruption, conflict, and mining rents on researcher productivity. The study not only provides empirical evidence but also suggests policy implications, recommending continued efforts to enhance governance and democratization in these nations.

The following areas need to be improved:-

1. The article lacks a clear statement of the research question, making it challenging for readers to understand the primary focus of the study.
2. The article could benefit from a more explicit presentation of the conceptual framework guiding the study, helping readers understand the theoretical underpinnings.
3. The rationale behind choosing specific databases and the relevance of variables used need more explicit explanation to enhance the study's credibility.
4. The article lacks a detailed explanation of the GMM method, making it challenging for readers unfamiliar with this technique to assess the validity of the study's approach.
5. Some variables, such as "Internet," need clearer operational definitions to enhance transparency and reproducibility.
6. While the study introduces a regional variable, the discussion on why African countries exhibit lower scientific production requires more in-depth exploration.
7. The policy implications could be more nuanced, providing specific recommendations for governments rather than general calls for improvement.
8. The presentation of results in tables needs improvement for better clarity. For instance, the formatting of coefficients and p-values could be more reader-friendly.
9. The article lacks visual aids (e.g., graphs) to illustrate key trends, making it less accessible for readers who prefer visual representation of data.

