

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

Olivier Pourret¹

¹ UNiLaSalle

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article presents clear aims, methodology, and findings related to the impact of ICT diffusion and internet penetration on scientific production in developing countries. I would, however, clearly detail ICT in the title and check these few points to increase the quality of the manuscript.

The paper's aim is well-defined, focusing on analyzing the impact of ICT diffusion and internet penetration on scientific production in developing countries. This clarity helps readers understand the purpose of the research. However, the introduction is very long, and more recent references should be considered.

The use of a panel dataset covering 70 developing countries over a significant period (2000-2016) enhances the credibility of the study. Employing the method of generalized moments in the system for estimation adds rigor to the analysis. However, I am wondering about the period; in the last 10 years, the number of scientific articles has increased even more, and the results will be different.

The article presents clear findings derived from the analysis. It asserts that improved internet access correlates with increased productivity among researchers. Additionally, it highlights the impact of governance factors (democracy, transparency) and socio-political issues (corruption, conflicts, mining rents) on scientific productivity, offering comprehensive insights.

While the text mentions the variables used to measure scientific production (number of scientific journal papers and patents), it doesn't delve into the specifics of how these were measured or the criteria used. Providing more details on these metrics could enhance the paper's depth.

The article broadly refers to "developing countries" without specifying nuances or variations among these countries. It might be helpful to explore differences between regions or specific countries within the broader category of "developing countries" to offer more nuanced insights.

The article discusses correlations between variables (e.g., internet access and increased productivity) but doesn't delve deeply into establishing causal relationships. While correlation is informative, establishing causality strengthens the research's validity.

The article introduces significant findings but lacks a deeper discussion of the implications of these findings. Providing insights into why these correlations might exist or discussing potential policy implications could enrich the paper.

Overall, the text presents a solid foundation for research on the impact of ICT and internet penetration on scientific production in developing countries. Strengthening the explanation of variables, exploring causality, and providing deeper discussions should further enhance the paper's quality and impact before publication.