

## REVIEWER'S COMMENTS

**Causality between regional economic independence and decentralization on poverty alleviation and community welfare mediated by economic development.**

### Summary

Based on the situation of East Kalimantan Province in Indonesia from 2013 to 2018, this paper uses the method of quantitative analysis to study the causal relationship between regional economic independence, decentralization and regional economic development on poverty alleviation and community welfare. The format of the article is relatively standardized, but there are still some problems in the research content.

### Major Issue

The major problem of this paper is the source and authenticity of data, as well as the practical significance of the research.

### Minor Issues

#### *Abstract:*

- The abstract of this study focuses on the conclusions and findings of the study, but the author should pay attention to a brief introduction to the research methods. **It has been explained about the abbreviation 'SEM' in 'Abstract'.**
- What is SEM technology? For some professional concepts, the author should simply explain. **It has been explained about the abbreviation 'SEM' in 'Abstract'.**
- In the abstract, the author should also clarify the problems to be solved in this study and the practical significance of this study. **Clear!. One sentence has been added before the 'last paragraph' in 'Abstract'.**

#### *Literature Review:*

- Are these ten hypotheses put forward by the author based on previous literature research, or are they obtained by citing literature? **Yes of course, the 10 proposed hypotheses refer to 'empirical review' and 'theoretical review' of previous publications relevant to the variable.**
- From the 10 hypotheses, we can see that this study mainly focuses on the relationship between multiple events. In fact, the author should also briefly introduce each event and sort out its relationship in order to enhance the logical relationship of the research. **Answered with a reasonable meaning. Please highlight again in section '2.1. hypothesis development'.**

- There are some unclear areas in Figure 1 that may need to be marked by the author. For example, what does the plus sign in parentheses mean? In addition, what do X and Y mean? The variable symbols 'X' and 'Y' have been implemented in 'Figure 1'.

### ***Methodology:***

#### ***3.1 Techniques and Approaches:***

- As a research project of quantitative analysis, how do the data used in this study be obtained? The source of the data set has been described in the 'last sentence' in the 'first paragraph' of 'section 3.1'.

#### ***3.2 Demarcation:***

- The research scope of this study is only the data from 2013 to 2018. Why choose this time period instead of the nearest time period? Two sentences are included in point '3.2 demarcation' regarding the justification regarding the 'data period'.

#### ***3.3 Variable Classification:***

- What does prosperous family-1 and prosperous family-2 mean respectively? 'prosperous family-1' and 'prosperous family-2' as 'reflective indicators' of Y3 (community welfare). Reviewers can review it in 'paragraph 3' in section '3.3 classification of variables'.
- The author introduces Y1 and Y2 in the two paragraphs of endogenous variables and regulatory variables respectively. What kind of variables do these two variables belong to? 'economic development (Y1)' and 'poverty alleviation (Y2)' function as mediator variables. Please cross-check the last sentence of 'paragraph 4' for section '3.3 classification of variables'.

#### ***3.4 Instrument:***

- The introduction of variables, parameters and formulas can be improved. For example, in the formula, some parameters have a numeric suffix, and the author does not explain the meaning of these numbers. All symbols in the 'formula formula' have their respective terms, which have been presented in the '3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph' of '3.4 instrument'.
- There are several formulas in this part. The author should briefly introduce the meaning of these formulas to help readers understand the model. The model for SEM parameters is different from other regression methods, so the application is not the same.

### ***Findings:***

- The meanings expressed in Figure 2 and table 1 are the same, and the contents overlap to a great extent. Therefore, it is suggested that the author integrate them. Figure 2 and Table 1 look the same, but Figure 2 only represents the 'direct effect', while Figure 1 displays the 'indirect effect' of the entire path (eg X2 - Y1 - Y3 and Y1 - Y2 - Y3). In addition, Table 2 needs to display the 'connotations' of each relationship because Figure 2 does not represent it as a whole.
- In Section 4.1, the author introduces the numerical results of some parameters, but does not introduce what these values represent and what information they can reflect. 'Section 4.1' only focuses on the fit index of the model, whether it has met the requirements or not. On the one hand, the reflection of the numerical results is represented by the 'path coefficient'.
- The findings of this study only draw the relationship between various variables, but do not deeply explore the reasons and conclusions. In my opinion, these findings are not rich enough. The reviewer's perception is considered to see the proportion of the purpose of the paper.

### ***Discussion:***

- In this part, I think the author should put forward some practical management opinions, but I don't see such content. The author can consider making more efforts in this part. Expansion of explanation of the phenomena of the findings is added through 'paragraph 6' to section '5. Discussion'.

### ***Conclusion:***

- Novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak in 2019-2020 years is a sudden event, and has nothing to do with the research. However, in the context of the current global coronavirus pandemic, I think it is meaningful to consider the impact of the epidemic. It has been applied regarding 'Covid-19' which reviews the weakness of the paper data in '3rd paragraph' in section '6. Conclusion'.

The following minor issues should be looked into by the authors:

- The professionalism of the language in this paper can be further improved by appropriately adding long sentences. It has been implemented as per the constructive comments of the reviewers.

### **General Comments**

**Finally, I hereby encourage the author to make major revisions.**