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The Business Insolvency Topic

Highlights

Ukrainian Economy Downturn

Exploring the Role of Friendships

Discovering Thoughts, Inventing Future

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Peers, Bullying and School Performance: Exploring the Role of Friendships

By Rute Alves da Cunha, Tatiane Almeida de Menezes, Andrewen Felipe Santos Bezerra & Isabel Pessoa de Arruda Raposo

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Abstract- Evidence in studies from different fields point to the harmfulness of being bullied on indicators of success in an individual's life. Aiming to measure and understand the impact of this inherently social event, this paper investigates how the friendships of lower secondary education students in the city of Recife influence their likelihood of being victims of such a phenomenon and its effect on the academic performance of these students. The two-stage least squares method is applied to an IV-SLX model, using indirect friendship ties as an instrument, and significant results are found at 95% confidence: increasing the chances of being victimized by bullying by 10%, on average, reduces the Portuguese language score by 2.33% and the math score by 2.75%.

Keywords: bullying. peer effects. school performance. spatial econometrics. instrumental variable. two-stage least squares method. friendship networks.

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Peers, Bullying and School Performance: Exploring the Role of Friendships

Rute Alves da Cunha [α], Tatiane Almeida de Menezes [σ], Andrewen Felipe Santos Bezerra [ρ] & Isabel Pessoa de Arruda Raposo [ω]

Abstract- **Evidence in studies from different fields point to the harmfulness of being *bullied* on indicators of success in an individual's life. Aiming to measure and understand the impact of this inherently social event, this paper investigates how the friendships of lower secondary education students in the city of Recife influence their likelihood of being victims of such a phenomenon and its effect on the academic performance of these students. The two-stage least squares method is applied to an IV-SLX model, using indirect friendship ties as an instrument, and significant results are found at 95% confidence: increasing the chances of being victimized by bullying by 10%, on average, reduces the Portuguese language score by 2.33% and the math score by 2.75%.**

Keywords: bullying. peer effects. school performance. spatial econometrics. instrumental variable. two-stage least squares method. friendship networks.

I. Introduction

Bullying is a phenomenon recognized worldwide for its perverse effects. It can be observed in different spheres where there is social interaction, such as education and work environments. Specifically focused on the school setting, there are evidences that quantify the magnitude of the negative repercussions of bullying on the academic performance of students who are victims (KIBRIYA *et al*., 2015; OLIVEIRA *et al*., 2018), pointing out its harmfulness.

Still in the context of the school environment, it is pertinent to highlight the role of friendships in the classroom. A positive association was found between the grades of the group of friends to which a student belongs and the grades of this individual (RAPOSO *et al*, 2019). This is an important indicator that suggests the potential of friendship networks as a means to achieve academic success, under the proper stimuli.

This work proposes to contribute to the thesis that the school environment and peer effects are fundamentals for their performance. Having friends or being part of a particular group can directly impact the chances of a student being bullied or not. In this sense, we seek to measure the probability of being bullied based on the context effects and peer effects. For instance, we are working with a unique dataset that comes from a survey carried out in 2017 and 2018 by the Fundação Joaquim Nabuco – FUNDAJ, a research institute that integrates the Brazilian Ministry of Education.

To deal with the reflexive problem (MANSKI, 1993) present in peer effect estimation we are applying a Spatial Lag Model of X with Instrumental Variable (SLX-IV) and as instrument we are using the lagged classroom friendships weight matrix (BRAMOULLÉ *et al.*, 2009).

In addition to this Introduction, this article consists of five more parts. The first contextualizes the topics of bullying and peer effects according to the scientific literature in the fields of Economics, Psychology and Psychiatry. In the section tree we describe the dataset and the empirical strategy. In the fourth part, the results are presented with a brief discussion about them. Finally, we present some conclusion.

II. Theoretical Framework

Bullying is defined as a form of violence (verbal or physical) that happens in a repetitive and persistent way, addressed against one or more colleagues, characterized by targeting the weakest in order to intimidate, humiliate or mistreat those who are targets of these aggressions (BULLYING, 2020). Bullying not only occurs in different ways, but can also have serious impacts on the physical integrity, psychological health and even academic performance and professional future of its victims. Studies have searched to identify the relation and the magnitude of the effect, between being bullied or performing bullying in the school environment and student achievement.

Kibriya *et. al* (2015), for example, find that being bullied weekly at school negatively influences students' math scores. Ponzo (2013) establishes a binary variable that indicates whether the student has had something stolen from him or herself or if he or she has been bullied or hurt by another student. The author also finds a negative relation between exposure to bullying and academic performance; especially in the case of those who have had something stolen from them and who, among these, have been pressured by classmates to do something they did not want to do. Additionally, a result

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that is worth pointing out is the prevalence of bullying in larger classes.

Impacts on psychic health were also investigated. Kumpulainen *et al.* (2001) found that most children actively or passively involved in bullying had some psychiatric disorder, such as depression, anxiety, fears, attention deficit disorder, and psychosomatic symptoms. It is worth noting that such disorders were more common among those who practice bullying and those who, in addition to practicing, are also victims. In the long term, Klomek *et al.* (2015) observed that victims are at high risk of developing psychological problems, and perpetrators tend to be involved in crime, specifically violent crimes and illicit drug use.

Due to its viscerally social character, it is important to explore the way in which bullying travels social interactions. Oliveira et. al (2018) highlight that social skills and emotional stability play an important role in reducing the likelihood of a student being bullied. Fekkes et al. (2006) even recommend, in their study, that children with anxiety, depression or some other factor that makes them susceptible to victimization by bullying, such as having few friends, not being popular or being under assertive, should be referred to a psychology professional to be educated in social skills as a means of preventing bullying. This recommendation is reinforced by the study by Sharp (1996), which, in addition to this strategy, exposes the importance of involving colleagues in combating and preventing bullying.

In addition to the perceptible relevance of direct social interactions, there is also the indirect factor of responding to peer pressure. It is possible to imply, based on Bursztyn *et al.* (2015), that there is a need to keep up appearances because of the expectation of classmates. Students with excellent academic performance purposely lowered their performance when they were told that their peers would know their grades (BURSZTYN *ET AL.,* 2015). This may be linked to the apprehension of being bullied and being labeled a nerd. Woods *et al.* (2004) explore bullying in two aspects: the relational, such as the exclusion an individual from the group, and the direct characterized by aggressiveness and the practice of direct violence against the victim. They find that students who experience relational bullying are nearly three times as likely to have lower-than-expected academic results.

Studies in the area of social networks and peer effects have been carried out in the field of Education Economics. Through different methods, research has often reached the same result: there is a positive impact of the academic performance of colleagues on the performance of an individual who is part of the group (CALVÓ-ARMENGOL *et al.*, 2009; HANUSHEK *et al.*, 2003; RAPOSO *et al*, 2019). In addition, Sund (2009) points out that this effect may not be linear for all types of students, since he finds that students with low academic performance benefit more from living with colleagues whose performance is higher. Similarly, Vardardottir (2013) shows that, when students are placed in classes with students who have higher average ability, this generates a positive and significant effect on the grade of these students. When low-achieving students are found together, a negative effect is perceived (LAVY; SILVA; WEINHARDT, 2012). From the perspective of the duration of friendship links, Patacchini *et al.* (2017) show that connections lasting more than a year tend to positively influence an individual's academic results in the long term.

Given all of the mentioned, then, it can be seen that the friendship networks are crucial information of an individual's social skills and susceptibility being bullied or performing bullying. For this reason, such a topic proves to be of great relevance to be studied.

III. Model

a) Data Set

Data for this study derive from a survey carried out in 2017 and 2018 by the *Fundação Joaquim Nabuco – FUNDAJ*, a research institute that integrates the Brazilian Ministry of Education. The research involved 6th and 7th graders in public schools of the city of Recife and consisted of a panel with students that were closely monitored during the two years of this survey. Students, their guardians, teachers and school principals answered a detailed questionnaire that resulted in a very complete set of information related to school and out-of-school aspects, which included information related to the practice and experience of *bullying*, as well as friendship networks in the classroom. In 2017, of the 3,274 respondents who took both tests, 21.28% answered in the affirmative to the direct question about having been *bullied* during the period in which the survey was carried out. Of the 3,170 in 2018, 19.64% reported being bullied. In order to assess school achievement, students took math and a Portuguese tests at the beginning and ate the end of the school year, for both years of the research, totaling four tests for each subject.

An important characteristic of the 6th grade of Primary and Lower secondary education is that this is the students' first year in the so-called "Middle School" (BRASIL, 2018, p.27). In the city of Recife, particularly, children are almost always relocated to new schools during the transition from 5th to 6th grade, as could be verified in the research: 87.56% of students declared that they were newcomers in 2017. This fact should be especially highlighted in this paper because it is probable that, this year, students will form new friendships and build bonds with each other; as well as they may be more susceptible to being bullied by older students, for example. In its turn, in the 7th grade, with more time of coexistence, the friendship bonds tend to be firmer and some social dynamics may be adjusted.

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In this article, only data collected in 2018 is being used due to a few reasons: it is the most complete sample in terms of the fit between answers to socioeconomic questions and those about friendships; it captures a second moment in the school life of the students who participated in both periods, and their bonds of friendship are firmer. By eliminating missing and outlier information, a total of 2,809 observations remained, a reduction of only 11.38% of the initial sample in 2018.

The control variables are described in table 1. The outcomes are Portuguese and mathematics scores (from 0 to 100) of the tests applied at the end of each year. The variable representing bullying victimization is a dummy, where it equals 1 when the student reports being bullied and 0 in another case.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

Variable	Meaning	Average	Standard Deviation
N2_Portuguese	Student's Portuguese grade	37.28	18.71
N2_Mathematics	Student's Mathematics grade	36.71	20.14
dbullied	Dummy if the student claimed to be bullied	0.16	0.37
age	Student Age	12.42	0.74
male	*Dummy* if the student is male	0.51	0.50
race	*Dummy* if the student is deemed to be white	0.20	0.40
studies	Frequency of student study	3.23	1.35
security	*Dummy* if the student feels safe in the neighborhood of residence	0.70	0.46
tdisciplined	Intensity of the teacher's perception of how disciplined the class is	2.17	0.66
Number of Observations	2869		

In the survey data, the connections between students is also carried out, where they could point up to 5 other students as their friends. In this way, it is possible to link one student to another, see their characteristics and generate inferences about behaviors, influences, etc. It is worth mentioning that, even if an individual points to another as a friend, it should not necessarily be assumed that this relationship was reciprocally informed. Therefore, there is a vast and complex range of identified relationships.

b) Empirical Strategy

This paper proposes to contribute to the theory that the school environment and the students' friendship network are essential to their performance. Having friends or being part of a certain group can directly impact the chances of a student being *bullied* or not. In this sense, we seek to identify the impact of *bullying* on students' grades according to the general equation described below:

$$lnY_{i,s} = \theta + \delta Bullying_{i,s} + \sum_{k=1}^{6} \beta^k g_{ij,s} X_{j,s}^k + \sum_{k=1}^{6} \sigma^k X_{i,s}^k + \epsilon_{i,s} \quad (1)$$

where Yi,s are the educational outcomes, here, the Portuguese and mathematics grades of the student i in the class s; *Bullying*$_{is}$ represents the probability that the student i in the class s being bullied based on the vulnerability of their friends being bullied[1], the vector $X_{i,s}^k$, skcomprises a set of sociodemographic attributes of the student i, being k=6 is the number of control variables used, already described in the Data section: male, color, age, studies, security, and disciplined. The use of Spatial Econometrics is necessary here because, in order to measure peer effects, it is necessary to insert the characteristics of the student's friends into the equation, capturing their influence on the variable of interest. Such characteristics are represented by the element $g_{ij,s}X_{j,s}^k$, which $X_{j,s}^k$ includes the same six attributes mentioned, but for the student j and $g_{ij,s}$ is a matrix of weights, composed of ones and zeros, which links each individual to their connections in the network of friendships; that is, this term translates the characteristics the characteristics of i's j friends.

This is a model classified as Spatial Lag Model of X (SLX), where the regression coefficient linked to the weight matrix presents the effects of contextual or exogenous interactions. In this work, however, there is a difficulty regarding the endogeneity caused precisely by the nature of social interactions. The student chooses his friends for reasons of affinity according to his own individual characteristics; therefore, it is expected that such attributes affect both the grade and the probability of being bullied. And the presence of complete interaction prevents the identification of the effects of group *outcomes* from the influence of the exogenous characteristics of its members (GIBBONS *et al.*, 2014). In other words, the problem of reflection (MANSKI, 1993) exposes a reality of back-and-forth, where the individual

[1] In the survey of the network of friends in the classroom, the Fundaj Survey (2018) asked each student interviewed to list up to five best friends, who could or could not be in their class.

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influences his peers, who in turn also influence, as a group, the individual.

Following Bramoullé *et al.* (2009) our identification strategy is based on an instrumental variable using the lagged classroom friendships weight matrix as instrument. The lagged friendship matrix provides a structure of intransitive connections that are crucial for the identification of the peer effect. The intuition of this one is as follows: consider a simple network with three students A, B and C. For assumption A and B are friends with each other, as are B and C. However, A and C are not friends. So the only way C could influence A's behavior would be through B. C's characteristics are therefore good instruments for the effect of B's behavior on A because they certainly influence B's behavior, but they cannot influence directly the behavior of A (PATACCHINI & VENANZONI, 2014).

In the first stage, the estimated equation can be described as below:

$$Bullying_{i,s} = \alpha + \lambda g^2_{ij,s} Bullying_{j,s} + \sum_{k=1}^{6} \tau^k g_{ij,s} X^k_{j,s} + \sum_{k=1}^{6} \varphi^k X^k_{i,s} + \varepsilon_{i,s} \quad (2)$$

where, $g^2_{ij,s}$ denotes the indirect friendship ties, that is, the matrix of weights of zeros and ones $g_{ij,s}$, which, multiplied by itself, generates the lagged matrix used in this study. Thus, the element $g^2_{ij,s}$ Bullyingj, stranslates to the fact that friends of friends of i, who are friends of j, are bullied or not. The component $g^2_{ij,s}$ Bullying j,s of equation (2) is the instrument considered in this study for the effect of *bullying* suffered by i.

In the second stage, the impact of the probability of being bullied on the student's academic performance is measured as described in the equation below:

$$lnY_{i,s} = \theta + \delta \widehat{Bullying}_{i,s} + \sum_{k=1}^{6} \beta^k g_{ij,s} X^k_{j,s} + \sum_{k=1}^{6} \sigma^k X^k_{i,s} + \epsilon_{i,s} \quad (3)$$

In which the independent variable represents the investigated educational outcomes: the scores obtained in the Portuguese and mathematics tests applied at the end of the year. The other control variables are the same as mentioned above.

In practice, two-stage least squares regression is performed using the single *ivreg2* command in the STATA statistical software, with sample adequacy, with school-level weights, previously using the *svyset* command based on the 2017 sample. As the sample was stratified at the school level, the cluster option was used in all models presented in the next section, in order to control for heteroscedasticity and obtain robust estimates of the variances across the 87 clusters of schools, although there is a loss of efficiency.

IV. Results

Table 2 shows the correlation between the probability of a student being bullied (*dbullied*) relative to the chances of their indirect friends being exposed to bullying (G2bullied), using a linear regression in which, to each column, a control variable is added referring to characteristics of the individual's direct friends.[2] For the variable in the first row, the results show significant coefficients at 1%, varying little as new variables are added to the model. In this way, it appears that G2bullied is a strong candidate for an instrument for estimated bullying to be applied in the second stage of the methodology.

Table 2: Correlation between Instrument and First Stage Dependent Variable[2]

	Dependent Variable: *dbullied*						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
G2dbullied	0.249**	0.273**	0.305**	0.307**	0.306**	0.307**	0.311**
	(0.027)	(0.026)	(0.024)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.022)
Gmale		-0.061**	-0.022	-0.023	-0.023	-0.023	-0.022
		(0.012)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.018)
Gage			-0.004**	-0.005**	-0.006**	-0.007**	-0.005
			(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.003)
Grace				0.024	0.024	0.023	0.022

[2] Variables starting with "G" are the control variables, specified in the Data section, spatially lagged.

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				(0.025)	(0.025)	(0.025)	(0.025)
Gstudies					0.006	0.005	0.007
					(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)
Gsecurity						0.014	0.014
						(0.024)	(0.024)
Gdiscip							-0.015
							(0.012)
_cons	0.135**	0.154**	0.175**	0.175**	0.175**	0.174**	0.174**
	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
N	2869	2869	2869	2869	2869	2869	2869
R^2	0.097	0.109	0.117	0.118	0.118	0.119	0.119
Statistics-F	83.47	75.48	79.65	61.13	54.16	47.66	44.99

Standard error in parentheses. Statistics-F refers to the global model.

* $p < 5\%$, ** $p < 1\%$.

For both stages, robustness tests were applied to the model and its results. The first is the model under-identification test, where the rejection of the null hypothesis suggests that the model equation is correctly identified. For the model proposed in this work, the null hypothesis was rejected in both regressions against the dependent variables. There is also the weak identification test, where the null hypothesis translates that the instrumental variables used to estimate the endogenous variable are not really adequate to fulfill this role. Here, in none of the regressions of the IV-SLX model, the Cragg-Donald Wald F statistic was less than the Stock-Yogo critical values. Therefore, the instrument G2dbullied is a good predictor for the endogenous variable Wdbullied. Then there is the weak instrument robust inference test, which seeks to assess whether there are regressors that are not endogenous and that there is orthogonality. For this test, the results do not reject the 5% significance level.

In addition, the Generalized Method of Moments in Two Steps was used, with the option *gmm2* in the estimation, in order to ensure more robust and efficient tests regarding heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation. The results reinforce those of the tests mentioned above. And, in the second stage specifically, Hansen's J statistic test is applied, in which the null hypothesis seeks to identify whether the controls and instruments are valid, that is, not correlated with the error term; the result here being that the equation is exactly identified.

Tables 3 and 4 describe the impact of the *bullying variable* on grades in Portuguese and Mathematics, respectively. In both tables, column (1) corresponds to the result of the regression by OLS, this estimator being theoretically biased. In column (3), the characteristics of the friends are inserted into the model, making it an SLX. In columns (2) and (4), the instrument for the probability of being *bullied* according to indirect friendships is applied; differing from the model of column (4) by the integration between the instrumental variable and contextual effects (IV-SLX), which is the model proposed in this work. In all models, the characteristics of the individual enter as control variables.

Table 3: Results for the outcome of the Portuguese grade

	Dependent Variable: ln N2_Portugues			
	(1) OLS	(2) IV	(3) SLX	(4) IV-SLX
dbullied	-0.169**	-0.286*	-0.168**	-0.223*
	(0.051)	(0.113)	(0.050)	(0.110)
male	-0.068*	-0.068*	-0.054	-0.053
	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.038)	(0.037)
race	-0.011	-0.018	-0.009	-0.012
	(0.036)	(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.038)
age	-0.066**	-0.066**	-0.066**	-0.065**
	(0.022)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.022)
studies	0.034*	0.035**	0.033*	0.034*

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Table 3: Results for the outcome of the Portuguese grade

	Dependent Variable: ln N2_Portugues			
	(1) OLS	(2) IV	(3) SLX	(4) IV-SLX
	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.014)
security	-0.003	-0.014	-0.000	-0.006
	(0.034)	(0.035)	(0.033)	(0.034)
tdisciplined	-0.067*	-0.067*	-0.049	-0.049
	(0.031)	(0.030)	(0.039)	(0.040)
Gdbullied			-0.087	
			(0.062)	
Gmale			-0.028	-0.028
			(0.025)	(0.026)
Gage			-0.001	-0.002
			(0.005)	(0.005)
Gstudies			0.010	0.010
			(0.014)	(0.014)
Gsecurity			0.064	0.073
			(0.057)	(0.053)
Grace			-0.028	-0.022
			(0.048)	(0.048)
Gdiscip			-0.022	-0.024
			(0.024)	(0.024)
_cons	4.405**	4.424**	4.370**	4.368**
	(0.318)	(0.310)	(0.329)	(0.324)
N	2803	2803	2803	2803
R^2	0.039	0.033	0.047	0.043
Statistics-F	10.72	8.12	10.96	6.49

Standard error in parentheses. Statistics-F refers to the global model. Regression corrected for school-level clustering.
**p< 5%, **p< 1%.*

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The results in column (4) of Table 3 indicate that having an incremental increase of 10% in the probability of being *bullied* can reduce the student's Portuguese grade by 2.23%, as the dbullied variable can assume values between 0 and 1. This reflects the thesis that being *bullied* is linked not only to the characteristics of the individual, but to his/her network of friends as a whole: having friends or being part of the socially appreciated or disappreciated circle of friends influences the chances of becoming a victim of bullying that , in turn, impacts academic performance.

In Table 4, which describes the impact of being *bullied* on the math grade, column (4) informs the coefficient value for the complete model, where increasing the chances of being *bullied* by 10% reduces the student's math grade by 2.75%. Such evidence reinforces that there is a very strong social factor on the probability of becoming a victim of *bullying*, and that it goes beyond the exogenous characteristics of the individual himself

Table 4: Results for the outcome of the Mathematics grade

	Dependent Variable: ln N2_Mathematics			
	(1) OLS	(2) IV	(3) SLX	(4) IV-SLX
dbullied	-0.036	-0.247*	-0.037	-0.275*
	(0.050)	(0.108)	(0.051)	(0.113)
male	-0.019	-0.021	-0.008	-0.006
	(0.046)	(0.044)	(0.051)	(0.049)
race	-0.004	-0.016	-0.002	-0.017
	(0.050)	(0.052)	(0.051)	(0.053)
age	-0.028	-0.026	-0.025	-0.022
	(0.020)	(0.022)	(0.021)	(0.024)
studies	0.011	0.013	0.009	0.012
	(0.013)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.012)
safety	0.095*	0.076	0.096*	0.074
	(0.045)	(0.043)	(0.044)	(0.042)
tdisciplined	-0.085*	-0.084*	-0.083	-0.086
	(0.037)	(0.038)	(0.046)	(0.048)
Gdbullied			-0.041	
			(0.062)	
Gmale			-0.023	-0.031
			(0.027)	(0.026)
Gage			-0.005	-0.006
			(0.006)	(0.006)
Gstudies			0.008	0.009
			(0.011)	(0.011)
Gsecurity			0.088*	0.092*
			(0.040)	(0.043)
Grace			-0.024	-0.018
			(0.050)	(0.047)
Gdiscip			-0.000	0.003
			(0.028)	(0.030)
_cons	3.890**	3.917**	3.844**	3.869**
	(0.260)	(0.271)	(0.285)	(0.303)
N	2809	2809	2809	2809
R^2	0.013	-0.002	0.017	-0.002
Statistics-F	3.10	4.49	5.04	4.75

Standard error in parentheses. Statistics-F refers to the global model. Regression corrected for school-level clustering.
** $p < 5\%$, ** $p < 1\%$.*

The results measured here are in the same direction as the evidence found in the literature: Oliveira *et. al* (2018) also find a negative impact of being *bullied* on the math grade of students in the same age group as the one considered here; as well as Kibriya *et. al* (2015), but taking into account students of an older age group. From the perspective of performance in linguistic knowledge, Ponzo (2013) identifies a negative relationship between the ability to interpret texts and being a victim of bullying.

It is noted that in both results, the OLS model has a significant positive bias on the Portuguese score compared to the other specifications; however, this does not make use of the instrumented variable, but of the data informed by the individual about being *bullied* or not. Such a bias may suggest a few things: there is

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an omitted variable, such as some physical characteristic not taken into account in this case, as well as being *bullied* as an individual may be less harmful than having friends who are also victims.

In addition, we see a more intense perverse effect on the math grade than on the Portuguese grade. In the survey, Portuguese is one of the subjects that students say they like more than they don't, unlike mathematics. It is possible to speculate that being a good student in Portuguese may be more socially acceptable than in Mathematics, since this subject is closely associated with being a *nerd*, a characteristic commonly linked to victims of bullying.

V. Conclusion

Given the evidence in the literature about the negative impact of the consequences of being bullied, both in the short term and throughout an individual's life, we emphasized the need to investigate not only the magnitude of this on the outcomes of success, but also through which paths it permeates. As it is an essentially social phenomenon, it makes sense to observe its effects through networks of relationships.

In this study, we sought to measure, via a two stages least squares IV-SLX model, the effect of the probability of being bullied based on the characteristics of the friendship networks of lower secondary education students in the city of Recife, on two outcomes: Portuguese and Mathematics grades. The spatial lagged friendship matrix was used as an instrument to deal with endogeneity that come from reflexive problem (MANSKI, 1993).

Significant and robust results were found in several tests that indicate a negative impact of *bullying* on the student's school performance: by increasing the probability of being bullied by 10%, it decreases the Portuguese and Math grades by 2.33% and 2.75%, respectively. Such indicators reinforce the argument of the degree of importance given to relationship networks, and not just the characteristics of the individual, on the probability of being a victim of bullying and suffering from the impact of its consequences in other areas of life.

Finally, this research tested the spatial lagged friendship matrix as an instrumental variable to identify the impact of peer effects on the student's probability of being bullied and its effect on Portuguese and Math scores. Indeed, this paper reinforces the necessity for a joint effort from areas such as Economics and Psychology, to investigate and trace in detail the mechanisms that justify the results obtained here.

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The Failure of the Extraactivist Welfare Model and the Cycle of the Latin American Left

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Abstract- This article makes an evaluation of the welfare model implemented in Latin America in the cycle of the left that governed a large part of its countries during the first 15 years of this century. In the analytical part, the structural factors of Latin America's backwardness are identified, the rise and failure of the statist and extractivist model of natural resources are described, and the influence of economic progressivism is highlighted as the theoretical basis of the Latin American left, the practices populist macroeconomic policies based on "distributive coalitions" and the use of subsidies as a political weapon.

Finally, formulating some conclusions about the recent transformations in economic and social matters, differences are established between the left of the first cycle and the plans of the new progressive left. Likewise, the dilemma that the region must face in its transition to modernity is projected and the need to adopt pragmatic solutions that leave the ideological debate behind, in order to get out of the trap of extractivism based on realistic policies, labor productivity, global education, respect for human rights and appreciation of democratic systems.

Keywords: latin america, economic development, welfare model, extractivism, progressivism, capitalism.

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The Failure of the Extraactivist Welfare Model and the Cycle of the Latin American Left

El Fracaso del Modelo de Bienestar Extractivista y el Ciclo de la Izquierda Latinoamericana

Ojeda, Calluni Elvis

Abstract- This article makes an evaluation of the welfare model implemented in Latin America in the cycle of the left that governed a large part of its countries during the first 15 years of this century. In the analytical part, the structural factors of Latin America's backwardness are identified, the rise and failure of the statist and extractivist model of natural resources are described, and the influence of economic progressivism is highlighted as the theoretical basis of the Latin American left, the practices populist macroeconomic policies based on "distributive coalitions" and the use of subsidies as a political weapon.

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Keywords: latin america, economic development, welfare model, extractivism, progressivism, capitalism.

Resumen- El presente articulo hace una evaluación del modelo de bienestar implementado en Latinoamérica en el ciclo de la izquierda que gobernó gran parte de los países los primeros 15 años de este siglo. En la parte analítica, se identifican los factores estructurales del atraso de América latina, se describe el auge y el fracaso del modelo estatista y extractivista de recursos naturales y se destaca la influencia del progresismo económico como fundamento teórico de la izquierda latinoamericana, las prácticas macroeconómicas populistas basada en las "coaliciones distributivas" y el uso de los subsidios como arma política.

Finalmente, al formularse algunas conclusiones de las transformaciones recientes en materia económica y social, se establecen las diferencias entre la izquierda del primer ciclo y los planes de la nueva izquierda progresista. Se plantea el dilema que la región debe enfrentar para su paso a la modernidad y la necesidad de adoptar soluciones pragmáticas que dejen atrás el debate ideológico para salir de la trampa del extractivismo con políticas realistas, productividad laboral, educación de alcance global, respeto por los derechos humanos y valoración de los sistemas democráticos.

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Palabras clave: américa latina, desarrollo económico, modelo de bienestar, extractivismo, progresismo, capitalismo.

Introduccion

La historia de América Latina y el Caribe de los últimos 500 años está marcada por dos características: desigualdad en la riqueza e ingresos y la inserción en los mercados globales especialmente con exportaciones de materias primas. Además, desde que se integró en los mercados mundiales durante la época colonial, la evolución de la economía global y los ciclos de commodities han determinado en gran medida el desempeño de sus economías.

A pesar de los distintos modelos experimentados en la región, desde las denominadas reformas neoliberales, hasta los modelos estatistas implementados por los regímenes de izquierda recientemente, tanto en el ámbito académico como político continúa formulándose la pregunta, cuya respuesta aún no puede plasmarse en soluciones.

¿Por qué los países de América Latina crecen tan poco? Al respecto, el conocido periodista e investigador latinoamericano Andrés Oppenheimer, entre las muchas razones destaca a manera de reflexión qué "en América Latina no hemos terminado de darnos cuenta de que estamos en la era de la economía del conocimiento, donde el trabajo mental vale cada vez más; mientras que el trabajo manual, o el petróleo, las materias primas, valen cada vez menos. Mientras los asiáticos han creado una meritocracia educativa en que los estudiantes estudian cada temática mejor, en América Latina la calidad educativa se está quedando cada vez más atrás". Sostiene de manera comparativa que, en la región latinoamericana hablamos demasiado de los héroes del pasado y muy poco de los innovadores del futuro. Mientras los asiáticos viven guiados por el pragmatismo y están obsesionados por el futuro, los latinoamericanos vivimos guiados por la ideología y estamos obsesionados por el pasado" (Oppenheimer, Andrés, 2022).

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El mismo Oppenheimer (2019) identifica las causas del estancamiento regional, entre varias motivaciones, las más importantes son:

La falta de continuidad en las políticas económicas. Esto ahuyenta a los inversionistas. En muchos países de la región, cada nuevo presidente quiere reinventar la rueda y deshace todo lo que hizo el anterior.

El excesivo gasto público, baja productividad y una pésima distribución de la riqueza. Muchos de los países más grandes de la región, como Argentina, gastan mucho más de lo que producen.

Los bajos estándares de educación, ciencia, tecnología e innovación. Los países latinoamericanos ocupan los últimos lugares en la prueba internacional PISA de estudiantes de 15 años y registran muy pocas patentes internacionales de nuevos inventos.

Mientras que Corea del Sur registró 17.000 patentes el año 2018, todos los países de América Latina y el Caribe juntos registraron solamente 537. En una economía global basada en el conocimiento, esa es una receta para el atraso.

Frente a este panorama, es evidente que los países de la región no pueden seguir culpando a factores externos por su estancamiento económico, bajas tasas de crecimiento y falta de desarrollo.

Rebeca Grynspan, secretaria General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo, resume la situación lacerante de la región, afirmando que "América Latina está atrapada en un PIB que no crece y en un contrato social que no se satisface, el tema del financiamiento para poder romper el círculo vicioso es tan importante como los demás, porque necesitamos los recursos para poder hacer las tareas que nos saquen de la trampa" (PNUD, 2021).

En los últimos años, sobre todo después de la crisis pandémica mundial, uno tras otro, distintos países de América Latina han elegido gobiernos de izquierda y una nueva ola política parece recorrer la región. Desde 2018, líderes ubicados a la izquierda del espectro político llegaron a la presidencia de México, Argentina, Bolivia, Perú, Honduras, Chile y Colombia. Este nuevo ciclo de la izquierda en Latinoamérica evoca lo que ocurría en el subcontinente durante la primera década de este siglo, cuando tres de cada cuatro sudamericanos pasaron a ser gobernados por presidentes de izquierda.

Sin embargo, lo que condiciona de manera determinante el nuevo ciclo de la izquierda es el cambio del contexto global y las condiciones económicas y sociales en la región, más hostiles que las de la etapa anterior.

Afortunadamente, los abundantes recursos naturales de América Latina significan también que abundan las oportunidades: La región es rica en dos metales clave para la electrificación: cobre y litio. Hogar de algunas de las áreas más soleadas y ventosas del mundo, podría generar gigavatios de electricidad de muy bajo costo para producir y exportar hidrógeno verde.

Para aprovechar al máximo estas oportunidades, América Latina necesita adoptar soluciones pragmáticas que dejen atrás el debate ideológico y las políticas estatistas que hicieron de la redistribución y los subsidios el centro de su modelo de bienestar.

¿Pero cómo? Esto debería comenzar con el axioma de que la riqueza primero debe crearse para ser compartida. Un sector privado floreciente, un estado en pleno funcionamiento, servicios públicos de calidad, el estado de derecho y la inversión extranjera son ingredientes esenciales. Sin embargo, en América Latina los gobiernos al parecer seguirán focalizados en el ciclo vicioso de las políticas asistencialistas y extractivistas, a sabiendas que de allí no saldrán las grandes opciones del crecimiento acelerado; se trata de políticas defensivas para contener colapsos sociales.

¿Estará la "nueva izquierda" de este ciclo dispuesta a no repetir los errores de sus predecesores del primer ciclo, que fracasaron con su estrategia de políticas estatistas, asistencialistas y extractivistas?

I. Los Factores Estructurales del Atraso de America Latina

La experiencia de desarrollo económico de América Latina desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial ha tenido fases de esperanza y decepción. La región se ha visto afectada por grandes cambios en las visiones y paradigmas del desarrollo, y profundamente condicionada por una mezcla de crecimiento bajo, alta inestabilidad (macroeconómica, financiera y política) y elevada desigualdad.

A América Latina le ha resultado muy difícil encontrar una senda de desarrollo robusta y sustentable. El camino que ha seguido en su proceso de desarrollo ha resultado anodino en el mejor de los casos. Le ha costado mantenerse al paso del promedio mundial, a pesar del periodo de crecimiento más acelerado y con mayor equidad social que predominó en gran parte de la región en la fase ascendente del más reciente ciclo de los precios de las materias primas.

De hecho, la tasa de crecimiento anual promedio del Producto Interno Bruto per cápita entre 1960 y 2018 estuvo visiblemente por debajo de la del mundo y la de los Estados Unidos en la mayoría de los países de América Latina y en el conjunto de la región.

En cuanto a los ciclos de crecimiento, la región ha pasado en los últimos sesenta años por tres ciclos pronunciados y claramente delimitados.

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América Latina:
Ciclos de crecimiento, fluctuaciones de demanda y precios clave
Crecimiento del PIB comparado con el del mundo



Fuente: Indicadores del Desarrollo Mundial del Banco Mundial. (Tomado de "Medio siglo de desarrollo económico en América Latina" Augusto de la Torre y Alain Ize. CAF, 2020)

El primero arrancó en los años 60, alcanzó su pico a mediados de los 70 y luego cayó hacia un valle de estancamiento a mediados de los 80. El segundo arrancó a fines de los 80, llegó a su pico a mediados de los 90 y, posteriormente, descendió hasta llegar a su punto bajo a comienzos de los años 2000. El tercer ciclo empezó con el jalón de China en 2002-2003, alcanzó su pico en 2010-2011 y, a continuación, descendió hasta una tasa de crecimiento muy inferior a la del mundo, descenso que, a la fecha de este escrito, no parecía haber encontrado fondo (De la Torre, Augusto; Ize, Alain; CAF, 2020).

En lo que va de los últimos 80 años, de acuerdo a Díaz Bonilla, Eugenio (2019), América Latina trascurrió por dos ciclos importantes del boom de las materias primas. *El primer ciclo* de la segunda mitad del siglo XX de las materias primas tuvo lugar aproximadamente entre mitad de los 1970 (cuando empezó el alza) y hasta la segunda mitad los 1980 (cuando tuvo su ciclo declinante). El ingreso per cápita de América Latina y el Caribe creció alrededor de 3.6% por año durante los 70 y cayó a cero en los 1980, en lo que la CEPAL llamó la "década perdida". *El último ciclo* arrancó en la primera mitad de la década de los 2000 y tuvo su pico alrededor de 2011. Desde entonces los precios de las commodities, con variaciones, han declinado. Entre 2000-2011 el ingreso per cápita de la región creció a 2.1% por año y desde entonces lo hizo a un 0.2% anual. En 2019 de 33 países con datos en América Latina y el Caribe el 60% estaba en recesión o estancado (creciendo a menos de 0.5%).

A final del último ciclo, devino un periodo de recesión y estancamiento para muchos países de la región. Estos han sido los 7-8 años peores desde los 1980, que puso bajo extrema tensión a la economía, la sociedad y la política de los países.

Ciertamente hay algunos países que han manejado el último ciclo con mejores políticas públicas y con democracia, como Uruguay y Colombia, y otros que han sido trágicamente incompetentes y autoritarios (como Venezuela). Pero la fase declinante de precios afecto a todos. A esto hay que sumar la tragedia pandémica del COVID que llegó a la región en un contexto de mayores aspiraciones de la población, de explosión de conflictos sociales y donde las expectativas positivas por la vuelta a la democracia de los ochenta, que ayudaron en la transición anterior, empiezan a debilitarse.

Un factor determinante del retraso industrial y la ausencia de vocación productiva de América Latina tiene que ver con que en cada ciclo político (de izquierda o derecha), se priorizó como base de la economía la extracción y exportación de las riquezas naturales en buena parte de los países latinoamericanos. Según datos de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), del total de exportaciones de 2019 los productos primarios representaron un 82,6% en Argentina, 66,6% en Brasil, 85,9% en Chile, 77,9% en Colombia y 88,6% en Perú.

Las causas de este casi permanente fracaso son muchas, pero una de las principales ha sido

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política: la llegada al poder de líderes mesiánicos y populistas, como Perón, Gétulio Vargas y Fidel Castro en el siglo XX; Chávez, Lula, Evo Morales, y los Kirchner en el siglo XXI. Se critica a estos últimos gobiernos por no invertir suficiente riqueza del auge de las materias primas de los años 2000, en la construcción de infraestructura competitiva o en brindar educación y salud de alta calidad. De igual manera, también se culpa a la derecha por hacer muy poco para abordar la desigualdad arraigada, promover una competencia efectiva o hacer que los impuestos sean más justos.

Es indudable que, a pesar de los generosos recursos naturales y los importantes ingresos por sus exportaciones en los diversos ciclos económicos, persiste el subdesarrollo y las inequidades sociales. La alta dependencia de la explotación y comercialización de recursos primarios y la desigualdad son dos tendencias históricas en América Latina.

Las políticas económicas basadas en la extracción de recursos naturales han impedido que los países latinoamericanos puedan desarrollar sus propios conocimientos, ciencia y tecnología. Lo paradójico es que la región exporta materias primas y a la vez las tiene que comprar elaboradas.

América Latina, pese a los fracasos económicos en cada uno de los ciclos políticos vividos, tampoco da muestras de haber agotado su fase populista y su consiguiente adicción a la explotación de materias primas. Esta situación en varios episodios de su historia reciente ha sido el preludio de graves confrontaciones sociales que en algún momento tendrán que imponer un cambio de rumbo para que la región entera comprenda de una vez por todas que, "en la era digital, el conocimiento es la fuente mayor de creación de riqueza. Y el conocimiento para rendir beneficios sólo prospera bajo regímenes de libertad y estado de derecho".

Existe la esperanza qué, la fuerza creativa del conocimiento terminará por vencer las vetustas instituciones políticas y económicas existentes en la región.

II. El modelo de Bienestar de Los Gobiernos de Izquierda en America Latina

Si la década de los 80 fue la de la transición democrática para América Latina, la de los 90 fue la de las reformas de mercado y la primera de los 2000 fue la del giro a la izquierda, sin embargo, la etapa actual es mucho más difícil de caracterizar. Entre gobiernos débiles con proyectos fallidos, alternancias conflictivas, un malestar social creciente e instituciones políticas bajo amenaza, la única certeza es que lo que hay por delante no será fácil para la región.

Todo comenzó con la caída de la Unión Soviética en 1991 que cimentó el consenso generalizado en que la única vía para el desarrollo económico parecía ser el mercado. Sin embargo, el siglo XX se cerró para América Latina con un claro agotamiento político de los gobiernos que habían impulsado las reformas liberales. Los magros resultados económicos de las transformaciones en la mayoría de los países, sumados a condiciones internacionales muy desfavorables, crearon las condiciones para la alternancia política.

Con Rusia y China volcadas totalmente hacia el capitalismo, *la izquierda dejó de ser vista como una amenaza*. Así que fue casi un proceso natural que los electorados, repudiando a los gobiernos de derecha de los 90, se inclinaran por darle una posibilidad a líderes con discursos más antiliberales.

Después de la "década perdida" de los 80 en América Latina, los llamados gobiernos "neoliberales" parecían apropiados, para poner la casa en orden. Asimismo, no se debe olvidar que, a finales de los 80, con el colapso de la Unión Soviética, el "socialismo" quedó ampliamente desacreditado. Consecuentemente, China y otros regímenes comunistas abandonaron en gran medida los principios económicos socialistas. Esto obligó a un importante "replanteamiento" de lo que significa ser "de izquierda".

En América Latina, la coyuntura para la izquierda no podía ser mejor. Tras unos años en el poder, el enfoque "neoliberal" perdió su brillo y los votantes de muchos países dieron una oportunidad a los partidos de izquierda. Lo que pocos anticipaban es que se iba a producir un ciclo de la izquierda en América Latina, que duraría cerca de 15 años. Así, para 2011 el mapa latinoamericano estaba teñido de rojo. De 20 países, 12 eran gobernados por presidentes de izquierda, siete por mandatarios de derecha y solamente Costa Rica, por una mandataria centrista.

En la región, estas fuerzas se beneficiaron durante la década de 2000 de unas condiciones económicas mundiales muy favorables. Precisamente cuando empezaban a asumir los nuevos gobiernos, comenzaba el inusitado boom de las materias primas, impulsado esencialmente por el ingreso de China en el mercado mundial como gran consumidor de commodities y exportador de bienes industriales. Eso permitió expandir el gasto público y tomar diferentes medidas muy populares, que les despejaron el camino para ganar sucesivas elecciones.

a) La agenda económica de la izquierda en el gobierno

El nuevo siglo comenzó en América Latina con un «ciclo izquierdista» de los gobiernos de la región. Fijó nuevos rumbos en el tratamiento de la cuestión social, la participación política o los derechos de las minorías que obtuvo reconocimiento internacional. Estas dinámicas fueron favorecidas por Estados que se

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fortalecían y un sólido crecimiento económico en un contexto de alzas en los precios de las materias primas.

La izquierda gobernante tuvo en los cerca de 15 años de este ciclo, la oportunidad única para avanzar por el sendero del desarrollo y alcanzar mayores niveles de independencia del mercado mundial y de las materias primas.

Esta oportunidad fue beneficiada principalmente por una situación favorable de los mercados mundiales. La explosión de los precios de las materias primas dio el apoyo económico para un renacimiento del Estado desarrollista. Si bien fueron pocas las expropiaciones reales, el Estado volvió a manejar las empresas públicas o bien se reservó, tras nuevas negociaciones con empresas extractivas transnacionales, una mayor participación en las ganancias derivadas de las materias primas. En vista de la evolución de los precios internacionales y la alta demanda de materias primas latinoamericanas, muchos inversores, nacionales e internacionales, consideraron que estas exigencias eran absolutamente tolerables. Así fue como las arcas de los gobiernos se llenaron de manera inesperadamente veloz y esto favoreció la expansión de la infraestructura estatal.

De este modo, el Estado comenzó a ganar nuevamente sustancia institucional y poder de regulación. Esto sentó los fundamentos para una importante innovación en la región: mientras que en muchos otros países del mundo la situación social empeoraba, la mayoría de los gobiernos de América Latina iniciaban una política social expansiva e introducían numerosos estándares nuevos en el mercado laboral fuertemente desregulado. La combinación de desarrollo social sostenido por las exportaciones de materias primas siguió las particularidades de cada país.

Consiguientemente, a fines de la última década, se impuso en la región un modelo de desarrollo en el que un Estado fortalecido captaba los ingresos adicionales por exportación de materias primas, encaraba efectivamente la cuestión social como agente de desarrollo y era legitimado una y otra vez mediante promesas de modernización y elecciones democráticas. Este modelo ha ingresado en los debates políticos y científicos bajo la etiqueta de «neoextractivismo» (Burchardt, Hans-Jürgen, 2017).

Precisamente cuando estaba en su apogeo, el giro a la izquierda empezó a agotarse. 2011 fue el último año en el que la economía sudamericana tuvo una tasa de crecimiento superior al 4 por ciento. Desde 2014, directamente se terminó el crecimiento: el PIB subió apenas 0,5% ese año, cayó 1,1% en 2015 y 2,4% en 2016, y entre 2017 y 2019 apenas superó el 0 por ciento (Mizrahi, Darío, 2021).

b) El fracaso y las oportunidades perdidas del boom extractivista

Probablemente no hubo en toda América Latina, desde la independencia, un mejor momento para reformas estructurales, para eliminar las dos pesadas herencias que impedían el crecimiento: en primer lugar, para la supresión de las extremas desigualdades sociales mediante políticas sociales innovadoras, relaciones laborales reguladas y redistribución democrática, y en segundo lugar, para una reducción de la dependencia de las materias primas a través de estrategias de diversificación y aumento de la productividad, lo cual termina, en el mediano plazo, en un desarrollo sostenible y en la protección de los recursos naturales.

Contrariamente a las expectativas, la economía y la política se centraron en la ampliación de los sectores de materias primas. A pesar de que muchos de los gobiernos anunciaron usar el «neoextractivismo» solo como vehículo para llegar a una estructura económica más productiva y diversificada; sin embargo, casi todos los programas y medidas aplicadas a tal fin fracasaron rotundamente. *Hoy, la región tiene una dependencia de las exportaciones de materias primas mayor que a fines del siglo XX*.

Esto tuvo sus consecuencias en el Estado y la política: gracias a los elevados ingresos provenientes de las materias primas, ya no era necesario zanjar los conflictos de intereses a través de procedimientos democráticos ni solucionarlos con negociaciones, sino que se los apaciguó mediante transferencias de recursos. Los sectores conflictivos fueron «comprados» y cooptados. Las sociedades latinoamericanas mutaron hacia sociedades-botín en las que, si bien el Estado concedía al principio participación a casi todos en la explotación de la naturaleza, el nuevo nexo no se basaba en el consenso y la cohesión social (Burchardt, Hans-Jürgen, 2017).

Hans-Jürgen Burchardt, en su trabajo “La crisis actual de América Latina causas y soluciones”, identifica puntos clave que explican las causas del fracaso del modelo de desarrollo extractivista y la falta de reformas estructurales.

Durante la fase del boom no se implementaron medidas profundas de redistribución y el *sistema impositivo* casi no fue tocado. Si bien se mejoraron significativamente las prestaciones sociales, no sucedió lo mismo con su grado de cobertura. Los que más se beneficiaron con ellas fueron los empleados públicos o los trabajadores formales, o sea, solo la mitad de las personas en condiciones de trabajar; el 20% más pobre de la región recibe actualmente apenas 10% de todas las transferencias sociales.

Pese a los numerosos esfuerzos, tampoco se ha logrado reducir significativamente el *trabajo informal*. Los mercados laborales y las estructuras productivas

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siguen estando altamente precarizados, de modo que hoy en día casi 50% de las personas en condiciones de trabajar (120 millones de jóvenes y frecuentemente mujeres), trabajan manteniendo una relación laboral precaria tanto desde el punto de vista contractual como social, tienen ingresos relativamente bajos y generan 10% del PIB regional de acuerdo con el Panorama Laboral de la OIT (2015).

El auge del trabajo informal explica la baja *productividad* de América Latina, que tampoco aumentó durante el boom. Sin duda, la explotación de materias primas no necesita una elevada cualificación laboral de grandes masas de trabajadores.

Es por todo lo señalado, entre otros aspectos, que, a pesar de haber suficientes recursos del Estado en los países de América Latina, no se logró crear un sistema de servicios públicos de alta calidad y accesible para las mayorías, con mejores accesos a la educación y la salud, la infraestructura general, el transporte urbano, la seguridad civil y pública, etc.

En todos los casos, "la política económica de la izquierda», que en su cenit llegó a gobernar casi a todos los países sudamericanos (salvo Colombia y Perú), priorizó el acceso al poder antes que las discusiones abstractas. Y desde allí desplegó una serie de políticas que le permitieron, en un contexto ciertamente favorable por los precios ascendentes de las materias primas, combinar tres cosas: *sustentabilidad macroeconómica* (salvo en Venezuela y en parte en Argentina); *amplias políticas de transferencia de ingresos* que permitieron impulsos formidables de inclusión (sobre todo en las zonas más desfavorecidas, como el altiplano boliviano y el Nordeste brasileño); y una *continuidad político-institucional* que permitió ciclos largos de reformas.

El final de la ola de gobiernos de izquierda (la más larga de la izquierda latinoamericana), es conocido: entre el cambio de las condiciones internacionales, el desgaste natural tras más de una década de ejercicio ininterrumpido del poder, las dificultades para procesar la sucesión y el fortalecimiento del bloque derechista, la izquierda fue desplazada del gobierno mediante elecciones limpias (Argentina, Uruguay, Chile) o por crisis políticas democráticas (Paraguay, Brasil, Bolivia); y, si logró mantenerse en el poder, fue al costo de un giro autoritario (Venezuela, Nicaragua).

Además de los resultados de desarrollo mediocres, el boom económico del primer ciclo de la izquierda latinoamericana creó un problema político difícil de resolver. Como las condiciones generales de vida de la mayor parte de la población mejoraron sustancialmente (en gran medida sustentada en subsidios y transferencias), también se elevaron sus expectativas de vida a futuro y sus exigencias a los gobiernos. Pero ese proceso no estuvo acompañado de una modernización económica que permitiera un crecimiento sostenido, aunque fuera más moderado.

Algunos expertos como Mizrahi, Darío (2021), caracterizan la época en la que vivimos desde aproximadamente 1980, como "una era de neoliberalismo, en la que el giro a la izquierda fue una reacción a las limitaciones impuestas". En muchos casos, esos gobiernos (los del ciclo de la izquierda) fracasaron espectacularmente, y Venezuela y Argentina son los ejemplos más angustiosos. Pero ninguno logró proporcionar una alternativa duradera.

Luego del agotamiento del ciclo izquierdista, se habló de que la región estaba experimentada un "*giro a la derecha".* En realidad, el llamado "giro a la derecha" nunca existió. Como se vio anteriormente, con el fin del boom de las materias primas en 2014, el "giro a la izquierda" latinoamericano perdió su impulso y América Latina volvió a una forma más convencional de "voto antioficialista", en un contexto de profundización de las dificultades económicas y del desgaste político. Así que más que un giro a la derecha fue un agotamiento del ciclo de la izquierda.

En conclusión, en la medida que los precios internacionales de las materias primas regresaron a niveles más normales quedó al descubierto la desnudez de la mayoría de las economías de la región. Al agotamiento del modelo de bienestar frustrada de la "izquierda latinoamericana", devino un ciclo de recesión y estancamiento, que sumado a la crisis pandémica que aún perdura en la región, muy rápidamente se tradujo en un hondo malestar social. Y donde ese descontento no pudo tramitarse por los canales políticos formales, brotó en forma de estallido.

III. El Progresismo Economico y Las Politicas Macroeconomicas del Populismo

No todas las causas del retraso y poco desarrollo en la región son atribuibles a las fallidas iniciativas "revolucionarias" de los latinoamericanos. Un importante rol jugó y continúa jugando la influencia de concepciones políticas y económicas originadas en países desarrollados que proporcionan "recetas progresistas" y que son entusiastamente asimiladas por la izquierda latinoamericana.

Encabezan la lista de economistas europeos y norteamericanos, Joseph Stigliz, Jeffrey Sachs, Mariana Mazzucato y Thomas Piketty, que, entre otros, critican el funcionamiento del sistema capitalista "porque habría acentuado la desigualdad de la distribución de ingresos en los últimos treinta años". Todos estos estudios y declaraciones lamentando la pobreza y el descarte de los trabajadores; comparten la opinión de aumentar el rol y los gastos del Estado para orientar la economía financiándolo con transferencias de recursos vía nuevos

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impuestos sobre el sector privado" (Frydman, Felipe, 2022).

Este grupo de economistas encontró en América Latina el campo fértil para promover sus ideas. No es casual que los líderes políticos de izquierda no cesan de repetir que América Latina tiene la peor distribución del ingreso y niveles insostenibles de pobreza en sus diferentes facetas. La pandemia del COVID contribuyó a robustecer estas posiciones al afectar en forma desigual a los países que no tenían recursos para sostener la economía y afrontar la crisis del sistema de salud. La CEPAL aportó sustento estadístico, reiterando con vehemencia la gravedad de la pobreza y la distribución del ingreso a pesar de los indudables progresos de los últimos treinta años.

Desde luego que la aplicación de estas teorías experimentales en los países donde gobierna la izquierda en la región ha generado y genera riesgos en los resultados de las políticas económicas principalmente.

Una de las estrategias que más ha calado en la práctica de los gobiernos de la izquierda latinoamericana, hasta convertirse en la esencia de sus Políticas macroeconómicas, es lo que Popop,Vladimir y Kwame Sundaram, Jomo (2022) describen como "Política macroeconómica populista".

La fundamentación de las prácticas macroeconómicas populistas de la mayoría de los gobernantes de izquierda en América Latina descansa en la noción de Mancur Olson de "*coaliciones distributivas*", es decir, "alianzas políticas que cooperan para asegurar demandas compartidas, complementarias y no conflictivas, suponía que tales regímenes populistas normalmente tenían que recaudar suficientes ingresos fiscales para la redistribución en respuesta a demandas y presiones de grupos de interés" (Douglas, H. C., 1984).

Por lo tanto, los mecanismos fiscales se volvieron centrales para dicha redistribución al determinar no solo las fuentes de ingresos estatales, especialmente los impuestos, sino también los beneficiarios y las consecuencias del gasto público.

De acuerdo a Popop y Kwame Sundaram, cuando caen los ingresos por la venta de recursos naturales, constreñidos por la falta de voluntad y la incapacidad de recaudar suficientes ingresos fiscales y el deseo de redistribuir a favor de grupos de interés particulares para permanecer en el poder, los gobiernos tienen cuatro opciones para financiar indirectamente los subsidios:

La primera es mantener el control sobre precios particulares, es decir, controles de precios selectivos. Pero los controles sobre los precios de los bienes que no son recursos todavía requieren subsidios presupuestarios a las empresas que producen los bienes y servicios. Por el contrario, los controles de precios del combustible, la energía y otros recursos básicos pueden redistribuir las rentas de los recursos a los consumidores.

Un segundo modo de subsidio, cuando no hay fondos disponibles, es el financiamiento presupuestario inflacionario del gobierno. Se dice que el gobierno causa inflación gastando más allá de sus medios (de ingresos), o sea, el déficit de ingresos fiscales supuestamente causa inflación, es decir, aparentemente «imponiendo un impuesto inflacionario» a todos.

Una tercera opción es el financiamiento de deuda, utilizando préstamos locales o externos. El financiamiento de deuda compra algo de tiempo para mantener los subsidios, pero el servicio de la deuda impone una carga adicional al presupuesto del gobierno para cancelar la deuda con pagos tanto para capital como intereses.

Una cuarta opción ha sido mantener un tipo de cambio sobrevaluado, favoreciendo efectivamente a los consumidores frente a los productores, a los importadores frente a los exportadores y al consumo a costa del ahorro.

El aumento del consumo, asociado con el aumento de las importaciones financiadas por préstamos externos o reservas de divisas, solo puede «patear la pelota» temporalmente, antes de que los problemas de la balanza de pagos vuelvan a aparecer. Durante mucho tiempo ha existido casi un consenso en que la sobrevaluación persistente del tipo de cambio es perjudicial para el crecimiento económico y la transformación en los países en desarrollo.

Obviamente, la sobrevaluación del tipo de cambio se ve favorecida por los gobiernos que recaudan impuestos en moneda nacional y tienen que pagar la deuda externa en moneda extranjera y los grupos de presión de importación, es decir, los que ganan en casa y gastan en el exterior.

Las investigaciones sobre América Latina y países de otras regiones sugieren que, las «democracias en transición» son menos efectivas que los regímenes autoritarios o los regímenes democráticos bien establecidos para resistir el populismo macroeconómico.

La combinación de estados débiles y poderosos grupos de interés en competencia en la mayoría de los países de América Latina, hizo que los gobiernos "patearan la pelota", acumulando déficits y deudas, "imprimiendo dinero" (financiamiento inflacionario), manteniendo los precios locales de combustibles y energía por debajo de los niveles mundiales y preservando un tipo de cambio sobrevaluado. El gasto deficitario es solo una posible política macroeconómica «populista».

Reducir la *pobreza* ha sido la eterna meta de los gobiernos en América Latina, sobre todo de los gobiernos populistas de izquierda, pero para combatirla siguen apelando a la misma medida que se ha empleado desde el siglo XX: otorgar subsidios a los sectores más desfavorecidos. Luego de décadas de ello, es claro que la pobreza no ha desaparecido, y los

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gobiernos no terminan de pensar que la solución pasa por otro camino.

Los subsidios son las armas estatales predilectas de la política macroeconómica de los gobiernos populistas y no populistas de América Latina, supuestamente para resolver problemas sociales coyunturales y luchar contra la pobreza.

Un subsidio apunta salvo en muy pequeñas excepciones, a la consolidación del respaldo popular a través de las dádivas estatales. Las tragedias latinoamericanas y la imposición de sistemas férreos de izquierda siempre han iniciado a través de una supuesta "lucha legítima", que pide "reivindicaciones", la mayoría de las veces estas atienden a razones básicas y elementales: pedir subsidios, o pedir que no quiten subsidios.

Un subsidio se puede presentar de dos maneras: 1) en economías mixtas es el Estado sacando rentas de privados que producen, para cubrir deudas de privados que no producen, y 2) en economías totalmente estatizadas, es el Estado explotando a un reducido número de población, para satisfacer las necesidades de un grupo más cuantioso. En Cuba, por ejemplo, trabajan solo 4 millones de cubanos, los cuales "mantienen" a los 7 millones restantes; y en Venezuela, los subsidios son financiados por el dinero egresado del petróleo en PDVSA (Rincón, Emmanuel, 2022).

Los subsidios en América Latina, que se traducen en dinero otorgado directamente a las personas, tienen el objetivo central de atacar la pobreza de ingresos, es decir la llamada "pobreza coyuntural". Esto significa paliar la inmediata falta de dinero que pueden sufrir muchas familias, pero no significa escarbar más allá de ese rasgo superficial.

El subsidio es una ayuda extraordinaria por parte de los gobiernos para estimular la demanda de un bien o proteger a un colectivo. Por tanto, los subsidios son ayuda que se otorga a determinados ciudadanos, principalmente, con el fin de brindar acceso a los bienes y servicios básicos. La experiencia latinoamericana muestra que, siempre se pudo dar dinero a una familia que está en una situación vulnerable, y esto tal vez le permitirá resolver en el corto plazo sus necesidades básicas, sin solucionarse el problema de fondo. Sin embargo, el efecto siempre fue todo lo contrario, en la mayoría de los casos se ha terminado creando dependencia cuando estos subsidios se hacen permanentes.

Aquí se halla la raíz del problema. Los gobiernos disparan su gasto público en subsidios, pero los subsidios siempre se quedan en el nivel superficial de la pobreza. No se resuelven con ello las condiciones que originan esa situación; es decir, no se combate la pobreza estructural, que es la que impide que los ciudadanos progresen realmente (Ayala, Anderson 2021).

La precaria situación de acceso a una educación de calidad, a un sistema de salud que dé garantías, a servicios públicos que funcionen adecuadamente, a sistemas de transporte urbano que faciliten la movilidad, a condiciones de seguridad sanitaria y la falta de acceso al crédito son problemas que no se solucionan, para el pesar de los gobiernos, con el otorgamiento directo de una renta básica mensual.

Por tanto, el subsidio en América Latina, más que una herramienta para solapar alguna crisis o medida económica concreta, ha sido utilizada por los gobiernos de "izquierda" sobre todo, precisamente como un arma política, un chantaje: me votas y te subsidio, te subsidio y me votas, esto ha creado en el continente un sistema de dependencias estatales que ha trastocado por completo la misión de los funcionarios públicos ante la ciudadanía, y la de la ciudadanía ante los funcionarios públicos; donde el funcionario se convierte en una especie de mesías que viene a solucionar los problemas con dinero ajeno, y donde el ciudadano debe arrodillarse a los caprichos y designios de ese mesías, para poder recibir la atención que requiere.

Es importante destacar que la palabra subsidio, en la percepción ciudadana de América Latina, tiene una connotación bastante positiva, en términos de uso, y bastante negativa cuando se refiere a la eliminación del mismo. Un gobernante bien podría, por ejemplo, aumentar un impuesto, y la medida no será recibida con el mismo rechazo a eliminar un subsidio, aun cuando el propósito de ambas medidas es el mismo: conseguir financiamiento o ahorro para el Estado.

Emmanuel Rincón (2022) de manera acertada sostiene que, "en América Latina una gran mayoría tiene un corazoncito amante de la gratuidad, lo subsidiado y regalado por el Estado; se ha afianzado mucho en nuestras culturas el concepto de Estado como un *padre de familia*, y no como el organismo encargado de velar por el correcto desenvolvimiento de las relaciones sociales, jurídicas y económicas; el presidente entonces es visto más como una figura paternal, a la que se le reprocha todo fracaso y se le agradece cada triunfo, que como un funcionario público cuyas funciones están enmarcadas dentro de una Constitución".

Consiguientemente, resolver las condiciones estructurales que generan la pobreza es, de hecho, algo que no se puede atacar con subsidios como pretenden los gobiernos. Los subsidios no logran reducir la pobreza en América Latina porque estos se quedan en el nivel superficial de la pobreza, sin resolver las condiciones que causan esa situación.

Si se quiere erradicar de una vez por todas la pobreza, es necesario entonces pensar en generar riqueza, pero para ello se deben podar los problemas estructurales que impiden que las personas progresen.

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Y ello también pasa por reducir el peso intervencionista del Estado y darle rienda suelta a la libre iniciativa emprendedora de las personas.

Lo más idóneo, que de hecho es la fórmula del éxito en muchos países, es permitir que sean los particulares (el mercado) quienes presten servicios encaminados a resolver esos problemas, y otorgarles facilidades de inversión y de exención de impuestos, para que puedan abaratar sus costos finales. Ello significaría, además, la generación de nuevos empleos que podrían incorporar a cientos de familias.

A fin de cuentas, un individuo jamás será sacado de la pobreza por que se le regale un subsidio, se le disminuya la tarifa eléctrica o del transporte; la única forma de sacar a la gente de la pobreza es multiplicando las riquezas, no repartiendo miserias.

En un contexto globalizado, la adopción de este recetario progresista (que solo se ve en América Latina), las prácticas macroeconómicas populistas basada en las "coaliciones distributivas" y el uso como arma política de los subsidios, entre otros factores, hace que la región continue rezagada.

IV. Dilema de Modernidad Para America Latina: Entre el Capitalismo de Estado y el "Capitalismo Intangible"

Es indudable que la razón por la que se mantienen los gobiernos "populistas" de izquierda en América Latina, en los últimos años, es su retórica anticapitalista.

Hoy en día se culpa al capitalismo de muchas cosas: la pobreza, la desigualdad, el desempleo y hasta el calentamiento global. Como lo expresó el Papa Francisco en un discurso que pronunció hace algún tiempo en Bolivia: "Este sistema ya no se aguanta, no lo aguantan los campesinos, no lo aguantan los trabajadores, no lo aguantan los pueblos. Y tampoco lo aguanta la Tierra, la hermana madre Tierra como decía San Francisco" (Hausmann, Ricardo, 2018).

Sin embargo, desde el pasado siglo en América Latina, tantos gobiernos liberales o los de la izquierda populista tuvieron especial preferencia por sustentar sus economías en el Capitalismo de Estado. El capitalismo de estado es un sistema económico en el que el estado lleva a cabo una actividad económica comercial (es decir, con fines de lucro) y donde los medios de producción se organizan y administran como empresas comerciales estatales (incluidos los procesos de acumulación de capital, trabajo asalariado y gestión centralizada) , o en el caso de que exista un dominio de las agencias gubernamentales corporativas (agencias organizadas según las prácticas de gestión empresarial) o de las sociedades anónimas en las que el estado tiene acciones de control (Gutiérrez, Iván, 2020).

Tras la caída del bloque comunista, el capitalismo neoliberal emergió con toda su fuerza al tiempo que sucedía una de las mayores anomalías históricas de la humanidad: la del mundo unipolar. Esto es, la existencia de una sola propuesta político-económica, encabezada por una única potencia hegemónica.

Si bien el capitalismo demostró ser más exitoso que sus competidores para crear un consenso mundial y que los individuos reproduzcan y refuercen los valores en los cuales se sustentan como sistema social, no escapó al cisma. De momento se dividió en dos vertientes, que Milanovic, Branko (2020) estudia en "*Capitalismo, nada más. El futuro del sistema que domina el mundo"*. Por un lado, está el capitalismo liberal meritocrático (EEUU y Europa) y, por otro lado, la vertiente denominada capitalismo autoritario/político (China y Rusia). Hoy día, ambas versiones del capitalismo se disputan el mundo.

Milanovic parte del principio de que, hoy día, el comunismo (sistema al que porfiadamente aspira la "izquierda latinoamericana") como forma de gobierno formal dejó de existir. Establece que el capitalismo de Estado (político) plantea una reconfiguración del orden mundial, al señalar que este sistema es el nuevo rival emergente que devuelve al mundo de la unipolaridad (EEUU como único modelo) a un sistema bipolar (EEUU vs China).

Partiendo de que ambas variantes del capitalismo coinciden en el modo de producción, Milanovic se centra, en una primera instancia, en la distribución del ingreso, la conformación de las élites y la desigualdad tanto del capital como del salario. En un segundo término, el análisis apunta a la descripción de la tipología de ambas formas de capitalismo y el rol que juega cada una dentro del orden mundial.

En este último aspecto, Milanovic, define *el capitalismo meritocrático liberal* (que se expandió en Occidente, no siempre de manera pacífica) como aquel que por principio se basa en la democracia, el mérito y la igualdad de oportunidades, para lograr la movilidad social.

La segunda vertiente, el capitalismo autoritario o estatal, es el que está detrás del auge asiático, principalmente del caso chino. Los resultados de este modelo lo están volviendo atractivo para Occidente, minando el reclamo de que el capitalismo tiene que ser democrático. Dicha idea ha llevado al crecimiento de movimientos populistas (de derecha) y plutocráticos que resultan, atractivos para las élites políticas al dotarlas de gran autonomía, mientras que a la gente común les ofrece la tierra prometida de un gran crecimiento económico.

A partir de las categorías planteadas, se podría concluir que el llamado socialismo del Siglo XXI ampliamente difundido y experimentado en América Latina, no fue otra cosa que un intento de capitalismo

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de Estado con discurso de izquierda. La ampliación del estado y su monopolio político fue lo que constituyó la base del modelo de bienestar de los gobiernos progresistas de la región en los 15 primeros años de este siglo, y también lo que determinó su fracaso. *Entonces, se puede concluir que, en América Latina, no es el capitalismo el que no funciona sino el Estado como institución*.

Steven Levitsky, profesor de la Universidad de Harvard especializado en las democracias y los sistemas políticos latinoamericanos, afirma que una de las principales causas del descontento ciudadano en la región frente a sus gobernantes es que el Estado no funciona (ver en: "Cuando el estado no funciona". Ortiz Antelo, Oscar, 2021).

Para el descontento ciudadano de los últimos tiempos en Latinoamérica, la primera causa es la debilidad del Estado: "un Estado que no funciona bien, que aun con gobiernos bien intencionados no puede proteger y dar seguridad a los ciudadanos, no puede mantener las escuelas y hospitales públicos, no puede combatir la corrupción".

Durante mucho tiempo la política latinoamericana ha girado alrededor de un estatismo populista omnipresente o de un estado ausente. El tradicional estatismo latinoamericano se ha concentrado en crear empresas públicas y controlar al sector privado con regulaciones que asfixian la iniciativa privada y la inviabilizan para crecer y desarrollarse competitivamente, lo que le imposibilita crear oportunidades de trabajo sostenibles para la población.

Un estado que no brinda seguridad y justicia no puede ser considerado un estado fuerte, puesto que no cumple ni siquiera la función básica para la cual se fueron desarrollando las estructuras estatales a la largo de la historia, cual es proteger a los miembros de una sociedad. Un estado que obliga a la gente a refugiarse en la informalidad porque se vuelve imposible emprender desde la legalidad, no es un Estado fuerte sino un estado fracasado.

A diferencia del "Capitalismo de Estado" vigente en América Latina, el capitalismo en el mundo está sufriendo una transformación dramática.

Desde el siglo XIX hasta hace unos 25 años, las empresas en el mundo invirtieron en gran medida en infraestructura física y maquinaria, desde ferrocarriles hasta vehículos. Pero en el último cuarto de siglo, la inversión en los llamados activos intangibles, como propiedad intelectual, investigación, software y habilidades de gestión y organización, se ha disparado.

Esta tendencia apunta fuertemente al surgimiento de un nuevo modelo de capitalismo, el "*Capitalismo Intangible*", en el que el éxito de las empresas se medirá más por su gente y sus capacidades que por sus máquinas, productos o servicios.

Las economías en las que está aumentando la inversión intangible también están registrando un crecimiento en la productividad total de los factores.

En un mundo desmaterializado, digitalizado e impulsado por el conocimiento, los rendimientos corporativos, la productividad y el crecimiento económico estarán cada vez más vinculados a dichos activos. Pero desbloquear su verdadero valor requiere no solo invertir en ellos, sino también desarrollar las habilidades y los conocimientos de gestión, o capital humano , necesarios para hacer un uso eficaz de ellos.

Las empresas globales son fuentes importantes de innovación y crecimiento de alta productividad, y tienen incentivos formidables para seguir invirtiendo en intangibles. Eso está presionando a que los gobiernos realicen esfuerzos enormes en materia educativa para difundir las habilidades que abrirán oportunidades para más personas y empresas en la economía digital.

El desafío es enorme para que los gobiernos de la región latinoamericana pueden desempeñar un papel clave en la readaptación profesional y en garantizar que se cuente con la infraestructura de conocimientos adecuada. Eso significa centrarse en la educación, Internet y otras tecnologías de la comunicación, la planificación urbana y el gasto público en ciencia.

Es evidente que el "capitalismo de Estado" en América Latina ya no funciona como modelo de bienestar, el dilema parece estar en como ingresar a la tendencia global de transformarse al "capitalismo intangible".

V. ¿En Que es Diferente el Nuevo Ciclo Progresista de la Izquierda Latinoamericana?

Aunque individualmente cada país es un mundo, todo parece mostrar que la política y la economía en América Latina se suceden por ciclos: en las últimas tres décadas pasó de la hegemonía neoliberal al giro a la izquierda y de ahí a un periodo breve de dominio de la derecha, al que le sigue un evidente y distinguible regreso de la izquierda. La explicación de esta regularidad es geopolítica.

Si el escenario de ascenso de la izquierda de los 60 y 70 era la Guerra Fría, el marco del giro a la izquierda del año 2000 fue el mundo unipolar de hegemonía estadounidense creado tras la caída del Muro de Berlín. El contexto actual de la vuelta de los progresistas al gobierno, especialmente en América Latina, es la competencia bipolar entre EEUU y China.

Es esta nueva bipolaridad global la que crea las condiciones para el nuevo ascenso de la izquierda. Más que un péndulo, que es la figura clásica de la Guerra Fría, se trataría de construir agendas paralelas con los dos gigantes: la clásica «agenda occidental» con EEUU (cooperación en materia de lucha contra el narcotráfico

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y el terrorismo) y una agenda de inversiones, infraestructura y comercio con China, hoy el primer o segundo socio económico de casi todos los países latinoamericanos.

Luego de un periodo breve y turbulento que devino al agotamiento del primer ciclo de la izquierda, devino una serie de experimentos de derecha (fuerza liberales y conservadoras) que sucedieron en el poder a los gobiernos de izquierda, los mismos no lograron consolidar un ciclo político de largo aliento como el neoliberalismo de los años 90. Los gobiernos de derecha no llegaron con un programa económico claro, más allá de las vagas promesas de terminar con el populismo, sufrieron una cierta «impotencia reformista» que les impidió crear una base social lo suficientemente amplia como para permanecer en el poder. Este paso infructuoso de la derecha latinoamericana también fue un factor determinante para el regreso de la izquierda al poder.

La reciente emergencia de los nuevos gobiernos de izquierda en la región, muestra enormes diferencias entre aquella "izquierda" que cubría América Latina en la primera década de este siglo.

Entre 2000 y 2014, el boom internacional de las materias primas dio a los presidentes de la región recursos casi ilimitados para invertir en programas sociales y proyectos estatistas de todo tipo. Eso a su vez consolidó un amplio respaldo político-electoral con mayorías legislativas para los gobiernos, que lograban reformas y reelecciones por doquier. Con este impulso, países como Ecuador, Bolivia y Venezuela llegaron a modificar sus constituciones para así ejercer distintos mandatos consecutivos (Lissardy, Gerardo, 2022).

Luego del agotamiento del modelo de "extractivista de izquierda" y las expectativas frustradas de los gobiernos liberales que los sucedieron, la región experimenta cambios politicis motivados por la rabia con los políticos y la desigualdad y estancamiento económico que sufren la mayoría de los países. Como afirma Marta Lagos (directora de la encuesta de opinión regional Latinbarómetro), "el grado de descontento en América Latina nunca había sido más alto que ahora, y la ideología cada día es menos relevante en las elecciones".

Sin embargo, la mayor diferencia entre el ciclo izquierdista de antaño y la de ahora, es el escenario económico en que surgen. Con una guerra en Europa provocada por la invasión de Rusia a Ucrania que creó una compleja situación financiera a nivel mundial, con una inflación generalizada en alza y un encarecimiento tanto del crédito como de los insumos; las economías de la región tienen más dificultades para aprovechar el alza en los precios de materias primas. En estas condiciones, los gobiernos con recursos limitados gastan mucho menos de lo que sus ciudadanos quieren, con las finanzas todavía bajo el efecto de una prolongada crisis del COVID y el malestar social creciente. Queda claro que: Implementar políticas de "izquierda" con bastante dinero es una cosa; los gobiernos del nuevo ciclo progresista emergente ya no tendrán esos recursos.

Todo parece mostrar que los gobiernos de izquierda de este nuevo ciclo se caracterizarán por "una mayor moderación, una voluntad de cambio atenuada, en primer lugar, por precios de las materias primas más volátiles y fiscos maltrechos, lo que obliga a gestionar en un marco de restricciones económicas impensables en la etapa anterior. Es una izquierda de la escasez más que de la abundancia" (Natanson, José, 2022).

Es evidente que, de manera semejante a la etapa anterior, la familia de la izquierda está lejos de ser homogénea. Antes, los presidentes de izquierda se distinguían entre sí por ser más radicales, como el venezolano Hugo Chávez, o moderados, como Lula o Michelle Bachelet. Los gobernantes de la nueva ola son mucho más heterogéneos. Marta Lagos, directora de Latinobarómetro, los divide en cuatro tipos diferentes de izquierda: nueva (donde ubica a los presidentes electos en Chile y Colombia), populista (México), tradicional (Argentina, Bolivia, Honduras) o dictatorial (a su juicio Venezuela, Nicaragua y Cuba, donde llevan años en el poder) (Lissardy, Gerardo, 2022).

Este ciclo también se caracteriza porque algunos líderes de izquierda parecen más dispuestos que en el pasado a desmarcarse de otros en la región. La diferencia la marcan las agendas de los nuevos gobernantes de la "izquierda emergente" como Boric y Petro, estas parecen alejarse de los dogmas socialistas de sus predecesores. Alzan con más fuerza banderas como el cuidado del medio ambiente o la igualdad de género y raza. En Chile se proponen cerrar una fundición cuprífera estatal para detener "recurrentes casos de intoxicación", lo que marca un cambio importante de política ambiental en el país. Petro ha prometido algo aún más ambicioso: acelerar la transición energética desde la industria extractiva a una economía "descarbonizada", pese a que el petróleo es una fuente clave de ingresos del Estado colombiano.

Sin duda que estos nuevos elementos de política contrastan con la agenda de los líderes del primer ciclo de la izquierda latinoamericana. Desde Chávez hasta Lula, hicieron de la explotación petrolera una prioridad, esta tendencia aún persisten en algunos países como el de los gobiernos izquierdistas de México y Bolivia, quienes continúan apostando a las industrias extractivas como principales motores de sus economías.

Sin embargo, a pesar de las diferencias, Lissardy, Gerardo (2022) afirma que, entre el primer ciclo de la izquierda y este último, hay un aspecto en común, y es "*su mayor énfasis en la acción del Estado para disminuir la desigualdad económica*".

A pesar de la retórica "socialista" de algunos regímenes de la izquierda del primer ciclo y de los

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nuevos liderazgos emergentes, Heinz Dieterich, el sociólogo alemán que acuñó el concepto de "socialismo del siglo XXI", ya en su momento descartó que esa expresión pueda aplicarse hoy a lo que ocurre en países de la región como Chile, Argentina o Bolivia. "Ninguno de estos gobiernos quiere el socialismo del siglo XX, que es el socialismo de Cuba, pero tampoco quieren un socialismo del siglo XXI porque eso significa superar la economía de mercado y tener un Estado fuerte que puede controlar a las corporaciones" (Dieterich, Heinz, 2011).

Finalmente, al igual que sus predecesores del primer ciclo de gobernantes de izquierda, los nuevos lideres de la izquierda llegan con la promesa de desalojar del poder a las élites que siempre han gobernado a sus países. Además de enfrentar agresivamente a sus opositores, todos ellos prometen radicales cambios institucionales, reformas económicas, disminuir fuertemente la pobreza y la desigualdad. ¿Tendrán éxito? Naím, Moisés (2022) afirma que No. Desde hace varias décadas, ninguno de la larga lista de predecesores que intentó hacer permanentes e indispensables cambios en su país lo lograron.

VI. Conclusiones

La pauta dominante en la región latinoamericana ha sido la debilidad intrínseca de casi todos los gobiernos, independientemente de sus orientaciones políticas.

Cuando el Estado y los gobiernos muestran incapacidad de responder creativamente a las debacles que devienen a los auges del modelo exportador de materias primas, ante las crisis, siempre los países han estado expuestos al enorme riesgo de que los electores, ante la falta de alternativas, elijan a líderes que no están calificados para gobernar, populistas que en muchos casos son hostiles a la democracia.

Cada vez que esto ocurre en los países de América Latina, surge la gran incógnita de que si esta es una etapa de transición hacia un nuevo tipo de orden cuyos rasgos permanecen ocultos o si, por el contrario, la inestabilidad llegó para quedarse por mucho tiempo. Ambas alternativas siempre han sido factibles (Mizrahi, Darío, 2021).

Burchardt, Hans-Jürgen (2017) intenta explicar la lógica de cómo devienen estos ciclos de incertidumbre e inestabilidad que caracterizan estas transiciones:

> *Por un lado*, en la región, se da la bienvenida a los nuevos gobiernos conservadores, ya que por fin terminarán con el tutelaje, el clientelismo y la corrupción y volverán a dotar de eficiencia a la economía. Claramente de que no es una nueva política la que está accediendo al poder, sino que solo se está operando un cambio de elites políticas. Así, no asombra casi a nadie que los nuevos gobiernos conservadores apliquen la misma solución a la crisis que los gobiernos progresistas que aún están en el poder: una drástica profundización de la explotación de los recursos naturales. *Por otro lado*, se argumenta que, con las medidas «correctas del progresismo», se podía seguir posibilitando un proyecto de justicia social. En realidad, el debate sobre si las políticas reformistas o las radicales son más aptas para resolver la cuestión social acompaña a los gobiernos progresistas desde sus inicios. No toma en cuenta que, desde una mirada actual, la supresión de las desigualdades sociales ha fracasado, independientemente de los diferentes estilos políticos.

Los resultados sociales y de desarrollo de la economía del siglo XX y dos décadas del actual de la experiencia predominante “del ciclo de la izquierda” en América Latina, han dado suficiente evidencia del fracaso de su modelo tanto económico como político; salvo excepciones: la izquierda latinoamericana “no ha sido democrática sino autoritaria”.

En un análisis del accionar político y económico de los gobiernos de izquierda en la región, Fonseca, Diego (2021) concluye qué, “la izquierda latinoamericana probó que gusta de los gobiernos fuertes, descree de los acuerdos y no tiene imaginación cuando se queda sin dinero. Los indicadores de desarrollo económico y social de todo ese periodo demostraron ampliamente que la mayoría de la izquierda latinoamericana jamás se preparó para gobernar, apenas para llegar al poder. No ha generado propuestas de crecimiento, solo de redistribución de la pobreza. El resultado: países más pobres y con culturas políticas menos democráticas”.

Fonseca afirma qué, “durante todos estos años, el discurso y la propaganda construyó el mito de que la izquierda representaba la cúspide de los valores humanistas e intelectuales: solidaridad, inclusión, equidad, creatividad e inteligencia, honestidad, defensa de la democracia, diálogo y vocación por el cambio, entre otros. Pero en su mayoría, la izquierda latinoamericana ha estado lejos de esas ideas. Vive en conflicto con la novedad y le gustan los juegos de suma cero, así que mientras incluye a unos, excluye a los demás”. Desde el punto de vista de su inclusión a la modernidad, “la izquierda latinoamericana continúa militando en el atraso moral de los años cuarenta, cosmovisión de la Guerra Fría de los cincuenta y manual económico de los sesenta. Jamás ajustó su prisma político más allá de los setenta, está tan perdida como los años ochenta y es depresiva y oscura como los noventa. Entró a un siglo de transformaciones veloces asustada, se refugió en el dogma. Como no quiere reconocer que se debe diseñar el futuro reformando el capitalismo, decidió que mejor toma el poder y vive de las rentas del estado”.

Por todo lo indicado, Fonseca concluye qué, “la izquierda latinoamericana es intelectualmente mediocre y políticamente infantil”. Jamás procesó la victoria del neoliberalismo (no como modelo económico sino como

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construcción cultural que afecta las decisiones de las personas) y desde allí falla en todo, del diagnóstico a la planificación y ejecución. Por ello, en una abrumadora mayoría de los casos "la izquierda latinoamericana piensa y actúa mal. No acuerda, impone. No dialoga, arenga. No da la mano, sube el dedito. Cuando debe negociar, fractura. En vez de proponer, solo se opone".

Posiblemente en esta descripción radica la causa del fracaso de las políticas económicas y sociales del modelo de bienestar impulsado por los gobiernos de izquierda en Latinoamérica en los primeros 15 años de este siglo.

Burchardt, Hans-Jürgen (2017), al analizar las causas de los fracasos y oportunidades perdidas en América Latina (sobre todo del ciclo predominante de la izquierda), manifiesta que en vez de lamentarse por las oportunidades desaprovechadas o de revitalizar las ideas fracasadas ignorando la historia, deben mencionarse de forma realista los errores más importantes de los últimos años y se los debe considerar como tarea para los próximos 20 años.

Así, en materia económica, Burchardt es contundente en afirmar que los gobiernos progresistas han omitido casi por completo llevar adelante durante el boom de las materias primas una activa política internacional de regulación de estos mercados que sea favorable para ellos mismos. Nunca se atacó políticamente ese talón de Aquiles que es la dependencia de las materias primas.

Sostiene que es necesario amortiguar la "desigualdad social" no solo combatiendo la pobreza sino reduciéndola de manera sostenida. El problema y sus soluciones son ya conocidos, pero hasta ahora ha faltado frecuentemente el coraje político para emprender reformas estructurales.

Es indudable que faltaron reformas tributarias redistributivas que deberían aliviar a quienes menos ganan y gravar los ingresos y patrimonios más elevados. Esto incluye *reformas sociales* que apunten a *sistemas sociales universales* que garanticen, en lugar de un asistencialismo temporal, derechos sociales que puedan ser demandados y, en lugar de unas pocas prestaciones para pocos, una amplia cobertura de servicios para todos.

Destaca que durante el último boom de América Latina no se logró un aumento sensible de la *productividad laboral* o de la participación de la masa salarial en el PIB, ello está vinculado a la expansión casi ilimitada de la *informalidad* en la mayoría de los países, sobre todo exportadores de materias primas.

Finalmente, el principal desafío es, entonces, encarar las reformas estructurales hasta ahora retrasadas y reducir lentamente la desigualdad social; este es el requisito para cualquier estrategia de diversificación que pretenda disminuir la dependencia de las materias primas.

Es evidente que, la nueva izquierda se dispone a enfrentar este nuevo ciclo con muchos retos y problemas estructurales no resueltos y acentuados por los gobiernos predecesores de la primera ola de izquierda. Sin duda, los desafíos son enormes.

Antonio Caño formula tres desafíos para la nueva izquierda que irrumpe en este nuevo ciclo en América Latina (Caño, Antonio, 2022).

El primer reto de la nueva izquierda en el poder es, asegurar que su gestión se desarrollará en un clima de libertad y de absoluto respeto a la actividad de la oposición y que, una vez concluido su ciclo en el gobierno, dará paso a nuevos gobernantes que resulten elegidos tras un proceso plenamente democrático.

El segundo desafío tiene que ver con la necesidad urgente en América Latina de un mayor desarrollo económico. Sin eso, es imposible abordar el combate de la desigualdad que la izquierda promete y que, sin duda, es una tarea pendiente en la región. Si muchos de los candidatos de izquierda han ganado en los últimos años es, precisamente, porque la población está frustrada por el continuo deterioro de sus condiciones de vida, agravadas recientemente por la pandemia de COVID.

La izquierda se confundiría si cree que la votan por sus postulados ideológicos; la votan porque los partidos en el poder de los últimos 30 años (de izquierda y derecha) han fracasado en la labor de mejorar la situación económica.

El tercer reto que es necesario observar en la conducta de la nueva izquierda latinoamericana, es el de su política exterior. Es indudable que un florecimiento de gobiernos de izquierdas aliados a China, Rusia o Irán complicaría el panorama político en general y dificultaría las relaciones con los EEUU, Europa y con los organismos internacionales.

América Latina necesita realismo, estabilidad y prudencia, no fantasías, ideología y discursos. Requiere también la honestidad, energía y audacia que la derecha no ha sido capaz de aportar. Pero si, en lugar de eso, nos encontramos con las viejas utopías revolucionarias y los conocidos pretextos sobre las amenazas del imperialismo, todos lo lamentaremos, la izquierda más que nadie.

Es en este marco difícil que, el éxito de «la nueva izquierda» dependerá, entre otras cosas, de la capacidad de coordinación entre las diferentes opciones políticas, de la habilidad para ofrecer un programa de reforma socioeconómica que contemple las nuevas sensibilidades relacionadas con la diversidad, el cuidado del ambiente, y de la posibilidad de aprovechar la oportunidad geopolítica abierta por la disputa entre China y EEUU (Natanson, José, 2022).

Es sabido que, en democracias plenas y funcionales, la alternancia entre izquierda y derecha es lo habitual y saludable. De modo que el cambio de

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tendencia podría interpretarse como un signo de maduración política en los países latinoamericanos. Por ahora, salvo algunas excepciones como Uruguay, no parece ser el caso.

Si algo debe cambiarse en América Latina es la absurda y negada visión de que los problemas serán resueltos por una "izquierda o una derecha". Sin una educación de alcance global, y sin equilibrios en la explotación de recursos naturales, y respeto por los derechos humanos con valoración de los sistemas democráticos en todas sus naciones, estaremos condenados al atraso, la pobreza y la emigración, como signo evidente del fracaso político, económico y social (Vivas Santana, Javier, 2022).

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Extension of Indicators for the Business Insolvency Topic of the Business Enabling Environment Project by the World Bank Group

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Abstract- Changing geopolitical realities in recent years reveal significant challenges and shortcomings in the global system that had led the world to its present parlous state and has accentuated national social and societal concerns. An important issue that requires a response from national Governments in many countries, as well as more social research, is the protection of workers' claims in case of insolvency. This issue has multiple aspects, such as legislative regulation of bankruptcy (insolvency) and restructuring, and the creation of guarantee institutions that should be designed to protect employees' claims. It also suggests information support of former employees and fosters their mobility territorial coordination, and internationalization, shares of labor market information, recognition of formal, informal and non-formal education and training, social dialogue, etc. In this article, we concentrate on the methodology of a new Business Enabling Environment rating projected by the World Bank Group and analyze the methodology of it, trying to determine if the issue mentioned above, as well as the protection of workers' rights and human social interests of society at large, have been reflected in the concept of the project.

Keywords: business enabling environment; topics; insolvency; workers' claims; workers' protection; central & eastern europe.

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Extension of Indicators for the Business Insolvency Topic of the Business Enabling Environment Project by the World Bank Group

Yury Y. Karaleu

Abstract- Changing geopolitical realities in recent years reveal significant challenges and shortcomings in the global system that had led the world to its present parlous state and has accentuated national social and societal concerns. An important issue that requires a response from national Governments in many countries, as well as more social research, is the protection of workers' claims in case of insolvency. This issue has multiple aspects, such as legislative regulation of bankruptcy (insolvency) and restructuring, and the creation of guarantee institutions that should be designed to protect employees' claims. It also suggests information support of former employees and fosters their mobility territorial coordination, and internationalization, shares of labor market information, recognition of formal, informal and non-formal education and training, social dialogue, etc. In this article, we concentrate on the methodology of a new Business Enabling Environment rating projected by the World Bank Group and analyze the methodology of it, trying to determine if the issue mentioned above, as well as the protection of workers' rights and human social interests of society at large, have been reflected in the concept of the project.

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I. Introduction

One of the most famous international projects in the world, the Doing Business (hereinafter – DB) project by the World Bank Group (hereinafter – WBG), is enjoying a second lease of life thanks to the new Business Enabling Environment project (hereinafter – BEE) which is formulating a new approach to assessing the business and investment climate (WBG, 2022). The new approach would improve on its predecessor launched in 2002 and aimed to provide objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement. It looked at domestic small and medium-sized companies and measured the regulations applying to them through their life cycle across 191 economies.

BEE has been informed by extensive project evaluations and process of consultations with key professionals and experts in the WBG, as well as references from qualified academics, representatives of multinational corporations, and practitioners outside the institution. Public consultations on the BEE project were completed and feedback from a wide spectrum of governmental authorities, bodies of experts, scientists, and civil society stakeholders is already available. Today, we can draw preliminary results from the activities of experts and contributors.

BEE will first aim to be a knowledge platform to share views, best practices, and policies to achieve sustainable development for governments, civil society, the WBG, and other development institutions. Second, BEE will through its focus on private sector development and create new possibilities which will benefit countries and their peoples and are in line with the strategic objectives of WBG. Therefore, it supports two key objectives: to achieve sustainable development through economic and social reforms and to provide grounded detailed information that can be used for future scientific research, international comparisons, and specific policy advice (WBG, 2022).

The specific topics of analysis covered by BEE are currently under development, but as before, in the case of DB project, they are organized on the concept of the life cycle of the firm and its participation in the market. Following this cycle and private sector development, BEE's main sets of indicators under consideration are grouped into ten categories of thematic areas or topics: *Business entry*, *Business location*, *Utility connections*, *Labor*, *Financial services*, *International trade*, *Taxation*, *Dispute resolution*, *Market competition,* and *Business insolvency*. Within each topic collected and arranged according to the stages of opening, operating, and closing a business, BEE will analyze three sets of indicators which, in turn, are presented by a number of specific components. Every set of indicators serves to evaluate the effect of the regulatory framework (de jure component, e.g., statutory regulations, laws, and jurisprudence), public service provision (de facto component reflecting practical implementation), and one more group of integral efficiency indications for screening and consolidating the two groups mentioned above.

According to the Pre-Concept Note for Business Enabling Environment (BEE) (hereinafter – Pre-Concept Note), the system of preliminary BEE topics and indicators is summarized in Table 1.

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In this system, only *Taxation* topic has specific fiches: both regulatory framework and public service provision are de factor components and efficiency indications for this topic are, by its essence a combination of de jure and de facto components.

As shown in the table below, the concept of the *Labor* topic is based on three sets of indicators:

(a) Quality of labor regulations;
(b) Adequacy of public services for the labor market; and
(c) Ease of employing labor.

Table 1: The system of preliminary BEE topics and indicators

Stage	Set of indicators		
Opening a business	Business entry	Quality of regulations for business entry	Efficiency of business entry
		Digital public services and transparency of information for business start-ups	
	Business location	Quality of regulations for immovable property lease, property ownership and urban planning	Efficiency of key services in getting a business location
		Quality of public services and transparency of information	
Operating a business	Utility connections	Quality of utility regulations	Efficiency of implementation of utility regulations and services
		Utility performance and transparency of utility services	
	Labor	Quality of labor regulations	Ease of employing labor
		Adequacy of public services for the labor market	
	Financial services	Quality of regulations for secured transactions, e-payments, and green financing	Ease of receiving financial services
		Quality of credit reporting framework	
	International trade	Quality of regulations for international trade in goods and e-commerce	Efficiency of importing goods, exporting goods, and engaging in e-commerce
		Quality of public services for the promotion of international trade in goods	
	Taxation	Quality of tax regulations	Tax burden and efficiency of tax systems
		Services provided by the tax administration	
	Dispute resolution	Quality of regulations for commercial dispute resolution	Ease of resolving a commercial dispute
		Adequacy of public services in commercial litigation	
	Market competition	Quality of regulations that promote market competition	Efficiency in the implementation of key services promoting market competition
		Adequacy of public services that promote market competition	
Closing a business	Business insolvency	Quality of regulations for insolvency proceedings	Ease to resolve an insolvency judicial proceeding
		Quality of institutional and operational infrastructure for insolvency processes	

Source: www.worldbank.org

It is encouraging to note that in contrast to the former DB project *Labor* topic became a full-fledged, more balanced element of the rating and includes indicators on workers' protection (unemployment insurance, healthcare, pension). Another relevant issue was establishing the efficiency component, which will evaluate the outcomes of efforts to make those markets more comprehensive and robust.

So, the indicators of a group (a) of *Labor* topic are the set of de jure indicators that will measure labor regulations and public services as they apply to different types of workers in different contractual arrangements.

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De facto measures of workers' social protection, employment services, and individual labor dispute resolution indicators are provided by the next set of indicators of a group (b). Turning lastly to a group (c) of indicators, they assess the contribution of two previous issues to the efficient functioning of labor markets. This is a set of de facto indicators.

If, for example, we will go into more detail on the *Workers' social protection* aspect of the quality of labor regulations evaluated by BEE, we discover that this indicator will "assess aspects of social protections available to workers, with a focus on unemployment insurance, healthcare, and pension" (WBG, 2022). Right now, it is not clear what kind of unemployment insurance the designers of BEE are going to evaluate and how "the availability, type and level (e.g., duration and amount) of unemployment insurance, regardless of the type of contract" (WBG, 2022) will be evaluated. Still, we can only suppose that insolvency insurance will be covered by the methodology.

The concept of the *Business insolvency* topic of BEE project is very similar by nature to the *Labor* topic and is based on three sets of indicators:

(a) Quality of regulations for insolvency proceedings;
(b) Quality of institutional and operational infrastructure for insolvency processes; and
(c) Ease to resolve an insolvency judicial proceeding.

The first set of indicators (a) will measure the quality of insolvency regulations applicable to judicial liquidation and reorganization procedures in each economy in comparison with internationally recognized good practices. The second set of indicators (b) includes only three indicators critical for the quality of insolvency resolution mechanisms and the infrastructure required for successful implementation of the legal conditions to ensure equality of insolvency. The last set will measure the efficiency of insolvency regulations that will be considered through an assessment of the time and cost to resolve an in-court liquidation and reorganization proceeding. It is the set of de facto indicators.

II. Research Methods and Aims of the Study

In this paper, we have addressed the issues mentioned above and, consequently, have a strong interest in discussing *Labor* and *Business* insolvency topics which we have studied from the point of view of the protection of workers' claims in the event of an employer's insolvency. We consider that issues of protection of workers' claims focused on the intersection between those two topics and could not be discussed in isolation.

Based on the previous research on the protection of workers' claims and benefited from the findings of E. Yemin and A. Bronstein (Yemin & Bronstein, 1991), J. Botero et al. (Botero et. al., 2004), W. Huaiyu (Huaiyu, 2007), J. Sarra (Sarra, 2008), P. Secunda (Secunda, 2014), etc., we didn't discuss in this paper the relationship between employers, employees, and other creditors (secured creditors) rights or different support instruments for the protection of the employees' outstanding claims arising from contracts of employment or employment relationships. Our task was to assess whether the developers of BEE have implemented any indicators or components for the workers' protection "to provide a more nuanced and potentially positive perspective on the role of governments in creating a conducive business environment" (WBG, 2022). If this is not the case, should the developers extend the number of indicators for the *Business insolvency* topic as a step in the direction of changing the concept of BEE?

To answer this question and establish robust conclusions and valuable recommendations, statistical data comparison combined with analysis of legal regulations have been used. To make relevant assumptions and to formulate our proposals, a literature review and comparative studies of local legislation and the applicable European insolvency regulations associated with the protection of workers' benefits were analyzed. More specifically, the inductive method, revealing cause-effect relationships, generalization, etc. were applied to elucidate the conceptual and operational relations between the higher level of inflation, financing costs, and the deteriorated sentiment and global challenges affecting both the international economic system and domestic economies for which the proper functioning of the insolvency regime is vitally important.

III. The Relationship between Indicators of Different Topics

In both cases – *Labor* and *Business insolvency* topics– we can note two pillars (regulatory and public services pillars) that have the primary objective to assess outcomes and efficiency of labor markets and insolvency frameworks. But in the case of the *Labor* topic, the efficiency will be assessed "from the perspective of both the firm and the employee" (WBG, 2022). A similar approach can and should be envisaged for the insolvency topic of BEE to ensure the fullest exercise of employees' right to equality in case of insolvency. Like that provided by the *Workers' protection* component for *Ease of employing labor* set of indicators, the same component for *Ease to resolve an insolvency judicial proceeding* set of indicators should be implemented (while changing the name of the latter set of indicators), and there are multiple reasons for this recommendation.

Firstly, this has to be done of the view that a certain proposed range of topics should "complement

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each other," as was declared in the Pre-Concept Note (WBG, 2022). We are of the view that such a proposed component of BEE as a *Protection of workers' claims in case of insolvency* would help to form the link between *Labor* and *Business insolvency* topics.

The following set of indicators can be calculated to provide a quantitative assessment of the efficiency of *Protection of workers' claims in case of insolvency* issue for *Business insolvency* topic of BEE project.

The average percentage of satisfaction of the creditors' claims (acceptance rate of creditors' claims of different groups, e.g., the first priority claims, the second priority claims, etc.), *AR*:

$$AR = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} SC}{TA} \quad (1)$$

Where *SC* is the amount of the satisfied creditors' claims of a particular group during a period of time *t* and *TA* is the total amount of claims recognized by the insolvent debtor for the same period.

Similarly, the share of satisfied employees (*SE*) will be calculated using formula (2) below:

$$SE = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} NC}{TN} \quad (2)$$

Where *NC* is the number of creditors with satisfied claims of a particular group during a period of time *t* and *TN* is the total number of creditors with claims recognized by the insolvent debtor for the same period.

In the context of the theme under consideration, employees' wages and severance pay claims such as work remuneration, reimbursement for annual paid leave, reimbursement for other types of paid leave, severance pay connected with the termination of an employment relationship, reimbursement for injury connected with an accident at work or an occupational disease, etc. will be chosen in formula (1) as the satisfied creditors' claims of a particular group. In formula (2), employees with wages and severance pay claims will be chosen as the nominator.

Moreover, together with the preliminary topics listed in the Pre-Concept Note, BEE will look at two cross-cutting themes relevant across topics: the adoption of digital technologies and environmental sustainability. Most components in the Pre-Concept Note are already denoted as those covered by the two mentioned themes. It is, however, unclear why digitalization or environmentalism tended to prevail over the welfare and assurance of workers' rights and outweigh the interests of society at large. On which grounds will BEE evaluate the business environment "from the perspective of an individual firm's ease of doing business" and "the standpoint of private sector development as a whole" but, in fact, ignore the social perspectives of these processes? We consider that the creation of a well-designed system of social protection of employees, including those in the event of bankruptcy (insolvency) or restructuring, is a matter for serious reflection by all concerned. It is a challenge for a business to adapt to economic shocks and provide its employees with not only job security in a safe workplace with decent remuneration but assistance and guarantees in critical situations. The outcome has been inclusive and resilient labor markets (ILO, 2022).

Again, we share and encourage the conclusion of L. Norman that labor markets, along with the policies and institutions that shape them, provide a solid basis for national private sector development and economic growth (Norman et al., 2012). As the world progresses forward and many countries face a growing workforce and changes in the composition of labor, it is important to place the *Workers' protection* component (together with the issue of *Protection of workers' claims in case of insolvency*) as the principal interface between all topics in BEE and elevate it to the status of the cross-cutting theme. We should understand that the human and social aspects of sustainable development meant that workers' rights protection was as crucial as scientific approaches to environmental protection and digitalization, particularly from the public policy responsibility angle (Karaleu, 2018).

IV. New Challenges that Enhance the Importance of the Issue

One should also try to make an effort to look at the issue from the perspective of a given national Government and concerning Central & Eastern Europe (CEE) countries in particular. "In 2021, the region saw increased growth (5.5%), but this momentum is expected to dissipate this year with a forecast growth rate of 3.2%,", Mr. Grzegorz Sielewicz, Coface economist for Central & Eastern Europe, said (Coface, 2022). Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic and officially implemented lockdowns were a devastating blow to macroeconomic activity. Even though there is a subsequent decrease in rates of transmission and infection, making the actual ongoing pandemic a secondary issue, there is another challenge that affected economies and businesses. The Russia-Ukraine conflict affects an alarming rise in rates of inflation and economic instability in CEE because of the soaring prices of oil, natural gas, and other raw materials imports from Russia, on which European consumption depends economically.

At the same time, both countries, being the largest producers and exporters of agricultural commodities, contribute significantly to the European food market, and assure, albeit indirectly, a decrement in the economic situation. So, CEE economies have experienced accelerated inflation mostly due to increased energy prices, at a time of growing food prices. This is compounded by sanctions imposed

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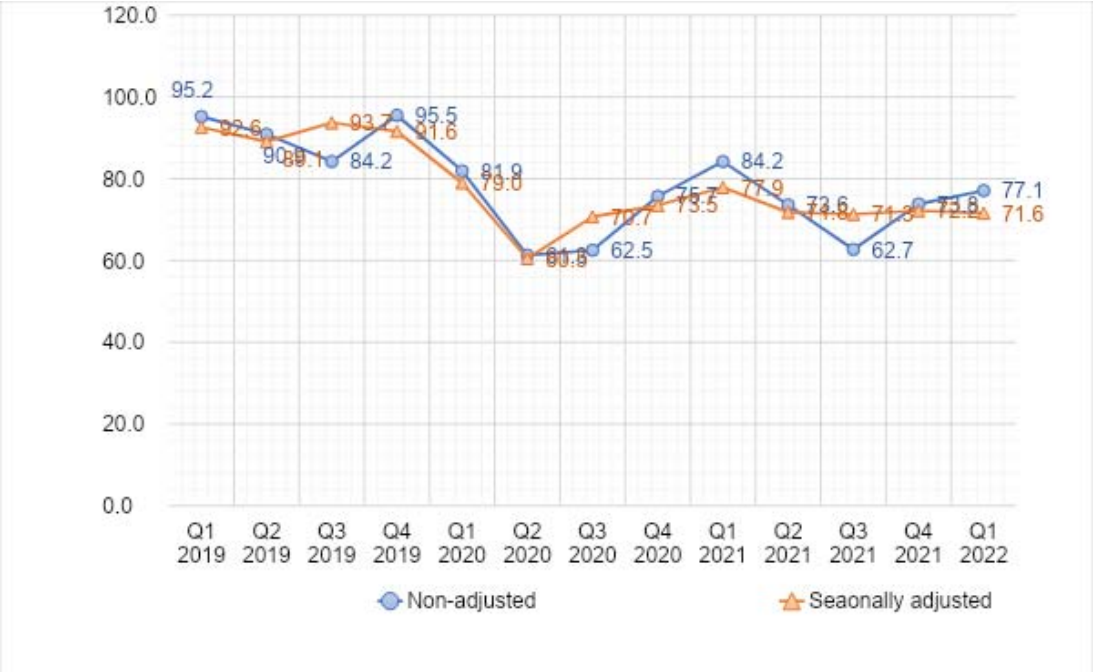
against the export of fertilizers from Belarus, embroiled in the military conflict.

All this, in aggregate, triggered the economic downturn and brought concerns not only for macroeconomic stability but also for the companies' payment liquidity and the latest insolvency trends in CEE. The companies' adaptation of their business operations and activities with lockdowns and post-COVID-19 situation combined with unprecedented measures of national Governments (such as tax exemptions and deferrals, loans, subsidies and other financial assistance, employees' salary supplementary payments, simplifying various administrative procedures, etc.) were among the few grounds, which have allowed to avoid a number of fresh bankruptcies. In terms of the latter measures, they also included moratoria on insolvency applications as well as various measures reducing the consequences of the pandemic's impact on companies' liquidity. Even, a paradoxical situation emerged whereby business insolvencies in CEE countries dropped in 2020 thanks to the massive scale of support measures during such a significant crisis.

We can note this situation based on the data presented in Quarterly registrations of new businesses and declarations of bankruptcies statistics by Eurostat released on May 17, 2022 (Eurostat, 2022) (Fig. 1).



Source: Eurostat, 2002

Fig.1: Declarations of bankruptcies of businesses in EU, Q1 2019 to Q1 2022 (2015 = 100)

There has been an upward trend in the number of bankruptcy declarations until almost the end of 2019. Then we can note considerable decreases in the first and second quarters of 2020. That can be explained by the supporting measures, described above. After that, the number of bankruptcy declarations increased for three consecutive quarters until the first quarter of 2021. Then the bankruptcy declarations decreased in the second quarter of 2021 but were considerably below the levels of the pre-COVID pandemic period for the whole of 2021.

The number of bankruptcies declarations was stable between the third quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. In the first quarter of 2022, compared to the previous quarter, the bankruptcies slightly decreased. At the same time for some economies, bankruptcies reached back levels close to ones recorded in the prepandemic year of 2019. So, unwinding support measures already triggered an increase in business insolvencies in the CEE region, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict would only serve to compound the problem.

How do in such a situation, the national guarantee institutions (funds) that provide recourses for workers who have lost their job due to insolvency of their employer and have not received the full wage or salary owed to them react? We suggest that Latvia is a very good example for our conclusions.

In Latvia, since January 1, 2003, Employee Claims Guarantee Fund (Darbinieku aizsardzība darba devēja maksātnespējas gadījumā) (hereafter – Fund), operated by the Insolvency Control Service (state agency), advises employees who have lost their jobs as a result of the insolvency (bankruptcy) of their companies and have not received the full wage or salary owed to them. All employees are eligible for the

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satisfaction of claims and may claim work remuneration, reimbursement for annual paid leave, etc., that is owed to them by their employer (European Monitoring Centre on Change, 2022).

The Fund is financed by contributions from employers – the state entrepreneurial risk fee (which has remained unchanged since 2006 and is equal to EUR0.36 per employee) – gifts and donations, and resources recovered by insolvency administrators in the insolvency procedure (Karaleu, 2021). Fig. 2 below shows how the payments from the Fund have evolved over the last three years.

It is clearly visible, that the total amount of payments, as well as the number of satisfied employees, decreased within 2021. The above is due to the fact that from March 22, 2020, to September 1, 2020, and from December 23, 2020, to September 1, 2021, moratoria on insolvency applications were introduced in response to the destructive consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, only those employees whose position has been declared in an insolvency proceeding before the moratoria were entitled to benefit from the Fund.



Source: https://www.mkd.gov.lv/lv

Fig. 2: The Latvian Employee Claims Guarantee Fund's payments for 2019-2022.

In the first quarter of 2022, 119 employees' claims of 16 insolvent companies to the Fund were satisfied, for a total amount of EUR 113,980. The average payment per capita was EUR943. For comparison, for the same period of 2021, 59 employees' claims of 16 companies were satisfied, for the amount of EUR84, 502. The average payment per capita was EUR1, 193.

V. The Risk of Further Escalation of the Situation

In the situation of the ongoing global liquidity crisis, the international community, together with national Governments, should do all in its power in order to avoid further escalation of the situation, which may entail dire consequences of insolvency. The UK Government, for example, has already set out new proposals to reform and simplify the regulation of the insolvency sector. Business Minister Lord Callanan said: "The proper functioning of the insolvency regime is vitally important to support business investment and growth and to provide a safety net for individuals in severe financial difficulty." (Insolvency Service & Lord Callanan, 2021).

If we return to the example of Latvia and compare its results with the situation in other Baltic states, it can be reported that other countries of the region have lost this potential that was provided by the insolvency restriction measures. Now they are demonstrating the highest increases in bankruptcy declarations in the first quarter of 2022 in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2021: Estonia +50.6 %, Lithuania +38.5 %. And it is not surprising as the Baltic states suffer from direct and indirect consequences of the Russia-Ukraine military conflict because of their close economic relationships with Russia. Both mentioned economies have one of the highest shares of

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exports of goods and services in GDP in the Central & Eastern European region: Estonia – with 81%, Lithuania – with 80%. Most likely, Latvia, in the nearest future, will be the next will suffer from the highest increases in bankruptcy declarations.

And again, all Baltic states will face severe challenges in protecting workers' claims in case of insolvency, though, along with some other post-Soviet states, the Russian Federation and Belarus will be the most affected. The reason for such a depressing assessment of the outlook for the rise in insolvencies is not only because the first two are directly responsible for or involved in the military conflict in Ukraine. In contrast to the well-established body of the EU system of administrative authorities and guarantee institutions established and launched in accordance with Directive 2002/74/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of September 23, 2002, on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer, most post-Soviet states relay on the priority creditor status for employees (preferential treatment) in the event of insolvency (bankruptcy). It is the only form of protection conferred upon employees in the case of corporate insolvency.

Preferential treatment assumes that employees (former employees) with wage and other compensation claims are given a statutory priority over other classes of creditors. The highest level of such priority is absolute or so-called super-priority – a specific mechanism to ensure that employees' claims are first in line (including over-secured creditors) to be satisfied on any liquidity difficulties of the company. The most significant disadvantage of this system is the lack of legal satisfaction of workers' claims in the situation of the absence of own funds in the insolvent company available to cover debts (Karaleu, 2022).

We think it necessary to note related problems showing the vast increase in the volume of employees' claims as claims of priority creditors in the Russian Federation, where preferential treatment is the only tool for the employees' wage claims satisfaction in the case of insolvency. This trend is reflected in Table 2 below, compiled for 2019-2021 by JSC Interfax in Fedresurs (fedresurs.ru) based on the information from the published reports of arbitration managers (administrators in the insolvency procedure).

As can be seen from the table, the total amount of priority claims included in the Register of creditors' claims showed a clear negative growth trend in their volumes, and in 2021 the percentage of satisfaction of claims fell to an extremely low level. Thus, the acceptance rate for the second priority creditors' claims (in the Russian Federation, wages and severance pay claims have the second priority) in the period under consideration (see formula (1)) was only about 11% (calculated based on a grand total for three years). It could be assumed that this trend has emerged only in recent years and is associated with the economic consequences of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our earlier studies showed that from 2016 to 2018, about 30% of the requirements were satisfied (Karaleu, 2020). It was much higher than the level formed in the last three calendar years but, at the same time, was far from full payment of priority creditors' claims for wages, severance pay, and other similar payments due to them.

The percentage of satisfaction of the priority creditors' claims in the second half of the year reached 21% after the introduction by the Government of the Russian Federation (from April 1, 2022) of a six-month moratorium on bankruptcies initiated by creditors against citizens, individual entrepreneurs and legal entities (with some exceptions) (Fedresurs, 2022). This problem will become more apparent and further aggravated for the Russian Federation if we remember that many foreign companies have curtailed operations in the country after the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine military conflict. Under pressure from investors and consumers, many foreign companies have started to unwind their investments, close production lines, and pause sales in the Russian Federation. Worsening the general economic situation or increasing instability and military conflicts would curb investments of large businesses in any country and increase the risk of new bankruptcies.

VI. Conclusion

Improved social protection, including protecting workers' claims in case of insolvency, could enhance the quality of life, and deepen interactions with businesses and citizens, such as facilitating more transparent processes, reducing the harmful social and societal consequences, and responding to the evolving global financial and economic crisis.

In this article, we have shown that including of *Protection of workers' claims in case of insolvency* issue in BEE would help to form the link between *Labor* and *Business insolvency* topics and helps for making more informed and well-argued conclusions as we believe that workers' rights protection (including in the case of insolvency) to be the cornerstone of global sustainable development efforts.

At the same time, *Workers' social protection* component of the *Labor* topic should become a principal interface between all topics in BEE and would be elevated to the status of the cross-cutting theme, especially in the situation of increasing economic instability and military conflicts. The impact of new challenges on CEE is devastating and will severely undermine the unwinding support efforts of the European governments.

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Table 2: Amount of the second priority creditors' claims in completed bankruptcy cases for 2019-2021 in the Russian Federation

		2019			2020			2021		
		Amount of claims included in the Register of creditors, RUB thousand	Amount of satisfied claims	Acceptance rate, %	Amount of claims included in the Register of creditors, RUB thousand	Amount of satisfied claims	Acceptance rate, %	Amount of claims included in the Register of creditors, RUB thousand	Amount of satisfied claims	Acceptance rate, %
Principal amount	Total	8,796,083.06	1,811,622.18	20.6	17,152,370.59	2,550,699.51	14.9	26,893,878.94	2,892,921.03	10.8
	Incl. wages and severance pay claims	2,679,028.48	745,069.48	27.8	2,318,899.82	804,063.21	34.7	2,835,425.40	770,882.53	27.2
Penalties	Total	701,623.00	65,249.70	9.3	556,382.30	40,805.96	7.3	13,099,294.29	53,016.31	0.4
	Incl. wages and severance pay claims	105,241.18	26,985.49	25.6	61,309.71	18,938.16	30.9	49,245.61	16,343.75	33.2
Grand total		9,497,706.06	1,876,871.88	19.8	17,708,752.89	2,591,505.48	14.6	39,993,173.23	2,945,937.34	7.4
Number of employees, former employees with wage and severance pay claims included in the Register of creditors in completed bankruptcy cases		2,517,014*			74,413			43,424		

** Presumably, the incorrect number of employees. The unadjusted amount is presented (Source: https://fedresurs.ru/news/d9263eb1-10a9-43db-8755-3dc0add94bd3)*
Source: fedresurs.ru

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Internet use in a Central African Country: An Evidence of Cameroon

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Abstract- The objective of this study is to identify the different activities that motivate individuals to use the Internet in Cameroon. Specifically, this is to show that activities related to the search for information online, academic activities online, activities on digital social media, listening and downloading music online, online watching and movie download, online purchases and sales, online administrative services and online sports activities motivate the use of the Internet by individuals in Cameroon. The methodology implemented uses data from the survey of the practice of new digital media in Cameroon (PRANOME) carried out in 2021 in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Mfou, and Soa under the supervision of the Center of Research in Economic and Management (CEREG) of the University of Yaoundé 2-Soa in Cameroon. The results of the estimates made on the basis of the binary Logit model show that Internet use has a positive and significant effect at the 1% level on the activities of listening and downloading online music, watching and for downloading movies online; searching for information online and on digital social media.

Keywords: *internet, use, individuals, activities, logit.*

GJHSS-E Classification: *JEL Code: C25, O31, O33*



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Internet use in a Central African Country: An Evidence of Cameroon

Mengue Charly [α] & Fomba Kamga Benjamin [σ]

Abstract- The objective of this study is to identify the different activities that motivate individuals to use the Internet in Cameroon. Specifically, this is to show that activities related to the search for information online, academic activities online, activities on digital social media, listening and downloading music online, online watching and movie download, online purchases and sales, online administrative services and online sports activities motivate the use of the Internet by individuals in Cameroon. The methodology implemented uses data from the survey of the practice of new digital media in Cameroon (PRANOME) carried out in 2021 in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Mfou, and Soa under the supervision of the Center of Research in Economic and Management (CEREG) of the University of Yaoundé 2-Soa in Cameroon. The results of the estimates made on the basis of the binary Logit model show that Internet use has a positive and significant effect at the 1% level on the activities of listening and downloading online music, watching and for downloading movies online; searching for information online and on digital social media. This Internet use also has a positive and significant effect at the 5% level on online academic activities, and a positive and significant effect at the 10% level on activities related to online administrative services, purchasing and online sales; and online sports activities.

Keywords: internet, use, individuals, activities, logit.

I. Introduction

The Internet was the result of vast military and scientific research projects in the sixties in the United States, and one of the most important revolutions in the modern history of mankind, sometimes assimilated today to the third industrial revolution (Pénard and Rallet, 2014; Rifkin, 2012). Internet can be defined as a global network which itself is englobed by a multitude of computer networks of local, regional, national or continental dimension linked to each other (Balle, 2006). This medium which is in fact a dynamic interconnection of multiple computer subnets from around the world, has undeniably brought a touch in the reduction of time and distances between people, the whole earth would have become a global village in short because all the economic agents (households, businesses, administrations, individuals, ...) who can be able to connect anywhere in the world. Control of Internet service is nowadays and will remain for a long time to come a symbol of the power of States, an important engine of growth and a lever of economic and social development (Niebel, 2018). The Internet is the bedrock of the information society in which we live today in the world, so we must not stay away from this vast planetary movement which is fatal for those regions of the world that have deliberately chosen to marginalize themselves. Internet access and even its practice remains today a real equation to be resolved in several countries of the planet and especially for those of Central Africa located south of the Sahara.

Over the past two decades Africans have become more interested in the Internet, this can be seen through their daily connection time which continues to grow on the continent. This connection is made through several means, namely browsing on phones, computers, using the connection speed in Internet cafe, workplaces and also from homes. This Internet penetration in Africa is increasing by around 27% per year on average according to the estimates of the International Telecommunications Union, which adds that nevertheless Africa remains the least connected continent with only 16% of the population with Internet access is half that of the Asia-Pacific zone between 2009 and 2017.

Internet made its appearance in Cameroon in April 1997 with Cameroon Telecommunication (CAMTEL) as the main access provider. But it was not until two years later in April 1999 with the opening of a node in the city of Douala, the economic metropolis, that the Internet began to be disseminated and spread throughout the national territory. Although access to broadband (2Mbits) has been easier since 2005 with the use of optical fiber and docking with the SAT-3 / WASC cable, the development of the sector is hampered by the state of infrastructure and the slow deployment of optical fiber. In order to improve the quality of the network, an optical fiber line with a 6,000 kilometer long submarine cable was built connecting the towns of Kribi in Cameroon and Fortaleza in Brazil (connecting Africa and the Americas), which has been operational since September 4, 2018. Note that this fiber optic submarine cable becomes the fourth fiber optic submarine cable to land in Cameroon after the SAT-3, the Wacs and the NCNCS (Nigeria and Cameroon Net Work Cable System).

According to the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART), Cameroon has at her

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disposal more than 25,000 kilometers of fiber optic lines internally, for connection speeds ranging from 56 Kilobits / s to 2048 Kilobits / s on average; the country has more than 50 internet service providers. The number of Internet subscribers continues to increase in Cameroon; we have gone from 3,547 subscribers in 2006 to more than 10 million in 2021 according to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Thus, 6 million Internet users are regularly active on the Internet today, ie more than 26% of the population, estimated at more than 25 million. This increase in the number of subscribers proves that the Internet has become an essential consumer good in the world today, its importance appears unequivocal because many Internet users can no longer do without this network (Bourreau and Perrot, 2020; Beuve et al., 2020).

In Cameroon, studies on Internet access have mostly focused on the various first and second order digital divides (Bakehe et al., 2017; Fambeu and Bakehe, 2015; Tamakwe, 2013; Mukoko, 2012). Thus the originality of our study to outline is to be able to study what exactly individuals do on the Internet in Cameroon when they are connected, hence the importance of our study. We rely on this work on a theoretical literature of innovation and the economics of networks (Pénard and al., 2015; Vega-Redondo, 2007; Cohendet and al, 2003; Bandura 2003; 1997; Pénard, 2003; Buskens, 2002; Rauch and Casella, 2001; Slikker and Van den Nouweland, 2001; Arrow, 1998; Gallegati and Kirman, 1999; Rogers, 1995; Mallein and Toussaint, 1994; Ram, 1987; Katz and Shapiro, 1985). And on an empirical literature that shows how Internet use can be motivated by the practice of certain online activities (VanHoose, 2021; Poulet and Ruffo de Calabre, 2021; Routabi and Bennami,2021; Daniel, 2020, Zhao, 2020; Kretschmer and Peukert, 2020; Schweitzer, 2019; Aguiar and Martens, 2016; Penard and al., 2015; Zolkepli and Kamarulzaman, 2015; 2011; Lee and Ma, 2012; Bekkers and al., 2012; Cheung and al., 2010; Diddi and LaRose, 2006).

The objective of this study is to identify the different activities that motivate individuals to access the Internet in Cameroon. As a hypothesis, it is a question of showing that the use of the Internet has a positive effect on the search for information online, academic activities online, digital social media, listening and downloading of music online, online watching and downloading of movies, online shopping and sales, online government services and online sporting activities. To carry out our study, the research methodology is focused on an empirical study which consists in identifying the activities of individuals on the Internet in Cameroon. We are using data from the survey of the practice of new digital media in Cameroon (PRANOME) carried out in 2021 in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Mfou, and Soa under the supervision of the Center of Research in Economic and Management (CEREG) from the University of Yaoundé 2-Soa in Cameroon. The influence of Internet use on the activities of individuals is analyzed using a dichotomous Logit model. In the rest of our work, we show in turn the review of the literature, the methodology used, the descriptive statistics, the results of the estimations and the analysis and interpretations.

II. Literature Review

In this part, we will bring out on the one hand, the theoretical literature which revolves around the theory of the diffusion of an innovation and the economic theory of networks contributing to the use of the internet, and on the other hand, the empirical literature which presents the activities of individuals on the Internet which motivates them to use it more and more.

a) Theoretical Literature

Several theories have been developed regarding the adoption of an innovation in general and regarding Internet access in particular. We have among others the theory of diffusion of Rogers (1995), the theory of resistance to an innovation of Ram (1987), the theory of the social acceptability of an innovation of Mallein and Toussaint (1994), the theory Bandura's social learning and self-efficacy (1997; 2003). Beyond the theories related to adoption, a capital theory that explains the adoption of the Internet which is a network good is the theory of network economics (Vega-Redondo, 2007; Cohendet and al, 2003; Buskens, 2002; Rauch and Casella, 2001; Slikker and Van den Nouweland, 2001; Arrow, 1998; Gallegati and Kirman, 1999).

Thus the theory of the three layers of the network economy affirms that for a network good like the Internet to be able to gain notoriety by reducing digital divides it is essential that these three layers be highlighted. Network services and Internet applications correspond to the upper layer of the network (Third layer), the lower layer corresponds to the physical infrastructure (first layer) and the intermediate layer to the info-structure or to the control or control networks. Infrastructure management (second layer). These different layers characterize in a way a network good (Internet) comprising both a physical infrastructure (link, switches, etc.) and the services provided on this infrastructure. Network economics theory shows that network services develop economies of scale among consumers (Internet users) and producers (online service providers). These economies of scale are at the origin of positive feedback phenomena between supply and demand for services and generate original diffusion dynamics (Penard and al., 2015; Penard, 2003; Katz and Shapiro, 1985).

b) Empirical literature

The empirical literature shows that individuals connect to the Internet for searching online information,

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for online academic activities of which there is a positive effect of Internet use on the practice of academic activities (Allen and al., 2020; Daniel, 2020, Zhao, 2020; Kaplan and Haenlein, 2016) and searching for information online (Penard and al., 2015; Lee and Ma, 2012; Cheung and al., 2009; Cheung and al., 2008; Diddi and LaRose, 2006). Similarly, studies have shown a strong influence of Internet use on activities linked to social networks (Zolkepli and Kamarulzaman, 2015; 2011; Pai and Arnott, 2013; Boyd and Ellison, 2013; Cardon, 2011; Kaplan and Haenlein, 2011; Sledgianowski and Kulviwat, 2009). Thus the use of the Internet has a positive effect on the activities of individuals related to listening and downloading music and movies online (Kretschmer and Peukert, 2020; Schweitzer, 2019; Aguiar and Martens, 2016; Crane, 2014; Sonnac, 2013).

The administrative services have not been left out since the advent of the corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic in the world, the first case of which was declared on March 06, 2020 in Cameroon, the use of e-administration continues to increase in the country because of the application of barrier measures taken by the government. This as well as that there is a positive effect of the use of Internet on the activities related to the administrative services (Routabi and Bennami, 2021; Satry and Belkadi, 2019; Bekkers and al., 2011; Homburg, 2008; Bekkers and Homburg, 2005; Wimmer and al., 2005). Internet adoption also has a positive effect on online shopping and sales (VanHoose, 2021; Bloomenhal, 2021; Le Guel and al., 2005; Ziaul Hoq and al., 2005; Manchanda and al., 2002; Johnson and Whang, 2002) and on online sports activities (Naraine and Parent, 2017).

III. Methodological Framework

In this part, we will present the data of our study from a statistical survey, the variables of our study and the presentation of the study model.

a) Study data

To carry out our study, we used data from the survey of the practice of new digital media in Cameroon (PRANOME) carried out in 2021 in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Mfou, and Soa under the supervision of the Center of Research in Economic and Management (CEREG) from the University of Yaoundé 2-Soa in Cameroon. Our unit of analysis is the individual, so 1057 observations were retained in the sample after purification of the PRANOME database.

b) Study variables

The variables that we have retained to show the effect of Internet use on the activities of individuals online are the dependent variable and the explanatory variables. The dependent variable Y represents the use of the Internet by individuals which is presented in our database by the access of individuals to the Internet. The PRANOME survey shows that an individual who accesses the Internet actually uses it. The independent variables can be listed in two categories the first represent the variables related to the activities of individuals on the Internet which are the search for information, academic activities, digital social networks, listening and downloading of music online, watching and downloading movies online, buying and selling online, administrative services and online sports activities. The second control the first and are made up of socioeconomic and sociodemographic variables such as sex, age, marital status, having a diploma, having a job, place of residence, income, access to a mobile phone and/or to a computer.

c) The binary Logit model

We construct a binary variable Yi which is equal to 1 if the individual uses the Internet and 0 if the individual does not use the Internet. We can then associate with this variable Yi, a value Yi^* which corresponds to the usefulness of the individual when he chooses to connect. This variable Yi^* depends on the activities of individuals on the Internet and on the socioeconomic and socio-demographic characteristics noted (Xi) and on an error term (Ui), namely

$$Yi^* = Xi\beta + Ui.$$

This utility is random due to the presence of the error term Ui. We can then define a selection criterion for the individual. If the utility he gets from using the Internet is greater than a certain value (C), he will choose to connect to the Internet, but if his utility is less than this value, he will choose not to connect of which not to use the Internet.

We thus have:

$$\begin{cases} Yi = 1 \text{ if } Yi^* > C \\ \text{With } Yi = 1 \text{ if the individual uses the Internet and } Yi = 0 \text{ otherwise} \\ Yi = 0 \text{ if } Yi^* \leq C \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

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The realization of Yi (observable) comes from an underlying model, expressed by the latent (unobservable) variables Yi*.

The decision rule then becomes:

$$\begin{cases} P(Yi = 1) = P(Xi\beta + Ui > C) = 1 - P(Ui \leq C - Xi\beta) \\ P(Yi = 0) = P(Xi\beta + Ui \leq C) = P(Ui \leq C - Xi\beta) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

P (Yi = 1) denotes the probability that the individual will use the Internet and P (Yi = 0) the probability that he will not use the Internet. In order to calculate these probabilities, it is necessary to specify a statistical distribution for the error terms (Ui). Two possibilities are generally used. It is assumed that the error term follows a normal distribution (Probit model) or that they follow the logistic distribution (Logit model). So in our work, we choose to use the binary Logit model because of its fluidity in handling. The Logit model has the following properties:

→ The error term U follows the logistic law Λ with mean 0 and standard deviation ∏2/3 or U~Λ (0; ∏2/3).

→ The distribution function is $\Lambda(X\beta) = \frac{\exp(X\beta)}{1+\exp(X\beta)}$ (3)

As the threshold value (C) can be normalized to 0 (Thomas, 2000), and given the logistic distribution, we can write the possibilities of Internet use as follows:

$$\begin{cases} P(Yi = 1) = \frac{\exp(Xi\beta)}{1+\exp(Xi\beta)} \\ P(Yi = 0) = \frac{\exp(-Xi\beta)}{1+\exp(-Xi\beta)} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

P (Yi = 1) denotes the probability that the individual uses the Internet and P (Yi = 0) represents the probability that the individual does not use the Internet. The estimation of the Logit model is based on the maximization of the log-likelihood. Hence we have the likelihood function which is written as follows:

$$L(y, x, \beta) = \prod_{i=1}^{N} \left[\frac{1}{1+\exp(Xi\beta)}\right]^{1-yi} \left[\frac{\exp(Xi\beta)}{1+\exp(Xi\beta)}\right]^{yi} \quad (5)$$

By linearizing the likelihood function, we obtain the log-likelihood function as follows:

$$lnL(y, x, \beta) = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \{ln[1+\exp(Xi\beta)] - Yi.Xi.\beta\} \quad (6)$$

IV. Results

We present in this part results, descriptive statistics, the results of the logistic regression and the marginal effects of the binary Logit model.

a) Descriptive statistics results

The results of the descriptive statistics in Table 1 show that on average 90.5% of the individuals surveyed have access to the Internet, 96% have at least one mobile phone, 21.8% have at least one computer, 52.6% are male (the female sex being the reference category), 56.4% are single (the couple being the reference category), 70.5% live in an urban area (the semi-urban area being the reference category), 99.1% have at least the first diploma of schools studies, 56.6% have at least one job in the formal or informal sector. 76.7% and 54.6% of individuals say they connect to the Internet for the activities of listening and downloading

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music online and watching and downloading movies online respectively. On average 59.7% of individuals go online for digital social media activities, 75.5% for the search of information, 22.2% for administrative services, 21% for sports activities, 20,1% for online purchases and sales(e-commerce).

Table 1: Descriptive statistics

Variables	Definitions	Observations	Means
Internet access	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.905 (0.122)
Watching / downloading movies	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.546 (0.498)
Listen / download music	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.767 (0.423)
Digital social media	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.597 (0.491)
Information search	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.755 (0.431)
Academic activities	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.562 (0.496)
Administrative services	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.222 (0.416)
Sports activities	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.210 (0.408)
Purchases / sales activities	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.201 (0.401)
Mobile phone access	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.960 (0.197)
Computer Access	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.218 (0.500)
Sex	1 = Male 0 = Female (Ref)	1057	0.526 (0.500)
Age	Quantitative	1057	30.48 (10.66)
Marital status	1 = Single 0 = Couple (Ref)	1057	0.564 (0.496)
Place of residence	1 = Urban 0 = Semi Urban (Ref)	1057	0.705 (0.456)
Monthly income	Quantitative	1057	10.57 (0.684)
Diploma	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.991 (0.097)
Job	1 = Yes 0 = No	1057	0.566 (0.496)

Source: Author based on PRANOME data. Values in parentheses are standards deviations. Ref: reference category.

b) Logistic Regression Results: Analysis and interpretations

Table 2 of the results of the model estimates highlights the coefficients and the marginal effects. The numerical value of the coefficients of the dichotomous Logit model not having a direct interpretation, the effect of the variables on the probability of individuals to use the Internet is assessed through the calculation of the marginal effects. Table 2 below indicates that the model is globally significant, because the limited probability associated with this estimate is less than 1% (Prob> chi2 = 0.0001). The model's goodness-of-fit indicator (R^2) to Mc Fadden data (Pseudo-R^2 = 0.4725) is quite significant. This shows that the model estimate is valid. It should be noted that the multiple coefficient of determination of Mc Fadden (Pseudo-R^2) is between 0 and 1 and measures the proportion of the variability of the dependent variable which is explained by the independent variables contained in the model, it indicates the quality of the model.

In view of the results of the estimations obtained and presented in Table 2, we observe a positive and significant relationship on Internet use and the practice of online music listening and downloading, online movie downloading and watching activities, information search, academic activities, administrative services, sports activities, online shopping and sales, digital social media. Indeed, the coefficient associated with the digital social media variable is positive and significant at the 1% level, so the calculation of marginal effects shows that the probability of an individual using the Internet increases by 9.9% when activities on social media digital numbers of this individual grows by 1%. Ceteris paribus, the coefficient associated with the variable listening to and downloading music online is positive and significant at the 1% level, thus the calculation of the marginal effects shows that the probability of an individual using the Internet increases by 8.4% when online music listening and downloading by the individual grows by 1%. The coefficient associated with the variable watching and downloading movies online is positive and significant at the 1% level, therefore the analysis of the marginal effects shows that the probability of an individual using the Internet increases by 6.8% when watching and this individual's online movie download grows by 1%.

The coefficient associated with the online information search variable is positive and significant at the 1% level, so the calculation of the marginal effects shows that the probability of an individual using the Internet increases by 5.1% when the online information search of this individual's line grows by 1%. The coefficient associated with the online academic activities variable is positive and significant at the 5% level, so the results of the marginal effects show that the probability of an individual using the Internet increases by 1.9% when the online academic activities of this individual grows by 1%. The coefficients associated with the variables online administrative services, online purchases and sales and online sports activities are positive and significant at the 10% level. Thus the calculation of the marginal effects shows that the probability of an individual to use the Internet increases by 0.3% when the online administrative services of the

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individual increases by 1%, this probability increases by 0.9% when the purchases and the individual's online sales increases by 1% and by 1.1% when the individual's online sports activities increase by 1%.

It is the same with regard to socioeconomic and socio-demographic variables we observe a positive and significant effect on variables such as having a mobile phone, a monthly income, a job, a diploma. The coefficient associated with the variable having a cell phone (mobile) is positive and significant at the 1% level, therefore the results of the marginal effects show that the probability of an individual to use the Internet increases by 51.1% when the possession cell phone use by this individual grows by 1%. The coefficient associated with the variable having a monthly income is positive and significant at the 1% level, therefore the results of the marginal effects show that the probability of an individual to use the Internet increases by 16.4% when the possession of a monthly income by this individual grows by 1%. The coefficient associated with the variable having job is positive and significant at 10% level, therefore the results of the marginal effects show that the probability of an individual to use the Internet increases by 1.8% when the possession of a job by this individual grows by 1%. The coefficient associated with the variable having diploma is positive and significant at 10% level, therefore the results of the marginal effects show that the probability of an individual to use the Internet increases by 1.6% when the possession of a diploma by this individual grows by 1%.

Table 2: Regression of the binary Logit model

Variables	Regression	
	Internet access Coefficients	Internet access Marginal effects
Watching/downloading movies	2.762 ***	0.068 ***
	(1.942)	(0.025)
Listen / Download music	1.224 ***	0.084 ***
	(1.683)	(0.012)
Digital social media	1.292 ***	0.099 ***
	(1.855)	(0.087)
Information search	0.215 ***	0.051 ***
	(1.593)	(0.004)
Academic activities	3.634 **	0.019 **
	(1.958)	(0.044)
Administrative services	0.927 *	0.003 *
	(1.587)	(0.009)
Sports activities	1,955 *	0.011 *
	(1.379)	(0.002)
Purchases / sales activities	0.752 *	0.009 *
	(1.620)	(0.007)
Mobile phone access	6.399 ***	0.511 ***
	(2.582)	(0.017)
Computer Access	0.443	0.011
	(1.566)	(0.005)
sex	1,251	0.033
	(1.449)	(0.001)
Age	0.145	0.037
	(0.603)	(0.002)
Age squared	-0.0107	-0.027
	(0.0104)	(0.008)
Single	1,256	0.005
	(1.023)	(0.002)
Place of residence Urban	1.031	0.023
	(1.551)	(0.006)
Monthly income	4.089 ***	0.164 ***
	(1.713)	(0.026)
Diploma	0.249*	0.016*
	(0.360)	(0.002)
Job	1.637 *	0.018 *
	(1.393)	(0.006)
Constant	-42.70 **	
	(21.06)	

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Observations	1057
LR Chi2	29.74
Prob> Chi2	0.0001
Nickname R2	0.4725
Log likelihood	-16,599

Source: Author based on PRANOME data. Values in parentheses are standard deviations.
*Significance: * (1%), ** (5%), *** (10%)*

V. Conclusion

The objective of this study was to identify the different activities that motivate individuals to access the Internet in Cameroon. To achieve this objective, the methodology implemented used data from the survey of the practice of new digital media in Cameroon (PRANOME) carried out in 2021 in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Mfou, and Soa under the supervision of the Center of Research in Economic and Management (CEREG) from the University of Yaoundé 2-Soa in Cameroon. The influence of Internet use on the activities of individuals was analyzed using a dichotomous Logit model.

Hence, the results of the estimations carried out on the basis of this binary Logit model show that Internet use has a positive and significant effect at the 1% level on the activities of listening and downloading music online, listening and downloading movies online, searching for information online and on digital social media. This Internet use also has a positive and significant effect at the 5% level on online academic activities, and a positive and significant effect at the 10% level on activities related to online administrative services, purchasing and online sales (e-business), and online sports activities. So the activities that motivate individuals to use the Internet in Cameroon are among others listening and downloading music online, watch and download movies online, search online information, digital social media, online academic activities, online administrative services, online purchases and sales.

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Food and Cash Crop Productivities and Poverty Reduction in Ghana

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Keywords: *crop productivity, poverty, wellbeing.*

GJHSS-E Classification: *FOR Code: DDC Code: 658.15224 LCC Code: HD30.28*



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Food and Cash Crop Productivities and Poverty Reduction in Ghana

Boahen Atta Oppong [α], Edward Ebo Onumah [σ], Ramatu Mahama Al-Hassan [ρ] & Akwasi Mensah-Bonsu [ω]

Abstract- Food and cash crop productivities growth provide food and improve smallholder farmers' income to reduce poverty. Crop farmers poverty rate is disaggregated into food and cash crop type but beyond 2006 the poverty rate is not disaggregated which is addressed by this study. Food and cash crops have different growth paths and unequal pathways towards poverty. The paper estimates the poverty rates among food and cash crop farmers and examines their productivities effect on poverty. The estimated poverty measures are explained by crop output value per hectare of land using Panel logistic two stage instrumental variable fixed and random effects models with data from the fifth and sixth rounds of the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS). The study finds cash crop output value increased by 330% more than food crop output value which increased by 190% to provide food and income towards poverty reduction between 2005 and 2013. The findings reveals using a poverty line of ₡1314 ($219) poverty among food crop farmers declined from 59% in 2005 to 39% by 33.9% in 2013. Poverty among cash crop farmers fell from 35% in 2005 to 24% by 31.4% in 2013 to reveal food crop farmers have higher poverty rates than cash crop farmers and both food and cash crops have considerable importance towards poverty reduction. Furthermore, an increase of food crops productivity by 1% reduces poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap, and poverty severity by -0.19%, -0.41% and -0.81% respectively. A 1% increase in cash crop productivity reduces probability of poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap, and poverty severity by -0.28%, -0.44% and -0.88% respectively. Food and cash crops poverty rates have declined significantly through provision of food and income and both production systems reduce poverty with inelastic estimates which should be supported with resources and skills such as improved crop varieties, production methods due to low use of recommended practices, capacity building, and market access to increase productivity to provide food and income towards poverty reduction.

Keywords: crop productivity, poverty, wellbeing.

I. Introduction

The economy of Ghana consists of three main sub-sectors of agriculture, services and manufacturing which provide employment opportunities. The average shares of GDP by agriculture, service and industry were 26%, 52% and 22% between 2006 and 2016 (GSS 2017) and 18.5%, 47.2%, and 34.2% in 2019 (GSS 2022). Poverty reduction requires significant income growth from economic growth; however, inclusive growth is the main channel for poverty reduction (Fosu, 2016). About 47% of total agricultural land area is cultivated mostly by smallholder rain-fed farming, using rudimentary technologies whilst 3.5% is irrigated. Small holder farming accounts for 80% of total agricultural production in Ghana. Food crops are "crops that are intended entirely or primarily for home consumption whereas cash crops are defined as crops that are intended entirely or primarily for market (Govereh & Jayne 2003). Food crops include cereals (e.g., maize and rice), roots and tubers (e.g., yam and cassava) and legumes (e.g., cowpea and groundnuts). Fruits (e.g., avocado and mango) and vegetables (e.g., tomatoes and peppers) and industrial cash crops (e.g., cocoa, rubber, kola, coffee, and oil-palm) are important crops for export revenue (MOFA 2016).

Productivity is defined as output per unit input which is used to indicate the performance of crop production (Coelli et al., 2005). Agricultural output grows by improved weather conditions, conventional inputs, and enabled by rural infrastructure, institutional factors and policy frameworks (Thirtle et al., 2003; Reimers & Klasen 2013). According to the World Bank (2000), "poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being" where well-being can be measured by an individual's possession of income, health, nutrition, education, assets, housing, and certain rights, such as freedom of speech. It is also a lack of opportunities, powerlessness, and vulnerability. Poverty rate in Sub-Saharan Africa was high at about 40% and moderate at 18% in South Asia in 2015 (Roser & Ortiz-Ospina, 2018; Fosu 2016). Non-income poverty measures of enrolment rates in senior-secondary schools and tertiary education and the quality of learning in both basic and post-basic education are low in poor countries (Molini & Paci, 2015). By the national poverty line of Ghana, the poverty rate in 1991 of 53% decreased to 21% in 2012 but increased to 23.4% in 2016/17 (GSS, 2018). Similarly, in Uganda poverty reduced from 25% in 2009 to 21% in 2013 and geographical disparities characterised this poverty reduction (Ssewanyana, & Kasirye, 2014). Poverty rates by employment type showed that poverty among farmers reduced from 45% in 2005 to 39.2% in 2013; the rural population in the agricultural employment sector have the highest poverty incidence. Nationally, the Gini coefficient of 41.9% in 2005 increased slightly to 42.3% in 2013 (GSS, 2014).

Poverty is mainly caused by inadequate income or resources for an optimum consumption of

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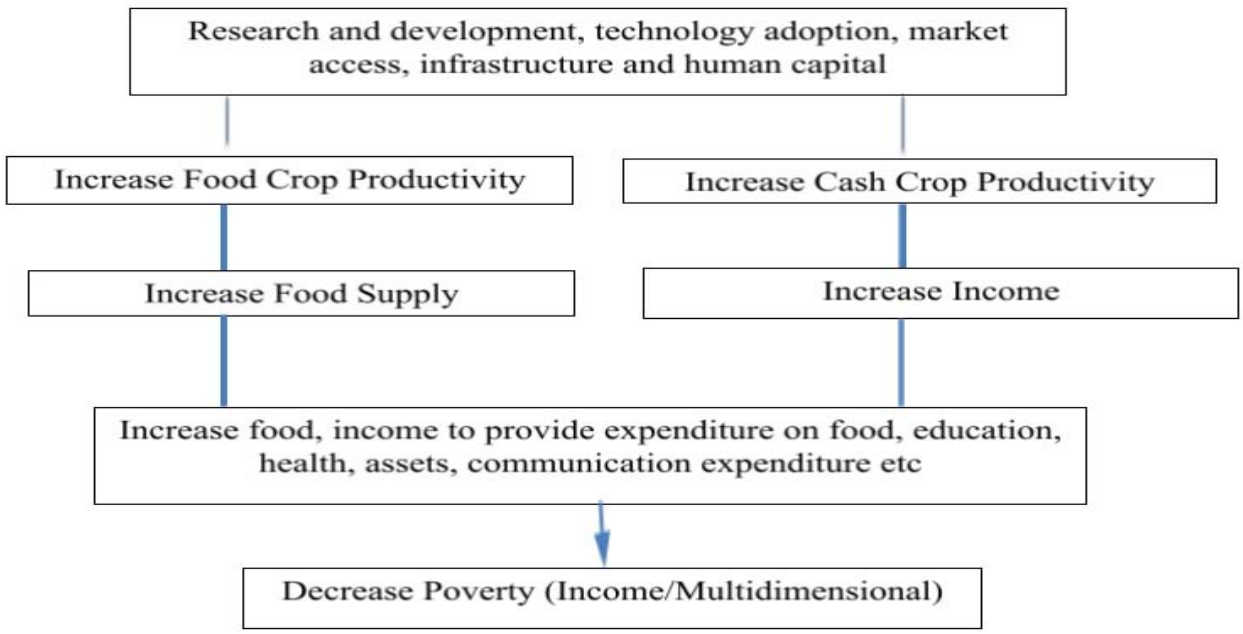
commodities and services which consequently show symptoms of malnourishment and lack of assets (Sen, 1999; Stern & Rogers, 2005; Tebaldi and Mohan 2010). The agricultural sector of Ghana, which is led by smallholder farmers is burdened with low productivity due to low technology adoption and poor soils, weak infrastructure, low market access, high transaction costs and climatic shocks (ACDI/VOCA 2012). Improved agricultural productivity through innovative technologies that support sustainable development is an important channel that aids in poverty reduction and increased food and nutrition security (Al-Hassan and Diao 2007). Improving agricultural productivity is related to Sustainable Development Goal 8 to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all poverty and hunger reduction.

Christiaensen et al. (2011) found employment of poor people in agriculture and the linkage of agriculture with other sectors of the economy leads to poverty reduction. Agricultural productivity pathways to poverty reduction are through the effect of income from higher output; lower food prices and multiplier effects on rural economic growth (Grewal et al., 2012; Bresciani & Valdes, 2007). A related study found significant negative relationships between household's intensity of cash crop production and food security due to increasing food prices and competing activities for land use. The adverse relationship between cash crop production and household food security observed calls for caution; results suggest that positive relationships cannot be assumed, and that further empirical evidence is needed to better understand these tradeoffs (Anderman, et al. 2014). Food and cash crops have different production systems and synergistic effects or trade offs on farm households' livelihoods (Govereh and Jayne 2003). Crop farmers' poverty rate has not been disaggregated into food and cash crop types and their role on poverty reduction have not been assessed. This study therefore assesses the effect of food and cash crop productivities on poverty. The next section presents the methodology of the study, which entails the data and method of analysis, followed by the results and discussion and lastly conclusion.

II. Methodology

a) Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework adapted for this study shows four pathways out of poverty, namely raising agricultural labor productivity, labor reallocation to rural non-farm activities, migration to reallocate labour to urban activities, and transfer of rural tax reduction or income transfers, price support and input subsidies (Schneider & Gugerty 2011). Food crops provide food and income while cash crops provide income for farm households towards poverty reduction (Fiqure 1). Food and cash crops have varied growth paths and unequal pathways for poverty reduction (Diao & Dorosh, 2007). The sub-sectors are distinct by agro ecological conditions, policy, markets and special role towards alleviating poverty. Food crops pathway for poverty reduction is broad-based mainly through supply of food for household consumption and sale of surplus food through domestic and regional market (Al-Hassan & Poulton 2009; Khan and Verma, 2018; Diao & Hazell, 2004). Cash crops are high value crops and provide mainly income in well-structured domestic and export markets (Diao & Hazell, 2004; Hill & Viner, 2014).



Adapted from Christiaensen & Kuhl (2011)

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework: Pathways to Poverty

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III. Theoretical Framework

The household economic model provides the theoretical basis of this analysis. The indirect utility function of a rural household is given by $V = V(y, p_j)$ is labour income to purchase commodities and services for optimum satisfaction and pj is price of crop j (Ravallion, 1996; Minten & Barrett 2008). The study assumes the labour income, y is decomposed into farm and non-farm labour income as defined in equation (1).

$$y = y[p_j fA(l, t^f) + w(t^n)/E] \quad (1)$$

where, A is productivity of the underlying technology, $fA(l, t^f/E)$ is the production function l represents farm size, t^f is farm labour supply t^n is non-farm labour supply, w is the wage rate for unskilled labour and E is the given agroecological conditions.

Labour income y specified in equation (1) is totally differentiated to give equation (2):

$$dy = \frac{\partial y}{\partial p_j} dp_j * f(Q) + \frac{\partial y}{\partial Q} dQp_j * f(P) - w\frac{\partial y}{\partial t^f} d(t^n) + (t^n)\frac{\partial y}{dw} dw \quad (2)$$

Equation 2 is simplified as:

$$\frac{dy}{dA} = \frac{\partial P_j}{\partial A} * Q_j + P_j . \frac{\partial Q_j}{\partial A} - w\frac{\partial t^n}{\partial A} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial A} * (t^n) \quad (3)$$

$\frac{\partial p_j}{\partial A}$ is given by $\epsilon_{p_j,A} . \frac{P_j}{A}$ where ϵ_{pj} is the price elasticity with respect to productivity. $\frac{\partial Q_j}{\partial A}$, =, $\epsilon_{Q_j,A} . \frac{Q_j}{A}$,$\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial A}$, = $\epsilon_{w,A} . \frac{W}{A}$, $\frac{\partial L^f}{\partial A}$ =$\epsilon_{l^f} . \frac{L^f}{A}$.

$$\frac{dy}{dA} = \frac{P_j * Q_j}{A}\left(\varepsilon_{Qj}, + - \varepsilon_{pj},\right) - \frac{w * L^f}{A}\left[\varepsilon_{L^f,A}\right] + \frac{w\left(L - L^f\right)}{A}\left[\varepsilon_{w,A}\right] \quad (4)$$

Higher crop productivity growth would increase crop output greater than the decline in crop prices to increase crop income and thereby reduce poverty (Nicholas & Snyder, 2008; Minten & Barrett 2008).

a) Estimation of Poverty Rate

The Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (1984) (FGT) poverty index is used to estimate the poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap and poverty severity among crop farmers. The measure uses consumption expenditure which is more reliable to obtain from households and more stable than income of farmers. The FGT measures are given as:

$$P_0 = \frac{q}{n} \rightarrow \text{ Poverty headcount ratio} \quad (5)$$

$$P_1 = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{q}[(z - y)/z]^1 \rightarrow \text{ Poverty gap} \quad (6)$$

$$P_2 = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{q}[(z - y)/z]^2 \rightarrow \text{ Poverty severity} \quad (7)$$

n= Number of households in a group

q= The number of poor households per group

z= Poverty line of ₡1314 ($219); farmers below the poverty line are poor

y= Household expenditure per capita adult equivalent of the i-th household in the specified group

b) Relationship between Crop Productivity and Poverty Reduction

The effect of food and cash crop productivity on poverty is estimated using Panel logistic two stage instrumental variable fixed and random effects regression technique based on Hausman specification test (Dzanku 2015: Crown et al., 2011; Katchova, 2013). The food and cash crops productivities are measured as output value per hectare of land and is estimated by the instruments of cost of chemical and intermediate inputs in equation (8). Crop productivity is expected to be endogenous due to possible correlation with the error term, which is corrected by the instruments found to be related to the crop productivity but unrelated to the error term. Poverty measures , poverty headcount ratio, Poit Poverty gap, P1it and Poverty severity, P2it are regressed on the estimated crop productivity ($x_{1,}$), household size ($x_{2,}$), distance to water source($x_{3,}$), years of education ($x_{4,}$), days of ill-health ($x_{5,}$), livestock and remittance income ($x_{6,}$), in equation (9-11).

Stage 1:

$$lcp\ x_{1it} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 logk_{1it} + \alpha_2 logk_{2it} \quad (8)$$

Stage 2:

$$\left(\frac{P_{0it}}{1 - P_{0it}}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 lcp_{1it} + \sum_{j=2}^{6}\beta_j log\, x_{jit} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (9)$$

$$lP_1 = \beta_0 + \beta_1 lcp_{1it} + \sum_{j=2}^{6}\beta_j log x_{jit} + \epsilon_{it} \quad (10)$$

$$lP_2 = \beta_0 + \beta_1 lcp_{1it} + \sum_{j=2}^{6}\beta_j log x_{jit} + \epsilon_{it} \quad (11)$$

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Table I: Description of Explanatory Variables

Variables	Definition	Measurement	Apriori sign
P_{0it}	Poverty headcount ratio	Dummy 1=poor 0=non-poor	
P_{1it}	Poverty gap	Consumption expenditure	
P_{2it}	Poverty severity	Consumption expenditure	
x_1	Crop productivity	Output Value₵ /Ha	-
x_2	Household size	Household members	-/+
x_3	Years of education	Years of education	-
x_4	Distance to water source	Distance Km	-/+
x_5	Days of ill-health	Number of days of inactivity	-/+
x_6	Remittance income	Cedis	+
x_7	Livestock income	Cedis	+
k_1	Cost of chemical inputs (IV)	Cedis	+
k_2	Cost of intermediate inputs (IV)	Cedis	+

Source: Authors Construction, 2018

c) The Data

The study employs the Ghana Living Standards Survey in 2005/06 and 2012/13 of Ghana and enumeration areas were selected from the sixteen (16) regions of Ghana in proportion to size of the region, ecology and rural/urban classification. The total numbers of enumeration areas were 550 and 1200 for 2005/06 and 2012/2013 surveys respectively. Fifteen (15) households from each enumeration area were selected either randomly or systematically to obtain the total farm households of 2910 and 8355 in 2005/06 and 2012/13 surveys respectively. Farm households of 2910 and 8355 were used to create pseudo-panel data of 102 cohorts based on age, gender, and agroecological zones in the 2005/06 and 2012/13 surveys respectively. Deaton (1985) suggests creating cohorts, based on some pre-determined characteristics that are time invariant, can substitute for panel data. and have cohort means that generate consistent and efficient estimates (Guillerm 2017).

IV. Results and Discussion

a) Summary Statistics of model explanatory variables

Crop income per hectare of land increased and consumption expenditure on food and non-food items is lower among poor farmers than non-poor farmers which increased to reduce poverty between 2005 and 2013. Crop productivity (kg/ha) reduced for non-poor farmers and increased for poor farmers between 2005 and 2013. Table II shows that years of education of household head fell by 14% for non-poor farmers and 8% by poor farmers. Years of education is important to use the inputs to obtain optimum output. The study further reveals remittance income increased highly by 260% for non-poor farmers and by 205% for poor farmers to support household income for consumption, which is relevant in contributing towards poverty reduction. Additional income from livestock sales increased by 220% for non-poor farmers but reduced by 52% for poor farmer, which can have a dampening effect on consumption expenditure to increase poverty. Household size is higher among poor farmers than non-poor farmers and increased slightly between 2005 and 2013. Distance to water source has reduced significantly between 2005 and 2013 and does not differ significantly between the poor and non-poor. Days of ill health is high and does not differ between the poor and non-poor.

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Table II: Summary statistics of model explanatory variables by poverty status

Variable Description	Mean		Mean Difference	Mean		Mean Difference
	Poor	Non-Poor		Poor	Non-Poor	
	2005	2005		2013	2013	
Consumption per Adult	727.50	2502.36	1774.85***	832.15	3083.84	2251.69***
Crop productivity kg/ha	636.30	954.30	318.00**	720.27	874.92	154.65***
Revenue cedi/ha	177.93	283.76	105.82***	682.97	894.46	211.49***
Price cedi/kg	1.01	1.18	.17	1.36	1.64	0.28**
Chemical Cost (GHS)	20.94	54.66	33.71***	172.00	259.59	87.59***
Seed & Labour Cost (GHS)	27.43	82.98	55.55***	73.20	164.68	91.47***
Intermediate Input Cost	10.42	22.93	12.51***	77.87	127.92	50.05**
Household Head Age	47.54	47.11	-.43	49.26	47.94	-1.32***
Years of Education	7.61	8.69	1.07***	6.97	8.56	1.58***
Remittances Income	28.68	59.69	31.00***	87.35	214.96	127.61***
Livestock Income (GHS)	48.35	29.78	-16.24**	23.39	95.98	72.58*
Household Size Number	6.06	3.68	-2.38***	6.44	4.40	-2.04***
Distance to water source km	2.9	2.3	0.6	.42	.36	-0.069***
Days of ill health	5.64	6.49	.84*	6.31	6.17	-.13

Source: Estimation output

b) Food and Cash Crop Sub-Sector Productivity

Food crop output increased, farm size reduced slightly and the productivities output/income per hectare of land increased towards poverty reduction between 2005 and 2013 (Table III). Cash crop output increased lower than food crop, farm size reduced slightly, and the productivities output/income per hectare increased higher than food crops to reduce poverty between 2005 and 2013. Cash crop output value increased by 330% more than food crop output value which increased by 190% towards poverty reduction between 2005 and 2013. Cash crop yield growth is supported by the well organised value chains which offer technical assistance on production and readily available markets for outputs and inputs (Diao & Hazell 2004).

Table III: Food and Cash Crop Sub-Sector Productivities

Agro Ecological Zone	Mean Output(kg)		Farm size (ha)		Output (kg/ha)		Productivity (₵/ha)	
	2005	2013	2005	2013	2005	2013	2005	2013
Food Crop	1169.5	1529.3	2.61	2.30	851.35	949.06	245.19	718.80
Cash crops	740.96	806.38	2.60	2.36	390.27	450.64	264.51	1147.8
All Crops	1284.0	1603.6	3.32	3.35	763.81	811.59	257.24	806.82

Source Estimation Results, 2018

c) Crop Input Use by Farmers

Crop farmers apply inputs such as fertilizer, seed, labor, equipment, to increase productivity. Fertilizer and hired labour are moderately used in crop production process. Farmers do not commonly use improved seeds and equipment (Table IV).

Table IV: Crop Farmers Input Use

Inputs	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total ??
Fertilizer	3346	40.01	5016	59.99	8362
Seed	1519	18.17	6843	81.83	8362
Labour	4306	51.49	4056	48.51	8362
Renting Equipment	1331	15.92	7031	84.08	8362

Source: Ghana living standards survey, round 6

d) Source of Income

The study shows major source of income for poor farmers is agriculture and major source of income for non-poor farmers is wage and non-farm income sources towards poverty reduction.

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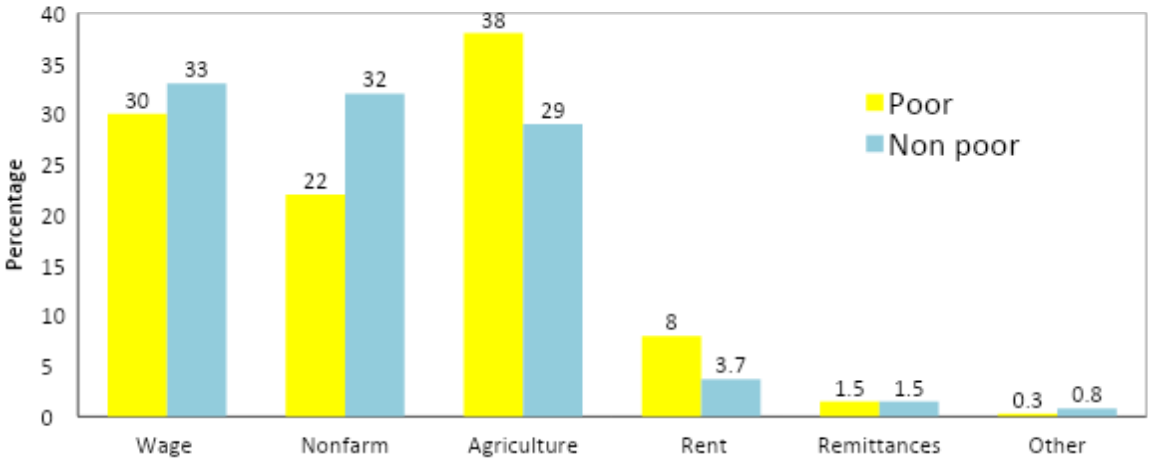

Figure 2: Sources of Income from GLSS 6 Survey Data 2012/2013

e) Food and Non-Food Expenditure

Poor farmers spent more income on food than on non-food items in the consumption bundle. Non-food expenditures include those expenditures on health, education, transportation, clothing, recreation, remittances among others. Total expenditure for poor farmers increased by 14%: food expenditure increased by 30% and non-food expenditure increased by 14% between 2005 and 2013 (Table V). The Ghana Statistical Service requires ₵1314.4 minimum food and non-food expenditure per year to become non-poor (GSS 2014).

Table V: Food and Non-Food Consumption Expenditure per Adult Equivalent

	Mean		2005/06	Mean		2012/13
Expenditure	Poor	Non-Poor	Difference	Poor	Non-poor	Difference
Food	397.78	1339.93	942.14 ***	516.96	1767.51	1250.54***
Non-food	275.13	972.84	697.71***	314.52	1323.80	1009.29***
Total	727.77	2497.60	1769.81***	831.47	3091.31	2259.83***

Source: Authors' estimated output, 2018

f) Poverty Levels by Crop Type

Food crop producers of major food crops such as maize, rice, millet, cassava, and plantain poverty rate declined from 59% in 2005 to 39% in 2013. Cash crop producers of major crops such as cocoa, cashew, rubber, and cotton poverty rate declined from 44%, in 2005 to 24% in 2013, lower than food crop producers as highlighted in (Table VI). Cash crop sub-sector reduces poverty through significant output value growth by participating in export market for relatively low number of farmers than the food crop sub-sector which engages more farmers (Broeck et. al, 2017).

Table VI: Poverty Levels (%) by Crop Type

Crop Categories	P1		P2		P3		Consumption (₵)		Population (number)	
	2005	2013	2005	2013	2005	2013	2005	2013	2005	2013
Food Crops	59	39	27	15	16	7.4	1432.14	2172.39	2,771	7,454
Cash Crops	44	24.4	16	7.4	8.5	3.2	1796.82	2638.11	736	2,331
All Crops	57	37	25	14	14	6.8	1486.16	2244.07	2,957	8,352

Source: Authors estimated output, GLSS 5 & 6

g) Effect of Food Crop Productivity on Poverty

The poverty headcount model is estimated by fixed effects model which is consistent; poverty gap and poverty severity are estimated by random effects model which is consistent and efficient as shown in (Table VIII). A 1% growth in food crop productivity reduces the probability of being poor in terms of the elasticity of poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap, and poverty severity by -0.19%, -0.41%, -and -0.81% which are negative but inelastic. The effects are however lower

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than that due to cash crop productivity (Table VII). The conduit of food crop productivity towards poverty reduction is mainly by the provision of food and crop income from the productivity growth. Food crop diversity increases by 10% to provide food and income to decrease the probability of a household being in poverty by 18% in Ethiopia (Michler & Josephson 2017; Iheke & Nwaru 2013). In addition to crop productivity, growth in years of education, livestock income and remittances are important for poverty reduction. However, livestock income does not affect poverty gap and severity. Remittance receipts by households contribute to stabilizing consumption in developing countries (Mondal & Khanam 2016). Education develops the numeracy and literacy skills to increase income and manage consumption effectively and efficiently (Coppola & Laurea 2016; Leshoro & Leshoro 2013; Nowak & Kijek 2016). The poverty elasticity estimates for household size are all positive suggesting that larger households are more likely to be poor. The response is also elastic for poverty headcount ratio which increases poverty highly to affect wellbeing of farmers. Household size can erode the benefits of crop productivity growth towards poverty reduction due to the larger effect it exerts on poverty (Teka et al., 2019). Increase in days of ill health reduces probability of being poor by poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap and poverty severity by -0.09%, -0.06% and -0.11%. Days sick can positively influence consumption for speedy recovery towards poverty reduction but higher days sick will reduce consumption to increase poverty. Cho *et al.* (2016) found household head's physical, and mental disabilities were associated with higher likelihood of being food insecure. An increase of distance to water source elicits an increase poverty headcount ratio but does not affect poverty gap and poverty severity. Longer distance to fetch water increases poverty incidence because of longer time spent to fetch water to retard household productivity.

Table VII: Effect of Food Crop Productivity on Poverty

Variables	Poverty Headcount	Poverty Gap	Poverty Severity
Output value	-0.192***	-0.405***	-0.810***
	(0.0211)	(0.0419)	(0.0837)
Household size	1.333***	0.317***	0.634***
	(0.0464)	(0.0293)	(0.0585)
Education years	-0.378***	-0.0980***	-0.196***
	(0.0252)	(0.0168)	(0.0336)
Dayssick	-0.0949**	-0.0564**	-0.113**
	(0.0412)	(0.0263)	(0.0525)
Distance water	0.0803***	0.0146	0.0292
	(0.0131)	(0.00896)	(0.0179)
Livestock income	-0.159***	0.0120	0.0240
	(0.0104)	(0.00832)	(0.0166)
Remittance income	-0.0333***	-0.0181***	-0.0361***
	(0.0102)	(0.00667)	(0.0133)
Forest		0.0889	0.178
		(0.0826)	(0.165)
Savannah		0.455***	0.911***
		(0.0794)	(0.159)
Constant		0.121	0.242
		(0.238)	(0.476)

Source: Authors estimated output

Table VIII: Hausman Specification Test and Food Crop Productivity and Poverty

Poverty Measure	Statement of Hypothesis	Test Statistic	Decision Rule
Headcount Ratio	H0: Random effects model Ha: Fixed effects model	12.05 (0.09)	Reject Null
Poverty Gap	H0: Random effects model Ha: Fixed effects model	9.02 (0.25)	Do not Reject Null
Poverty Severity	H0 : Random effects model Ha : Fixed effects model	9.02 (0.25)	Do not Reject Null

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h) Effect of Cash Crop Productivity on Poverty

The results of the Hausman specification test in Table (X) indicate poverty headcount ratio is estimated by the fixed effects model which is consistent but not efficient. Poverty gap and severity are estimated by random effects model which is consistent and efficient. The study finds cash crop productivity increases by 1% reduces poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap, poverty severity, by -0.28%, -0.44%, -0.88% respectively. Poverty elasticity in response to productivity growth in cash crop production, is negative for all poverty indicators (Table IX). The elasticity values are higher than those estimated for food crop productivity growth in Table (VII). Cash crops mainly provide income to support household consumption bundles. Cocoa productivity growth increased income to support household consumption expenditure growth towards poverty reduction in Ghana (Danso-Abbeam, & Baiyegunhi, 2018). Cash crops revenue increase per capita expenditure towards poverty reduction in Vietnam (Cuong, 2009). The effect of an increase in household size on poverty is positive and significant for all poverty indicators. Balagtasa et al. (2014) found an additional family member in rural Bangladesh slightly increased the probability of falling into poverty. A related study revealed an increase in variance of household dependence ratio decreases variance in consumption expenditure by 0.14 standard deviation which negatively affects consumption to increase poverty (Dzanku, 2015b). Table IX shows a reduction in all poverty indicators with respect to an increase in years of education. Additional years of education promote household management of resources to positively influence consumption. Thirtle & Piesse (2007), found education increases productivity in farm and non-farm sector. Educated farmers search for new information and use new technologies efficiently to increase productivity towards poverty reduction.

The study further reveals positive poverty elasticity with respect to increase in distance to water sources because of the constraints introduced on consumption due to longer time and effort to access water, and loss of productive hours. Access to livestock income growth by 1% reduces probability of poverty headcount ratio by 0.12% due to use of additional income to increase consumption. Katagame et al. (2017) found that pigs contribute toward household income to reduce poverty among farmers' in Mimika. Remittance income is associated with poverty reduction through its effect on food consumption expenditure. A 1% increase in remittance income negatively reduces food insecurity in rural Mali by 0.11% to provide adequate and nutritious diet for households (Generoso 2015).

Table IX: Cash Crop Productivity and Poverty

Variables	Poverty Headcount Ratio	Poverty Gap	Poverty Severity
Outputvalueha	-0.283***	-0.440***	-0.879***
	(0.0382)	(0.136)	(0.272)
Household size	1.473***	0.527***	1.053***
	(0.105)	(0.0834)	(0.167)
Education years	-0.447***	-0.131***	-0.263***
	(0.0549)	(0.0446)	(0.0892)
Dayssick	-0.0233	-0.0767	-0.153
	(0.0842)	(0.0715)	(0.143)
Diswater source	0.120***	0.0307	0.0615
	(0.0317)	(0.0277)	(0.0554)
Livestockincome	-0.119***	0.00321	0.00642
	(0.0241)	(0.0190)	(0.0381)
Remittance	-0.0792***	-0.0678***	-0.136***
	(0.0220)	(0.0186)	(0.0371)
Forest		0.250	0.501
		(0.247)	(0.495)
Savannah		0.104	0.208
		(0.226)	(0.451)
Constant		-0.146	-0.292
		(0.722)	(1.444)

Source: Estimation Result, 2018

Table X: Hausman Specification Test and Cash Crop Productivity and Poverty

Poverty Measure	Statement of Hypothesis	Test Statistic	Decision Rule
Headcount Ratio	H0: Random effects model Ha: Fixed effects model	18.56 (0.01)	Reject Null
Poverty Gap	H0: Random effects model Ha: Fixed effects model	2.49 (0.92)	Do not Reject Null
Poverty Severity	H0 : Random effects model Ha : Fixed effects model	2.49 (0.92)	Do not Reject Null

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V. Conclusions

Food and cash crop productivities increase to provide food and income to reduce poverty. Crop farmers poverty rate is disaggregated into food and cash crops which have different growth paths and unequal pathways toward poverty reduction and their role on poverty reduction is assessed differently in this study. Food crops such as maize, rice, millet, cassava, etc mainly supply household food staples and cash crops such as cocoa, rubber, oil palm, cotton, etc. provide income towards poverty reduction. The study finds poor farmers mainly depend on agriculture and food and cash crops productivities grow to provide food and income to increase consumption expenditures mainly on food among poor farmers to reduce poverty. Non-poor farmers spend higher on food and non-food items which include health, education, transportation, clothing, and remittances, etc to reduce poverty. Food crop farmers have higher poverty rates than cash crop farmers and food and cash crops have considerable importance towards poverty reduction between 2005 and 2013. Food and cash crop productivities growth reduce poverty moderately which is inelastic and efforts made to support farmers with resources and skills to increase productivity of food and cash crops will count towards poverty reduction. The farmers should benefit from improved crop varieties, production methods, due to low use of recommended agronomic practices, capacity building, and market access towards productivity growth to provide food and income to reduce poverty.

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Preparing your Manuscript

Authors can submit papers and articles in an acceptable file format: MS Word (doc, docx), LaTeX (.tex, .zip or .rar including all of your files), Adobe PDF (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), simple text document (.txt), Open Document Text (.odt), and Apple Pages (.pages). Our professional layout editors will format the entire paper according to our official guidelines. This is one of the highlights of publishing with Global Journals—authors should not be concerned about the formatting of their paper. Global Journals accepts articles and manuscripts in every major language, be it Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, French, German, Dutch, Italian, Greek, or any other national language, but the title, subtitle, and abstract should be in English. This will facilitate indexing and the pre-peer review process.

The following is the official style and template developed for publication of a research paper. Authors are not required to follow this style during the submission of the paper. It is just for reference purposes.

Manuscript Style Instruction (Optional)

- Microsoft Word Document Setting Instructions.
- Font type of all text should be Swis721 Lt BT.
- Page size: 8.27" x 11'", left margin: 0.65, right margin: 0.65, bottom margin: 0.75.
- Paper title should be in one column of font size 24.
- Author name in font size of 11 in one column.
- Abstract: font size 9 with the word "Abstract" in bold italics.
- Main text: font size 10 with two justified columns.
- Two columns with equal column width of 3.38 and spacing of 0.2.
- First character must be three lines drop-capped.
- The paragraph before spacing of 1 pt and after of 0 pt.
- Line spacing of 1 pt.
- Large images must be in one column.
- The names of first main headings (Heading 1) must be in Roman font, capital letters, and font size of 10.
- The names of second main headings (Heading 2) must not include numbers and must be in italics with a font size of 10.

Structure and Format of Manuscript

The recommended size of an original research paper is under 15,000 words and review papers under 7,000 words. Research articles should be less than 10,000 words. Research papers are usually longer than review papers. Review papers are reports of significant research (typically less than 7,000 words, including tables, figures, and references)

A research paper must include:

a) A title which should be relevant to the theme of the paper.
b) A summary, known as an abstract (less than 150 words), containing the major results and conclusions.
c) Up to 10 keywords that precisely identify the paper's subject, purpose, and focus.
d) An introduction, giving fundamental background objectives.
e) Resources and techniques with sufficient complete experimental details (wherever possible by reference) to permit repetition, sources of information must be given, and numerical methods must be specified by reference.
f) Results which should be presented concisely by well-designed tables and figures.
g) Suitable statistical data should also be given.
h) All data must have been gathered with attention to numerical detail in the planning stage.

Design has been recognized to be essential to experiments for a considerable time, and the editor has decided that any paper that appears not to have adequate numerical treatments of the data will be returned unrefereed.

i) Discussion should cover implications and consequences and not just recapitulate the results; conclusions should also be summarized.
j) There should be brief acknowledgments.
k) There ought to be references in the conventional format. Global Journals recommends APA format.

Authors should carefully consider the preparation of papers to ensure that they communicate effectively. Papers are much more likely to be accepted if they are carefully designed and laid out, contain few or no errors, are summarizing, and follow instructions. They will also be published with much fewer delays than those that require much technical and editorial correction.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make literary corrections and suggestions to improve brevity.

Format Structure

It is necessary that authors take care in submitting a manuscript that is written in simple language and adheres to published guidelines.

All manuscripts submitted to Global Journals should include:

Title

The title page must carry an informative title that reflects the content, a running title (less than 45 characters together with spaces), names of the authors and co-authors, and the place(s) where the work was carried out.

Author details

The full postal address of any related author(s) must be specified.

Abstract

The abstract is the foundation of the research paper. It should be clear and concise and must contain the objective of the paper and inferences drawn. It is advised to not include big mathematical equations or complicated jargon.

Many researchers searching for information online will use search engines such as Google, Yahoo or others. By optimizing your paper for search engines, you will amplify the chance of someone finding it. In turn, this will make it more likely to be viewed and cited in further works. Global Journals has compiled these guidelines to facilitate you to maximize the web-friendliness of the most public part of your paper.

Keywords

A major lynchpin of research work for the writing of research papers is the keyword search, which one will employ to find both library and internet resources. Up to eleven keywords or very brief phrases have to be given to help data retrieval, mining, and indexing.

One must be persistent and creative in using keywords. An effective keyword search requires a strategy: planning of a list of possible keywords and phrases to try.

Choice of the main keywords is the first tool of writing a research paper. Research paper writing is an art. Keyword search should be as strategic as possible.

One should start brainstorming lists of potential keywords before even beginning searching. Think about the most important concepts related to research work. Ask, “What words would a source have to include to be truly valuable in a research paper?” Then consider synonyms for the important words.

It may take the discovery of only one important paper to steer in the right keyword direction because, in most databases, the keywords under which a research paper is abstracted are listed with the paper.

Numerical Methods

Numerical methods used should be transparent and, where appropriate, supported by references.

Abbreviations

Authors must list all the abbreviations used in the paper at the end of the paper or in a separate table before using them.

Formulas and equations

Authors are advised to submit any mathematical equation using either MathJax, KaTeX, or LaTeX, or in a very high-quality image.

Tables, Figures, and Figure Legends

Tables: Tables should be cautiously designed, uncrowned, and include only essential data. Each must have an Arabic number, e.g., Table 4, a self-explanatory caption, and be on a separate sheet. Authors must submit tables in an editable format and not as images. References to these tables (if any) must be mentioned accurately.

Figures

Figures are supposed to be submitted as separate files. Always include a citation in the text for each figure using Arabic numbers, e.g., Fig. 4. Artwork must be submitted online in vector electronic form or by emailing it.

Preparation of Eletronic Figures for Publication

Although low-quality images are sufficient for review purposes, print publication requires high-quality images to prevent the final product being blurred or fuzzy. Submit (possibly by e-mail) EPS (line art) or TIFF (halftone/ photographs) files only. MS PowerPoint and Word Graphics are unsuitable for printed pictures. Avoid using pixel-oriented software. Scans (TIFF only) should have a resolution of at least 350 dpi (halftone) or 700 to 1100 dpi (line drawings). Please give the data for figures in black and white or submit a Color Work Agreement form. EPS files must be saved with fonts embedded (and with a TIFF preview, if possible).

For scanned images, the scanning resolution at final image size ought to be as follows to ensure good reproduction: line art: >650 dpi; halftones (including gel photographs): >350 dpi; figures containing both halftone and line images: >650 dpi.

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Tips for writing a good quality Social Science Research Paper

Techniques for writing a good quality homan social science research paper:

1. Choosing the topic: In most cases, the topic is selected by the interests of the author, but it can also be suggested by the guides. You can have several topics, and then judge which you are most comfortable with. This may be done by asking several questions of yourself, like "Will I be able to carry out a search in this area? Will I find all necessary resources to accomplish the search? Will I be able to find all information in this field area?" If the answer to this type of question is "yes," then you ought to choose that topic. In most cases, you may have to conduct surveys and visit several places. Also, you might have to do a lot of work to find all the rises and falls of the various data on that subject. Sometimes, detailed information plays a vital role, instead of short information. Evaluators are human: The first thing to remember is that evaluators are also human beings. They are not only meant for rejecting a paper. They are here to evaluate your paper. So present your best aspect.

2. Think like evaluators: If you are in confusion or getting demotivated because your paper may not be accepted by the evaluators, then think, and try to evaluate your paper like an evaluator. Try to understand what an evaluator wants in your research paper, and you will automatically have your answer. Make blueprints of paper: The outline is the plan or framework that will help you to arrange your thoughts. It will make your paper logical. But remember that all points of your outline must be related to the topic you have chosen.

3. Ask your guides: If you are having any difficulty with your research, then do not hesitate to share your difficulty with your guide (if you have one). They will surely help you out and resolve your doubts. If you can't clarify what exactly you require for your work, then ask your supervisor to help you with an alternative. He or she might also provide you with a list of essential readings.

4. Use of computer is recommended: As you are doing research in the field of homan social science then this point is quite obvious. Use right software: Always use good quality software packages. If you are not capable of judging good software, then you can lose the quality of your paper unknowingly. There are various programs available to help you which you can get through the internet.

5. Use the internet for help: An excellent start for your paper is using Google. It is a wondrous search engine, where you can have your doubts resolved. You may also read some answers for the frequent question of how to write your research paper or find a model research paper. You can download books from the internet. If you have all the required books, place importance on reading, selecting, and analyzing the specified information. Then sketch out your research paper. Use big pictures: You may use encyclopedias like Wikipedia to get pictures with the best resolution. At Global Journals, you should strictly follow here.



6. Bookmarks are useful: When you read any book or magazine, you generally use bookmarks, right? It is a good habit which helps to not lose your continuity. You should always use bookmarks while searching on the internet also, which will make your search easier.

7. Revise what you wrote: When you write anything, always read it, summarize it, and then finalize it.

8. Make every effort: Make every effort to mention what you are going to write in your paper. That means always have a good start. Try to mention everything in the introduction—what is the need for a particular research paper. Polish your work with good writing skills and always give an evaluator what he wants. Make backups: When you are going to do any important thing like making a research paper, you should always have backup copies of it either on your computer or on paper. This protects you from losing any portion of your important data.

9. Produce good diagrams of your own: Always try to include good charts or diagrams in your paper to improve quality. Using several unnecessary diagrams will degrade the quality of your paper by creating a hodgepodge. So always try to include diagrams which were made by you to improve the readability of your paper. Use of direct quotes: When you do research relevant to literature, history, or current affairs, then use of quotes becomes essential, but if the study is relevant to science, use of quotes is not preferable.

10. Use proper verb tense: Use proper verb tenses in your paper. Use past tense to present those events that have happened. Use present tense to indicate events that are going on. Use future tense to indicate events that will happen in the future. Use of wrong tenses will confuse the evaluator. Avoid sentences that are incomplete.

11. Pick a good study spot: Always try to pick a spot for your research which is quiet. Not every spot is good for studying.

12. Know what you know: Always try to know what you know by making objectives, otherwise you will be confused and unable to achieve your target.

13. Use good grammar: Always use good grammar and words that will have a positive impact on the evaluator; use of good vocabulary does not mean using tough words which the evaluator has to find in a dictionary. Do not fragment sentences. Eliminate one-word sentences. Do not ever use a big word when a smaller one would suffice.

Verbs have to be in agreement with their subjects. In a research paper, do not start sentences with conjunctions or finish them with prepositions. When writing formally, it is advisable to never split an infinitive because someone will (wrongly) complain. Avoid clichés like a disease. Always shun irritating alliteration. Use language which is simple and straightforward. Put together a neat summary.

14. Arrangement of information: Each section of the main body should start with an opening sentence, and there should be a changeover at the end of the section. Give only valid and powerful arguments for your topic. You may also maintain your arguments with records.

15. Never start at the last minute: Always allow enough time for research work. Leaving everything to the last minute will degrade your paper and spoil your work.

16. Multitasking in research is not good: Doing several things at the same time is a bad habit in the case of research activity. Research is an area where everything has a particular time slot. Divide your research work into parts, and do a particular part in a particular time slot.

17. Never copy others' work: Never copy others' work and give it your name because if the evaluator has seen it anywhere, you will be in trouble. Take proper rest and food: No matter how many hours you spend on your research activity, if you are not taking care of your health, then all your efforts will have been in vain. For quality research, take proper rest and food.

18. Go to seminars: Attend seminars if the topic is relevant to your research area. Utilize all your resources.
Refresh your mind after intervals: Try to give your mind a rest by listening to soft music or sleeping in intervals. This will also improve your memory. Acquire colleagues: Always try to acquire colleagues. No matter how sharp you are, if you acquire colleagues, they can give you ideas which will be helpful to your research.

19. Think technically: Always think technically. If anything happens, search for its reasons, benefits, and demerits. Think and then print: When you go to print your paper, check that tables are not split, headings are not detached from their descriptions, and page sequence is maintained.

20. Adding unnecessary information: Do not add unnecessary information like "I have used MS Excel to draw graphs." Irrelevant and inappropriate material is superfluous. Foreign terminology and phrases are not apropos. One should never take a broad view. Analogy is like feathers on a snake. Use words properly, regardless of how others use them. Remove quotations. Puns are for kids, not grunt readers. Never oversimplify: When adding material to your research paper, never go for oversimplification; this will definitely irritate the evaluator. Be specific. Never use rhythmic redundancies. Contractions shouldn't be used in a research paper. Comparisons are as terrible as clichés. Give up ampersands, abbreviations, and so on. Remove commas that are not necessary. Parenthetical words should be between brackets or commas. Understatement is always the best way to put forward earth-shaking thoughts. Give a detailed literary review.

21. Report concluded results: Use concluded results. From raw data, filter the results, and then conclude your studies based on measurements and observations taken. An appropriate number of decimal places should be used. Parenthetical remarks are prohibited here. Proofread carefully at the final stage. At the end, give an outline to your arguments. Spot perspectives of further study of the subject. Justify your conclusion at the bottom sufficiently, which will probably include examples.

22. Upon conclusion: Once you have concluded your research, the next most important step is to present your findings. Presentation is extremely important as it is the definite medium though which your research is going to be in print for the rest of the crowd. Care should be taken to categorize your thoughts well and present them in a logical and neat manner. A good quality research paper format is essential because it serves to highlight your research paper and bring to light all necessary aspects of your research.

.

Informal Guidelines of Research Paper Writing

Key points to remember:

- Submit all work in its final form.
- Write your paper in the form which is presented in the guidelines using the template.
- Please note the criteria peer reviewers will use for grading the final paper.

Final points:

One purpose of organizing a research paper is to let people interpret your efforts selectively. The journal requires the following sections, submitted in the order listed, with each section starting on a new page:

The introduction: This will be compiled from reference matter and reflect the design processes or outline of basis that directed you to make a study. As you carry out the process of study, the method and process section will be constructed like that. The results segment will show related statistics in nearly sequential order and direct reviewers to similar intellectual paths throughout the data that you gathered to carry out your study.

The discussion section:

This will provide understanding of the data and projections as to the implications of the results. The use of good quality references throughout the paper will give the effort trustworthiness by representing an alertness to prior workings.

Writing a research paper is not an easy job, no matter how trouble-free the actual research or concept. Practice, excellent preparation, and controlled record-keeping are the only means to make straightforward progression.

General style:

Specific editorial column necessities for compliance of a manuscript will always take over from directions in these general guidelines.

To make a paper clear: Adhere to recommended page limits.



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Mistakes to avoid:

- Insertion of a title at the foot of a page with subsequent text on the next page.
- Separating a table, chart, or figure—confine each to a single page.
- Submitting a manuscript with pages out of sequence.
- In every section of your document, use standard writing style, including articles ("a" and "the").
- Keep paying attention to the topic of the paper.
- Use paragraphs to split each significant point (excluding the abstract).
- Align the primary line of each section.
- Present your points in sound order.
- Use present tense to report well-accepted matters.
- Use past tense to describe specific results.
- Do not use familiar wording; don't address the reviewer directly. Don't use slang or superlatives.
- Avoid use of extra pictures—include only those figures essential to presenting results.

Title page:

Choose a revealing title. It should be short and include the name(s) and address(es) of all authors. It should not have acronyms or abbreviations or exceed two printed lines.

Abstract: This summary should be two hundred words or less. It should clearly and briefly explain the key findings reported in the manuscript and must have precise statistics. It should not have acronyms or abbreviations. It should be logical in itself. Do not cite references at this point.

An abstract is a brief, distinct paragraph summary of finished work or work in development. In a minute or less, a reviewer can be taught the foundation behind the study, common approaches to the problem, relevant results, and significant conclusions or new questions.

Write your summary when your paper is completed because how can you write the summary of anything which is not yet written? Wealth of terminology is very essential in abstract. Use comprehensive sentences, and do not sacrifice readability for brevity; you can maintain it succinctly by phrasing sentences so that they provide more than a lone rationale. The author can at this moment go straight to shortening the outcome. Sum up the study with the subsequent elements in any summary. Try to limit the initial two items to no more than one line each.

Reason for writing the article—theory, overall issue, purpose.

- Fundamental goal.
- To-the-point depiction of the research.
- Consequences, including definite statistics—if the consequences are quantitative in nature, account for this; results of any numerical analysis should be reported. Significant conclusions or questions that emerge from the research.

Approach:

- Single section and succinct.
- An outline of the job done is always written in past tense.
- Concentrate on shortening results—limit background information to a verdict or two.
- Exact spelling, clarity of sentences and phrases, and appropriate reporting of quantities (proper units, important statistics) are just as significant in an abstract as they are anywhere else.

Introduction:

The introduction should "introduce" the manuscript. The reviewer should be presented with sufficient background information to be capable of comprehending and calculating the purpose of your study without having to refer to other works. The basis for the study should be offered. Give the most important references, but avoid making a comprehensive appraisal of the topic. Describe the problem visibly. If the problem is not acknowledged in a logical, reasonable way, the reviewer will give no attention to your results. Speak in common terms about techniques used to explain the problem, if needed, but do not present any particulars about the protocols here.

The following approach can create a valuable beginning:

- Explain the value (significance) of the study.
- Defend the model—why did you employ this particular system or method? What is its compensation? Remark upon its appropriateness from an abstract point of view as well as pointing out sensible reasons for using it.
- Present a justification. State your particular theory(-ies) or aim(s), and describe the logic that led you to choose them.
- Briefly explain the study's tentative purpose and how it meets the declared objectives.

Approach:

Use past tense except for when referring to recognized facts. After all, the manuscript will be submitted after the entire job is done. Sort out your thoughts; manufacture one key point for every section. If you make the four points listed above, you will need at least four paragraphs. Present surrounding information only when it is necessary to support a situation. The reviewer does not desire to read everything you know about a topic. Shape the theory specifically—do not take a broad view.

As always, give awareness to spelling, simplicity, and correctness of sentences and phrases.

Procedures (methods and materials):

This part is supposed to be the easiest to carve if you have good skills. A soundly written procedures segment allows a capable scientist to replicate your results. Present precise information about your supplies. The suppliers and clarity of reagents can be helpful bits of information. Present methods in sequential order, but linked methodologies can be grouped as a segment. Be concise when relating the protocols. Attempt to give the least amount of information that would permit another capable scientist to replicate your outcome, but be cautious that vital information is integrated. The use of subheadings is suggested and ought to be synchronized with the results section.

When a technique is used that has been well-described in another section, mention the specific item describing the way, but draw the basic principle while stating the situation. The purpose is to show all particular resources and broad procedures so that another person may use some or all of the methods in one more study or referee the scientific value of your work. It is not to be a step-by-step report of the whole thing you did, nor is a methods section a set of orders.

Materials:

Materials may be reported in part of a section or else they may be recognized along with your measures.

Methods:

- Report the method and not the particulars of each process that engaged the same methodology.
- Describe the method entirely.
- To be succinct, present methods under headings dedicated to specific dealings or groups of measures.
- Simplify—detail how procedures were completed, not how they were performed on a particular day.
- If well-known procedures were used, account for the procedure by name, possibly with a reference, and that's all.

Approach:

It is embarrassing to use vigorous voice when documenting methods without using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result, when writing up the methods, most authors use third person passive voice.

Use standard style in this and every other part of the paper—avoid familiar lists, and use full sentences.

What to keep away from:

- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
- Skip all descriptive information and surroundings—save it for the argument.
- Leave out information that is immaterial to a third party.



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Results:

The principle of a results segment is to present and demonstrate your conclusion. Create this part as entirely objective details of the outcome, and save all understanding for the discussion.

The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Use statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently.

You must clearly differentiate material which would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matters should not be submitted at all except if requested by the instructor.

Content:

- Sum up your conclusions in text and demonstrate them, if suitable, with figures and tables.
- In the manuscript, explain each of your consequences, and point the reader to remarks that are most appropriate.
- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation of an exacting study.
- Explain results of control experiments and give remarks that are not accessible in a prescribed figure or table, if appropriate.
- Examine your data, then prepare the analyzed (transformed) data in the form of a figure (graph), table, or manuscript.

What to stay away from:

- Do not discuss or infer your outcome, report surrounding information, or try to explain anything.
- Do not include raw data or intermediate calculations in a research manuscript.
- Do not present similar data more than once.
- A manuscript should complement any figures or tables, not duplicate information.
- Never confuse figures with tables—there is a difference.

Approach:

As always, use past tense when you submit your results, and put the whole thing in a reasonable order.

Put figures and tables, appropriately numbered, in order at the end of the report.

If you desire, you may place your figures and tables properly within the text of your results section.

Figures and tables:

If you put figures and tables at the end of some details, make certain that they are visibly distinguished from any attached appendix materials, such as raw facts. Whatever the position, each table must be titled, numbered one after the other, and include a heading. All figures and tables must be divided from the text.

Discussion:

The discussion is expected to be the trickiest segment to write. A lot of papers submitted to the journal are discarded based on problems with the discussion. There is no rule for how long an argument should be.

Position your understanding of the outcome visibly to lead the reviewer through your conclusions, and then finish the paper with a summing up of the implications of the study. The purpose here is to offer an understanding of your results and support all of your conclusions, using facts from your research and generally accepted information, if suitable. The implication of results should be fully described.

Infer your data in the conversation in suitable depth. This means that when you clarify an observable fact, you must explain mechanisms that may account for the observation. If your results vary from your prospect, make clear why that may have happened. If your results agree, then explain the theory that the proof supported. It is never suitable to just state that the data approved the prospect, and let it drop at that. Make a decision as to whether each premise is supported or discarded or if you cannot make a conclusion with assurance. Do not just dismiss a study or part of a study as "uncertain."



Research papers are not acknowledged if the work is imperfect. Draw what conclusions you can based upon the results that you have, and take care of the study as a finished work.

- You may propose future guidelines, such as how an experiment might be personalized to accomplish a new idea.
- Give details of all of your remarks as much as possible, focusing on mechanisms.
- Make a decision as to whether the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory and whether or not it was correctly restricted. Try to present substitute explanations if they are sensible alternatives.
- One piece of research will not counter an overall question, so maintain the large picture in mind. Where do you go next? The best studies unlock new avenues of study. What questions remain?
- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

When you refer to information, differentiate data generated by your own studies from other available information. Present work done by specific persons (including you) in past tense.

Describe generally acknowledged facts and main beliefs in present tense.

The Administration Rules

Administration Rules to Be Strictly Followed before Submitting Your Research Paper to Global Journals Inc.

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Criterion for Grading a Research Paper (Compilation) by Global Journals

Please note that following table is only a Grading of "Paper Compilation" and not on "Performed/Stated Research" whose grading solely depends on Individual Assigned Peer Reviewer and Editorial Board Member. These can be available only on request and after decision of Paper. This report will be the property of Global Journals

Topics	Grades		
	A-B	**C-D**	**E-F**
Abstract	Clear and concise with appropriate content, Correct format. 200 words or below	Unclear summary and no specific data, Incorrect form Above 200 words	No specific data with ambiguous information Above 250 words
Introduction	Containing all background details with clear goal and appropriate details, flow specification, no grammar and spelling mistake, well organized sentence and paragraph, reference cited	Unclear and confusing data, appropriate format, grammar and spelling errors with unorganized matter	Out of place depth and content, hazy format
Methods and Procedures	Clear and to the point with well arranged paragraph, precision and accuracy of facts and figures, well organized subheads	Difficult to comprehend with embarrassed text, too much explanation but completed	Incorrect and unorganized structure with hazy meaning
Result	Well organized, Clear and specific, Correct units with precision, correct data, well structuring of paragraph, no grammar and spelling mistake	Complete and embarrassed text, difficult to comprehend	Irregular format with wrong facts and figures
Discussion	Well organized, meaningful specification, sound conclusion, logical and concise explanation, highly structured paragraph reference cited	Wordy, unclear conclusion, spurious	Conclusion is not cited, unorganized, difficult to comprehend
References	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring

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