



Methodological Evaluation of Process-Control Systems in South Africa: A Randomized Field Trial for Cost-Efficiency Assessment

Sathya Motsiwa¹

¹ Vaal University of Technology (VUT)

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Correspondence: smotsiwa@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Sathya Motsiwa is affiliated with Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and focuses on Engineering research in Africa.

Abstract

This study examines process-control systems in South Africa, focusing on their application across various industries to improve efficiency and effectiveness. A randomized field trial was conducted across ten industries in South Africa, with a sample size of 50 sites per industry sector. Data collection involved pre- and post-trial measurements to evaluate system performance and cost metrics using linear regression models for cost-effectiveness analysis. The findings indicate that the implementation of advanced control systems led to an average reduction in operational costs by 12% across all sectors, with a standard error of $\pm 3.5\%$, suggesting robust reliability. The study concludes that randomized field trials are effective for evaluating process-control system cost-effectiveness and can inform policy decisions regarding investment in such technologies. Based on the findings, it is recommended that South African industries adopt a standardised approach to implementing control systems with periodic performance reviews to ensure continued efficiency gains. The maintenance outcome was modelled as $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + u_i + \epsilon_i$, with robustness checked using heteroskedasticity-consistent errors.

Keywords: *African geography, process control systems, randomized trials, cost-effectiveness analysis, performance metrics, statistical process control, management science*

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