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A Methodological Review of Panel-Data Estimations for Health Systems Performance and Yield in Tanzanian Community Health Centres, 2000–2026

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ABSTRACT

Background: Evaluating the performance of community health centres is critical for improving health systems in sub-Saharan Africa. Panel-data econometric methods offer powerful tools for analysing longitudinal data on facility performance, yet their application and methodological rigour in this specific context require systematic assessment.

Purpose and objectives: This review critically evaluates the methodological approaches used in panel-data estimations to measure health systems performance and agricultural yield improvements within Tanzanian community health centres. It aims to assess model specification, variable selection, and the handling of common panel-data challenges.

Keywords: *Health systems, Sub-Saharan Africa, Panel data, Econometric analysis, Community health centres, Tanzania, Performance measurement*

Article Highlights

- Fixed-effects models with cluster-robust errors yielded more reliable inferences.
- Underreporting of diagnostic tests for serial correlation was a common weakness.
- Rigorous model diagnostics and transparency in reporting are critical needs.
- Future work must explicitly test for and address endogeneity concerns.

Core Model Evaluated

The review centers on the panel model $Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$, critically assessing the specification and estimation of entity-specific effects (μ_i).

A critical appraisal of econometric methods applied to longitudinal health and agricultural data.