

The paper addresses a very important issue and presents a relatively convincing argument. It is rich in well-presented statistical data, which in many cases support the argument. However, in many respects it needs further elaboration and work to develop it into a „real“ scientific article. For example in many places (p. 3 para 1, p. 5 para 1, p. 10 para 3, p. 12 para 1, p. 13 para 2 and 4) references are missing to support strong and straightforward statements, which are thus standing on very weak „legs“. In certain cases (e.g. p. 9 para 1, p. 13 para 4) the data or references cited do not lend strong support to the argument. Furthermore, data in certain tables (as it is acknowledged sometimes by the authors herself) may have problems in reflecting the reality (e.g. Table 8, but Table 7 also seem to have problems), thus they do not provide convincing support to the argument.

Moreover, an even more important problem with the article is that the theoretical basis is not rigorous enough; one expects the author to put the whole analysis into a strong theoretical framework and/or to relate it to existing ones. While for such a small group of countries (and with such data problems) using econometric techniques may be problematic, another approach may be to provide detailed country case studies to back the otherwise interesting argument.