Report on **Master Thesis**

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Adéla Pavelková
Advisor:	Barbara Pertold-Gebicka
Title of the thesis:	The Effects of Different Malaria Prevention Measures: Panel Data Analysis

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

In her Master Thesis Adéla investigates which anti-malaria measures are the most effective in fighting this disease. Adéla has put together the data on malaria deaths coupled with statistics concerning malaria prevention measures in all affected countries over the period 2001-2018. This large panel dataset allows her to estimate the relationship between the extent to which specific methods are implemented and change in the number of malaria-caused deaths. The international scope of this analysis is what mostly distinguishes it from other works on this topic. Additionally, Adéla performs a cluster analysis to group countries according to the severity of malaria situation and thus identify groups of countries in highest need for help.

Methods

The main empirical analysis is performed on panel data and Adéla correctly applies two panel data methods – random effects transformation and fixed effects transformation. She compares estimation results coming from these two models using a Hausman test and arrives at the conclusion that only fixed effects estimates are consistent. This is why Adéla interprets only these estimates.
In the thesis it is correctly noted that application of specific anti-malaria measures might be endogenous. This is why, as Adéla notes on p. 26, the fixed effects model is expected to perform better than the ranfom effects model. What is less clearly explained in the thesis are different sources of endogeneity. Those that are fixed over time (eg. caused by location, genetic chacecteristics of local population, etc.) can be delt with using the fixed effects transformation. Those that are of a transient nature require different treatment and this is not well explaied & performed in the thesis.

The cluster analysis is a nice complement to the presented analysis. It is presented in a relatively clear way and all the clustering approaches show a similar picture. However, I would expect that the cluster analysis leads to further regression analysis on the identified clusters.

Literature

The literature review is rich and demonstrated the author's effort to study and understand the topic, althoug a more detailed focus on the scope and methods used in the presented studies would be welcome.

Manuscript form

The manuscript is generally well-written with just minor language issues. The thesis is structured in an organized way and argumentation is easy to follow.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

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The thesis by Adéla Pavelková presents a solid piece of work worth awarding a Master degree. I would suggest that the defense committee conditions the final grade on the presentation and Adéla's reaction to referees' comments.

Suggested question: Could you explain why the use of malaria revention measures might be endogenous in your analysis? Give an example of time-constant factor(s) potentially causing endogeneity and of time-varying factors potentially causing endogeneity. How can a researcher deal with these?

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	26
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	16
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	18
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**85**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**B**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Barbara Pertold-Gebicka

DATE OF EVALUATION: 7.6.2020

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                                 Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F