

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNHST-058

Title: Income Inequality, Human Capital, and Economic Growth: An Empirical Study of Indian States.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Id: JPR-195

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript addresses an important and widely debated issue by examining the relationship between income inequality, human capital, and economic growth. The topic has strong relevance for economic development, public policy, and inclusive growth, particularly in the context of Indian states. The study appropriately highlights important mechanisms such as education, healthcare access, social cohesion, political stability, and redistribution policies that may influence the relationship between inequality and economic performance.

The manuscript has significant academic value due to its focus on the interaction between income distribution and economic growth. The discussion of theoretical perspectives, including the Kuznets Curve and Redistribution Hypothesis, provides a useful foundation for understanding the complexity of the issue. The policy recommendations related to education, social safety nets, taxation, and governance are relevant and meaningful.

However, major revisions are required before publication. The methodology section requires substantial improvement. The manuscript claims to be an empirical study of Indian states, but the data sources, selected states, sample size, timeframe, and actual dataset structure are not clearly presented. The statistical analysis section mentions regression and panel data methods, but detailed empirical results, regression tables, coefficient estimates, significance levels, model specifications, and robustness test outcomes are missing.

The findings section contains general statements about a negative relationship between inequality and growth, but it requires stronger evidence supported by actual statistical results. The relationship between human capital variables and economic growth should be analyzed more explicitly. The study should also clarify whether it examines causality or only association between variables.

The literature review and references require improvement by including more recent and internationally recognized studies on inequality, growth, and human capital. The reference formatting should also be

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revised according to journal guidelines. Several sections require language editing to improve academic consistency and remove incomplete statements.

Overall, the manuscript addresses a highly significant research area and has potential contribution to development economics. However, substantial methodological clarification, stronger empirical evidence, and improvement in analytical depth are necessary before it can be considered for publication.