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The Moderating Role of Corruption between Economic Growth and CO₂ Emissions: Evidence from BRICS Economies

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Abstract

The policy debate on economic growth and CO₂ emissions is topical: corruption may affect this relationship by raising pollution at given income levels and by reducing *per capita* income. This research proposed a newly formulated conceptual framework to explore the moderating role of corruption on the relationship between growth and CO₂ emissions by applying a partial least square regression model for a panel of BRICS countries from 1996-2015. Overall, from our empirical findings, we infer that the moderating role of corruption is crucial in the relationship between economic growth and carbon dioxide emissions and control of corruption reduce CO₂ emissions. Furthermore, a significant moderating effect of corruption is observed on the relationship between urbanisation and carbon dioxide emissions in the case of BRICS countries, which signifies poor environmental performance therein. Also, control of corruption has a moderating effect on the relationship between trade and CO₂ emissions. The variance importance analysis confirms the reliability of our results. The novel finding of the study not only advances the prior literature also provides a more clearer picture

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