Questioning the Efficiency of Fintech and Financial inclusion in Reducing the Gender Gap: an International Quantile Analysis

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Dear editor,

We are submitting the paper titled “Questioning the Efficiency of Fintech and Financial inclusion in Reducing the Gender Gap: an International Quantile Analysis” to B&S, because we consider that the paper makes important contributions to society, as well as practice and theory. More specifically, many argue that Fintech technology has the potential to reduce the gender gap. In this study, using a sample of 147 countries, we find that Fintech’s effect in reduce gender equality is limited. Fintech is shown to reduce gender inequality through access financial inclusion. In simple words, Fintech allows females to open an account at a financial institution. However, for active forms of financial inclusion that requires equity (savings and borrowing), we find that no association exists between saving and borrowing and a reduction in inequality. The study infers that because females are less likely to have access to equity, simply offering Fintech technology is limited in reducing the gender gap. Given the policy pivot to promote Fintech as a strategy to reduce the gender gap (The United Nation’s G20 High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion), the study has policy implications .The study can also be considered insightful to an international audience, because when we conduct an international quintile analysis, we find that Fintech has no effect on gender inequality in developed countries. However, in developing countries, Fintech enhances gender inequality. We interpret that the inequality divide that pre-exists in this context can be exacerbated by Fintech. We hope you find the paper interesting, and seek more insights from the main body of the submitted manuscript.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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The research does not involve human participants.

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**AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT**

All persons who meet authorship criteria are listed as authors, and all authors certify that they have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content, including participation in the concept, design, analysis, writing, or revision of the manuscript. Furthermore, each author certifies that this material or similar material has not been and will not be submitted to or published in any other publication.

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