**How does economic complexity influence the industrialization process through ICT and financial development in Africa?**

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**Purpose**: Many African countries face major industrialization challenges. Among these challenges, economic complexity and limited access to finance and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are proving to be determining factors. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to highlight the contribution of information and communication technologies (ICT) and financial development to the effects of economic complexity on the industrialization process in Africa.

**Design/methodology/approach**: The paper uses data from WDI for the period 1990-2021 for the analysis. It adopts efficient generalized moment estimators in a system with instrumental variables to extract effects of economic complexity on the industrialization process in Africa.

**Findings**: The findings suggest First; economic complexity positively influences measured industrialization. Secondly, while ICT and financial development have a negative impact on industrial value added, economic complexity enhances the industrialization process through access to the Internet and cell phones in Africa.

**Originality**: This study focuses on the role of financial development and ICT to analyze the impact of economic complexity on industrialization in Africa. We propose an experiment using firstly two index of economic complexity and secondly the channel of financial development and ICT to assess how these factors influence industrialization in African countries.

**Practical implications**: The study suggests that sub-Saharan African countries should promote economic diversification and access to ICTs in general, and access to credit from private financial institutions in particular.

**Keywords:** Economic Complexity, Industrialization, ICT, Financial Development, IV/GMM2S, Africa.

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