

Department of Statistics  
University of Pretoria  
Pretoria, South Africa

May 17, 2025

To Editor-in-Chief

***Data Science***

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled “***A Generalized Small Area Estimation Model: Validated with the Children Anemia Study***” for consideration for publication in *Data Science*.

This paper introduces a generalized small area estimation approach based on the Fay-Herriot model, incorporating survey-independent covariates to enhance standard small area estimation techniques. Our findings differ from previous studies by explicitly integrating auxiliary variables (both survey and census) and target variables into the modeling framework, providing a contribution to the literature. We believe this approach will be of interest to the readers of your journal, especially those focused on small area estimation methods in health-related statistical research.

We confirm that the manuscript has not been published previously and is not under consideration by any other journal. All authors have reviewed and approved the manuscript and agree to its submission to your journal.

We look forward to your response and hope for the opportunity to contribute to your esteemed publication.

Sincerely,

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Department of Statistics, University  
of Pretoria, South Africa