Review of: "Government expenditure and economic growth: evidence from the critical sectors in an emerging economy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this paper and thanks to the authors for their initiative to analyze the existing data and write this article. This is a time series econometric analysis focusing on government expenditure on some important sectors and their impact on economic growth in Nigeria. This is fascinating to read though lacks in novelty but having clarity in methodology. Therefore, I would like to provide some specific comments on this:

- The objective and findings of this study is a very common scenario. Agriculture, health and education are most important sectors and all these variables have significant impact on economic growth of many countries in the long run. Therefore, the rationality of conducting this study and why it is important for current scientific community and for the readers need to establish here as a novel work.
- The span of data series is from 1981-2020 and the year 2020 is very crucial for economic situation of any country due to Covid pandemic, therefore, this shock adjustment procedure need to discuss a bit.
- The literature review section needs to revise as it is quite long and difficult for readers to keep concentrate.
- The sub theme of literature review section can be altered based on the two main theories, the variables and outcome instead of using conceptual, theoretical and empirical review.
- Based on stationarity test, Johansen Cointegration and VECM techniques have been used here but no diagnostic test, normality test, serial correlation, homoskedasticity test performed here which are important tests for this type of analysis.
- Table 3 and 4 is the data set which is not required to show in the result section. Rather these can be shown in graphical format to see the nature of the data with small description.
- In the last para of result and discussion section it is written that "There is a negative and insignificant relationship between government expenditure on pension and gratuities, public debt servicing and RGDP. For instance, 1 percent increases in government expenditure on pension and gratuities led to 0.05 percent decrease in RGDP" ????? It is confusing.

Minor issues

- The notation of the variables needs to clearly define in the Table 1 instead of sharing in the paragraph.
- In methodology section, the VECM technique and the econometric model of this paper both are termed as equation 1 which need to check.

- In 4.4 section, there is a typo. The order of integration will be I (1) instead of 1 (1).

- There are so many abbreviations are used which is redundant. If the abbreviations are not used in the text, then it is better not to mention.

- There is one section named 'Result and Discussion' and another section named 'Discussion'

- To make the paper more reader friendly, some organizational sentences might include at the end of introduction about the content of other sections.

I would recommend to revise this paper.