Review of: "Impact of COVID-19 on imports of medical products: A panel data approach"

Solomon Olakojo[1]

1 National Physical Laboratory

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Impact of COVID-19 on imports of medical products: A panel data approach

Comments

The study attempted to examine the determinants of imports by EU-27 countries, through a panel data analysis for the period 2015-2020. The focus was on import of seven products classified as essential by the World Customs Organization and the World Health Organization. The objective was clearly stated. However, there are challenges that need to be addressed.

1. The section on conceptual framework should be presented as background to the study. This is because it only presents trends in the sampled trade commodities. A conceptual framework is *a representation of the relationship expected between your variables*. This was not the case in this study.
2. The economic model on which the estimated model was based is grossly missing. This is not surprising as the review of relevant theories and theoretical arguments were also missing. This makes it difficult to justify the inclusion of many of the explanatory variables.
3. The analysis covers the period 2015-2020. The key variable explanatory variable, D2020, was represented by a dummy variable that takes the value 1 if the imports were made in the year 2020 and 0 otherwise. This approach raises many questions:

- What happens if a particular country import any of these products, but the data was not available? How was such case treated?
- How well does the use of a dummy variable, available for only one year (2020), captures impact of COVID-19 on the imports of these products?
- Finally, estimated fixed effect model does not permit inclusion of dummy variables. One was surprised to see the estimated fixed effect model for medical devices in Table 4 to include the dummy of D2020.

I would recommend a major review of this paper.