

Review of: "Health Outcome and Economic Growth: The Case of Malaria in Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Introduction:

Your paper investigates the impact of healthcare expenditure on economic growth in Nigeria, focusing on the role of government spending in healthcare as an investment in human capital and its influence on economic growth. This is a pertinent area of research given the critical importance of health in economic development.

Clarity of Research Question:

One of the primary concerns is the clarity of your research question. While you discuss the bidirectional causality between healthcare spending and GDP, the specific research question you aim to address remains unclear. Clarifying this would significantly enhance the focus and direction of your study.

Literature Review:

The literature review currently lacks comprehensiveness both theoretically and empirically. Your discussion on the theories related to government spending and growth is noted; however, there is a significant gap in the review concerning healthcare expenditure's role in human capital development and its impact on economic growth. Furthermore, the empirical evidence presented is not thorough, and the knowledge gaps are not clearly articulated. A more detailed review that includes these aspects could strengthen the foundation of your paper.

Methodology:

The choice of the ARDL model raises concerns, particularly in its ability to address the bidirectional causality between healthcare expenditure and economic growth. The treatment of healthcare expenditure as an exogenous variable oversimplifies the complex relationship with GDP. A more appropriate model that can adequately handle the bidirectionality and dynamic nature of these variables is needed. Moreover, the model's dynamic specifications and assumptions should be more explicitly discussed.

Results:

The results presented in the paper, particularly the short-run effects of Current Health Expenditure on economic growth, appear implausible. The stated coefficient suggests an excessively high impact of healthcare spending on economic growth, which casts doubt on the reliability of your findings. A thorough review and possibly a re-estimation of the model

are recommended to ensure the validity and credibility of the results.

Overall Assessment:

In its current form, the paper does not meet the publication standards of a scholarly journal in economics. A major revision is necessary to address the concerns outlined above. Enhancing the clarity of the research question, expanding the literature review, reconsidering the methodology, and re-evaluating the results are critical steps in improving the quality of the paper. I recommend resubmitting the paper for consideration after these significant revisions have been made.