Review report on manuscript entitled,

"HUMAN CAPITAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: HOW CAN ECONOMIC GROWTH SUFFICE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION?"

Summary:

This manuscript has an objective of studying the role of three resource indicators (environmental assets, economic assets, and human capital, as indicated in table 1) in achieving sustainable development. The manuscript does this for the case of Nigeria applying a VAR method on time series data.

Comments

A) Format and other

1. The paper is quite poorly written
2. A good part of the paper is spent on too many definitions on development, sustainable development, human capital, environment protection, etc without sound synthesis and analysis.
3. Several statements that seem to be taken from the literature are not supported by respective source citations.
   A few examples out of numerous such cases:
   - Page 2: "…was evidently proved wrong in the 1960s when developing nations met the UN prescribed 6% growth rate which did not translate to reduction in unemployment, inequality, and poverty."
   - Page 4: "Human capital in the form of education and health or life expectancy has been found to be correlated with SD."
4. A lot of statements in several paragraphs are unrelated and sometimes do not make sense. Examples, last paragraph on page 5, second paragraph on page 6.

B) Content

5. The reader understands that the main objective of the paper is to understand the contribution of investing in environmental assets, economics assess, and human capital on sustainable development. The paper, however, falls short of using any of the outcome indicators of SD such as welfare/well-being or income distribution. The paper merely estimates inter-relationships among the three resource indicators.

6. The time series model has several flaws

    - Cointegration test is inappropriate if you have stationary variables.
    - The stationarity tests are not shown.
    - No information is given on the validity of the VAR model. Tests for serial correlation in the disturbances and for the stability conditions need to be reported, or at least discussed.
    - The IRFs are reported both in tabular form (table 3) and in figures (fig 2). Yet, the main outcome of the VAR model, which shows the actual coefficients, is not reported.