

**Review Form 1.7**

Journal Name:	<b>Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_AJEBA_115122</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>PUBLIC DEBT AND POVERTY IN NIGERIA</b>
Type of the Article	

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p><b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Is the manuscript important for scientific community?</b> (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</li> <li>2. <b>Is the title of the article suitable?</b> (If not please suggest an alternative title)</li> <li>3. <b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</b></li> <li>4. <b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></li> <li>5. <b>Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</b></li> <li>6. <b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</b></li> </ol> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p><b>The manuscript connects two important economic issues for policy makers: poverty and debt. It can potentially provide valuable insights on this relationship for Nigeria and could be useful to inform the literature on this issue from the Nigerian experience.</b></p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p><b>Yes, it documents the approach used and main findings of the paper.</b></p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p><b>It needs substantial improvement, including addressing some inconsistencies ion the economic analysis and the main finings.</b></p> <p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p><b>There are several issues for the authors to enhance:</b></p> <p><b><u>Inconsistencies to be addressed:</u></b></p> <p>(i) The econometric results show that an increase in public debt will reduce poverty in Nigeria. But the general story of the paper, including in the conclusion, is that debt is bad for poverty.</p> <p>(ii) The authors should explain this seemingly counterintuitive finding in the context of Nigeria: "Income does not move in a parallel direction with poverty." Or is this a universal finding from the literature, if so, the relevant papers need to be cited.</p> <p>(iii) Why does a positive revenue shock increase poverty. Again, this seems counterintuitive. What explains this relationship for Nigeria?</p> <p>(v) Clarification: the paper needs to explain what is being measured on the vertical axis of the charts, are these percentage points or standard deviations. If the latter, then state what is the economic meaning of those numbers?</p> <p><b><u>Policy implications.</u></b> Currently the paper casts debt in a negative light, which is partly appropriate based on their findings, but they can also highlight the need for more efficient use of debt financing resources, drawing on the literature on public expenditure efficiency.</p> <p><b><u>Poverty data</u></b>—it would be useful to provide some data on poverty in Nigeria, better if they can show a time series plot of debt services and poverty rates over the sample period.</p> <p><b><u>Other factors affecting poverty</u></b>—it is important for the authors to acknowledge other factors contributing to poverty in Nigeria, drawing from the literature.</p>	
<p><b>Minor</b> REVISION comments</p>		

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1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The language/English quality is at an acceptable standard.	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments		

**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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