Female Education for Growth and Structural Transformation in Nigeria: an Empirical Investigation

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Abstract

The broad objective of this paper is to provide quantitative evidence on the role of female education in the growth and transformation process in Nigeria, using the co-integration and error correction techniques. The augmented solo model is used to incorporate the gender dimension. The unit root tests conducted indicated that all variables are stationary at first difference and are also co-integrated. This shows that a long run equilibrium relationship exists among them. Furthermore, it was revealed that the male human capital has a significant and positive effect on the Nigerian economy. This implies that the theoretical expectation that male human capital education promotes growth is valid in the Nigerian case. However, female education has no significant impact on real GDP in Nigeria. This result suggests the need for investments in female human capital. The policy implication of the study is that if the country wants to achieve sustainable growth which would engender structural transformation of the Nigerian economy, governments should appraise existing development policies and strategies and pay more attention to educational policies that enhance female enrollment rates, female participation in educational institutions and female literacy.