

Addressing Poverty In Nigeria through Fertility and Female Labour Force Participation

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Published Online: 4 Oct 2021 https://hdl.handle.net/10520/ejc-aa_ajber_v2021_nsi1_a5

Abstract

This study investigated whether the rising fertility rate is responsible for low female labour force participation and simultaneously increasing the poverty level in Nigeria. Autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) model was used to analyze the variable of interest. The results showed bi-directional causality between fertility rate and female labour force participation in Nigeria, while a uni-directional causality exists between fertility rate and poverty level; and between female labour force participation rate and poverty level, respectively. In addition, it was found that cointegration exists only between poverty level and fertility rate as none exists between poverty and female labour force participation. Furthermore, fertility rate is significant for increasing poverty level, while one period lagged female labour force participation rate is only significant in reducing present period poverty. The study recommends that the government formulate policies that encourage mothers to productively participate in formal businesses towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 5.

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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2, JUNE 2019



Keywords

- Fertility Rate
- Female Labour Force Participation
- Poverty

- Inequality
- Nigeria

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful for the publication support provided by Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID).
