

Review of: "Female Youth Unemployment in the GCC Countries"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Title: Female Youth Unemployment in the GCC countries

Comments on the paper:

The paper presents an interesting approach to an important problem. The idea is to study the problem of unemployment in GCC countries for the female youth. As this latter is high compared to male youth unemployment rate for these countries as it is high compared to youth female in other countries, it will be of great interest to give some explanations for this phenomena. Author followed the methodology of Bernal-Verdugo et al. (2012) with some modifications in the model. I can say that this paper has a potential to contribute to the field of the literature interested to the employment market. This work can be considered as an empirical contribution for the case of youth female unemployment. Overall, this was an interesting and valuable paper that was a pleasure to read. Nonetheless, I have some comments about this work that can be easily resolved.

1. Now with the Kingdom's vision 2030, and with a focus on openness to other civilizations, economic diversification and encouraging the private sector, the situation has changed and job opportunities for females have become great, especially in the field of services. This has greatly affected the employment rates of women in general, and this characteristic can be generalized to all Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Regarding these specificities, I think that it would be better to add paragraph talking about past and actual situation in the GCC region about female employment to give readers an idea on the employment market in the region.
2. Model developed in this paper is different to the model of Bernal-Verdugo et al. (2012). In this paper author consider as dependent variable youth female unemployment and introduce lagged unemployment rate as one of the exogenous variables, but in the model of Bernal-Verdugo et al. (2012) they considered unemployment rate differentiated variable as dependent variable and they introduced lagged variable of unemployment rate as exogenous variable. This fact justifies the use of dynamic model and consider the two-step GMM system as a method of estimation in the paper of Bernal-Verdugo et al. (2012). Also, these authors checked the consistency of this method by using the tests of Hansen and Arellano-Bond. In the present paper, authors used the two-step GMM system without given any explanation and without making robustness tests for this method. May be this method in not the good one for this paper.
3. Also, authors considered a panel data analysis for 6 six countries and a frequency of 11 years. With a lagged variable in total, they have 60 observations, I think the number of observations is not enough for the application of panel data method. Specification tests for country effects and temporal effects must be checked to justify the choice of this

estimation method.

4. I think that a robustness analysis should be conducted to conclude such result.
5. What about the policy implications that we can conclude from this work. Policy recommendations for youth female labor market can be added in the conclusion.