

Review of: "The antithetical relationship of Entrepreneurship and Corruption on Radicalization among the Moroccan Youths: An Empirical study"

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This article addresses a very interesting and under-explored topic, which is the relationship between entrepreneurship (intention to start a business) and radicalization among Moroccans (choice of armed resistance as a response to social issues). I congratulate the authors on their choice of topic. I believe you have a database of great value if properly analyzed. However, the authors should undertake a thorough revision of the manuscript in order to make a real contribution to the literature. In the following paragraphs, I will set out my observations and suggestions for improvement.

- 1. Research question.** The paper needs a clear definition of the research question to guide consistency throughout the manuscript, which is now lacking. For instance, in the [Abstract](#) it is mentioned: "This research investigates the effectiveness of Morocco's promotion of its entrepreneurship campaign in Morocco". In the [Introduction](#) it is stated: "This paper fills the gap by examining the key research question of *'entrepreneurship and its efficacies towards economic and social progress in the presence of uncertainties due to inequality and radicalism'*". In the [Data and methods](#) the authors state: "The survey in this study tackles two objectives. The first objective is to measure Moroccan citizens' intention to start a business. The second objective is to measure factors that may motivate or deter respondents from engaging in violent protests". I think that with the data available from survey the authors cannot investigate the effectiveness of Moroccan government's entrepreneurship campaigns, nor the efficacy of entrepreneurship in contributing to economic and social progress in Morocco. I also fail to understand why corruption is given prominence in the title and throughout the manuscript. In the empirical study carried out, corruption is simply one of the six social issues respondents are asked to indicate their degree of indignation. Moreover, this variable (corruption) does not come out as significant in the logistic regression explaining the intention to choose armed resistance. I do understand that it is important to highlight the environment of corruption that exists in Morocco and how it has been getting worse over the years. But this is so as part of the description of the context in which the research is conducted, not as a central variable in the empirical analysis. My suggestion is to focus the paper in exploring the role of entrepreneurship (intention to start a business) on Moroccans radicalization (intention to engage in violence protest, i.e., choosing armed resistance).
- 2. Title.** Neither the sample analyzed, nor the theoretical framework make reference to young people, so I would propose to remove the reference to youths from the title of the paper and from the whole manuscript.

3. **Literature review.** The article lacks a theoretical framework to explain the expected relationships between the intention to set up a business and the radicalization of the population. The authors must make the effort to develop a theoretical framework that links entrepreneurship and radicalization.
4. **Sample.** There is no clear definition of the study population. The authors should start defining the population to determine the appropriate sample size. Besides, the data provided in the Descriptive stats lead to the suspicion that the sample analyzed is not representative of the Moroccan population. For example, it is hard to believe that 1.8% of Moroccans has a PhD. You may have a bias problem here.
5. **Operationalization of the variables.** There is no clear definition of the dependent and independent variables, nor how the questionnaire was elaborated and based on what prior works. The way in which each variable has been measured should be clearly stated. For example, you specify that entrepreneurship intention is a variable with value 1 if the person intends to start a business and 2 if he/she does not intend to start a business. However, I could not find in the document the values taken by the variable "armed resistance". This is important to be able to interpret the results of the logistic regression. I suggest recoding the dichotomous variables to 0 and 1, where 1 is that the respondent does intend to start a business or choose armed resistance, and 0 otherwise. This will make easier for the reader to interpret the direction of the relationship with the signs of the coefficients in the logistic regression.
6. **Data analysis.** Tables 1 to 3 should be one table with the frequency of each category. It seems that it is just one variable with three possible categories ("a choice was given between doing nothing, peaceful protest, or armed resistance"). In case of Table 4, which explores the association between "Armed resistance" and "gender", you could calculate the Pearson chi-square and report also its p-value. Only if $p < 0.05$ one can affirm that there exist a significant association between those two variables. Concerning the main relationship analyzed in this study, "Armed Resistance" vs "Entrepreneurship Intention", ANOVA is not appropriate. Taking into account that both variables are nominal (numbers assigned are arbitrary and there is no intrinsic order of categories), the correct analysis to run is Crosstabs statistics, with chi-square. Same argument for Table 6. In relation to Table 7 and 8 you should also state what Z, and the rest of symbols in columns, stand for. However, even if the analyses were performed and reported correctly, for the empirical work to shed light on what your data are reporting, it is imperative that you provide a logistic regression to explain the intention to radicalize that include all the relevant independent variables in the study. That is, the intention to start a business and the rest of the socio-demographic variables that could be considered control variables. Running first a model only with the control variables (socio-demographic factors) and then running a second model adding the entrepreneurship intention.
7. **Discussion.** This section should discuss the results of the empirical study within prior literature. But this is not the case. Most of the assertions are not supported by the results obtained in the analysis. Moreover, the discussion of the result concerning gender is not correct. The authors state that: "However, the findings regarding the lower likelihood of women being involved in armed resistance are at variance from some of the existing claims in the literature where women's radicalism and involvement in terrorism are noted (Huey & Witmer, 2016 Shapiro & Maras, 2019)". Those two works the authors refer to analyze the radicalization of women, but not the fact that men are more inclined to choose armed resistance than women, which is what the authors are actually measuring with their data. I think that gender is a key variable in your study. On the one hand, authors could draw on Social Role Theory of Sex Differences by Alice H

Eagly and Wendy Wood to justify their results. According to this theory (Eagly & Wood, 2012), men are better at playing roles that are more consistent with the male gender role (i.e., ability to direct and control people), while women are better in roles that are more consistent with the female gender role (i.e., ability to cooperate and maintain good relationships with others). This theory may be used to justify that men are more inclined to choose armed resistance than women, because armed resistance is more consistent with the male gender role. On the other hand, we should take into account that the gender gap in entrepreneurship persists around the world. Although Morocco is making significant efforts to change the landscape by trying to modernize patriarchy (Zvan Elliott), much remains to be done to close this gap. In fact, Morocco, a Muslim and patriarchal society, has one of the lowest rates of gender equality in entrepreneurship (Aligod, 2023). Suárez-Ortega and García-Cabrera (2022) confirmed this gender gap among Moroccans in the tourism industry. Considering both facts, one could suspect that the result obtained in this study, “Those who want to start a business are also more likely to consider arm resistance”, is the result of a spurious relationship between entrepreneurship and radicalization. This could be confirmed or rejected if the authors include both factors, the gender and the entrepreneurial intention in the logistic regression of armed resistance, as suggested in point 6.

8. Finally, the authors make a number of assertions that are unsubstantiated and for which no bibliographic reference is provided to support them; or, if substantiated, they require that a source of support be indicated.

The authors should address these significant issues and resubmit.

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