

Review of: "Does Tobacco Make Consumers Happy? Evidence From Cameroon"

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In this work, the authors attempt to study the effects of tobacco consumption on happiness in Cameroon. They find that tobacco consumption and happiness are negatively related, especially for women. So, the authors prescribe a gender-sensitive quit tobacco consumption strategy. This is an interesting work. Below, I provide my comments on the article.

Comments

In the last line of the fourth paragraph of the Introduction, it is written that "The Ministry of Public Health for Cameroon reported in 2015 that, 10.12% of school-going adolescents aged 13-15 had smoked a cigarette, of which 13.8% were boys and 5.7% were girls." I am having trouble understanding the phrase "of which 13.8% were boys and 5.7% were girls." Boys, girls, and third gender should comprise 100% of the school-going adolescents aged 13-15 who had smoked a cigarette.

In the 'Control Variables' section (2.2.2), it is mentioned that "On a three-point scale, we code 3 if the respondent consumes tobacco every day, 2 if the respondent consumes tobacco less than once per day, and 1 if the respondent does not consume tobacco every day." The differences between code 1, code 2, and code 3 are unclear. How can one consume tobacco less than once a day but neither falls in the category "consumes tobacco every day" nor falls in the category "does not consume tobacco every day"? It seems that code 3 and code 1 form mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive sets of tobacco consumers.

Also in section 2.2.2, the intensity of tobacco consumption is measured based on the number of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco consumed per day or the frequency of tobacco consumption. The difference between the intensity and frequency of tobacco consumption is unclear.

In section 2.3.3, the authors mention that they use an ordinary least squares (OLS) as the baseline because the Happiness index is a continuous dependent variable. However, isn't the happiness score a latent variable assuming some discrete isolated values? This is a clarificatory question.

In the title of Table 1, the term "happiness" should be written as a mean comparison.

Usually, in happiness literature, it is found that females are happier than males. However, here the authors find the opposite. In this context, the authors may want to cite some references.

