

Review of: "State-led Development and Youth Unemployment in the Arab and non-Arab Countries"

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The document is interesting. It deals with a central issue for the understanding of the economy, given its potential socioeconomic effects. In general, the document is well structured, although it shows some limitations. Listed below are a series of comments/questions/observations that can enrich the document.

Abstract

"...we empirically examine this projection in Arab countries in comparison to non-Arab countries."

Why is this comparison relevant?

1. Introduction

The economic problem is understood, but more discussion about it (problematization) is needed.

Why is important to study youth unemployment in Arab countries?

Are the authors interested in the youth employment "development"? ("evolution"?)

How is "development" understood or defined?

2. Youth and Youth Unemployment in the Arab Countries

The data presented is interesting and give some lights about the problem. But the section is very descriptive.

Moreover, if the aim of the section is to assess the Salehi-Isfahani (2012) hypothesis, a more robust statistical tool is needed.

4. Empirical Model

In respect to the lagged explicative variables, it is worthy to explain clearly the relationship between them and YUR (the causal effect).

On the other hand, economic structure (as well as its evolution) could be a relevant factor to YUR? Also, informal markets are relevant?

Briefly, what does GCR QEI include?

As an alternative, was the education level consider?

There is an approach that considers corruption as the "wheel grease"; this could lead to a positive effect.

Also, its consideration needs more arguments.

A very short description of the methodology could help a broader understanding of the document.

Moreover, the author should justify the use of this methodology.

5. Empirical Results

The title of the paper indicates "arab and non-arab countries", but results (table 3) are centered only in arab countries.

It is not clear the contribution of the analysis about table 3.

5.1. Estimation Results for The Arab Countries

Table 5

It is not clear why all these specifications are estimated. Why is relevant to estimate these specifications?

We are in the case of long panels ($T > N$). It is considered that the use of this methodology is more appropriate when the temporal dimension is smaller than the cross-sectional dimension. Was this aspect considered?

The estimated results about SLEAD and GROWTH seem contraintuitive. How to explaine them?

6. Discussion

What are the (some) policy implications?

Conclusions can be improved, for example, by highlighting the findings and noting their relevance.