

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review:

The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of those economically active section of the population who cannot find work is perhaps the most-often cited indicator of a country's labour market and a general indicator of the economical status of the country. Despite its limitations as a complete indicator the unemployment rate gives a rough idea of the difficulties faced by the economically active population of the country. Unemployment rates are notably higher in the GCC countries than for men throughout the region. Young women seeking jobs are doubly challenged because of their gender identities as well as age. The paper discusses in detail how the six oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are high-income countries characterized by substantial dependance on foreign labor services. The emergence of the Gulf countries as oil-producing and exporting economies and the consequent migration of considerable manpower in the wake of oil price hike after 1973-74 resulted in the proliferation of expatriate communities in the region. The process of Globalization has further boosted the international migration. The paper substantiates the argument raised with respect to female unemployment with sufficient documentation which help the readers to understand the anxiety raised in the paper in a comprehensive manner. Inclusion of a paragraph about how feminist movement across the globe has had a history of struggle for employment and equitable wages for women in the introductory section would help readers to contextualize the argument of female unemployment in the gulf in a better way. It would help the readers comprehend how the female employment in gulf sector has always been culturally defined. The literature review is commendable but the conclusion needs further elaboration. The author needs to provide a critical analysis of the findings alongside the suggestion of amendment policies.