

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

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This paper investigates the determinants of female youth unemployment in Gulf Cooperation Council countries. In particular, it explores the role of the generous social contracts and the segmented labour market that characterizes the region in shaping youth preferences. The main finding is that both labour market flexibility and the social contract improve female unemployment rate.

I enjoyed reading the paper. It is generally through, but I still have questions and suggestions for improving the paper.

1) Introduction

The author should better organize the Introduction, stating the research question at the beginning and focusing on the relevance of the work and its novelties compared to previous studies.

Which are the high-income countries used as comparison group? In my opinion Greece is not a good example, given the harsh public-debt crisis it faced since 2010.

2) Social contract, labour market segmentation and youth unemployment

Is it possible to decompose governments' expenditures in different types of expenditures, such as healthcare, education, pensions and other benefits?

If I understood correctly, data show that the oil rents largely decreased over time, for example in Bahrain they decreased from 18.6% in 1980 to 2.2% in 2019. Is it possible to show the evolution of the unemployment rate over the same period?

In order to understand the role of cultural factors it would be interesting to read data on female education rates, fertility rates and average age at first birth for women.

3) Labour market flexibility of the foreign labour segment

I admit I am not an expert of the dynamics of the labour market of this region, but I wonder if would it be possible to show data on the share of foreign citizens employed in the private sector, the main production activities and their evolution over time.

Again, I think it should be more useful to state which are the countries in the comparison group. I would focus on other natural-resources exporters, like Norway.

4) Literature review and empirical model

In my opinion the literature review would fit better in a separate section.

Which instrument has been used? Is it valid and relevant? The author should discuss the IV strategy.

5) Discussion and conclusions

The results are very interesting; I would better discuss the policy implications of the findings.

Kind regards,

Elena