

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very interesting topic and significant. The authors are correct in their observations that the subject of entrepreneurship and development in developing economies is critical. Be that as it may, there are fundamental issues and methodological flaws that must be addressed in this paper.

1. The paper refers of antithetical relations between entrepreneurship and corruption giving the impression that we would expect the paper to place these relationships centre and front - the relationship would be antithetical in the sense that entrepreneurship, when practiced with integrity and transparency, can counteract corruption and reduce the conditions that contribute to youth radicalization. Entrepreneurship fosters an environment of opportunity, fairness, and social mobility, which can potentially mitigate the grievances that fuel radicalization among the Moroccan youths. Reading the paper, one does not get that sense.
2. The relationship between entrepreneurship, corruption, and the radicalization of youth is complex and influenced by various contextual factors. Understanding these dynamics requires a comprehensive analysis of the specific socioeconomic and political landscape of the underdeveloped economy in question, specifically Morocco. The authors made significant general claims and declarations in this respect without giving adequate attention to this relationship. (more specific details below).
3. Title - title refers to youths and yet the paper does not address youth related issues in any specific manner. In fact the data was not even collected among youths.
4. The paper is largely descriptive and does not offer any clear conceptual framework that ties theoretical perspectives that shape the review on the constructs of entrepreneurship, corruption, radicalisation and civil or youth unrest. This should involve discussing established theories and models, identifying gaps or contradictions in existing literature, or proposing new frameworks if applicable rather than the approach taken of describing the concepts in serial or sequential order.
5. The literature review should have clarified on main concepts and related variables – how does these concepts or variables are measured or operationalized? This would have laid a clear foundation for the intended investigation on the relationships and interactions between the main concepts and variables on the subject or specifically the antithetical relationship of entrepreneurship and corruption on radicalization among the Moroccan Youths. This is central for any attempt to undertake an empirical study.
6. 3. Lack of Precision: Without a clear definition of the population in this study, it becomes challenging to determine the

appropriate sample size needed to achieve a sufficient level of precision. If the sample size is too small or not representative of the population, the study's findings may lack statistical power and accuracy. These issues cannot be addressed as all because in the first place no clear hypotheses were articulated to justify an empirical test.

7. **Data Collection Problems:** The paper does not frame the data collection method making it difficult gauge any consistency and standardization in data collection across different study participants (who were not clearly defined to begin with). This introduced inconsistencies, errors, or variability in data collection, compromising the study's reliability. That also there is clear concerns about Measurement Bias. Inadequate definition of the population and sampling method resulted in measurement bias. Different groups within the population have varying characteristics, which affect the measurement process differently. This bias undermined the reliability and validity of the study's measurements and subsequent analysis.
8. In summary, this quantitative study fails to define the population and sampling method exposing its weaknesses related to generalizability, sampling bias, lack of precision, data collection problems, and measurement bias. These issues significantly compromised the reliability of the study's findings and limit their usefulness in making accurate inferences or drawing valid conclusions on the antithetical relationship of entrepreneurship and corruption on radicalization among the Moroccan Youths. The empirical study will not stand the foundational tests of any inferential statistical study.
6. **Literature Review** - overall, the descriptive nature of the paper made it difficult to identify the conceptual overview providing the foundation for understanding the key concepts and theoretical frameworks that inform the hypothesised antithetical relationship of entrepreneurship and corruption on radicalization among the Moroccan Youths. This would help readers grasp the theoretical background and context of the research topic and provides a roadmap for the subsequent sections of the paper.
7. **The weaknesses identified are more telling when one looks and could not identify the actual research question nor any hypothesis.** What is the empirical problem this paper is addressing if there are no clear research questions nor hypotheses raised?
8. **Methodological flaws:** - The failure to articulate the hypotheses that study sought to test made it impossible to see how the study methodology could be validated or the results generalised. What informed the study population sample, etc. if there were no clear research questions and hypotheses? Without a clear definition of the population, the study's findings are not applicable or generalizable to the broader population. This limited the external validity of the study and reduces its usefulness in making inferences or drawing conclusions about a specific group or population. Besides, the study promised focus on the youth as inferred from the topic and yet the data was collected from an undefined general urban and rural population groups – nothing entrepreneurial or youth was used to define the study population.
9. **General Observations** - The paper makes several generic statements that are not substantiated or can not be substantiated. e.g.:
  1. Introduction paragraph - It is not factually correct that entrepreneurship is under researched in developing economies - the reference to this statement is out dated;
  2. Why is statement on page 2 last paragraph in italics and quotation marks if it is not a direct or reference quote?

3. The arguments on the relationship between institutions and economic development is based on old reference decades old and largely from developed economies. The case under study is specific and subject to special conditions and as such should be well located in extant research in similar contexts.
4. It is not clear what is the directionality of the causal relationship between rise in radicalisation and the development of pro-entrepreneurship policy framework.
5. Authors make interesting and yet unsubstantiated statement that have significant political implications. For instance, they argue autocratic regimes created barriers to economic/entrepreneurial institutional support. In the same breath, they give examples on unrest by entrepreneurs in non autocratic nations - Arab spring did not start from the examples cited - Iraq or Libya presented as acute examples of the authors' argument.
6. The discussion on how Morocco's response to Arab spring is difficult to relate to the debate of institutional reforms for pro-business or social institutions? If Morocco was creating social dependence by going against pro-business institutional responses, how can this be framed in entrepreneurship supportive institutions or environment.
7. The literature review is not in any way addressing the issue of how corruption, institutional failures and citizens responses relate to levels of entrepreneurship or lack thereof? Entrepreneurship is also a response to poor institutional uncertainty such as described by the authors for Morocco. The form of entrepreneurship may not be opportunity or systemic, but still local and necessity entrepreneurship are a documented response in uncertain environments.
8. The methodology is not clear specifically how the population and sampling was done. This was a survey and not a poll, if this is correct how did the two pollsters collect the data (one pollster in hijab and the other in headscarf? Why was this an important distinction? Did these two travel across all the regions, towns, villages and cities mentioned?
9. The survey design is flawed - where did the relationship between intention to start a business and the intention to participate in protest come from?
10. **The study did not articulate a clear population and sampling method as well as the sample. That means the study does not meet the minimum requirements for inferential sampling. Inadequate or unclear sampling methods introduced sampling bias. This means that certain groups or individuals within the population from rural to urban and various geographical locations may be overrepresented or underrepresented in the sample, resulting in a non-representative sample. This clearly affected the validity and generalizability of the study's findings.**

The authors should address these significant issues and resubmit.