

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

Dustin White¹

¹ University of Nebraska, Omaha

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Research Question: Whether having flexible labor markets along the neoclassical labor market theory, in presence of a generous social contract, reduces the female youth unemployment rate in the GCC countries.

Comments/Questions

- You talk about segmented labor markets, but then only show data for a unified market. How do you make these assertions about specific portions of the labor market, then?
- Are the female youth being measured residents or foreign-born? This matters a lot given the supposed extreme differences in the labor market for citizens and non-citizens.
- Would it be better to find some within country variation or shock to use as treatment rather than cross country variation over time? How much variation is there, really?
- Following up, how much DO labor market policies in these countries vary over ten years? I can't imagine that there is enough variation to make much of an effect or to be able to detect. You don't discuss it, so I really don't know the extent of this problem.
- How do you see a 1% improvement coming from pay and productivity in the results in table 7? Isn't the dependent variable Female Youth Unemployment? Where is pay and productivity in that table?
- Table 8 has all of the same problems as table 7. What are these columns? What do they mean and how do they relate to the outcome of interest?
- Why use time fixed effects instead of linear time trends?
- I'd like to see more encoded information about the actual social contract in each country, and how that compares to results across the GCC
- I don't think you have provided sufficient evidence of the effect of liberalization, since you don't actually demonstrate that any sort of liberalization treatment occurred in the sample, and are not comparing baseline cases to that treatment.
 - You might consider finding a case of liberalization in the GCC, and running diff in diff to compare that treatment to the controls in other countries
- Should you create some measures about spot or future oil prices interacted with the proportion of government revenue coming from oil for each of the countries/years? These could be informative as measures of disposable income to

support the social contract in the various GCC nations.