

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The topic is interesting and relevant however, the manuscript needs some major issues to be addressed

-Section 1 introduction

- The introduction does not sufficiently justify the choice of the subject. The author should justify why he chose to make a comparison between Arab and non-Arab countries.
- Similarly, the author should present a brief summary of the existing literature and the limitations of this literature that motivated this study. This will allow for a better appreciation of his or her contribution.

Section2 (stylized facts)

- The title of the section is not informative enough. The author should reword it so that it actually reflects the content of the section.
- Why in this subsection does the author only talk about Arab countries? The stylized facts should include both sub-samples so that one can grasp the problem being addressed.
- In the author's place I will use figures to present my stylised facts rather than tables. Figures have the advantage that they allow the reader to easily grasp the problem.

Section 3 (literature review)

- *"We review only recent studies of determinants of youth employment."*

why omit the old studies? Can the present studies be understood alongside the old ones?

- The literature review seems inappropriate. Rather than reviewing the determinants of youth unemployment; the author should focus on the literature between state-led development and youth unemployment; present the transmission channels of the effects.

Section 4 (methodology)

- The chosen model appears to be Ah Dhoc. What are the theories or previous empirical studies that justify the specification of the model? How are the coefficients B1 and B2 interpreted ?
- The author should present a test of multi-collinearity between the selected variables. In fact, according to the economic

literature, these variables may be correlated with each other. It is therefore important to ensure that multi- collinearity can be neglected or that variables that are sources of multi- collinearity are excluded from the analysis.

- The author should justify the estimation technique. Can there not be a double causality between youth unemployment and total unemployment? If so, how does the author deal with the endogeneity that may result?

Section 5 (results)

- It would make sense for the author to first analyse the effect of state-led development on youth unemployment in the total sample comprising all Arab countries before distinguishing the effects in the sub-samples.
- Do the same for non-Arab countries.
- The results are not discussed theoretically. The author should include a section for discussion of the results economically
- How does the author explain the nuances that can be observed in the results between Arab and non-Arab countries?