

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.

Abstract

1. The citation in the Abstract should be removed!
2. A background statement should be included in the Abstract

Introduction

1. The author should state the motivation for this research work.

Youth and Youth Unemployment in the Arab Countries

1. Why discuss the development of youth unemployment only for the Arab countries? In your title you have Arab and non-Arab countries?!
2. Author presents the proportion of youth unemployment since the 1960s, and the main objective of the paper is the sample period 2007-2017? Why these discrepancies in the time frame of the research? These points should be considered accordingly!
3. What is the point with the Salehi-Isfahani (2012) project? From the very beginning, the author started to explain this project of Salehi-Isfahani (2012). The author should explain the relevance and meaning given to this project!

Determinants of Youth Unemployment – A Brief Literature Review

1. Besides for OECD and EU countries the author should mention some empirical findings from the Arab/MENA countries or so. A plenty of sources in the literature can be found for these countries as well.

Empirical model

1. The relationship between SLEAD and the general government's final consumption expenditures should be operationalized better and to provide better arguments!
2. The author here mentions data on 100 Arab and non-Arab countries in the panel! This is confusing with the previous Sections and with the findings presented in the next Section Empirical results!

Empirical Results

1. The sentence: Libya experienced internal conflict for most of the study period, should be in the Section of Discussion, not here!
2. It is not known and it is confusing a lot when the interpreted results refer to Arab and when to non-Arab countries or/and when to high income countries in Arab or non-Arab countries (pages 13-14). Therefore, the subsection 5.2 should be reorganized better. GCC countries are mentioned also here?

General comments

1. The author needs to make some more efforts on this research work in terms to clarify better the methodological approach as well as technical and scientific relevance.
2. I suggest the author empirically focus only on the Arab countries and to use high and middle income Arab countries as two different panels. The non-Arab countries should be removed from the empirical models and results. However, some valuable research findings from these countries should remain within Introduction and Literature review Sections as well as Discussion. In Discussion, the author should keep the research focus on the empirical findings in the Arab countries and additionally can provide some insights and comparative views from the empirical results in the Arab countries with some situations/research findings in EU, OECD countries etc., but only to inform the readership what the situation is in the rest of the world. Or, these insights and comparative views could be presented shortly in the Conclusion.
3. The author should present the fixed effects testing/ diagnostics and cross section statistics and to mention more about country's specifics within the regions.
4. In addition, the research work lacks the Data and Methods Section where the author can explain in detail the estimation process, method used, to evaluate the validity of the methods, some Figures to be presented, etc.
5. Discussion should be presented with better reasoning and arguments.
6. Some limitations of the study should be provided.
7. Policy implications part should be added.