

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 following comments may be useful for the revised manuscript:

- 1- The paper may present valuable information on the relationship between state-led development and youth unemployment in Arab and other non-Arab countries. However, the paper's contribution needs to be very clear in terms of how it adds to the existing literature. Perhaps the author can work to improve the motivation behind the paper.
- 2- The paper has referred to relevant papers that discuss factors affecting unemployment. However, more discussion is needed on theoretical relationship between state-led development and unemployment. In addition, there should be more discussion in the recent literature about the main findings in this regard, particularly in Arab countries.
- 3- The logic behind including Arab and non-Arab countries in the sample is not clear.
- 4- Why interest rate is not included in the model? For instance, high interest rates in the market may make it harder for businesses including start-up and SME to finance their activities and such directly affecting the youth unemployment.
- 5- Public debt is a main obstacle facing many Arab and non-Arab countries in developing a proper state-development strategy. Why did the author not count for this variable?
- 6- Financial Development and Political uncertainty are major control variables that the author may consider in the model.
- 7- Fixed effect model may not be a good choice. I believe the author may select a different model to account for serial correlation effects and for the endogeneity between the explanatory variables. The presence of lagged dependent variables in the model creates endogeneity problem and fixed effect estimation could be misleading.
- 8- In the correlation matrix, Growth is insignificantly correlated to YUR. Why? There should be a proper justification.
- 9- How do you explain that inflation is not significant in your model?
- 10- How do you explain the negative relationship between corruption and YUR? Perhaps the author may consider models that estimate parameters in both short and long run.
- 11- The author should work on the policy implications of this paper.

