



The middle_class in MENA countries
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Gender Gap in Self-Employment and Employership: Regional Differences

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1. A brief comment on this paper bringing in exciting insights.

You investigate step by step **gender inequality** in **entrepreneurship** (employership and self-employment) outside agriculture with logit models, using pooled cross-sectional data from SILC over 2006-2018, which is the **appropriate database**.

The regional approach (12 NUTS regions) is **original** and suggests there is a divide between poor and richer areas, with respect to inequalities in gender entrepreneurship.

Among other findings, you mention a **reverse u-shaped relationship between age and the probability to be an entrepreneur, whatever the gender** (p. 15).

However, this **applies only to females who wish to become employers** (p.16). Are these findings consistent with one another?

There is also a gender divide regarding the trade-off between entrepreneurship and wage earning position. You find that women's likelihood to become self-employed instead of paid employee is higher in developed regions compared with less developed regions. The reverse of this relationship holds for men.

2.1. You refer to Becker & Lewis (1973), who assume that there is a flight to quality regarding less but better raised children.

As regards **macroeconomics**, does this assumption align with a **sustained growth trend (GDP)** and a **downward slope in gender inequality over the studied period?**

What are the dynamics of upward move, before and after the Great Recession (2008)?

2.2. Is there a gender pattern with respect to occupational mobility? Do women exit more easily the labour market?

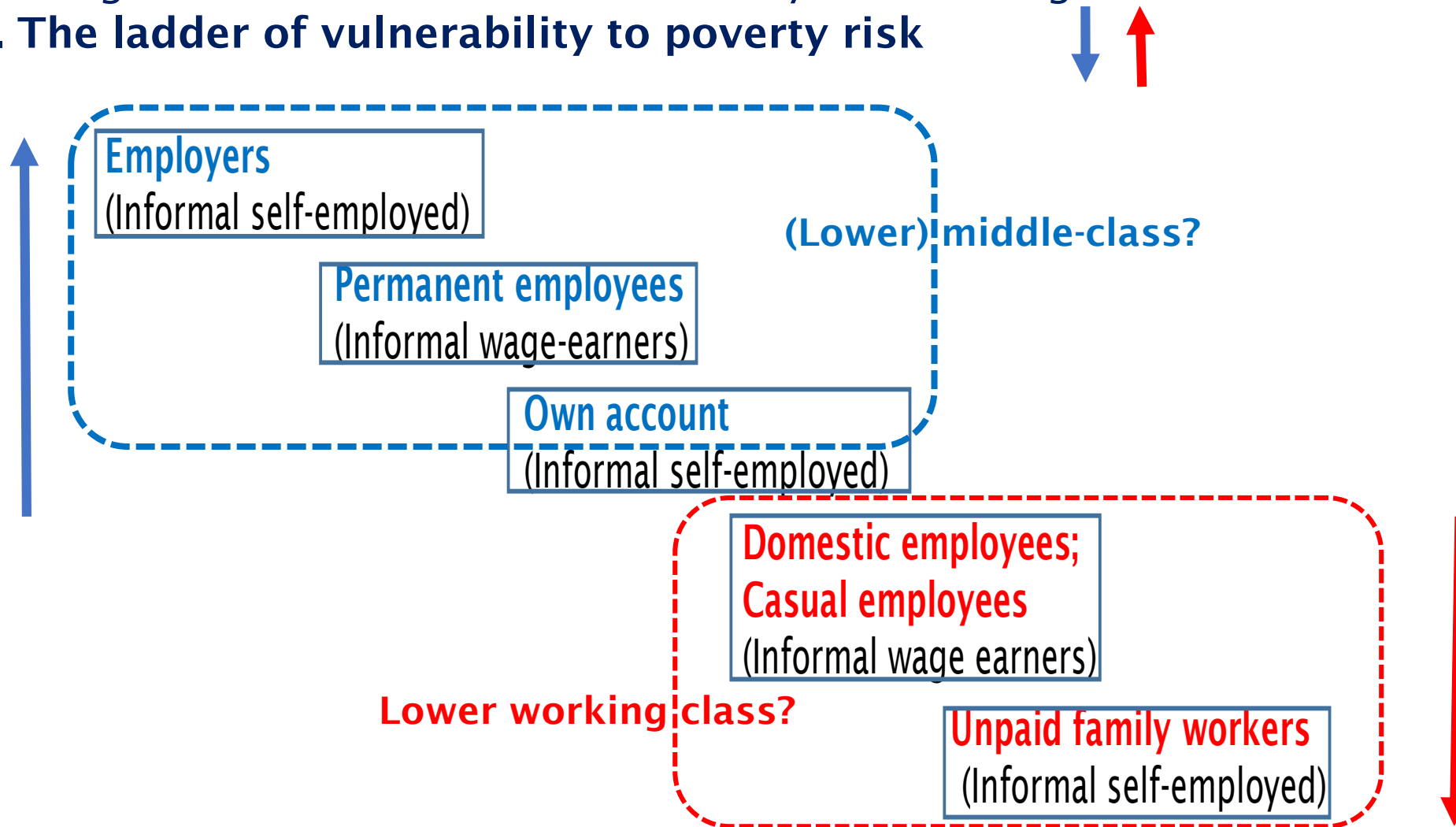
2.3. What is the average income gender gap, controlling for educational attainment?

You may take advantage of the UNDP report: *Turkey's Gender Equality Performance from 2000 to 2019*. Ankara, March 2022.

Last, I suggest you address the informal sector issue, which is pervasive although declining and wherein there is a gender pattern, according to Chen's figure on the following slide.

Static segmentation of informal workers by status and gender:

Fig. The ladder of vulnerability to poverty risk



Note: In **blue**, mainly **male workers**. In **red**, mainly **female workers**.

Source: adapted from Chen, M., & Carré, F. Eds. (2020, p, 71). *The informal economy revisited examining the past, envisioning the future*. London: Routledge