

# Workshop “The Middle Classes in MENA Countries”, 26 May 2023, Valence

The quality of employment in MENA countries : The place and dynamics of the  
middle class

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Comments on a paper by Professor  
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- **Some comments on the title, introduction, abstract, methods, results, and discussion sections**
- The topic of the paper, "The Quality of Employment in MENA Countries: The Place and Dynamics of the Middle Class," is both interesting and relevant.
- The paper addresses a question on the multidimensional measure of employment quality in the MENA region, specifically in Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia. Few studies have addressed this issue, making the author's contribution to the empirical literature on this theme particularly valuable. Moreover, given that analyses on the middle class are relatively scarce, this paper provides an important addition to this area of research."
- The author presents the conceptual framework of the study by reviewing the economic literature on the subject. The concept of the quality of employment is deconstructed, and empirical and theoretical works are mainly cited to demonstrate the difficulties in measuring employment quality across various dimensions, such as access to job benefits, job stability, and working conditions..
- In methodological terms, the paper leverages harmonized 'Integrated Labor Market Panel Surveys' and employs the Alkire-Foster method to measure employment quality across various dimensions, such as access to job benefits, job stability, and working conditions. The paper also uses linear regression analysis to analyze disparities in the quality of wage employment across different economic sectors and demographics. . .

- **The paper analyzes disparities in employment quality across different economic sectors and demographics using linear regression analysis, which provides a more nuanced understanding of the factors that contribute to differences in employment quality in the Mena countries. . The paper also presents tables and figures to illustrate the results of these analyses.**
- **The results for MENA countries Egypt (1998, 2006, 2012 and 2018), Jordan (2010 and 2016) and Tunisia (2014) reveal notable disparities in the quality of wage employment across economic sectors. When comparing industry sectors to agriculture (the reference category), job quality generally demonstrates a positive impact. Within the industry and services, a majority of employees enjoy better jobs compare to the agricole sector. The quality of wage employment also varies depending on factors such as education, gender, age, "**

➤ **Some positive points:**

- 1/ The paper is well written and concise
- 2/ The argument presented by the author is detailed and convincing, especially in the theoretical part where several explanations on the quality of employment and The Alkire-Foster method are given . Original results are found
- 3/ The author conducts an in-depth analysis of disparities in employment quality across different economic sectors and demographics using linear regression analysis, which provides a more nuanced understanding of the factors that contribute to differences in employment quality

➤ **Some negative points:**

- 1. The title of the paper is incomplete and should be more precise.
- 2. The concept of middle class is not clear and needs to be analyzed more deeply..
- 3. The sections of the text are not balanced: the section dedicated to empirical cases is too short.
- 4. The conclusion is not relevant and does not focus on the results of the study.
- **Questions"Can we expand the analysis of the middle class to other MENA countries and will this notion have the same meaning, especially for Gulf countries?"**