

The middle-class of Enterprises in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) during the pandemic: Do Covid-19 adaptive strategies improve access to credit?

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Discussion

Interests and contributions

- ✓ Highlighting the adaptive strategies of SMEs in MENA during the Covid-19 (strategic role in the productive fabric)
- ✓ Their link with the government programs support
- ✓ Rich data and empirical strategy
- ✓ Identifying the characteristics of the middle class of entrepreneurs?

Remarks and questions

- ✓ « the middle-class of Enterprises »: an appropriate term in the middle class literature ? What is the place of entrepreneurs in the middle-class in these countries ?

Empirical models:

- The adaptive strategies: from a pre-established list ?
- What about the possible combinations of the strategies ? (Table 2)
- Why exclude : turnover, bank loans (a strategy as informal funding?) ?
- Why include closed firms?

First model, firm's selection:

- Are firms not aware about programs included?
- Why 541 observations ? Isn't the binary outcome: no application vs application?

Second model, application:

- Bivariate probit model: the two binary outcomes, demand granted and a strategy?
- Why not consider the different programs support?

Concluding remark:

- ✓ Successful adaptive strategies of SMEs in MENA, an appropriate targeting of the beneficiaries or inadequate programs for these SMEs ?