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Doctoral Thesis's Review

The Impact of Uncertainty on The Labour Market in Egypt

Author: **Emad Attia Mohamed Omran**
Degree program: P 6208 Economics and Management
Degree course: 6208V038 Management and Economics
Supervisor: dr hab. prof. PRz Yuriy Bilan
Consultant: doc. Ing. Zuzana Dohnalová, Ph.D.

1 Thesis structure and formal requirements

The thesis consists of Acknowledgments; List of figures (26); List of tables (9); List of symbols, acronyms, and abbreviations used (23); Abstracts; eight chapters (Introduction; Theoretical overview and literature review; Research problem, questions, and objectives; Research methodology; Data analysis and results; Discussion; Contribution, limitations, and future research directions; Conclusion); References (309), List of publications of the author (7 – only one publication in the journal: Omran, E. A. M., & Bilan, Y. (2020). The impact of fiscal policy on the unemployment rate in Egypt. Montenegrin Journal of Economics. – Scopus, Q2, H-index 15); Author's curriculum vitae, and Appendixes (21). The total number of thesis pages is 127.

The thesis fulfills the formal requests on a good level.

2 Topicality of the research

The topicality of the research is based on the research gap, which the author has identified (p.13) as a lack of attention to the impact of uncertainty shocks on the labor market; problems with the applicability of the economic theory in developing countries; and high uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 crisis. **The identified research gap is explained correctly later in the theoretical part of the thesis; the chosen topic and the formulated research problems can therefore be considered current and relevant.**

3 Aims and used methods

The thesis aims to examine how the Egyptian labor market responds to uncertainty shocks regarding the weekly average wage, labor productivity, and unemployment rate. Quarterly time-series data from 2003 Q4 to 2021Q2 had been analyzed with a vector autoregressive model.

The used methods are appropriate to the formulated problem and indicate the author's erudition.

4 Implications for theory and practice

The author confirmed that conditions in developing countries affect the applicability of the generally formulated economic theory. However, the generalizability of the created model to other developing countries are not addressed. It must be pointed out that economic analysis, however significant, should not be done self-purposely, and it is certainly up to the author to explain its significance adequately.

Nevertheless, it can be concluded that the thesis research has generated significant new knowledge in a scientific area.

5 Strengths and weaknesses of the doctoral thesis

The theoretical part of the thesis is divided into two quite untypical parts. It also includes some parts which would have been more valuable elsewhere (Macroeconomic overview of the Egyptian economy would be more useful in the part which describes the context of the analyzed data). Moreover, there is considerable heterogeneity in the date spans of the presented data. Some parts of the thesis are repeated without any significant author's effort to reformulate them (see research gap p. 13 and p. 42; in the discussion of the results on pages 74 and 75, the author again explains the analysis procedure; The Contribution to Science part contains copied text from page 13). On the other hand, one can appreciate the summary of the theoretical knowledge resulting from the literature review.

6 The questions for the thesis defense

- To what extent can the model be used in other developing countries?
- To what extent, compared to the US, can be the stock market in Egypt or other developing countries considered developed?

7 Concluding remarks

The dissertation thesis meets all the criteria; therefore, after its successful defense, I recommend awarding Emad Attia Mohamed Omran with Ph.D. in the study program: P6208 Economics and Management, course: 6208V038 Management and Economics.

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