

Youth Unemployment in an Era of Tunisian Revolution

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This paper analyzes the structural factors of youth unemployment in an era of Tunisian revolution. Since Ben Ali's regime, Export-led development strategy has played a central role in generating economic growth in Tunisia and its economy has been relatively diversified. The mining industry, tourism and immigrant remittance were also main sources of foreign exchange reserves and they had somewhat compensated the current account deficit. However, considerable evidence indicates that the domestic value added of Tunisian industries remains low and job creation is still limited while the main revenues from foreign sources declined due to the political and social instability. Democratic Tunisia promoted the policy of redistribution of wealth as a new "social contract" which ensures the government legitimacy. Positive job creation in the public sector expanded the fiscal deficit and increased external debt.

Under these circumstances, the corruption regime is still widespread in the country. The "connected firms" of crony capitalists and the major public companies with monopoly power have been protected from competition by regulations so that the private sector has been largely devitalized. In fact, startups have hardly ever grown into small or medium-sized firms, and many young labors are absorbed into the informal sectors. Young Tunisians continue calling for dignity and decent works. Thus, we cannot describe Tunisia as "the only success story of the Arab Spring" unless its structural unemployment is solved.

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Microfinance under Invasion of Neoliberalism

A Case Study in Bangladesh

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Microfinance is a small-scaled finance to alleviate poverty and has become one of the important poverty reduction policies of the international development community. The more microfinance is famous and transnational, the more it is commercialized and financialized because international aid agencies and global financial institutions are focused on and make full use of the activity to disseminate their neoliberal idea.

The purpose of this article is to show why neoliberalists are interested in it and how they have used it for their strategy. At first the study surveys a history of microfinance. Second, it analyzes the case study of microfinance in Bangladesh. Finally, it suggests the possibility of improving the condition in microfinance by NGO's activity to oppose to this massive commercial movements of neoliberalism.

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