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THE ROLE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN AFFECTING LIFE IN IRAQ (A STATISTICAL STUDY ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN IRAQI SOCIETY)

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Abstract: The unemployment in Iraq is one of the most complicated phenomena of which the Iraqi economy suffers. It reflects the weakness and disability in the structures of the plans and performance, on which the state's concerned authorities depend, especially in the fields of production and development programs.

In fact, this was occurred because of the wrong planning policies which can be seen clearly on actions of privatization of the public sector and huge waste of the public wealth on the expenditures of military and security services, while the rest of the development fields and factors, such like human resources and others, were ignored, almost completely. The economic embargo, which was imposed on the country for many decades , and the great changes happened during and within the occupation activities , such like the cancellation of most of the original state's structures and deterioration of the security situation , helped in speeding the growth of plenty of crisis, among them, is the unemployment .It is a real crisis, effects negatively on the society ,economically and socially , and should not be left without quick and serious searches for solutions.

Key Words: The unemployment.

Introduction

Unemployment is currently one of the main problems facing most countries in the world. Unemployment is one of the intractable problems in developing countries, especially Arab countries. The issue of unemployment in Iraq is of particular importance, given its high rates due to the restructuring of the economy and the many problems resulting from it. Despite its importance, it has not been monitored accurately. The evidence for this is the contradiction between official statistics and their contradiction with what is published by Arab and international organizations. While World Bank statistics indicate that the unemployment rate in Iraq exceeds 50%, the results of the survey conducted by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs indicated that the unemployment rate in Iraq is 28.1%, and informal organizations have determined the unemployment rate in Iraq (60-40%). Regardless of the conflicting figures, economic theories indicate that 15% of the

workforce capable of and seeking work warns of a real crisis if the government, in cooperation with the private sector, international and civil organizations, does not take practical solutions to confront it. Given the importance of the issue of unemployment and its accompanying repercussions, surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Organization were relied upon to determine the real numerical indicators. In order to cover the problem of unemployment from all aspects, the research, in the first axis, studied the concept of unemployment and its causes. The second axis dealt with the economic, social, political and security effects resulting from the increase in its rates. Through the course of the research and the analysis of its components, some conclusions were reached, coupled with some necessary recommendations to address this phenomenon and limit its consequences.

Chapter One: Research Methodology

First: The importance of the research

The importance of the research comes from the fact that it addresses the problem of unemployment, which is considered one of the intractable problems that the Iraqi economy suffers from. It is related to the element of work, which represents the means and the end, and which differs from the rest of the elements of production, because its disruption means the deterioration of its productivity and the erosion of its potential and capabilities, in addition to the economic, social, political and security consequences that result from not providing the opportunity to invest its energies.

Second: The research problem

The Iraqi economy suffers from unemployment, which has many reasons behind it, resulting in many risks that have been reflected on the individual and society, and led to a waste of Iraq's economic and human potential, so it must be addressed quickly to mitigate its repercussions and the consequences of its continuation.

Third: The research hypothesis

The research is based on a hypothesis that unemployment in Iraq is considered one of the most important challenges facing the Iraqi economy, which has led to economic and social effects that warn of danger if rapid development measures are not taken that contribute to creating job opportunities capable of absorbing new entrants to the labor market.

Fourth: Research Objectives

1. Identify the reasons behind the exacerbation of the unemployment phenomenon in Iraq.
2. Identify the economic and social consequences of the spread of the unemployment phenomenon.
3. Identify the mechanism that can be used as a guide to address the unemployment phenomenon and its consequences.

Fifth: Research Method

The research relies on the descriptive analysis method coupled with the analysis of data and information related to the reasons for the emergence of unemployment in Iraq and its effects, based on what is published by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Central Bureau of Statistics and Information Technology. What is published by relevant international and Arab organizations, and what is included in Arab and foreign sources and references and university theses.

Sixth: Research Limits

1. Scientific Limits: The research was limited to a statistical study of unemployment, analyzing its rates, the reasons behind it, and the economic, social and security effects that result from it.

2. Spatial Limits: Unemployment in Iraq

The first axis: The concept of unemployment and the reasons for its emergence

First: The concept of unemployment

The topic of unemployment has captured the attention of political decision-makers as well as the interest of researchers in the economic and social fields. Viewpoints have differed on defining its concept, due to the multiplicity of its types and the differences in its causes and effects, which led to the existence of multiple definitions of it, including, but not limited to:

- The forced unemployment of a part of the economically productive workforce, despite the ability and desire to work and produce. (Al-Shammari 289: 2009)
- That the individual is of working age, physically and mentally capable of it, and willing to perform it, and searches for it and does not find it, which results in his unemployment despite his need for the wage he receives if a job opportunity is available to him. (Al-Zaghbi: 149: 2000)
- The forced unemployment (stoppage) of a part of the workforce in a society, despite the ability and desire to work and production. (Al-Wazani: 265:2009)
- The difference between the quantity of labor offered and the quantity of labor used in different economic activities at wage levels and prevailing working conditions. Al-Bashir: 2002: 24
- Workers who lost their jobs, are looking for work and waiting to return to work. (Al-Mashhadani: 2006: 78)
- As for the definition of unemployment according to the standards set by the International Labor Organization, it (includes everyone who is able to work, willing to work, and accepts it at the prevailing wage level, but to no avail (54: 1992: Parkin)

From the above definitions, we note that not everyone who does not work is unemployed, and at the same time not everyone who is looking for work falls within the category of the unemployed. Even if the individual is able to work and does not look for it, he is not considered unemployed. The one who is not interested in work is not considered unemployed, the housewife who devotes herself entirely to domestic workers and does not look for work, those who have real estate, stocks or bonds and do not work and generate income that does not expose them to the problems of poverty and its consequences.

We note from the above definition that the unemployed person must meet the following conditions:

1. The person must be of working age and able to work, usually between (16-60) years, and the age of 16 represents the limit The minimum age to enter the labor market is either 60 years, which represents the upper limit or the retirement age for the working person. The Iraqi Labor Law specifies the working age between (11-63) years
2. The unemployed person must have the desire and readiness to work.
3. The unemployed person must seriously search for work, and a person can be considered a job seeker if he searches by any of the various search methods. Such as advertising in newspapers or submitting an application to the Civil Service Bureau or companies and business owners, etc.,
4. The absence of work, and this condition is considered one of the most important conditions for considering a person unemployed or not.

Second: The reasons There are many reasons behind the exacerbation of the unemployment problem in Iraq: 1. The increase in military spending and the decline in the state's role in investment, and its orientation towards increasing military expenditures, which led to the depletion of many financial returns, to depriving

the rest of the economic sectors of the financial allocations necessary for their development, which created structural imbalances in the Iraqi economy, and because of the state's inability to confront the increasing expenses, it resorted to a deficit financing policy to finance the war effort and to spend on reconstruction projects, which do not add anything to the existing energies, but rather the goal is to rehabilitate them to what they were previously. The development of military spending in Iraq for the period from 1970-1989 can be observed from the following table:

2. Table(1) Development of military spending and its percentage of the gross domestic product and oil revenues for the period 1970-1989

Ratio of military spending to oil revenues	Oil revenues are billion dollars	Ratio of military spending to gross domestic product	GDP billion dollars	Military spending is billion dollars	the year
87.5	0.8	19.4	3.6	0.7	1970
37.9	8.2	22.5	13.8	3.1	1975
75.0	26.4	38.8	53.6	19.8	1980
236.5	10.2	66.5	37.3	24.8	1981
248.5	10.1	57.4	43.7	25.1	1982
324.4	7.8	59.5	42.5	25.3	1983
275.5	9.4	54.4	47.6	25.9	1984
177.5	10.7	38.4	49.5	19.0	1985
123.4	9.4	24.2	47.9	11.6	1986
131.0	10.7	24.2	57.9	14.0	1987
117.3	11.0	23.1	55.9	12.9	1988
89.0	14.5	20.0	64.4	12.9	1989

Source: Dr. Nabil Jaafar / The Iraqi Economy: Implications of the Present and Future Trends / Journal of Economic Sciences / College of Administration and Economics / University of Basra / Volume 5, Issue 19, p. 19

Table (1) indicates that the gross domestic product rose from 3.6 billion dollars in 1970 to 13.8 billion dollars in 1975, and to 53.6 billion dollars in 1980. Then it began to fluctuate during the following years between rising and falling during the Iran-Iraq war. Oil revenues also began to increase significantly during the seventies as a result of the oil boom, and this was reflected in the increase in the gross domestic product. After 1980, oil revenues also began to decline and fluctuate. As for military spending, it increased significantly starting in 1970, when it reached 0.7 billion dollars, and in 1983 it reached 25.9 billion dollars. It is noteworthy that the ratio of military spending to the gross domestic product reached about 66.5% in 1981, and the ratio of military spending to oil revenues was 236.5% in 1980, and rose to 324.4% in 1983, and continued to exceed all oil revenues until 1989, when it reached 89%. This means a decline in investment allocations directed to various economic sectors, which made them unable to create job opportunities that are commensurate with the size of the workforce.

3. The destruction of the basic infrastructure of the Iraqi economy, the destruction of bridges, industrial facilities, power generation stations, water purification stations, service facilities, and others as a result of Iraq’s involvement in the first and second Gulf Wars. The economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, which lasted for 13 years, led to the deprivation of Iraq from oil revenues, which led to the cessation of production by about 192 government industrial companies that employed (500) thousand workers. In addition, the power outage, fuel shortages, the ban on importing production requirements, and the ban imposed on Iraq’s oil and non-oil exports increased the production costs of private sector projects, which led to the cessation of

(59,413) industrial units from work and the dispensing with the services of their workers (Al-Husseini: 2004: 218).

4. The state's sale of many projects to the private sector in 1989, in light of its adoption of the privatization program as a method and tool for development, after the inability of public sector institutions to manage them. The number of projects that were privatized was about 67 projects (Al-Jabouri: 1997: 17). It was hoped that the private sector would be more capable of managing these projects. Unfortunately, the productivity of the projects that were privatized decreased due to the weak administrative and financial capabilities of those in charge of them, which forced some of them to withdraw from the market or reduce the number of workers in them due to the weak absorptive capabilities and the existence of a surplus in these projects before their privatization.

5. The interim coalition government dissolved the former Iraqi army and dismissed hundreds of thousands of volunteers in the army, police, internal security forces, and military manufacturing facilities, and dissolved the Ministry of Information and dispensed with the services of its members. These decisions led to the unemployment of (50) thousand workers from the abolished Military Industrialization Authority, (6000) workers from the Ministry of Information, and approximately one million workers from the Ministry of Defense, Interior, Internal Security Forces, and Intelligence and Intelligence Agencies (Ibrahim 2009:71).

6. The liberalization of trade and the opening of the borders wide open, without quantitative or customs controls, affected Iraqi economic establishments and made them lose their ability to compete with imported products from foreign origins despite the low quality of most of them, until their prices decreased and the Iraqi consumer wanted to buy them. In light of this, many Iraqi economic establishments were forced to close their doors due to the decline in their productivity and their inability to cover expenses and the difficulty of obtaining the production requirements necessary for their continued operation. The effects of the trade liberalization policy can be observed through the decrease in the number of large, medium and small industrial establishments and the decrease in the number of workers in them (Kamel: 2010: 184). • The number of large establishments decreased from 418 establishments in 2002 to 411 establishments in 2006.

- The number of medium-sized industrial establishments decreased from 156 establishments in 2000 to 79 establishments in 2003 and to 52 establishments in 2006, and the number of workers in them decreased from 2276 workers in 2000 to 1407 workers in 2003, then the number decreased to 1397 workers in 2005.
- The number of small projects decreased from 77176 establishments in 2000 to 17929 establishments in 2003 and to 11620 establishments in 2006, and the number of workers in these establishments decreased from 164579 workers to 50207 workers and to 36379 workers, respectively.

7. The exacerbation of the external debt crisis and the payment of unjustified compensations in many cases, have trapped Iraq in the trap of external debt and have depleted much of its foreign currency reserves amounting to (35) billion dollars. Iraq's external debts were estimated at more than (125) billion dollars and compensations at more than (300) billion dollars, of which approximately (48) billion dollars were settled (Abdul-Ridha: 2007: 15). External debt and the payment of compensations have contributed to the slowdown of development efforts in various economic activities and have weakened the ability of the Iraqi economy to achieve high growth rates, which has led to the exacerbation of the unemployment problem. 8. The small role of the private sector in economic activity and the decline of its role in intermediary and commercial activities, and its dependence on the assistance provided by the state in the field of tax and customs exemptions, and in the field of providing it with various energy sources. This sector also relies on borrowing to finance its projects, without there being a policy to invest the individual savings of citizens, and often keeps a large part of its financial benefits outside the country, which has led to the weakness of its

competitive capabilities and the limited role of its role in forming the gross domestic product (Al-Zubaidi 2007: 27)

9. Cancellation of the central appointment policy for graduates. Iraq relied on the central appointment policy for university and institute graduates for the period from (1975-1990), which led to the emergence of the problem of disguised unemployment, but the state was forced to abandon this policy, after its economic and social crisis worsened as a result of the wars that Iraq fought and the worsening Indebtedness and low economic growth rates for most sectors. The cessation of hiring graduates has led to the emergence of educated unemployment instead of illiterate unemployment. This can be seen in the following table:

Table(2) Percentage distribution of unemployed according to educational level for the years 2003-2008

Ph.D	Master's	Higher Diploma	Bachelor's	diploma	إعدادية	متوسطة	Primary	Scientific level the year
---	---	0.47	12.45	9.63	8.09	13.48	55.10	2003
0.02	0.29	0.12	11.51	10.69	6.93	15.78	54.60	2004
0.01	0.28	0.08	12.40	11.90	7.09	15.45	52.89	2005
0.00	4.80	6.66	19.76	15.45	17.15	18.19	18.30	2006
0.00	3.70	6.50	14.30	13.4	12.2	10.40	12.20	2008

Source: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Employment and Unemployment Survey for the years 2008, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003

We note from Table (2) that the unemployment rate for primary school graduates decreased from 55.1 in 2003 to 12.2 in 2008. This indicates the readiness of this category to work at any available opportunity, while we note the high rate of unemployed for middle school graduates. This is due to the lack of compatibility between middle school graduates and the needs of the labor market. The high rate of unemployed for bachelor's and diploma holders is an indicator of the lack of integration between college and institute graduates and the needs of the labor market, in addition to the reluctance of bachelor's and diploma holders to work in places that do not suit their qualifications. As for the increasing unemployment rate for higher diploma and master's degree holders, this is due to the increasing number of holders of these qualifications in a way that does not suit the opportunities available to them, as Iraqi universities rely on doctorate holders and give them priority in appointment, and the specializations of some qualification holders do not suit the needs of the labor market.

10 .The military operations carried out by the allied countries, led by the United States of America, with the aim of changing the ruling regime in Iraq, and then the occupation before and after 4/9/2003, led to the destabilization of the security, political and social situation. The operations of looting, theft and sabotage of public and private funds, killing and displacement increased. Despite all the efforts made to impose security and order and create an investment climate to attract foreign and local capital migrating to rebuild and reconstruct the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy, these efforts were not crowned with success due to the presence of incubators for terrorism and financial and administrative corruption that hindered the construction and rehabilitation processes.

11 .Iraq is characterized by high population growth rates, ranging from 3% to 4.3% for the years 1977-2009, which is higher than the global rate, which ranges from 1% to 1.8%. This increase is due to the increase in the fertility rate, which reaches 4.3% in some years. This has led to the population of Iraq doubling by 3.7 times during the mentioned period. This increase affects the population pyramid and leads to the presence of a youth base that reflects pressure on the labor market. This can be seen from the following table:

Table(3) Percentage distribution of the population in a specific selected age group

Over 65 years old	15-65 years	Under 15 years old	Total population in thousands	the year
3.8	51.5	44.7	12000	1977
3.7	51.1	45.2	16355	1987
3.6	51.6	44.8	22046	1997
2.1	54.4	43.5	26340	2003
2.8	54.7	43.2	27963	2005
3.2	58.2	38.6	31895	2008
2.8	54.1	43.1	32105	2009

Reference: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation: Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Statistical Abstract for the above years.

We note from Table (3) that the percentage of the economically active population aged 15-65 years constituted 51.5% of the total population of Iraq in 1977 and rose to 58.2% in 2008, which means an increase in the size of the economically active population. That is, an increase in the supply of labor force. However, this increase in the supply of labor force was not matched by an appropriate increase in the size of the demand for labor due to the current political, economic and security conditions. This led to an increase in unemployment rates. Also, the percentage of the population under 15 years remained close, which indicates that the pressure on the labor market will continue and that it is necessary to increase investment rates in both the public and private sectors in order to promote all economic activities to contribute to creating job opportunities capable of absorbing the economically active population to reduce unemployment rates in Iraq, which have reached levels that warn of a real economic crisis that must be addressed and its effects reduced. Unemployment rates in Iraq can be noted from the following table:

Table(4) Recorded unemployment rates for the years (1977-2008) according to gender and environment

Unemployment rates for the whole country			Rural unemployment rates%			Unemployment rates in cities %			the years
the total	Females	Male	the total	Females	Male	the total	Females	Male	
3.2	2.1	3.5	3.1	0.3	4.1	3.3	5.2	3.1	1977
3.6	7.5	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	7.8	3.5	1987
13.6	2.1	15.0	14.0	1.7	15.3	13.3	2.2	14.7	1997
28.8	16.0	30.2	25.4	6.7	28.9	30.0	22.3	31.0	2003
26.8	15.0	29.4	25.7	3.1	31.2	27.7	22.4	28.3	2004
17.97	27.8	25.7	23.4	2.6	32.3	24.59	30.0	19.17	2005
17.5	22.65	16.16	13.17	8.04	15.04	22.91	37.35	19.74	2006
15.34	19.64	14.33	13.34	8.26	14.98	16.3	43.6	15.4	2008

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1. Muhammad Nasser Ismail and others, the reality of employment and unemployment in Iraq for the period (1977-2004)، Al-Taqni Magazine, Administrative Research, Volume 21, Issue 6, 2008, p.

2. Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology, Statistical Collection for the years 2009 - 2008 - 2007 - 2006 – 2005

We note from Table (4) that the unemployment rates for the years 1977-1987 were within the normal levels due to the fact that Iraq achieved a budget surplus as a result of the increase in oil revenues resulting from the oil boom during the seventies, which prompted the state to increase the size of investment allocations for

various economic activities, and made the supply of labor unable to meet the increasing demand. This encouraged the migration of rural people to the city to improve their living conditions. Iraq also became a magnet for foreign labor. As for the low unemployment rates during the eighties, this is due to the war that concealed unemployment due to the involvement of the majority of the economically active labor force in military service while the state continued the policy of central appointment. As for the high unemployment rates during 1997, which reached 15% for males, while the rate reached 2.1% for females, this is attributed to the entry of large numbers of women into the labor force and the dismissal of large numbers of individuals, which increased the number of job seekers and those wishing to work without there being job opportunities to absorb them because the Iraqi economy was suffering from A decrease in its oil revenues due to the decline in prices and a deficiency in its production apparatus because all efforts were directed towards covering military expenses. As for the increase in unemployment rates to 28.1% after the change of the regime in April 2003, it is attributed to the lack of security, political and social stability, the increase in looting, theft and sabotage, the cessation of work in many governmental and private industrial companies, and the dissolution of security and military agencies. While the years 2004-2008 witnessed a decrease in unemployment rates, which reached 15.34% due to the employment of large numbers of individuals in the army, police and internal security forces, in addition to reconstruction work that absorbed a number of workers and the employment of large numbers of workers in service projects.

Second axis: Consequences of the spread of unemployment in Iraq

The available data on the unemployment problem in Iraq indicate that the problem has not received scientific solutions that can reduce its effects, and that the treatments that were monitored were fragmented and did not express a national program to address this serious crisis, which led to the Iraqi economy, Iraqi society and the security situation being exposed to great losses.

A - Economic aspects

1. Marginalization of an important part of the Iraqi labor force, and placing it outside the economic process. This is a waste of one of the sources of wealth in Iraq. This waste represents the loss of production and income that could have been achieved if these capabilities were exploited, in addition to the decline or erosion in the value of human capital. As a result of the loss of knowledge or skills they acquired throughout their studies. Rehabilitation of these forces that were deprived of their opportunity to work requires additional costs.

2. Weakness in the level of investment and production activity and decline in growth in the sectors of industry, agriculture, trade and services and backwardness of the economic structure and production structures with the increasing dominance of the oil sector over the overall economic activity. This led to a decrease in actual production from potential production and an increase in the production gap.

3. Increase in the rate of extreme poverty to 70% of the total population during the nineties, then decreased by half after that due to the deterioration of the standard of living, which led to a decline in the level of economic welfare due to the inverse relationship between the level of welfare and unemployment rates. 4. Scientific sources, the International Labor Organization, and the Arab Labor Organization confirm that a 1% increase in unemployment rates results in a loss in the gross domestic product of 2.5%, or about 23 billion Iraqi dinars, which means that an unemployment rate of 28.1% will increase the losses suffered by the Iraqi economy by 254 billion Iraqi dinars, and this amount can provide a job opportunity for about 1.016 million Iraqis (Unified Arab Economic Report: 2001*).

*The researcher relied on the gross domestic product at current prices in local currency for the year 1997, which amounted to 904,573.6 million Iraqi dinars.

B - Social aspect

1. The study conducted by a team of researchers at the University of Basra, on behalf of the United Nations Development Program, on Basra Governorate, indicates that the number of people working in the streets is 50) fifty thousand people, and from among them, a sample of (200) people was selected, who work in the streets and of different ages between men, women, children and elderly people. It was found that 59% are children under the age of 10 years, and that 73% of them consider their work in the streets to be the only source of income for their families (Abdul Redha: 83: 2008)

2. The increase in the failure and dropout rate in all educational stages, due to the inability of students to meet the requirements of study, in addition to the difficulty of providing the necessary income to keep them and their families alive. The number of students who dropped out of primary schools for the year 2007-2008 was about (53433/student), i.e. 12.8% of Total number of primary school students, as for students who failed in primary school for the academic year (2006-2007), their number reached (598,516/students), i.e. 74.3% of the total number of students. The illiteracy rate in Iraq has increased to 25% after Iraq was able to occupy the first place in the program to eradicate illiteracy according to the testimony of international organizations *

3. The increase in abnormal conditions represented by drug abuse, theft, rape and murder crimes. The results of one study indicated that a 1% increase in the unemployment rate leads to an increase in murder crimes by 6.7%, violent crimes by 3.4% and property assault crimes by 2.4% (Jeremy Rifkin 2000: 295).

4. Unemployment leads to a decrease in the bonds of ties that a person carries towards official institutions, systems and social values prevailing in society. It also limits the effectiveness of the family's authority, so that it cannot exercise its role in the process of social control of its children.

*The percentages were calculated by the researcher using the statistical collection for the years 2008-2009 issued by the Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology.

5. The continuation of unemployment and the deprivation and suffering that accompany it often leads to depression if the rates of depression rise, reaching 3% of the workforce in 2006 (Al-Halfi 6:2008). The deteriorating psychological state of the unemployed is also a cause of many diseases and physical exhaustion. 6. The deterioration of the health level (shortage of medicines and other supplies, failure to keep pace with scientific developments in the medical field), the emigration of many medical professionals. The spread of some endemic diseases, at a time when Iraq is considered one of the countries that has managed to eradicate these diseases. 7. Unemployment has helped make immigration and travel abroad a dream for many young people, as well as those with excellent skills and talents, with the aim of securing a safe standard of living for themselves and their families. 8. Unemployment leads to young people refraining from marriage due to the lack of a source of income that can cover the expenses required for marriage.

C – Security aspect:

1. Unemployment leads to a state of political instability in the countries in which it is exacerbated, because political stability depends on the state's ability to create job opportunities.

2. Lack of income means the difficulty of life as a result of a person's inability to meet his and his family's basic needs, which results in turning to crimes and joining terrorist organizations, which offer him temptations and push him towards taking revenge on his society.

3. When the unemployed person is unable to spend on himself or his dependents, his feelings of disappointment and frustration will increase, his psychological state will worsen, and this may push him to attack himself, or others from individuals or public and private property

Conclusions and recommendations

First: Conclusions

1. Iraq suffers from an exacerbation of the phenomenon of structural unemployment, resulting from the imbalance in the production structure, as a result of the cessation of the main production sectors, especially the agricultural sector, the financial industry, and most service activities.

2. The privatization of some projects contributed to the increase in unemployment growth rates, as the management of the privatized companies took the initiative to lay off a large number of their employees due to the surplus in the workforce in these companies, due to a shortage, which later forced them to freeze their activities and lay off the rest of their employees.

3. The Iran-Iraq war, and the first and second Gulf wars played a role in hiding unemployment rates, given the participation of the majority of the economically active population in the war effort of these battles, but the cessation of wars and the layoff of large numbers of participants in them led to the emergence of the phenomenon of unemployment and increased the pressure of job seekers on the labor market due to the lack of job opportunities, or the unsuitability of the qualification of job seekers for the available opportunities.

4. The destruction of the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy and the accompanying decisions to impose an economic blockade and the decisions of the Coalition Authority that led to the abolition of the army, police, internal security forces, the Military Industrialization Authority and the Ministry of Information, which led to the dismissal of large numbers of members of these agencies, thus increasing pressure on the labor market and contributing to the deterioration of the security situation.

5. The policy of liberalizing trade and opening the borders wide open without controls led to a decline in agricultural and industrial production and led to the disappearance of many small and medium industries and some large industries.

6. Unemployment clearly affected the exacerbation of the phenomenon of poverty, which prompted many families to force their children to leave school, with the aim of involving them in work that is not appropriate and not suitable for their ages, in the absence of laws regulating work.

7. Unemployment contributed to the instability of the security situation and led to the spread of many phenomena that are not appropriate for our society. Which adds new burdens on the state and society, with the aim of rehabilitating those who were forced by circumstances to some practices that our society does not accept and our economy cannot bear.

Second: Recommendations

1. Improving the investment climate to encourage local and foreign investments, to create job opportunities for graduates according to their academic qualifications and to establish an incentive system that contributes to attracting investors.

2. Liberating the Iraqi economy from the dominance of the oil sector, and working to employ oil revenues for the benefit of public investment in basic development project programs and public social services.

3. Supporting and developing the private sector in all its activities, and working to remove its fears and give it guarantees to expand its activity. With the aim of creating job opportunities to absorb the numbers surplus to the labor market's needs.

4. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in coordination with the Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, shall collect and prepare data on the number of unemployment in Iraq in order to identify its size, type and contents. To ensure the creation of a national program based on coordination

between the various ministries to create job opportunities that are compatible with the qualifications of the unemployed, and in a manner that achieves social justice.

5. Universities, the Technical Education Authority and all relevant agencies shall develop training programs to rehabilitate and rehabilitate the unemployed and re-employ the workforce that was harmed by the sale, transfer or closure of the companies in which they worked.

6. Disbursing financial aid to the unemployed through a special fund in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs until job opportunities are found for them.

7. Paying attention to programs to support small and medium industries, granting them soft loans and facilitating their access to equipment, machinery and other supplies and exempting them from taxes and fees to enable them to compete with foreign products. So that these projects are able to absorb a large part of unemployment. 8. Making fundamental changes in the curricula of education and higher education to create a state of compatibility between the preparation of graduates and the requirements of the labor market.

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