

## Unemployment in the countries of the Arab world, its causes and consequences

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### **Abstract:**

Unemployment is currently one of the main problems facing most Arab countries in different levels of progress and their economic, social and political systems. It is one of the biggest challenges facing the Arab economies at present on the basis of the aggravation of the phenomenon, ie the continuous and steady increase in the number of individuals who are able to work and who are looking for it. Without finding it.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze the causes of this phenomenon. The main reasons that led to the increase of the problem were found to be poor planning, failure to direct development and investment to the appropriate fields, and the incompatibility of graduates of educational and professional institutions with the requirements of the labor market. This interest in the subject of unemployment needs to be scrutinized as a scientific term due to the multiple procedural definitions of the concept of unemployment and its diversity. Since studies and scientific research require greater precision and specificity in defining the study variable, This is so that they can be counted and measured accurately to suit the subject, problem and objectives of our study. Therefore, the basic concepts related to the subject of unemployment in this study related to the Arab world will be determined through the following points:

- Definition of unemployment and types
- The causes of unemployment in the Arab world.
- Decrease in employment rates in the Arab world and their implications.

A strategy to solve the problem of unemployment

**Keywords:** Unemployment, causes, effects, solutions, Arab countries, youth, economy.

## 1. Introduction:

Unemployment is considered one of the most important economic and social issues for any country, and one of the most dangerous. The greater the number of unemployed, the greater the national economic losses of any country, and the greater the importance of this phenomenon in developing countries. The main reason for this is the increase in pressures on the productive and service sectors in them, in addition to the fact that unemployment has severe negative effects on the social and economic levels. The spread of unemployment means great harms and grave corruption, as if the individual does not find a job to enrich, he turns to what harms himself and harms others in his community, in addition to the assassination of unemployment for the dreams of young people and closes their future prospects.

This ancient and modern interest in the issue of unemployment was not without some ambiguity surrounding this concept as a scientific term due to the multiplicity and diversity of procedural definitions of the concept of unemployment. And since scientific studies and research require greater accuracy and specificity in defining the study variable or variables, so that they can be counted and measured accurately in proportion to the topic, problem and objectives of our study. Therefore, the basic concepts related to the issue of unemployment in this study related to the Arab world.

## 1.2. Research problem:

The problem of unemployment is considered one of the complex problems as it is economic, political and social that has a strong impact on the individual before the society to which he belongs. In this research we will try to find a cure for the widespread unemployment in the Arab community.

## 1.3. Research importance:

The importance of this study appears in that it provides a remedy for the challenge of unemployment in the Arab community, and the research will also work on developing realistic and integrated mechanisms that work to bring together the role of businessmen, investors, commercial companies, universities and civil institutions, and the unemployed youth.

## 1.4. Research terms:

### **The unemployment:**

Unemployment is one of the most serious and biggest problems that threaten the stability of nations and states, and its severity varies from country to country and from society to another. Unemployment is the main cause of most social diseases and represents a clear threat to political stability.

## 2. Previous studies:

Many theoretical and applied studies have dealt with the problem of unemployment, the most important of which were:

- Concluding study of Hammadneh entitled: (The problem of unemployment among youth in the city of Nablus) in 2012 AD: (Hammadena, 2012)

This study dealt with the problem of unemployment among young people in the neighborhoods of Nablus for the year 2012 AD, and the study aimed to identify

the phenomenon of unemployment among young people, and the factors affecting it, including the educational level, marital status, and the occupational structure of the theoretical work force in the city of Nablus, and it was one of the most important findings of the study The following: The city of Nablus is a young society, which led to an increase in the dependency ratio of 107.5% and a high unemployment rate (32.89%). Therefore, the researcher recommended the following: The necessity of harmonizing the educational outputs with the requirements of the labor market, with the necessity of working to give young people training courses to create The spirit of their initiative to open their own projects, with the need to work to reduce the number of years of service and encourage early retirement to open the opportunity for young people.

Faten Ali Mansour: (The Impact of Unemployment on Social Development in Lattakia Governorate), 2014 AD: (Mansour, 2014)

The research deals with the reality of unemployment in Lattakia governorate, and its impact on social development at the level of: the individual, the family of the unemployed, and the local community. One of the most important results of the research here was as an effect of unemployment on social development at the level of the unemployed individual, his family, and the local community, by accepting the unemployed in any work even if it does not match his academic qualifications, as the individual is very frustrated with the weakness of hope in the existence of an opportunity to work, And lead to delay in marriage due to its costs, in addition to the feeling of deprivation of basic rights, and the recommendations were as follows: The existence of an impact of unemployment on social development at the level of the unemployed individual, and unemployment generates his disorder and deep frustration of the weakness of hope in the existence of opportunities for work And lead to delay in marriage due to its costs, and contribute to the occurrence of alienation

in the sense of frustration and the inability to work, and lead to a feeling of deprivation of basic rights.

### **3. Theoretical framework:**

#### **The concept of unemployment and its types:**

##### **The concept of unemployment:**

Unemployment in the language: nullity of a thing - nullity, heroism, and nullity of lost, and it is said that the blood of the dead person is null, and his blood is lost: if he is killed and he does not receive a rebellion or blood money for him. And the worker is unemployed, if he is unemployed. (Al-Mu'jam al-Waseet, 1960 AD, p.63) That is, it is idle and idle, laziness and negligence, loss and loss, the pursuit of amusement, ignorance and humor. (Obaid, 1997, p. 75).

##### **Unemployment in positive laws:**

It is the lack of job opportunities for workers who are able, willing and searching for it. (Al-Ramani, 1999 AD, p.11) That is, it is the situation in which a person is able and willing to work but cannot find the appropriate work and wages. (Al-Shammari, 2005 AD, p. 5) It is involuntary suspension from work, for a person who is able to work and does not find suitable work. If a person is unable to work due to disability, old age or illness, it is not considered within the limits of unemployment. (Obaid, 1997, p. 77).

And there are those who saw it as the gap between economic activity and employment. (Saleh: 1992 AD, p. 22) is a failure to achieve the goals of human work. ([www.mady19.nireblog.com](http://www.mady19.nireblog.com))

##### **Types of unemployment:**

Types of unemployment can be identified as follows:

##### **A - Frictional unemployment.**

It is the unemployment that occurs due to the continuous movement of workers between regions and different professions resulting from changes in the national economy. Enrolled unemployed qualified workers enjoy available job opportunities.

It occurs as a result of a lack of complete information for all job seekers and employers, as it is based on the time that job seekers spend. (Western, 2002, 65)

We can identify the reasons that lead to the emergence of this type of unemployment as follows:

Lack of the necessary skill and experience to perform the work available.

Difficulty in job adjustment arising from the division of labor and subtle specialization.

- Continuous change in the business environment and different professions, which requires the acquisition of diverse and constantly renewed skills.

### **B - Structural unemployment.**

This unemployment is partial, meaning that it is confined to a specific productive or industrial sector, and it does not represent a general condition of unemployment in the economy. This type of unemployment can spread in large and multiple parts of the same country. This type of unemployment arises as a result of the economic shifts that occur from time to time in the structure of the economy, such as the discovery of new resources or more efficient means of production, the emergence of new commodities that replace old goods. (Economic and Social Council, 2001, 24)

Structural unemployment is defined as unemployment that arises due to the difference and disparity existing between the structure of the distribution of the labor force and the structure of demand for it (Economic and Social Council, 2007, 39). Its emergence is accompanied by the replacement of the human

factor by the machine, which leads to the layoff of a large number of workers, and it also occurs due to changes in the labor force such as the entry of adolescents and youth into the labor market in large numbers.

### **C - Periodic or seasonal unemployment.**

This type of unemployment arises as a result of the stagnation of the labor sector and the insufficient overall demand for work. It may also arise as a result of fluctuating economic cycles. Their emergence explains the inability of aggregate demand to absorb or purchase available production, which leads to the emergence of deflationary gaps in the economy concerned with the phenomenon.

Seasonal unemployment is equivalent to the difference between the actual number of workers and their expected number at the available level of production. Therefore, when seasonal unemployment equals zero, this means that the number of vacant jobs during the period is equal to the number of unemployed persons. (conseil national économique, 2006, 35)

Seasonal unemployment is considered compulsory considering that the unemployed in this case are willing to work at the prevailing wages, but they cannot find work.

### **Other classifications of unemployment:**

In addition to the types of unemployment that have been identified, researchers in the field of macroeconomics add to this the following classifications of unemployment.

### **A - Voluntary unemployment and compulsory unemployment.**

Voluntary unemployment is the situation in which a person withdraws from his work of his own free will for certain reasons, as for compulsory unemployment, it corresponds to that situation in which the worker is forced to

leave his work, i.e. without his will, although he is willing and able to work at a prevailing wage level, and compulsory unemployment may be structural or friction.

### **B- Underemployment and blatant unemployment.**

Underemployment arises in cases where the number of employed workers exceeds the actual need for work, which means that there is surplus labor that produces almost nothing since if it is withdrawn from its workplace, the volume of production will not decrease. As for open unemployment, it means the presence of a number of people who are able and willing to work at a certain wage level, but without finding it, they are completely unemployed, and open unemployment may be frictional or cyclical. (Economic and Social Council, 2005, 119)

### **C- Seasonal unemployment and unemployment of poverty.**

Some economic sectors require large numbers of workers in certain seasons, such as agriculture, tourism, construction, etc., and at the end of the season, activity in them stops, which calls for referring workers in these sectors to what is called seasonal unemployment,

This type is very similar to cyclical unemployment and the only difference between them is that seasonal unemployment is in a short term period. As for poverty unemployment, it is the result of a defect in development, and this unemployment prevails, especially in economically exhausted countries.

### **D - Natural unemployment.**

Natural unemployment includes both structural unemployment and frictional unemployment and at the level of full employment, and the demand for work is equal to its supply, that is, the number of job seekers equals the number of vacant or available occupations, and those who are in a state of structural or

frictional unemployment need time until the appropriate work is found. . Thus, the natural level of unemployment prevails only when it is fully employed.

When the national economy moves away from full employment, the prevailing unemployment rate is greater or less than the natural rate of unemployment, that is, when the state of recovery prevails,

the prevailing unemployment rate is less than the natural unemployment rate, but in the case of deflation, the prevailing unemployment rate is greater than the natural unemployment rate. Thus, cyclical unemployment prevails.

### **Reasons for the spread of unemployment:**

Unemployment is considered one of the most serious threats to the stability and cohesion of Arab societies, and it is not afraid that its causes differ from one Arab community to another, and even they vary within the same society from one region to another.

In this regard, we can distribute them for economic, social and political reasons. Each of these causes has an impact on society in terms of its contribution to the worsening of the unemployment problem.

Based on the aforementioned, the most important reasons behind the growth of the phenomenon in Arab countries could be enumerated in the following points:

Failure of economic development plans.

### **Growth of the work force.**

- Decreased demand for Arab labor, on the Arab and international levels.

### **Failure of economic development plans.**

By looking closely at the development of economic growth in the Arab countries, we find that they have disappointed and did not achieve what was expected of them. The most severe obstacles facing Arab countries in this

matter can be identified from their delay in development endeavors, as this is attributed to the stagnation of the economic structure of Arab countries in addition to their delay in development and industrial efforts.

As we find that their industries are now necessarily emerging and cannot compete with the products of industrialized countries unless there is a payment of protection types available to them.

What increases the obstacles that the Arab countries face are the results of their slowdown in achieving economic growth rates and the failure of their economic policies, which were expected to reduce unrest, and the worsening unemployment crisis in them.

### **Growth of the work force.**

Most of the Arab countries have become bearing a great burden in order to confront the worsening unemployment crisis, especially among the youth and those with scientific degrees, and reduce its negative effects, due to the overlap of a number of factors directly related to the issue of employment, such as population growth, the growth of the workforce, its skill levels and productivity, economic performance And social developments. Rapid population growth has resulted in high rates of labor force growth. (Azi, 2006)

Decrease in demand for Arab labor, on the Arab and international levels.

Whether it is the Arab Gulf states or the United States of America and Western countries.

Unemployment in the Arab world:

Unemployment is one of the biggest problems facing the governments of Arab countries, as it has the highest unemployment rates in the world.

According to a report by the Economic Unity Council of the League of Arab States issued in 2015, the unemployment rate in Arab countries was estimated at between 20 and 30%, and the report of the International Labor Organization

It was mentioned in 2014 that the average unemployment rate in the world reached 6.2%, while the rate in the Arab world in the same year was 12.2%, and it is increasing annually at a rate of 3%. What makes this issue one of the biggest challenges facing Arab societies is that nearly 60% of their population is under the age of twenty-five.

### **Unemployment rates in Arab countries during 2020:**

The follow-up of unemployment rates in Arab countries give approximate percentages and do not represent the complete truth, and the figures may sometimes conflict according to government statements or those carried out by the various organizations that would follow up on unemployment conditions in the Arab world, and there come periods in which the unemployment rate increases due to the general situation that passes. By each country

The following is a table showing unemployment rates in some Arab countries, according to the World Economic Index.

### **Country Unemployment rate for the year 2020%**

Iraq 28%

Jordan 19%

Palestine 35%

Egypt 14%

Algeria 29%

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 6%

United Arab Emirates 4.2%

Yemen 17%

Kuwait 3.5%

Through the table, we generally see an increase in unemployment rates in countries with dense population and countries suffering from crises. On the other hand, unemployment rates are low in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which have implemented economic plans to combat the spread of the unemployment problem in their societies.

### **Effects of unemployment:**

Unemployment has its effects on the security level and also considering that unemployment is linked to income disruption and then the difficulty of life as a result of the inability to meet the necessary humanitarian needs, which leads to delinquency to social crimes, terrorism, violence, morality crimes and the spread of illegal income sources that are considered to be of high temptation for the goods of unemployed youth On work at all levels, in addition to resentment against society in general, loyalty and belonging to the country, as is evident in the security aspect, namely:

#### **1- Crime:**

Some studies indicate that the unemployment problem may lead to crime due to the following deviant elements:

The instability of the unemployed social relations, and their volatility in time and place

The concentration of the lost factor leads to frustration and disappointment in the worker.

The unemployed should be separated from society due to his feeling of loneliness and isolation.

#### **2- Deviation:**

There is a direct relationship between unemployment and delinquency, as the unemployed people get worse and are forced to deviate from proper behaviors in order to provide for their needs of food, drink and clothing, especially if the person is weak from the inside, and there is no internal struggle that would deter him from performing the evils. (Abdelhak, 2005)

### **3- Immigration:**

Migration means three types of legal immigration based on correct and non-violating procedures, and illegal immigration,

Where many young people think about immigration in search of livelihood due to the inability of the Arab countries to provide job opportunities for the increasing numbers, without studying what awaits them from that migration and in front of this. Thinking some brokers of illegal immigration emerged, who led young people on unsecured journeys, one of which was the drowning of many without reaching their goal, and some young people were exposed to fraud in the name of immigration. The latter type is the emigration of Arab talent, a heavy loss to the Arab nation in the short and long term, and it perpetuates further dependence on the West.

### **4. Conclusion:**

The elimination of unemployment should be one of the priority goals of the national development strategy. The educational and training programs must be linked to the needs of the labor market and employ the idle energies present in the various sectors of the national economy, through the expansion of training and retraining programs. The government must also establish special programs to improve health and educational services and public facilities, which will result in creating productive job opportunities for thousands of graduates and those who are qualified to work.

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