

Unemployment and Its Role in Increasing Crime Rates within the Iraqi Society

Ammar Ghali Abdulkadhim El-Eisawy

Faculty Member, Faculty of Law, University of Babylon

Abstract

Unemployment is a complex problem whose dimensions and effects are not confined to the economic aspect solely, but also extend to the political, social, cultural and security aspects. It has great consequences, the first of which is crime and the increase of its rates. Perhaps there is a big difference between the developing communities that are still suffering from economic crises and instability in most fields of life, and suffer from chronic unemployment, which almost takes the form of the heavy legacy passed down from one generation to the next and the developed communities that are thinking of the need to exploit leisure time ideally through the creation of more future job opportunities and the importance of providing generous pensions for aged groups, not to mention the development of service sectors, especially health services and increasing the percentage of those covered by health care and health insurance services. Perhaps the difference between these and those is the attraction factor of security stability, which is the most effective tool for crime prevention and control, rather than the huge money spent by developing communities in building and arming the security

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Introduction

Criminologists explain to us that criminal conduct is the result of two types of factors: the first of which is known as internal (personal) factors ¹. This means everything related to the individual criminal himself, such as biological factors like genetics, physical, mental and psychological construction, and they eventually conclude that there are people that are naturally more prepared to commit the crime compared to others without denying the possibility of committing crimes by others, who do not have the of criminal predisposing factors ². The other type of crime-producing factors in communities are (environmental) external factors, which mean the external pressures to which the individual is exposed ³, which ends up drawing him to commit the crime, and as far as the topic in question is concerned, these factors are going to be the focus of such research to the extent to which they are related to the issue of unemployment and its role in increasing the crime rate in communities in general and in the Iraqi society in particular.

2- The external environment factors are varied, and each of them has a role in the crime and who commits it. We can mention, for example, the following factors:

- Physical environment factor, which means living conditions in terms of housing, daily activities and population density.
- The political environment factor, which means the political conditions of the society in which he lives in terms of the type of government, how it deals with citizens, the amount of freedom enjoyed by the individual, the duties inflicted thereupon, and the amount of authority and control of public life.
- Cultural environment, which means community culture as if the community were tribal, liberal, civil, or Islamic.
- The social environment, which means the family institution, the educational institution, and the media foundation.
- Economic environment which means the economic conditions, unemployment rates and living standards, This is the essence of the study under consideration as far as the crime is concerned.

3- We find through study and research that crime and delinquency in general are significantly associated with the economic environment. Unemployment comes at the forefront of the economic effects that affect the individual and his conduct. you can find in an unemployed person nothing but a negative personality, pervaded by despair and frustration, lost personal balance in terms of relationship with the community in which he lives, and hence comes the risk if this person is drawn to deviation and crime.

Methodology

1- Analytical approach to identify the explicit positions of criminologists, economists and specialists in studying the phenomenon in question and linking it to the reality of Iraqi society, and to reveal the negative aspects of this phenomenon and identify the faults related thereto.

2- The objective approach in studying the phenomenon by recognizing and identifying it as a reality that imposes itself on the developing communities in general and the Iraqi society in particular, while moving away from the personal and subjective tendencies in order to reach the abstract real knowledge of the research problem.

Study Objectives

This study aims to ascertain whether there is an inevitable correlation between unemployment on the one hand and crime on the other, identifying the forms of crimes in which the correlation with unemployment is deeper and greater than others, giving them statistical significance based on the evidences and past experience that are clearly unambiguous or skeptical in Iraq at the very least.

Study Plan:

The research treatment of the subject under study takes place on two topics, the first of which addresses what unemployment is in general in two themes. The first theme introduces the definition of unemployment, and this theme comes in two sections, the first of which deals with the linguistic definition of unemployment, while the second section introduces its conventional definition. The second theme includes the types and causes of unemployment, and this theme comes in two sections, the first of which deals with the types of unemployment, while the second section introduces its causes. The

majority of applicant currently lack the qualifications that enable them to compete for vacant positions because of the incompatibility of their qualifications and experiences with the high ceiling of qualifications in the labor market, which ends with increased unemployment and the delay, if not to say failure, of many applicants to get jobs. The previously above mentioned is simply the general meaning of unemployment in its modern sense, even if the term “unemployment” contains many details and interventions, which in turn leads us to delve into the linguistic and conventional definition of the term “unemployment” as follows.

The Linguistic Definition of Unemployment:

Unemployment is derived from the infinitive form “employ”. Disguised unemployment means: The surplus number of employees in governmental bodies and departments, and the day of unemployment means: any day off, while the unemployment rate is: (Economy) the economic measurement in which the people that are unemployed, capable of working, want to work are represented compared to the already employed population in a certain community. Unemployment as the noun of “unemployed” refers to a person that has been unemployed for one month or more, who does not have a job and do not work.

Types and causes of unemployment

There are many forms of unemployment by reference to its causes. Economic studies have depicted multiple forms of unemployment, and this is what this research is going to introduce in the followings two sections.

Types of unemployment

1- Regular (cyclical) unemployment: - It means unemployment that appears in the cases in which markets suffer from recession and poor performance, despite the availability of job vacancies, but in most of the cases, the job itself is not beneficial, such as workers⁴ who quit their jobs or are dismissed from work, and fail to get another job. This type also includes young people, women who work from their homes and their work involve just simple tasks that can hardly be called jobs or work in the true sense of the work.

2- Temporary unemployment: by which people work for temporary periods such as seasons while they remain unemployed for the rest of the year, and this is often found in rural areas with regard to the work of

agriculture and livestock, as well as for the classes of students who work during the summer holiday.

3- Partial unemployment:- In which individuals work for a number of hours less than the regularly known working hours or work in part-time jobs. Therefore, there is an ⁵ abundance of labour force available compared to the actual employment rate.

4- Frictional unemployment: - it refers to the movement of workers between professions and regions along with the lack of stability in the amount of labour force, where there is no match between the labour force and job opportunities available in one region and another because of the ill- considered professional mobility due to the lack of information available to job seekers on the one hand and employers on the other hand.

Crime and Unemployment

The crime is one of the remnants of poverty and unemployment, and whatever its type, size and gravity is, crime remains a dangerous phenomenon that threatens the humanitarian community. It has a serious negative impact, either on individuals ⁶, communities or on the economy as a whole, since it is considered the scourge that kills economic and human resources.

Crimes related to Unemployment in Iraq

First: Terrorism Crimes: The positive economic factor plays an important role in creating the appropriate environment for the elimination of terrorism. On the contrary, stagnation and unemployment are a suitable environment for the maturity and spread of terrorism. It is natural that when the individual is able to fulfil his needs and ⁷ satisfy his family needs, this can ensure that he will be satisfied with the community in which he lives and feel stable and secure.

Second: Drugs Crimes: Drugs trafficking is considered one of the highways for quick and substantial financial gain. it is almost the most attractive element for the unemployed, where they find an opportunity to provide them with ⁸ enough money to meet their needs, forgetting or ignoring the great risk they are exposed to as a result of such trafficking.

Third: Organs Trafficking Crimes: There is no doubt that poverty, the need for money and the lack of job opportunities that can provide it are the reasons behind this crime. In an official report issued by the British website ?????, it was stated that unemployment

and poverty alone are the reason behind this crime, which made Iraq the hub of human organs trafficking. It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi legislator addressed the ⁹ crime of human organs trafficking by several laws dealing with different forms of human organs that can be traded, its owners can be exploited or that can be taken by force, including law no. (60) of the year 1981 which prohibits human kidneys trafficking, law no. 113 of the year 1970, which prohibits human eyes trafficking. We also refer here to the Minors' Welfare law no. (78) of the year 1980, which includes the protection of minors from any form of exploitation and the Juvenile Welfare Act no. (76) of the year 1983, providing for the protection of juveniles from all forms of exploitation. I cannot fail to mention the provisions of Article (37) of the Iraqi Constitution of the year 2005, which prohibits the trafficking of forced labour, slavery, slave trade, trafficking in women or children, and sex trade.

Conclusion

Unemployment is a negative social and economic phenomenon, from which suffer all communities of different political and economic aspects, regardless of the extent of their progress or regress in keeping pace with modernity and development, although the percentage is quite different between the problem in developing countries and in developed countries. However, the specter of this problem remains existent in both cases, and this is the crux and gravity of the problem. The analysis and study of the problem of unemployment is not limited to the importance of human resources and the fact that it occupies an important place, but is also due to the important fact that human capital is the basis of development, in addition to the danger posed by the continuous increase in the number of unemployed and the subsequent complications thereof in the social and political consequences that accompany the situation of unemployment, where unemployment represents the fertile environment conducive for the expansion of crime, extremism, violence and terrorism. The lack of income, which is synonymous with unemployment, leads to a drop in the standard of living and an increase in poverty along with the accompanying deterioration in the humanitarian situation, which are one of the most encouraging factors of delinquency and crime in the future. Unemployment has its causes, which are almost common and similar wherever it occurs, whether in developed or developing countries. The issue of unemployment in Iraq is one of the thorniest and most complicated issues, as its rates continue to rise due to

the large changes in the economic structure of Iraq and the inability of the state to retrench its increasing expenditures. Despite the importance and gravity of this large problem facing Iraq and the Iraqi people, there are no official statistics until now concerning such problem. The aggravation of unemployment and its negative impact on Iraqi society are due to a number of reasons related to the nature of Iraq and the rapid events it has experienced.

Conclusion

Perhaps there is a big difference between the developing communities that are still suffering from economic crises and instability in most fields of life, and suffer from chronic unemployment, which almost takes the form of the heavy legacy passed down from one generation to the next and the developed communities that are thinking of the need to exploit leisure time ideally through the creation of more future job opportunities and the importance of providing generous pensions for aged groups, not to mention the development of service sectors, especially health services and increasing the percentage of those covered by health care and health insurance services. Perhaps the difference between these and those is the attraction factor of security stability, which is the most effective tool for crime prevention and control, rather than the huge money spent by developing communities in building and arming the security and police services and ultimately stand unable to put an end to the growing crime rates day after another.

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