



Trends of Women's Economic Empowerment in Iraq For The Period 1990-2018

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Abstract:

This research aims to study the economic, social, and political reality of Iraqi women by identifying the obstacles and diagnosing their empowerment trends in various fields, assessing the extent of their participation in economic activity, and re-achieving balance between women and men by reducing the gender gap between them and reducing the percentage of female unemployment to the lowest possible level. Is achieved by enhancing confidence in Iraqi women by enacting laws and making decisions that allow them to access resources freely. The researcher used the descriptive and analytical method to deal with information and data related to the research topic over a specific period (1990-2018), using local, Arab, and international reports issued by the United Nations and the World Bank, and the Iraqi Ministry of Planning surveys - the Central Bureau of Statistics and previous studies. Among the researcher's findings in the research conclusion is the necessity of empowering Iraqi women by facilitating their possession of an academic qualification that would increase their skills and confidence in themselves and facilitate their involvement in the labor market. Moreover, amend laws that hurt women working in the government and private sectors and activate the media. In addition to activating positive media for women and society to accept her as a right partner with men in all fields of life and work firmly and complete transparency to enforce criminal laws against perpetrators of violence against women in all its forms.

Keywords: Trends, Empowerment, Economic Empowerment, Woman's Economic Empowerment.

1. Introduction:

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the world has been going through many developments and changes in various social, economic, and political fields, and this stems from the human perception that real progress is the progress and development of man because it is the real wealth of nations and the secret of their progress. As the people became sure that improving the index of women's empowerment and their participation in various activities without discrimination based on gender expresses the true meaning of development, as it is a robust engine for the economy in various countries, as their empowerment has been linked to the strength or weakness of the economies of these countries, which led to a growing interest in the need to invest the potential of Women, have become at the forefront of the economic, political and social plans of governments around the world, so successive Iraqi governments have sought to find appropriate mechanisms to empower women and activate their role in life to create a commensurate parity between their position and the importance of the role they enjoy at the level of their participation and contribution to Society.

Today, we can say that Iraqi women have taken the necessary steps and made great strides towards active participation in various fields and have proven their ability to take their actual position in various development activities. However, according to available statistical indicators and surveys, the participation of women in Iraq is still insignificant, not commensurate with the size of their capacity, their deserved role, and their percentage of the population of Iraq, which amounted to 49% for females compared to 51% for males according to the estimates of the Iraqi Ministry of Planning for the year 2018. Therefore, empowering women economically, politically, and socially requires development, training, and great efforts to genuinely activate their role and overcome obstacles facing them. It is one of the most prominent goals. Hence, the importance of shedding light in our research on the reality of women in Iraq for a selected period in order to track their economic empowerment and know trends in their development through analyzing available data, indicators, and official statistics, in addition to benefiting from previous experiences and studies in improving the gender index and equal opportunities between men and women in Society and the governmental and private sectors and ensuring their political participation through laws and legislation in the 2005 Iraqi constitution, which guaranteed them many rights.

For the above, our research has included three sections preceded by the summary, the introduction, the research plan, its methodology, and previous studies, as follows :

THE FIRST TOPIC : On the concept of women's economic empowerment and its relationship to gender. It included three demands.

THE SECOND TOPIC : It was devoted to women's reality and their role in the Iraqi economy, as it included eight demands.

THE THIRD TOPIC : It is the last one that included the role of micro, small, and medium enterprises in the economic empowerment of women in Iraq (urban and rural).

In conclusion, we hope that we have succeeded in diagnosing the obstacles and the reality of Iraqi women and studying the trends of empowering them, which may be a help and a real breakthrough for policymakers and strategic plans and researchers in this field through the conclusions and recommendations reached by the researcher that he believes may be useful for improving the level of economic empowerment. Political and social for Iraqi women.

Because of the high fertility rates in Iraq and the increase in the percentage of females during the years of research, which may be close to more or less than males, and the increase in the proportion of women of working age (15 years and over) other than participating in the workforce, as well as the level of women's employment and the trend towards decline, this calls for study and research into the fundamental causes and obstacles that led to that and which prevented their participation in economic activity by studying the status quo of Iraqi women and then facilitating the procedures for empowering them politically, economically and socially.

The importance of the research lies in the fact that Iraqi women constitute half of the society, and that empowering them in the political, economic, and social fields and giving them more freedom and self-confidence will contribute to the Its access to resources is more freely, which leads to an increase in its participation in the labor market (economically active manpower) and to achieve more economic savings, which is reflected positively on the gross domestic product, as well as reducing unemployment rates.

The research aims to monitor and analyze the reality of the economic empowerment of women in Iraq and review the efforts made by analyzing data, planning indicators, and official local and international statistical surveys, and trying to shed light on the obstacles that still hinder women from reaching the desired economic empowerment by delving into the following essential points:

A. What are the indicators indicating the size of women's participation in economic activity?

B. What is the size of women's representation in the public and private sector (formal and informal) in Iraq?

C. What are the strategies, plans, economic programs, and legal legislations taken by the Iraqi government and private institutions to increase the volume of effective participation of women in economic activity?

D. What are the most significant obstacles that prevent women from empowering women economically, socially, and politically? That is, in the sense of promoting decisions and procedures that allow Iraqi women to access resources entirely freely, and discouraging interaction based on gender.

The researcher proceeds from the hypothesis that women in Iraq constitute half of the society, but at the same time they are a semi-disrupted human force and a marginalized resource, in which the researcher tries to diagnose weaknesses and strengths by presenting and analyzing the available data to determine the trends of empowerment of Iraqi women, represented in the (demographic trend) Education, health, women's economic reality, political reality, local legislation, gender, violence) and then trying to evaluate them with

the recommendations and proposals that the researcher arrives at in the conclusion of the research.

The researcher followed the descriptive and analytical method to interpret and analyze the available information and data related to the research topic (trends of economic empowerment of women in Iraq) through the specified time series (1990-2018) to realistically identify the essence of the problem through national development plans, local, Arab and international human development reports, statistical surveys, and studies. Relevant precedent to the research topic.

- Spatial limit: all governorates of Iraq.
- Time limit: the period is extending between the years 1990-2018.
- Research community: all Iraqi citizens, depending on the information and data available for both sexes, focusing on women's data.

Define terms: The Trends Attitudes can be defined as (a coherent organization of concepts, beliefs, habits, and motives about a specific thing) and that a person cannot form an attitude towards anything or someone unless they are present in his awareness moreover, that the compatibility between the elements of trends, such as the intellectual element, feelings and inclination for behavior, which the individual maintains within him towards the direction of different topics represents the guiding principle of unity and harmony in his personality and thus will affect his behavior (Alkatib Shawqi, Ahmed, 2019).

When an individual's attitudes toward an economic issue coincide with his trends toward other economic issues that he is familiar with in addition to the political and social ones, then it can be said that that individual has formed his conviction for positive change that may push towards the emancipation of women, for example. Their equality with men to reduce the gap between them and give them more confidence.

Empowerment Idiomatically: It is defined as both sexes' ability to access resources, develop their activities, acquire skills, and raise the level of self-confidence and dependence on them (United Nations Development Fund for Women) (UNIFEM), website, 2010.

Economic Empowerment: The use of the term economic empowerment is relatively recent, as it generally refers to the set of effective practices, procedures, and activities that lead to developing and enhancing the capabilities of individuals and motivating them and creating the appropriate conditions that make them able to indeed contribute to the income and wealth generation processes in society and to be economically qualified. Politically, socially and legally (Al-Rawi, 2014, p. 5).

There are many previous studies and international reports that dealt with issues of women and their economic empowerment and dealt with it from different angles, and the researcher will review a set of these studies, which varied between local, Arab and foreign, which have been used with reference to their most prominent features.

1. A study (The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, 2013) entitled "Indicators of Women's Economic Empowerment in Jordan - Progress of Women's Economic Empowerment between Quantitative and Gender" - a published study.

It aimed to study and analyze indicators of women's economic empowerment, the most important of which are indicators related to women's work, unemployment indicators, indicators related to education and their relationship to women's work, and indicators related to poverty and health and related to information technology, all of which had a negative and positive impact on women and their ability to access resources by enhancing confidence. Women have self-reliance and thus enhance their capabilities. Moreover, that the most important findings of the study and its recommendations are the need to enhance the ability of dialogue and communication with others, increase freedom of movement, self-empowerment and increase self-confidence, and the need to enhance the ability of women to manage small projects as an encouraging initial step to ensure income management and right disposal of it.

2. A study (Samuels, and others, 2018) entitled "Between Work and Care Older Women's Economic Empowerment" - a published study.

The study took place in Burundi, and one of the most prominent findings of this study is that there is a large disparity between older women and men in paid work and unpaid care and domestic work. Older women depend on proper (governmental) and informal support. Often the official support is not sufficient to meet their social and economic needs. The study recommended the necessity of supporting older women to encourage them to continue participating in economic activity and enhance their capacity to support their families and society as a whole. All this is in favor of sustainable development.

3. A study (ESCWA, 2017) entitled "Policy Brief on Arab Women's Economic Empowerment" - A study published.

The study aimed at eliminating the manifestations of gender inequality, finding specific and applicable policies that contribute to Arab women's access to the labor market, reducing the current inequality gap, and strengthening effective partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society. The most crucial thing recommended by the study is that vulnerable women, in particular, should be given more affordable access to financial services such as credit and loans, and respect for the rights of women working in the informal sector, as well as developing leadership skills for women and granting them access to leadership positions. As well as working to improve women's access to paid work, and the recognition of women's unpaid work (domestic work and family care) as contributions to the economy.

2. The Concept Of Women's Economic Empowerment And Its Relationship To The Concept Of Gender

2.1 The Concept Of Empowerment

The term empowerment has many meanings centered on the ability to make decisions and acquire the skill to access resources, but on the individual level, it means increasing self-confidence and self-reliance. For the current research topic, Empowerment is the ability of women to make decisions and influence essential outcomes for them and their families. Greater emphasis and attention are usually in matters related to women's lives and their available resources (Jabr, 1998). For Sen (1993), he knows Empowerment is based on: "a change in capabilities and relationships that restrict women's choices and negatively affect their health and happiness." Empowerment is also defined by people's ability to influence matters related to their well-being (1994, Batliwala).

Daft (2001) indicated that Empowerment is: "Empowering working people with the power, movement, and information needed to make and participate in decision-making"(p.502). Invancevich (1997) and his colleagues argue that: "Empowerment is the process by which managers help other managers acquire and use the power they need to make decisions that impact them and the business." (P. 219).

There are many types of empowerment, most notably:

1- (Self Empowerment): It refers to the learned behaviors that have been achieved on women's personal and personal level through their participation in training and awareness programs that have enhanced their capabilities and self-confidence (Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, 2013).

2- (Social Empowerment): It refers to the increase in the ability of women to fulfill their social roles within the framework of the family and society as a whole and to acquire some skills and abilities through their participation in training programs, as well as their participation in volunteer work that contributes to their social standing, as community projects provide opportunities for participation and practical application The daily training that develops the knowledge and abilities that they have acquired during the training workshops in their daily lives (Backcarter, 2002).

3- (Political Empowerment): What is meant by political empowerment of women is to make them possess the power and capabilities and to be able to change, and because of customs, traditions, and the prevailing intellectual and cultural heritage, women in Iraqi society have suffered a lot from what has negatively affected them as a human being, whereby women were deprived accordingly of their most basic rights to participate in solving problems Her society through access to parliamentary seats as well as participation in civil society organizations, parties, trade unions and others, which led the Beijing Conference in 1995 to approve the allocation of parliamentary seats for women with a system (quotas) according to which the percentage of female representation is raised to no less than (30%) (Qasim, 2015, p. 242).

2.2.The Concept Of Women's Economic Empowerment And Its Development (Woman's Economic Empowerment)

He economic empowerment of women is defined as the ability to succeed and progress economically and enhance the powers' ownership to make economic decisions and take action in their regard. It is a fundamental human right that has been ratified by all countries of the region, as the concept of empowering women has been linked to the history of national liberation movements in the world, the American rights movement, and the contributions of feminist movements in countries The Third World in Latin America and Asia (Kamal, 2007, p. 6), as well as the legacy of the Brazilian pedagogical Paulo Freire, which called for empowering the poor and the marginalized through the provision of employment and education opportunities so that they could acquire knowledge and be able to bring about the change required to improve their conditions on their own (Edwards, 1995). P30). To better adapt the issue of empowering women by integrating them in development efforts, a United Nations conference was held in Mexico in 1975, in which international donor agencies stipulated the implementation of training programs specifically for women to enhance their productive role. Likewise, the CEDAW-1979 Convention on the Elimination of

Discrimination Against Women in its various forms. In the eighties of the last century, the concept of women's empowerment appeared, which became one of the fundamental concepts in gender studies, as the World Bank considered women's empowerment to be one of the essential basic elements in the development process, combating poverty, and reducing the gap between men and women (Mishra, 2016, p224). After that, interest in the economic role of women and their active participation in the Nairobi Conference in 1985, then the Johannesburg Conference for Sustainable Development in 1992, and the Cairo Conference on Population and Development in 1994, which coincided with the Vienna Conference on Women's Rights of the same year, and the Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995, which counted empowerment Women are among the goals of development and their means. Expanding economic opportunities for women and free access to resources is an important and even decisive factor in empowering women, as women's economic empowerment is one of UN Women's main pillars (UN Women, 2018). The International Labor Organization defines women's economic empowerment by removing them from low-paid and part-time work (ILO, 2012, p. 49).

The report of the World Economic Forum (The World Economic Forum) indicates that two-thirds of the world's low, equivalent to (66%), are women and that women's economic participation is essential not only in order to combat poverty but because increasing income contributes to stimulating economic growth in general. At the same time, the 2001 World Bank report confirms that the exclusion of women from work and education leads to poor productivity due to the low accumulation of human capital, which negatively affects economic growth, and that empowering women means providing them with the ability to use the available resources using Optimizing and making strategic decisions that affect their lives, enabling them to determine their fate and achieve their interests (Al-Ketbi and others, 2010, p. 24, p. 41).

The researcher believes that women's economic empowerment: can be any measure that increases women's confidence and improves their technical skills to be able to participate actively in economic activity and sustainable development.

Despite all the progress of the successive and accelerating international conferences and reports that women in developed societies have been able to take confident steps towards obtaining political, economic, and social gains, women in developing societies, including Iraq, are still marginalized, even though they constitute half of society as they obstruct them. Many obstacles prevent it from taking its real and active role, and it suffers from the problem of unemployment at a higher rate than men. It suffers from discrimination and dealing at the expense of gender, which is the most prominent feature of our society.

2.3 The Concept Of Gender :

The concept of empowering women is closely related to gender, which emerged in the last two decades of the second millennium. Gender refers to the grouping of roles, rights, responsibilities, and behaviors that pertain to both women and men. Among the first attempts to scientifically adjust the concept of gender was by sociologist (Ann Oakley) who showed that sex represents a term that refers to the biological differences between males and females. In contrast, the gender term refers to males and females (Arab Women Organization, 2011, p. 124). Among the international treaties that Iraq has signed concerning women is

the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, which includes critical issues for the integration of women in development and in the government's commitment to promoting equality between men and women through legal legislation and governmental mechanisms that guarantee the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities (Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, 2018, Page 4), in addition to the existence of the gender index, which is an international indicator that includes four sub-indicators, namely (health, education, economic participation, and political empowerment).

3. The Reality Of Empowering Women And Their Role In The Iraqi Economy

The empowerment of women in the economic, political, social, and legal fields is of great importance, as it constitutes half of the Iraqi society, but in reality, it is disrupted energy and human resource that is not exploited in a productive way to contribute to the economic activity of the country, for several reasons, including the gender-based social heritage, and that The trend towards empowering women economically will contribute to increasing the gross domestic product, that is, it will enable them to actively participate in all areas of life. Therefore, this topic included several areas represented in nine demands, which the researcher sees as a reflection of the role and reality of empowering women in the Iraqi economy.

3.1 The Demographic Reality Of Women

Iraq is characterized by an increase in its population at a high annual growth rate estimated at (2.58%), which led to the population doubling almost twice and a half for the period (1990-2018), as the number of people increased from (17.9) million in 1990 to (38) Million people for the year 2018, an increase of 46.9%, and about the percentage of females to the total, it increased to (49.5%) for the year 2018, after it was (48.6%) for the year 1990, as in Table (1) below (Iraqi Central Bureau of Statistics, statistics for multiple years).

Table 1 : Population of Iraq by sex for years 1990-2018 (In million)

Year	Male	Female	Total	Female to total ratio (%)
1990	9190	8700	17890	48.6
1997	10987	11059	22046	50.2
2007	14943	14739	29682	49.7
2014	18319	17685	36004	49.1
2018	19261	18862	38123	49.5

Source: - From the researcher's work, depending on: the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Central Bureau of Statistics, statistics for multiple years.

Despite the decrease in total fertility rates, TFR (one birth per woman of childbearing age (15-49), which reached (3.9) for the year 2018, after it was (5.8) in 1990, it coincided with the increase in the rate (life expectancy) that has become (75.6) for women, compared to (71.1) for men, and the rise in the crude birth rate (per 1000 population), which became (30.2), offset by a decrease in the death rate among children under the age of five to (26) deaths per 1000 live births in 2018, after It was (62) in 1990, and it is considered the lowest among the

countries in the world of (76). This is the improvement in health services and living conditions as in Table (2) below (Central Statistical Organization, 2018).

Table 2 : Demographic indicators and age structure of the population of Iraq for the year 2018

Indicator / age composition	The value
The total population of Iraq	38,124,182
Population growth rate	2.58%
Sex ratio (male to female at birth)	102.1%
Total fertility rate (one child per woman of 15-49 years of childbearing age)	3.9%
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	30.2
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	26
Male percentage of the total	52%
The percentage of females in the total	48%
Male life expectancy	71.1
Life expectancy for females	75.6
The percentage of the population is less than (15) years old	40.5%
The percentage of the population ages (15-64) years	56.4%
The percentage of the population is more than (60) years old	5%
Dependency ratio	77.1%

Source: - From the researcher's work depending on: The Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Central Statistical Organization, Demographic and Population Indicators, 2018, and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Indicators Mics6 of 2018 / Iraq.

As for the gender composition of the population according to age, Table (2) above shows that the percentage of the population is less than (15) years and reached (40.5%), and that the ratio of females to males was low for the period 199-2018, due to the increase in the total number of live births. Males compared to females, as well as a decrease in the percentage of females to the total, which reached 48% compared to 52% for males.

As for the age group (15-64) years, which represents the economically active population, it indicates the great convergence between the sexes in terms of population, so the percentage of females reached (49.99%) compared to (50.01%) for males, which indicates the great responsibility that women bear when empowering them and thus will contribute Effectively in advancing the country's economic, political and social reality, side by side with men.

The percentage of the female population maintains the lead with regard to the age group (65 years and over), so its percentage for this group for the year 2018 reached (53.1%) compared to (46.9%) for males for the same year, with continued life expectations in favor of females. It is evident from the aforementioned population estimates that what makes the median age of the Iraqi society a young mediator is that the percentage of the population under the age of (20 years) reached 51.2% in 2018 despite the continued decline in fertility rates that reached 3.9 after it was 5.7 in 1997, which It leads to a change in the age structure of the Iraqi society, which makes it on the threshold of the third stage of the stages of demographic transition, and then the demographic window opening or (demographic gift), and thus the percentage of the population of the age group (15-64) will increase due to the decrease or slowdown in the growth of the population below the age of (15 years) Especially under the age of (5 years) and in

conjunction with the relative growth of the age group (65 and over), which is the elderly group, which leads to an increase in the growth rates of the human force at a higher rate than the growth rate of the age groups, the young, the elderly and dependents. (Quality of life for families) and not just their size, which leads to a high rate of economic growth for the country (United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA Iraq Office, 2011).

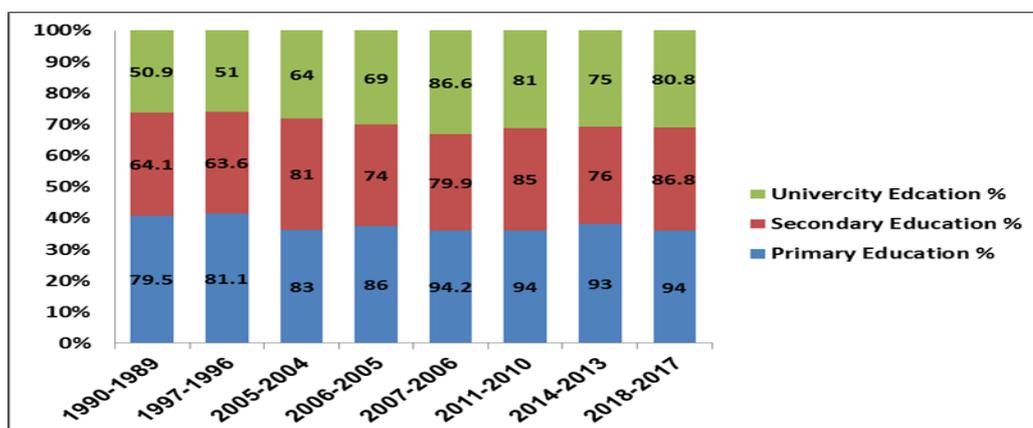
3.2 Women And Education

Academic qualification at all levels, starting from literacy to higher education, is a real and essential gateway to empowering women and raising their cognitive abilities. Reaching advanced educational levels will increasingly enable women to make decisions and facilitate engagement in the labor market. Education is also a prerequisite for increasing women's awareness of their rights. Economic, social, and political. Since its establishment, the Iraqi state has tended to take all measures and decisions that would provide women with learning opportunities, which reflected these trends in reducing the difference in the enrollment ratio between males and females in primary education, and this is evident in Table (3) and Figure (1) below:

Table 3 : Female-to-male enrollment ratios for different levels of education in Iraq for the years 1990-2018

Academic Year	Primary Education %	Secondary Education %	Univercity Eduction %
1989-1990	79.5	64.1	50.9
1996-1997	81.1	63.6	51
2004-2005	83	81	64
2005-2006	86	74	69
2006-2007	94.2	79.9	86.6
2010-2011	94	85	81
2013-2014	93	76	75
2017-2018	94	86.8	80.8

Figure 1: female/male enrollment ratios in education stages in Iraq 1990 -2018



Same source.

The data contained therein indicate that Iraqi women have made clear progress in the field of education, as they indicate the improvement and convergence in the enrollment ratios of females to males in the primary stage for the period (1990-2018), which reached 94% in 2018 while it was 79.5 in 1990. However, it is considered uneven and low at all levels of education, meaning that the number of males enrolled in primary, secondary, and university education exceeds the number of females enrolled, and this disparity and decrease are more noticeable in secondary and university education levels compared to the primary education level. However, these numbers of female enrollees for all educational levels are not commensurate with the gender and age composition of the population of Iraq, which enjoys high population growth and young median age, in addition to the significant convergence between males and females, which almost constitutes 50%, as the ratio of females to males in secondary and university education reached 64.1% For the years 1990-2018 respectively, 50.9%, 86.8%, and 80.8% for the years 1990-2018, respectively. Within 28 years, the gender gap for secondary school enrollment decreased from 64.1% to 13.2%, and the gender gap in university education decreased from 50.9% to 19.2%. The reason for this is the diversity of education and the expansion of private schools and universities, evening education, and parallel education. Despite the graduation of large numbers of students annually (outputs) for both sexes, it is not considered preference for Iraqi women, especially at the university level, because of the limited capacity for them to practice various economic activities and thus complicate the flow of engagement in the workforce, with the continued bias of society by granting opportunities. For men and not giving them sufficient confidence in accessing resources, women are a wasted and untapped economic resource.

3.3 Women And Health

That healthy environment, the lack of diseases, and the health awareness of any country have a role in the health, safety, and empowerment of women. It will be reflected in the strengthening of their productive capacity and their integration into the comprehensive development process. In order to know the health status of women, the following indicators should be examined:

1- Maternal mortality rate: - It refers to deaths occurring during pregnancy, childbirth, or after (postpartum), as the maternal mortality rate decreased significantly during the period of research (1990-2018), which reached (31) deaths per (one hundred thousand) live births in 2017 at the level of Iraq. Because of the improvement in living and health services, then it was for the period 1990-1999, when there were (177-291) deaths for every (one hundred thousand) live births, due to the conditions of the blockade that resulted in the deterioration of all joints of life, including the health situation (Women and Men Report, 2018).

2- Neonatal mortality and under-five mortality rate: - The published official data indicate a high rate of deaths of newborns under the age of five years of age during the years of the siege or economic sanctions on Iraq, from 30.50 / respectively per (thousand) live births in 1989 to increase to 101,122 / per (thousand) births Live in 1999, and then continued to decline to reach 14, 26 / respectively in 2018, despite the decline in infant mortality rates and under five years of age in Iraq during the last third of the period under discussion (1990-

2018), which is due to the improvement of the medical services provided For children, and the spread of health centers in all governorates (Mics6,2018).

3- Abortion: The highest rate of abortion was (16.1) cases per (100) women of childbearing age lying in the obstetrics and gynecology hall in Iraq for the year 2017 (except for the Kurdistan region) compared to the years 2015 and 2016, which recorded a rate of 11.2 and 15.7, respectively, and the highest rate of abortion was recorded. In DhiQar Governorate (45.9), followed by Karbala Governorate (31.6), while the lowest rate of abortion (8.3) was recorded in Qadisiyah Governorate (previous source, 2018).

4- Breast cancer in women: - It is one of the most important health indicators whose rates have increased in recent years, affected by environmental determinants and military operations, which have negatively affected health conditions in general and cancer diseases in particular. The data of the Iraqi Ministry of Health indicates an increase in the incidence of breast cancer among women, reaching its highest rate in 2015 by 30.6% While the lowest percentage was recorded, which was 19% in 2009, which indicates the annual increase of the disease in a steady manner, which calls for serious intervention through realistic and thoughtful health programs to reduce its risks (National Development Plan 2018-2022, 2018, p.235).

5- Immunodeficiency: - It is noticed that the number of HIV infections for males is more than the number of infections for females for the year 2017, as they reached 95 in Iraq, of which (85) were for males compared to (10) for females, as well as the number of deaths for males, exceeded the number of deaths for females. Males (5) compared to (2) deaths for females (Ministry of Health Annual Report, 2017).

6- tuberculosis: - The number of cases of tuberculosis reached (7707) in Iraq for the year 2017, and that the number of female infections with this disease is greater than the number of males, as the number of female injuries reached (4046) compared to (3661) for males, which requires serious intervention through realistic and studied health programs to reduce The risk of disease.

7- Family planning methods: - It includes married women of the age group (15-49) years in the year 2018 who use family planning methods on the low awareness of reproductive health issues and weak community awareness of health concepts in general (Mics6, 2018).

8- Proportion of births that take place under the supervision of health personnel or specialists: - Reproductive health data indicate an increase in the percentage of live births that take place under the supervision of a trained health staff or specialists from 50% in 1990 to (95.5%) in 2015, but due to the lack of health awareness among women, the percentage of births in 2017 decreased to (93.7%). Then, it increased to 96% in 2018 (National Development Plan 2018-2022, 2018).

3.4 The economic reality of women

The impact of the economic participation of women in Iraq has a significant impact on the level of economic empowerment for them, for several considerations, including the size of the population, which is estimated at (38) million people according to estimates in 2018 and that nearly half of them are women, reaching 49% compared to 51% for men. Which calls for several interventions in order to advance the status of women economically, so that these interventions target the most prominent indicators of empowerment that must be worked to improve so that Iraqi women can freely access resources, and thus increase their rate of participation in the economy, which leads to an increase in the rate of their participation in the labor market (workforce Economically active) and this, in turn, leads to a reduction in unemployment rates. Among the most prominent of these indicators are the following:

1. Rate of economic activity and unemployment rate:

The participation of women in the economy is affected by many factors and variables, including gender, age, and demographic indicators such as fertility, age structure, education, and age of marriage. The total economic activity rate of the economically active population of the age of 15 years and over was (42.8%) for the year 2017 (Women and Men Report), 2018), and women have the lowest percentage compared to men in economic activity, as the percentage of females reached (12.6%), and the percentage of males reached (72.7%).

As for unemployment in Iraq, the data indicate that the unemployment rate for women is higher than the unemployment rate for men according to educational attainment and that the country's overall unemployment rate is (13.8%) the ratio of males to (10.9%), while it did not exceed (31%) for females. Shown in Table (4) below:

Table 4 : Economic activity rate and unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 years and above, according to educational attainment, gender, and environment for 2017

Educational Attainment	Economic activity rate %			Unemployment rate %		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate	5.4	64.5	23.4	13.9	18.5	14.6
Reads and writes	3.4	82	38.8	12.5	33.1	13.5
Primary	4.1	75	41.5	9.5	27.7	10.4
Middle school	4.4	59.5	34.5	12.6	41.4	14.2
Preparatory or professional study	13.4	59.6	40.9	8.3	27.4	10.9
Diploma / Institute	69	92.5	82.4	9	28.4	16
Bachelor's degree or higher	73.8	88.1	82.3	11.6	35.1	20.2
Urban	13.9	72.3	43.1	10.5	32.3	14
The countryside	8.6	74.1	41.8	11.9	24.5	13.2
Iraq	12.6	72.7	42.8	10.9	31	13.8

Source: - From the researcher's work depending on: Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Statistical Organization, Women and Men Report, Statistical Group, Baghdad, 2018, p. 43.

It is evident from the above table that economic activity differs when educational attainment differs with it between males and females, and that the rate of economic activity for males often increases by much more than females, especially at low levels of education as an indicator of educational attainment (illiterate - middle school or vocational), so that the rate then increases. The economic participation of men and women reached their peak with a reduction in the gender gap in educational attainment (Bachelor's degree or higher) by 88.1% for males compared to 73.8% for females. It is also noticed that the percentage of women's participation in the economically active age group 15 years and over reached 13.9% and 8.6% in urban and rural areas. For females, respectively, compared to 72.3% and 74.1% for males, respectively. This indicates a solid fact, namely, the masculinity of the workforce and the urbanization of economic activities. As for unemployment, it is noticed that the unemployment rate for females is twice or more compared to males for all levels of educational attainment. This leads us to the fact that full employment requires the work of both women and men with whatever degree they carry, and it must be a productive work in which the person employs his abilities to acquire what suffices him. To avoid poverty (Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Survey, 2017).

Despite the improvement in the rate of female participation in the workforce for the age group 15 years and over for the period 2000-2017, as it increased from 0 to 13.2% in 2000 from 11.6%, but it is considered low by global and regional standards, which puts it at the bottom of the list after the Arab countries. Although Iraqi women have made important progress in the field of education, which has led to a clear improvement in the skills and knowledge that qualify them to compete in the labor market, and the rate of economic activity for them is still low, in addition to the low rate of participation of economically active women, or what is known as (female loss In paid work outside the home, as in Table (5) and Figure (2) below:

Table 5 : Women's participation in the workforce aged 15 and over, 2000-2017 globally(%)

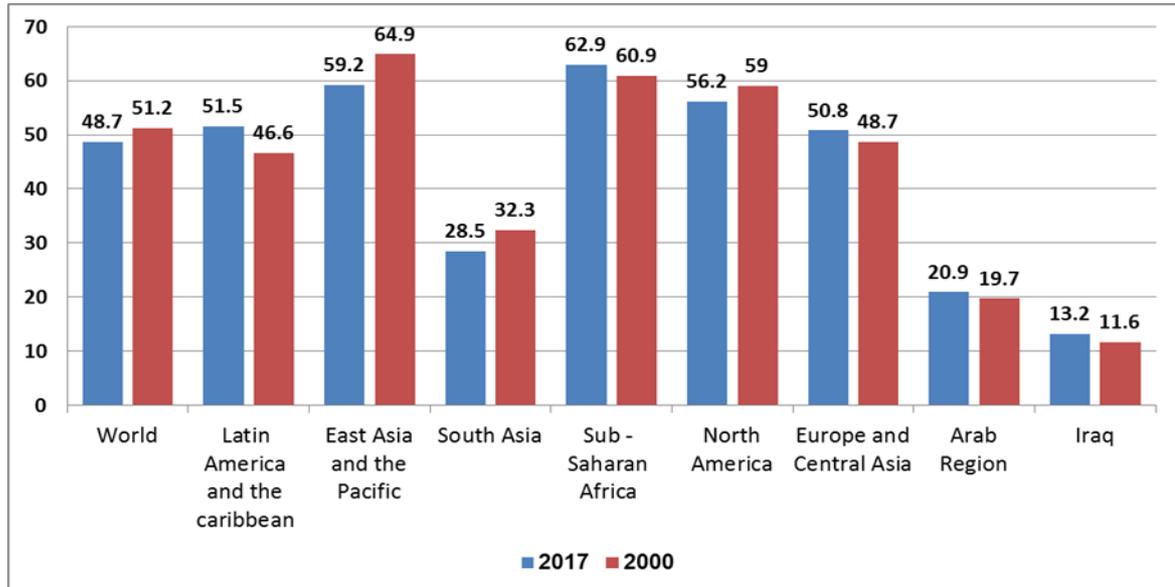
Region	2000	2017
World	51.2	48.7
Latin America and the caribbean	46.6	51.5
East Asia and the Pacific	64.9	59.2
South Asia	32.3	28.5
Sub - Saharan Africa	60.9	62.9
North America	59	56.2
Europe and Central Asia	48.7	50.8
Arab Region	19.7	20.9
Iraq	11.6	13.2

Source from the researcher's work, depending on: -

1- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA),(2017), Policy Brief on Arab Women's Economic Empowerment, UN in Bierut.

2-World Bank data,(based on modelled International Labour Organization(ILO)estimates), (2018).

Figure 2 :the percentage of female participation in the labor force, aged 15 and over, 2000-2017



Same source.

The percentage of women's participation in the labor force for the economically active age group (15 years and over) increased relatively in the Arab region to 20.9% in 2017 from 19.7% in 2000, and worldwide, it decreased to 48.7% in 2017 from 51.2% in 2000. As for Iraq, the lowest participation rate was recorded for both the Arab region and the world at 11.6% and 13.2% for the year 2000 and 2017, respectively (ESCWA, 2017).

2- Wage employment of women in the non-agricultural sector:

It means the share of women in paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector. It is an indicator by which to measure the flexibility of women's access to paid work in the most productive sectors of the economy. Whereas, the wage employment rate for women in the non-agricultural sector did not improve much. It reached 12.1% in 2012, while it reached 10.6% in 1990, and the rates were fluctuating during the period 1990-2012 Table (6) (Iraq Knowledge Network Survey, 2011). The data indicate that rural women are economically active at a higher rate than urban women. Still, they face the problem of food insecurity and other obstacles that prevent their education. Handicrafts, logistical, and security issues deny rural women access to education, thus denying them access to jobs that are not related to agriculture.

Table 6 : percentage of paid women's employment in the non -agricultural sector for the period (1990-2012)

Percentage	Year
10.6	1990
16.0	2004
15.3	2006
12.1	2008
14.7	2011
12.1	2012

Source: Results of the Living Conditions Survey in Iraq for the year 2004, the results of the Employment and Unemployment Survey for the years 2006 and 2008, the Iraq Knowledge Network Survey for the year 2011, the Socio-Economic Survey of the Family in Iraq (IHSES) for the year 2012.

3- The female breadwinner for the family:

A family headed by a woman is defined as that family in which there is no husband, and the woman has children or persons for another family who live with them in their own or rented house. It also means the family in which the man contributes marginally to the family income compared to the woman. The data indicate that the low rate of economic participation of women in Iraq for the working-age population has led to high dependency rates, because nearly half of the population of Iraq are consumers and the rest are producers, and they have the responsibility to support themselves and the consuming population, despite the gradual decline in the dependency rate during For several years, as it was 90.8% in 1997 and decreased to 89.4% in 2006 and then to 87.3% in 2007, but it is still high and constitutes a burden on the productive population of working age, and that, among other things, the summary of the results of the estimates of the Iraq Knowledge Network for the years 2015-2018 showed that The age dependency rate reached (77.1%) that is, every (100) persons of working age (15-64) dependents (77) persons from the population outside the labor force (population less than 15 years + population 65 years and over) and that the dependency rate for males (79%) and the female dependency rate (75.3%) for the year 2017 (Men and Women Report, previous source, 2018).

3.5 The political reality of women - And Decision-Making Centers

After 2003, Iraq has become at the forefront of the Arab countries in terms of women's participation in the national parliament. It ranks first by registering the highest percentage of women's representation in the Iraqi parliament compared to other Arab countries' parliaments from (13.2%) in 1990 to (25%) in 2004 and to (27.3%) in 2006 Table (7) below:

Table 7 : Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments for the period (1990-2018)

Percentage	Year
13.2	1990
7.0	1995
7.0	1997
25.0	2003
25.0	2004
25.0	2005
27.3	2006
25.2	2010
25.7	2014
25.2	2018

Source: Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Bureau of Statistics, Report of Women and Men Group - Statistics, Baghdad, 2018, p. 49..

The percentage of women's representation in the Iraqi Parliament depends on applying the (quota) system in the legislative council's election and the provincial councils. The highest percentage of women's representation among the total number of Parliament members for the year 2018 was (25.2%), as shown in the above table, and by (246) for men. (83) For women - The data of the Job Information Bank in the Central Bureau of Statistics for the year 2015 indicated that the percentage of women holding managerial positions at the level of director-general was (9.7%). The ratio was small at the undersecretary level, as it did not exceed (2.6%). Women from ministerial positions are also low, as women had previously been appointed to (6) ministries after 2004 and two ministries in 2016. According to the data of the administrative decentralization survey in evaluating services, the relative distribution of senior and middle administrative leaders in local governments by governorate and gender for the year 2010 was (93.4 %) For males (6.6%) for females at the level of Iraq (Administrative Decentralization Survey, 2010). About the data of the Supreme Judicial Council, we find that the number of judges reached (1178) for men compared to (47) for women, and the number of public prosecutors for men was (363) compared to (67) for women, and this reflects the gender gap and the need to achieve equal opportunities when distributing these Positions to ensure effective participation of women (Men and Women Report, 2018, p. 49).

3.6 Women In Domestic And International Legislation

The Iraqi government has made significant efforts and efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and improve their reality through many legal texts in Iraqi legislation aimed at equality between men and women. In line with human rights, Iraq has ratified its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination against women according to Law No. (66) of 1986 (Man and Woman Report 2018, pp. 3-8).

Among the laws and legislations that concern women in the Iraqi constitution and legal regulations are:

1. Chapter 1 - Article 22 of it: It stipulates that work is a right for all Iraqis in a way that guarantees a decent life for them. The Civil Workers Law in the state has also approved the equality of men and women in rights, job duties, wages, and salaries.
2. Chapter Two - Chapter One - Article 14: It stipulates that Iraqis are equal before the law without discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, origin, color, religion, sect, belief, opinion, economic or social status.
3. Chapter Two - Chapter One - Article 20 thereof: It stipulates that citizens, men, and women, have the right to participate and enjoy political rights, including the right to vote, vote, and run for office.
4. Chapter Two - Chapter One - Article 30 of it: It stipulates that the state guarantees for the individual and the family, especially the child and woman, social and health security and the basic requirements for living a decent life, and secures for her adequate income and adequate housing.
5. Chapter Two - Chapter Two - Article 37 of it: It stipulates that forced labor, slavery, slave trade, trafficking in women and children, and sex trafficking are prohibited.
6. Chapter Three - Chapter One - Article 49 thereof / Fourth: It stipulates that the election law aims to achieve a percentage of representation for women and not less than a quarter of the Parliament members, and the age of women is at least 18 years old.
7. Article 43 of the Amended Civil Service Law No. 24: which stipulates that:
A./ A pregnant employee is entitled to a 72-day pregnancy and childbirth leaves before and after birth, with a full salary.
B./ An employed mother may enjoy a special maternity leave of six months with a full salary and six months with half salary, and the leave is considered a service for the Civil Service Law (Men and Women Report, 2018, previous source, pp. 3-8).

The implications of applying these types of vacation can be clarified in the following points:

1. Article 14 of the Law on Salaries of State and Public Sector Employees No. 22 of 2008 indicates that child allowances are granted to an employed man, not to his employed wife and up to the fourth child. Employee man skills.
2. When the maternity leave is extended for a working woman, it means that she remains without pay, in addition to the lack of availability of programs to care for the health of the mother before and after childbirth, despite the increase in her material needs, and this may result in exposing her and her child to health risks.

3. The decline of the acquired skills of the worker due to the long period of her absence from work due to her enjoyment of maternity leave, and the lack of training courses and workshops to rehabilitate the working mother and improve her performance and the competition of workers who continue to work and have not been interrupted, has resulted in a decrease in the productivity of the working mother in exchange for an increase in the number of vacations. Discrimination against women and reducing their chances of obtaining high-paying jobs.

As for international agreements ratified by Iraq:

Iraq is one of the founding members of the United Nations and one of the first countries to ratify its charter. Iraq was a forerunner of its adherence to the International Labor Organization conventions, and it has approved most of the international agreements since the establishment of the United Nations, including:

-The International Labor Organization Convention on Equal Treatment (compensation for work accidents) 1925.

-The International Labor Organization Convention on Modalities for Determining Minimum Wages, 1928.

-The International Labor Organization Convention on Night Work (Women) 1948.

-The International Labor Organization Convention on the Protection of Wages in 1949.

-The International Labor Organization's Equal Pay Convention, 1951.

-The International Labor Organization Convention on Establishing Minimum Wages, 1970.

-The International Labor Organization Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor 1999.

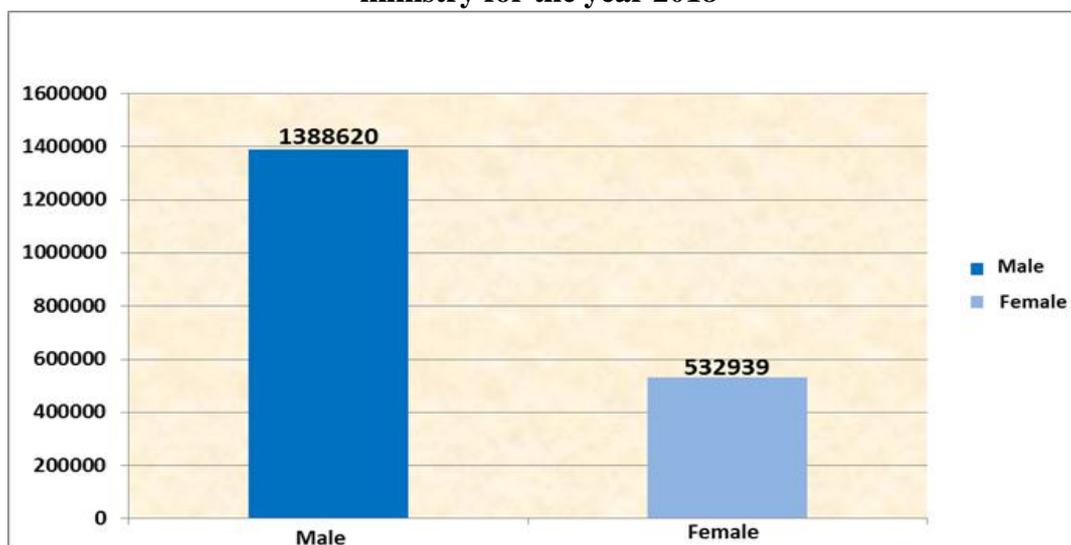
3.7 Women And Gender

Through this request, the researcher seeks to shed light on the reality of achieving gender equality (gender) in ministries and state institutions in Iraq through efforts aimed at eliminating discrimination against women in the labor market, referring to (Report on the reality of gender in the ministries and institutions of the state) In Iraq, 2018, p. 6) prepared by the Central Bureau of Statistics - Department of Human Development Statistics. Gender equality at work is not only a matter of human rights and justice for workers, but it will also benefit employers. It is one of the foundations for achieving economic growth and reducing poverty at the macro-levels of the country, and that achieving equality by granting opportunities and equal treatment between men and women leads to More consistency in economic and social policy, in contrast, dealing based on gender has negative repercussions on women, families, and society as a whole.

Although women represent half of the Iraqi society, their participation in state institutions and ministries is still below the required level. Where it is noticed that the number of men is almost twice the number of women in most state ministries, as shown in Figure (3) below, and it is a negative indicator that is not in line with the concept of gender, which seeks to achieve parity and equality in granting work opportunities for both sexes.

The total number of employees in ministries and state institutions for the year 2015 reached (1921559), where the ministries of (Interior, Education, Oil) have the highest number of men, as it reached (536286, 277609, 119496) respectively. The highest number of employed women comes to my ministry (Education and Higher Education) as their number reached (347702 and 35,325), respectively. The lowest levels of representation for women were recorded in the provincial councils and the Federal Court:

Figure 3 : the number of employees of ministries and entities not affiliated with a ministry for the year 2018



Source: Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Department of Human Development Statistics, the reality of gender in ministries and state institutions in Iraq, previous source, 2018, p.9.

As for gender indicators, the report represented the reality of women and men workers in all state ministries and institutions, including a detailed analysis of gender indicators as follows (Report on the Status of Gender in Ministries and State Institutions in Iraq for the year 2018, p.6) :

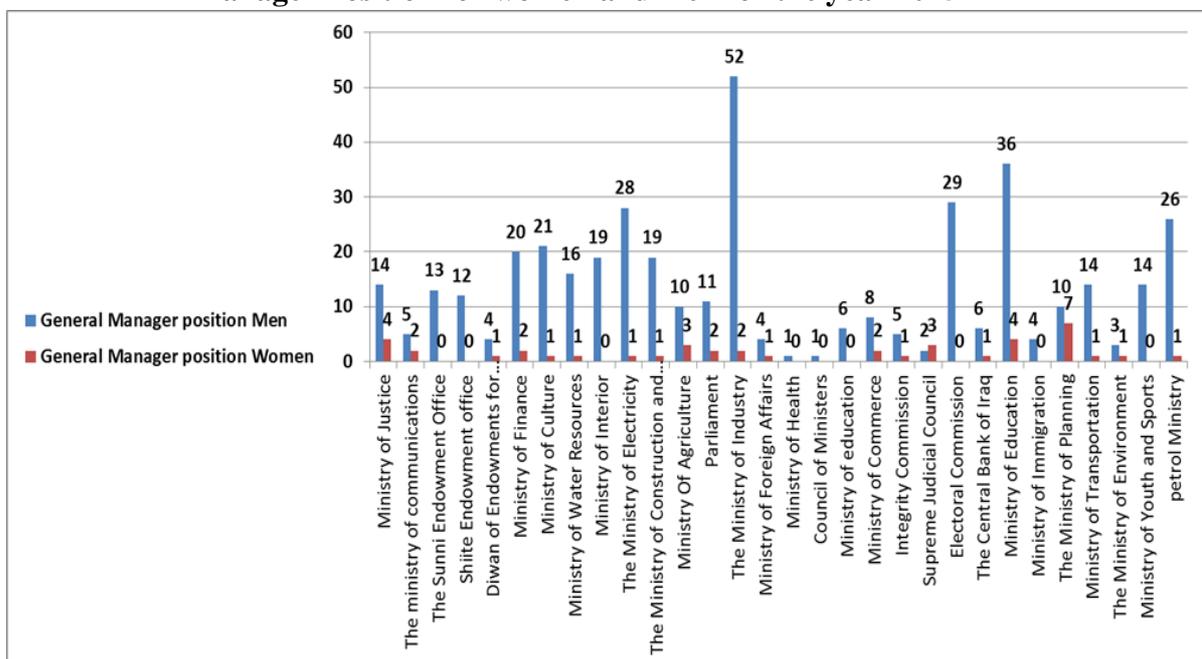
1. Educational level: To achieve the goals of each ministry and institution, it is imperative to raise the educational levels of all its employees, because, through education, the employee will acquire experiences and adjust his behavior and job performance to suit the work environment, as knowledge increases the individual's mental and intellectual skills. The data indicate that the educational attainment of men in ministries exceeds women. There are still employees who cannot read and write despite literacy programs and strategies, as the number of illiterate employees in 2015 reached (18,385) and women (8,104). The highest number of illiterate employees was recorded. In the ministries of education and industry, as for the overall level of illiterate female employees in all ministries and state institutions, the illiteracy rate for them was approximately (1.6%). The percentage of illiterate men reached (1.4%). It is clear that the gender gap tends in favor of men, and the gender gap widens. The number of men and women at the level of ministries and agencies not associated with a ministry for

postgraduate studies (higher diploma, master, doctorate), where the number of men reached (30,744), (65%) compared to (16260%), or (35%) for women of the total number of employees who obtained studies Supreme.

2. Training and qualification: Training is a planned process characterized by continuity and renewal. It aims to provide workers with more skills, refine experiences, create behavioral and technical changes in line with the next stage's requirements, achieve equal opportunities in ministries and state institutions, and help implement the integration of women's needs and expand their participation in development.

3. Senior management positions: The gender gap is evident when distributing senior administrative positions in state ministries. Therefore, to empower women, it is necessary to work to give them responsibilities that usually fall on men's shoulders to enhance self-confidence and self-respect. The number of senior leadership positions among men and women in ministries is large, as the number of men in all positions is more than twice that of women Figure (4):

Figure 4: Distribution of employees in ministries according to the General Manager Position for women and men for the year 2015



Source: Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Department of Human Development Statistics, the reality of gender in ministries and state institutions in Iraq, the same source, 2018, p.15.

From figure (4) above, we notice a significant disparity in equal opportunities, which requires a review of achieving a balance between the sexes. Therefore, to empower women and increase their role in all ministries to head higher leadership positions, we need policies, plans, legislation, and real awareness for women to take their essential role and actively participate socially and economically. Politically and legally.

3.8 Women And Violence

Violence: is the use of force to control another person or other persons, which is likely to result in injuries, deformities, or physical, sexual, or psychological pain to the woman, and may include abuse, coercion, physical pressure, or arbitrary deprivation of freedom in public life or Own. It appears that all societies suffer from a culture of violence, including gender-based domestic violence. That violence is more practiced against females than against males, except for the childhood and adolescence years when boys face the same risk of abuse. Despite the increase in policies and laws to eliminate these human rights violations, enforcement remains a challenge. Much of the abuse confidentially occurs, and victims are afraid to file complaints, as the criminal law enforcement systems in many countries are substandard when it comes to punishing the guilty and compensating the victims. This matter is one of the most prominent justifications for restricting women's activities inside the home to fear being exposed to violence outside it. Studies indicate that most violent cases against women are perpetrated by partners or male relatives in the house. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in six women is exposed to violence in her home more than she is exposed to in public places or at work (International Labor Conference - 98th Session, 2009, p. 30).

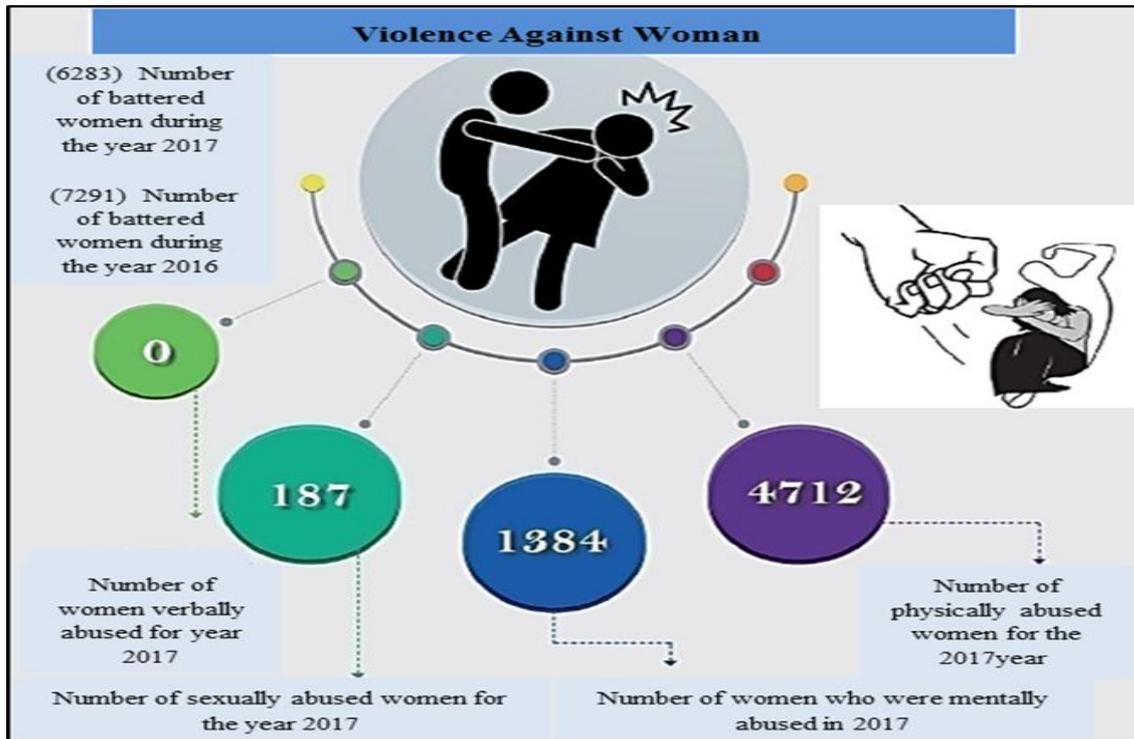
The data of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior - Directorate of Planning and Follow-up showed that the number of women who suffer from physical violence reached (4712) for the year 2017, while physical violence reached (5419) for the year 2016, while the data showed that the number of women who were subjected to sexual violence reached (187) for the year While it reached (169) for the year 2016, as in the Table (8). and The illustrative chart (1), and this hurts the social situation of the family as a whole, including women, as the increase in the violence against women index leads to a decline in the level of self-confidence and restrictions on freedom of movement and access to Resources and thus weakening their participation in economic activity.

Table 8 : Number of women who experienced various types of violence who filed a complaint for the years 2016 and 2017

Violence	physical	Myself	Phonetic	Sexual	Total
Violence of 2016	5419	0	1703	169	7291
Violence of 2017	4712	1384	0	187	6283

Source: Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Bureau of Statistics, Women and Men Report, Statistical Group, Baghdad, 2018.

Flipchart 1 : The number of women who were subjected to various types of violence in 2016 and 2017



4. The Role Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises In The Economic Empowerment Of Women In Iraq

4.1 The Concept

Small enterprises represent the vast majority in the structure of micro, small and medium enterprises, as they accounted for about 99.5% of the total of the three enterprises in Iraq, and they are the main engine of the economy and the largest source of creating and providing real job opportunities in developing countries.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) defines small enterprises as "that sector consisting of productive units that invest a relatively small volume of fixed capital, regardless of the units' level, whether they are modern or traditional." Whereas, the US Federal Reserve defines small enterprises as "a mobile enterprise in ownership and management that acquires a limited share of the market" (Safi, Tarawneh, 2018, p. 2). While the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs defines small enterprises as that project that generates material income, and the number of workers in it does not exceed (10) ten individuals, and that the owner of the project is the same person who benefits from the loan, provided that the loan amount does not exceed twenty (20,000,000) twenty One million Iraqi dinars, without interest (Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs - Republic of Iraq, 2012, p. 13).

As for the procedural definition of small enterprises, they are small units that work to produce a commodity or provide a specific service with the aim of profit, and that a small enterprise may be industrial, agricultural, commercial, service, or marketing, and that ownership and capital may belong to an individual or a small group. From individuals, in addition to his administrative independence, as the manager is usually the same as the owner of the project. A small number of workers work in the project, adopt simple technology, and do not need much capital" (Al-Khalidi, Nabil Omran Musa, 2015, p.13).

The Iraqi government relies on the criterion of the number of workers to distinguish between the three enterprises, as it ranges between 1-2 workers for small enterprises, 3-9 workers for small enterprises, and 10-24 workers for medium enterprises. According to the latest studies of the Iraqi market, there is a remarkable development with the increase in the number of micros, small and medium enterprises, as the total number increased to 28 thousand establishments in 2017 after it was 22.5 thousand establishments in 2014, with a growth rate of 27.9%. Small and medium enterprises contribute to a specific percentage of 0.8. In percent of gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices for 2016 (Arab Monetary Fund - 2019, pp. 109-115).

Global interest in small enterprises emerged after the Second World War, due to their ability to develop societies and rebuild what the war had destroyed. Since the sixties of the last century, all countries of the world, including the third world countries, have realized the significant role of small enterprises in stimulating the economy, so they occupied essential and prominent roles in the plans. And the developmental policies of countries. On the one hand, they (small enterprises) can supply large industrial enterprises with some of the materials included in their products called (feeding industries). On the other hand, small enterprises can consume large industrial enterprises from raw materials, machinery, equipment, and various products. In this way, it contributes to improving the quality of life for citizens and achieving their prosperity by absorbing and investing the unemployed workers and transforming them into productive employment, which in turn leads to a reduction in poverty and unemployment levels. Small enterprises are increasingly crucial for their effective contribution to creating job opportunities for women in rural and urban areas, especially for women who have not obtained decent jobs in public and private sectors (Safi et al., Previous source).

4.2 The Reality Of Rural Women In Iraq:

According to the report (The Reality of Rural Women in Iraq - 2016) prepared by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning, which aims to empower women, in particular, it requires the adoption of various plans, policies, programs, and initiatives to advance the reality of rural women and develop them in an integrated manner and achieve equality between women and men, and the adoption of projects and research Agricultural, which aims to raise the productivity of available resources through optimal utilization of them.

The report indicated the need to develop women socially by improving their educational, health, and rehabilitation levels without discrimination, and reducing poverty by increasing their participation rate in all fields. The participation of rural women in economic and social development has an active and fundamental role. This role becomes more effective whenever women have a more significant role in society.

The report showed that the percentage of women in urban areas reached (70%) compared to (30%) in rural areas. This means that rural women constitute about a third of Iraqi women and that the percentage of widows among rural women is about (6%). The rate of early marriage Among rural females, it is (8%), and the percentage of rural women who head their families compared to urban areas is approximately (17%) (Central Statistical Organization, Previous source).

As for the governorate level, the governorates of Salah al-Din and Muthanna are among the first places for the year 2017, as the percentage of women in the countryside in these two governorates reached (55%), while the lowest percentage was in Sulaymaniyah Governorate which is (15%) and as shown in Table (10) below :

Table (10) the number and percentage of females by governorate and environment (urban - rural) for the year 2015

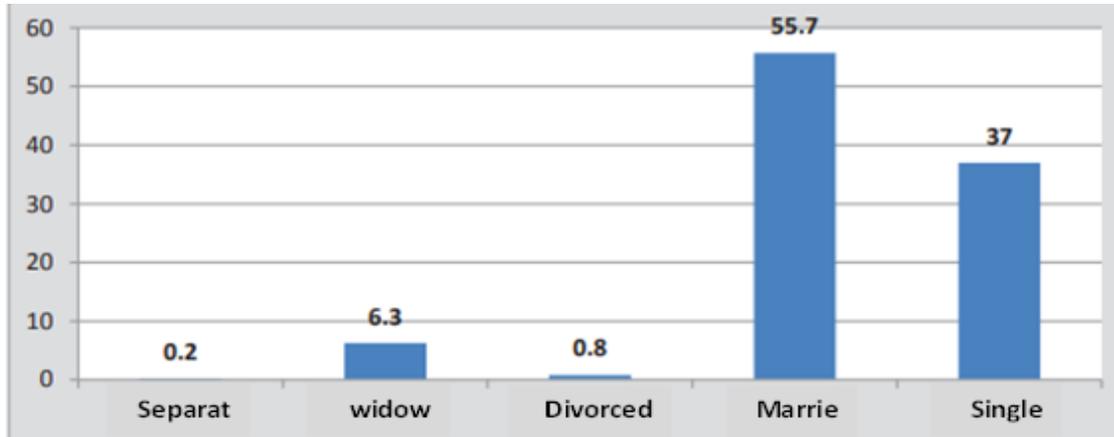
Total	The ratio%	Countryside	The ratio%	Urban	Governorates
1767056	39	696614	61	1070442	Nineveh
768864	26	198879	74	569985	Kirkuk
784323	50	395482	50	388841	Diyala
834013	50	416915	50	417098	Anbar
3880607	12	476413	88	3404194	Baghdad
988972	51	508518	49	480454	Babylon
585019	33	192788	67	392231	Karbala
661163	40	262808	60	398355	Wasit
764118	55	418059	45	346059	Salahuddin
710909	28	200046	72	510863	Najaf
620068	43	263932	57	356136	Qadisiyah
392151	55	215588	45	176563	Almuthanna
1010760	36	360380	64	650380	Dhi Qar
451007	26	142759	74	398248	Maysan
1402742	19	264485	81	1138257	Basra
890136	17	149865	83	740271	Erbil
624814	26	161233	74	463581	Dohuk
1047419	15	157826	85	889593	Sulaymaniyah
18274141	30	5482590	70	12791551	Total

Source: Iraqi Central Bureau of Statistics, Department of Human Development Statistics 2016.

4.3 The Social Situation Of Rural Women In Iraq

The data of the 2016 assessment of food security and vulnerability of Iraqi families indicate that more than half of rural women are married, and the reason for this is due to the rise of early husbands in the countryside. Unmarried women constitute (37%), while widows are (6.3%) As shown in Figure (5) below:

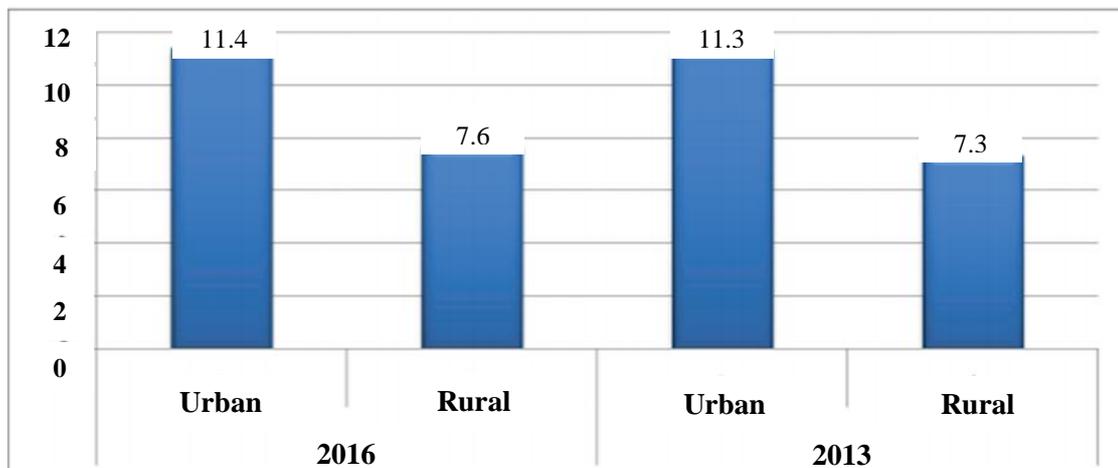
Figure (5): Percentage of rural women aged 12 years and over according to marital status in 2016



Source: Iraqi Households Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment Survey 2016

With regard to the 2016 Food Security and Vulnerability Survey of Iraqi Families and the 2013 Maternal Mortality Survey, when comparing their data, it becomes clear to us that the percentage of women heading the secret is still low, as it did not exceed (10.5%) across Iraq. It is noticeable that the percentage is lower in the countryside than in urban areas, due to the nature of the social reality that families live in the countryside, and as shown in Figure (6) below:

Figure (6): Percentage of women heading households in Iraq for the years 2013-2016



Source: Central Statistical Organization, Maternal Mortality Survey 2013, and Iraqi Households Food Security Assessment Survey 2016.

As for the extent of women's participation in the economic activity according to the work environment (urban - rural), it is considered the most important measure through which the percentage of women's participation in the workforce is known, as the percentage of working women in the countryside is generally lower than in urban areas due to the high rate of women's participation. In the service sector, such as education and health for urban women compared to rural women, work for women is not just an economic need intended to secure life's requirements only, but it is a source of self-confidence and facilitates their integration into society.

From the above, then Supporting the entrepreneurial work of Iraqi women, enhancing their self-confidence, and encouraging them towards establishing and owning micro, small, or medium productive enterprises, are among the most effective policies and plans pursued by the state and informal institutions concerned with increasing and developing women's economic participation as a result of their effective influence in creating productive work opportunities for all family members Including women, and enhancing social stability by enabling women (housewives) to own suitable private projects within the same areas of their residence. This matter will facilitate them to manage projects and fulfill their obligations towards their families without any negligence. However, unfortunately, these projects still do not find enough opportunity as a result of the prevailing social heritage towards women and that they do not enjoy the support of their families, and that small and medium-sized loan projects remain the monopoly of men to a large extent not only because of the presence of traditions that hinder women's participation, but rather the inability to access loans because The complexity of the guarantees required by the banks and this matter afflicts both men and women (Shangar, Abdul Karim Jaber, 2013, pp. 106-107).

5. Conclusion

One of the most important findings of the researcher is the following:

1. Although the total fertility rate decreased to 3.9 for the year 2018, the proportion of the Iraqi population of females remained at the forefront within the age group (65 years and over), and that the median age of the Iraqi society is a young mediator, so Iraq is heading to the opening of the window. Demographic.
2. The existence of a positive positive relationship between academic qualification and the empowerment of Iraqi women in terms of facilitating their access to resources and increasing their skills and knowledge capabilities, which leads to enhancing their self-confidence and facilitating their integration into the labor market.
3. Although the government has made clear progress in providing education for all and high enrollment rates for all educational stages, it is fluctuating and is heading towards a decline in secondary and university education in terms of reducing the gender gap, while the problem of limited absorptive capacity and bias in favor of men when hiring is an obstacle. Iraqi women need to practice various economic activities.

4. The deterioration of many indicators in the health conditions of Iraqi women, the most important of which are: the rate of neonatal mortality, deaths of children under five years of age, abortion, breast cancer among women, immunodeficiency, tuberculosis, and family planning methods, in contrast to the improvement in maternal mortality and the birth rate Which takes place under the supervision of health personnel or specialists.
5. Women still occupy the lowest percentage of the total economic activity rate of the economically active population, and women's unemployment is higher than men's unemployment according to educational attainment.
6. There are many factors, including the failure to improve the educational level of women, the high dropout rates, the instability of the security situation, and the deprivation of rural women of their right to obtain the required education, all of which have led to their lack of wages or decent work in the non-agricultural sector, in addition to the high dependency rates due to the decrease The rate of women's participation in the economy.
7. The increase in the representation of women in the Iraqi parliament during the research years, but the gender gap is wide in decision-making positions and in assuming upper and middle administrative positions.
8. There are still laws and instructions that limit women's freedom to work and not provide them with the necessary skills to the same extent as men, including pregnancy and childbirth, leave before and after childbirth that is granted to a pregnant employee, as well as the enforcement of criminal laws, which is a great definition of trends in women's economic empowerment.
9. The micro, small, and medium productive enterprises did not find sufficient opportunity to continue and take on their role in society due to the prevailing social heritage towards women and the lack of support of her family for her, as well as the complexity of guarantees required for obtaining loans, which afflicts both sexes.

6. Recommendations

As for the recommendations, they focus on the following:

- 1 - That the government work to take advantage of the golden opportunity for the demographic transition, which we are on the third threshold, and make it an investment opportunity by providing infrastructure and optimal utilization of human energies towards supporting comprehensive development, which will positively affect women by increasing their active participation in economic activity.
- 2- The government, through the relevant authorities, must harness the programs that guarantee the Iraqi woman's possession of the Iraqi woman's educational qualification, which is the primary basis for raising her knowledge capacity and increasing her awareness and community's confidence in them, which leads to facilitate their involvement in the labor market, at the same time, it is necessary Women do not continue to search for low-paid work, but rather they should enhance their self-confidence and strive for higher educational attainment so that they can access resources and make decisions.

3- Creating a healthy environment because of its effective role in increasing the productive capacity of women, and working to raise the level of societal awareness for them with the concepts of public health, in addition to the need to develop serious health programs within the interest in reproductive health for married women, and the use of modern family planning methods and also to intervene in Reducing the incidence of breast cancer and the incidence of tuberculosis and reducing its risks.

4- Increasing the percentage of women's representation in the Iraqi parliament to 30% while continuing with the quota system, and enabling them to reach decision-making positions in society by reducing the gender gap between them and men in the field of holding senior and middle administrative positions. Then they will be influential in decision-making and policy development. Even at the level of economic, legal, and social institutions.

5- The researcher recommends the need to amend the maternity leave law for female employees in the government and private sectors to make it more satisfactory and acceptable, and to reduce the disparity in financial allocations between them and male employees when they extend maternity leave, thus avoiding potential risks that threaten the health of the employee's mother and the health of the child before and after childbirth.

6- The necessity of firmly following up on the enforcement of criminal laws against the violence of women by punishing the offenders and compensating the victims.

7 - The need to work to restore balance and parity between male and female employees in all Iraqi ministries and state institutions, with a focus on the provincial councils and the Federal Court, as well as the need to reduce the proportion of female employees who are illiterate as they exceed the proportion of illiterate men by raising educational levels and intensifying qualification courses for women.

8- The government should support the pioneering work of Iraqi women in urban and rural areas, as it enhances self-confidence and encourages them to own small and medium enterprises and create decent and productive job opportunities, in addition to the necessity to facilitate the guarantees required by banks.

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اتجاهات التمكين الاقتصادي للمرأة في العراق للمدة 1990-2018

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مستخلص البحث:

يهدف هذا البحث الى دراسة واقع المرأة العراقية الاقتصادية والاجتماعي والسياسي من خلال الوقوف على المعوقات وتشخيص اتجاهات التمكين لها في شتى المجالات، وتقييم حجم مشاركتها في النشاط الاقتصادي، واعادة تحقيق التوازن بين النساء والرجال بتقليص فجوة النوع الاجتماعي بينهما وتقليص نسبة بطالة النساء الى ادنى مستوى ممكن، ويتحقق هذا بتعزيز الثقة بالمرأة العراقية بسن القوانين واتخاذ القرارات التي تتيح لها امكانية الوصول الى الموارد بحرية. استخدم الباحث الاسلوب الوصفي التحليلي للتعامل مع المعلومات والبيانات المتعلقة بموضوع البحث عبر مدة زمنية محددة وهي (1990-2018)، والاستعانة بالتقارير المحلية والعربية والدولية الصادرة عن الأمم المتحدة والبنك الدولي ومسوحات وزارة التخطيط العراقية- الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء والدراسات السابقة. ومن جملة ما توصل اليه الباحث في خاتمة البحث هو ضرورة تمكين المرأة العراقية من خلال تسهيل امتلاكها للمؤهل العلمي الذي من شأنه ان يزيد مهاراتها وثقتها بنفسها ويسهل انخراطها في سوق العمل، وتعديل القوانين التي لحقت ضرراً بالنساء العاملات في القطاعين الحكومي والخاص، فضلاً عن تفعيل الاعلام الايجابي للمرأة وان يتقبلها المجتمع كشريك حقيقي مع الرجل في ميادين الحياة كافة، والعمل بحزم وبشفافية تامة على انفاذ القوانين الجنائية ضد مرتكبي العنف ضد النساء بكافة اشكاله.

المصطلحات الرئيسية للبحث : الاتجاهات، التمكين، التمكين الاقتصادي، التمكين الاقتصادي للمرأة .