

Youth and Unemployment

Yemeni Youth, a Waste of Wealth in the Unemployment Tunnel

Youth's Weak Role in Decision-making

Educational Outcomes in Yemen: Disappointing Aspirations for Youth in the Labor Market

The Youth Category Represents More than One Third of Yemen's Population

Sawt
Al-Amal
VOICE OF HOPE



Independent - Newspaper (Twice a Month) Published by Yemen Information Center
1/8/2021

Spread of Unemployment among Youth
Forces the Women to Leave the Labor Market

Unemployment

Social, Economic and Security Impacts

Leads to Insecurity and Violence Spread

Supporting Small Businesses, Facilitating Loans for Youth, and Encouraging Investment are Keys to Tackling the Problem

Editorial

Youth: a Fruitful Energy



Manal Amin

The most difficult material that anyone in the world can talk about with all the words of language and expression dictionaries is the issue of youth. As they are the title of civilization, history, advancement and the future; they are the life force and are able to change the scales of reality in various fields.

Yemen is currently going through difficult and harsh phases and turns for all members of society in various aspects of life, and perhaps young people are the most affected groups by these turns, only the majority of them have become tools for different parties that promote hatred and violence among society, despite everyone knowing the importance of their role in the process of development, reconstruction and building what the conflict destroyed, especially during this difficult phase that the country is going through.

Today's youth are anticipating an ambiguous and unclear future, hoping that there will be a spot of light that enhances optimism for a better future, especially since society relies on them a lot in developing and enhancing the development

process and the return of life to the best.

Everyone knows that youth is a positive and fruitful energy for those who have been able to invest it correctly. God has made man in his youthful stage of strength and activity, as they are the renewable resource of the state that helps build and develop the society economically, developmentally, socially and politically.

The youth must be aware of the responsibilities attached to them through joint work with all governmental and international agencies to build their minds, and be able to deal with the data of the future until it is built properly, and this will only take place through the interest of everyone who is linked to their developmental aspects by improving and developing the educational and rehabilitation process in line with the outputs of the labor market, providing job opportunities that contribute to improving their capabilities and investing them in various fields and sectors, and involving them in the political process, decision-making, stopping the conflict, and improving the career aspect in various institutions, companies and sectors.

Youth organizations and initiatives have an active role in the field of life, a strong impact on all members of society, and contribute a lot to building the future that serves the country first and foremost, where the young man presents his ideas, abilities and skills by spreading a culture of cooperation, exchange of ideas and self-reliance in the service of community members in various fields (economic development, relief and service.).

Finally, we can say that if young people were given the opportunity to know their rights and duties towards this country in all its fields and sectors, it would be the first step in achieving security, peace, growth and development because society will not be able to rise and shake off its destruction, corruption and conflict unless the minds and arms of young people are invested in the required form and with the concerted efforts of all concerned to achieve a prosperous and strong life, contributing to the development and realization of the ambition of young people to build their future in a manner that preserves their dignity and humanity and spares them the idea of immigration and departure.



Impact of Youth on Community Development in Yemen

A Gap between International Conventions and Resolutions and their Application to Reality with regard to Youth

32% of the Total Population of Yemen are Youth for the year 2020 AD

It is known that the development and construction of societies can only happen by relying on the brains and souls of young people in the first place, due to the importance of their role in building civilizations in various fields and sectors, and because of their enormous energies that must be properly invested.



Salem Hatem



Abdul Moeen Al-Hamati



Ammar Murshed

By: Manal Amin
Sawt Al-Amal - (Voice of Hope)

The book "The Role of Arab Youth in Community Development" written by a group of experts from the Arab Administrative Development Organization in 2014 AD stated that "Statistics indicate that young people constitute more than half of the population in most Arab countries, where their percentage reaches more than 65%". According to these experts, this demographic reality should be the basis for all studies, measures and policies that are developed to address the issues of young people who face crucial challenges targeting their existence, dignity, and even humanity.

Experts affirm, "Young people are among the resources that society institutions, governmental and private, must employ and invest in order to bring about integrated and sustainable development, and to transform their energies and creativity into positive production elements that develop the society politically, culturally, socially and economically".

A Gap between Theory and Reality

Yemen has been living in a special situation for several years, which has led to a deterioration in the security, economic and political situation and directly contributed to the increase in unemployment among young people, spread of crime, chaos and affiliation to many parties.

Abdul Moeen Al-Hamati (Director General of Youth Strategy at the Ministry of Youth and Sports) says, "The skills of young people in Yemen began to mature since the beginning of the millennium in various fields, especially in the development process that contributed to achieving the Millennium Goals approved by

the United Nations represented in the right of young people to access education, health and development, as well as providing information and building plans on the basis of development".

Regarding the suffering of the development process in Yemen and its connection to the youth segment, Al-Hamati explains to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope), "The development process in Yemen suffers from the lack of job opportunities for young people according to their educational outcomes, and the emergence of a gap between international conventions and their application on the ground with regard to the process of assimilation of young people in the labor market and development, and the unfair decisions of decision-makers who do not realize the importance of the role of youth when implementing strategic plans that target young people with organized work, as 70% of the country's economic support currently comes through the unofficial sector".

Regarding the challenges facing young people, he says, "During this stage, and because of the general situation in the country, young people faced the problem of searching for a quick source of livelihood, which made them belong to different parties unaware of the seriousness of the matter".

Implementation of National Youth Development Programs

The role of the Ministry of Youth in developing this segment, Al-Hamati summarizes it by saying, "The Ministry is implementing a number of programs targeting youth related to developing leadership skills and the concept of youth development. It also works in coordination with approximately 11 ministries concerned with youth to implement national and the ministry is preparing a workshop, in

the coming period, on the policies of joint work between the relevant ministries regarding youth development".

For treatments, Al-Hamati presented solutions that contribute to the development of the ministry's work on youth and development, stressing on the necessity of reactivating the resources of the Fund for the Care of Youth, which still suffers from a deficit due to the general situation, providing opportunities to work in activities that attract funding, and continuing to activate the partnership with all concerned parties; whether official bodies, civil society or international organizations.

A Gap between the Youth Themselves

On the other hand, Ammar Murshed (an expert in the field of youth and sustainable development) believes that because of the divisions taking place in the country, the lack of trust between the parties on the ground, and the emergence of a large gap between the youth themselves, it all had a negative impact on the process of youth adoption of national development issues in the country in his opinion.

Among the reasons for the youth's withdrawal from the development and political process, Murshed says, "The youth's lack of confidence in the main parties involved in the conflict in Yemen and the useless previous experiences in involving them in the peace and development process, and the lack of confidence of external parties in offering young people opportunities to improve reality, all of this and more led independent young people believing in national issues away from the political arena to stay".

"Young people are the main resource in Yemen, so it is necessary to work to strengthen their belief in themselves and their capabilities as they are an effective force at this stage,

and their voices should be united under one cause that contributes to growth and development as well as change the negative view that sees them as part of the problem, which is not true, thus the youth is an active element and contributor to solving all societal issues", according to a sustainable development expert.

Young People in Numbers

"There is no doubt that youth are the most important social and economic force in society, and they are called "the 2030 AD torchbearers" because they play a pivotal role, not only because they are beneficiaries of the measures and policies of the sustainable development agenda, but because they are partners in implementation". This is indicated by the report issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Economic Studies and Forecasting Sector) entitled "Economic and Social Developments in Yemen 2021 AD".

The report also indicated, "There is still hope for the youth category, who represent about 32% of the total population in Yemen for the year 2020 AD, and constitute the largest percentage of the workforce. They are the promising future that can be born out of suffering and conflict".

The report reviewed the most important facts and indicators about the unemployment rate in Yemen for the year 2019 AD, as it reached 32%, and the percentage of the population under 25 years old reached 51% of the total population in Yemen. As for the percentage of youth outside the education and training system and the labor market in 2013 AD, it reached more than 44.8%.

Suggested Solutions to Bring About Positive Change

Wahda Abdul Rahman (Executive Director

of Foundation of Community Development and Protection Supporters) says that youth have the ability to implement developmental programs and activities that contribute to the development of society through the use of modern standards that keep pace with the requirements of the times and partnership with the decision makers in evaluating policies and making positive changes in various sectors. It's been currently working on highlighting their capabilities to take advantage of them and absorb them for the next stage.

As for Salem Hatem (a member of the Youth Consultations), he believes, "Young people are the main driver of the development process in society, especially at this exceptional stage. They are the leaders of change and development for more uplifting societies, and their empowerment of decision-making centers and involvement in the development process facilitates the continuation of the wheel of growth and development. It also contributes to creating job opportunities that stimulate creativity and achievement".

The experts involved in drafting the Economic and Social Update Report in Yemen 2021 AD, issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, stress on the need to implement policies related to youth empowerment within the framework of an organizational structure that contributes to enhancing the economic and social role of this group in the future, by raising the capacities of institutions concerned with providing care for youth by strengthening aspects of partnership with international and civil society organizations working in the field of development, empowering youth, expanding programs for financing small projects and self-initiatives, accessing substantive and technical training tracks and raising its quality.

Psychological Effect... Unemployment is a Societal Frustration that Affects the Youth

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal - (Voice of Hope)

The youth play an active and vital role in public life in any society, as they are an active force in making change and innovation. The phenomenon of unemployment has become a cause for concern among the youth graduating from universities, developing feelings of frustration and resentment, and even entailing many problems for the individual and society.

The Psychological Impact of Unemployment

Ghaida Mansour (a psychologist in Sana'a) says, "Unemployment has a significant psychological impact on the youth. It is possible for a young man to be affected by psychological disorders, such as depression and anxiety because of the ambiguity of the future, and the feeling of uselessness or loss. In addition, unemployment makes the young man isolated and introverted and feel unwilling to live because of his sense of lack of self-esteem, and these effects may reflect negatively on his behavior, so he tends to take revenge on his community by practicing violence and some deviant behaviors, and in some cases the young man may have to resort to other methods like an addiction that has become a habit for some of them to escape the accumulated pressures".

As for the solutions, she explains, "It is im-

portant to provide projects for youth that are compatible with their abilities, and make their lives easier by training them at work so that they can gain experience in his work. It should also provide them with programs that support and raise their level of self-esteem and help them as a new cadre who needs someone to hold his or her hand and raise it so that he or she can occupy his or her spare time in something beneficial for everyone".

Social Impact of Unemployment

Daoud Al-Jubeiry (a social worker from Sana'a's governorate) explains the concept of unemployment and its impact on youth, saying, "It has great effects and may lead to a flaw in the society, as it causes emptiness among young people which leads to multiple problems, deviations and incorrect habits may abound among some of them".

Al-Jubeiry presented some proposals that could work to solve this problem, which is the demand to pay attention to the education first in order to properly raise young people, and train them after education to gain the necessary expertise and attract them to work and exploit their energies with things that may benefit them and the society.

Tayseer Ad-Dhababani (a community service specialist from Sana'a) agrees with him and says, "Unemployment causes pressures and deviations among youth and may also result in many problems such as thefts, addiction, abuse and others".

She added, "From my personal point of view, I suggest that the state and relevant local and international organizations support small youth projects and provide them with new job opportunities, as well as scholarships, encourage and train them to work and advance the society to awaken their sense of responsibility. The individual or youth is responsible for an entire society and not only for himself".

Unemployment and youth

Omar Khaled (a 32-year-old graduate of the Accounting Department from Taiz Governorate) says, "I started planning my future at work. Upon my graduation, I directly went to the Civil Service Office with optimism, and presented my file and was surprised by a long queue that had preceded me by years. This was my first shock, then I thought of applying for a private job as I am an accounting graduate and possess the language and computer skills, and I was confident that I would get a job, but unfortunately for the past eight years and until now, I have been looking for a job and have not found, and the queue continues".

Omar continues, "At that time, I had to work as a bus driver to earn a living. The hope that was inside me was killed. This is not only my problem, but a problem that exists in almost every home. In every home there are at least one or two young men who are unemployed".

He believes that "there are solutions, such as paying attention to education in the first place in proportion to the labor market and es-

tablishing new projects that correspond to the large numbers that graduate each year, as well as eliminating mediation and nepotism so that everyone can obtain his right and provide new fields of work so that young people be creative in their fields."

As for Salam Al-Ammari, (a 25-year-old graduate of the pharmacy department), says, "I was not fortunate enough to work in my field of specialization. Every time I applied for a job, I was either rejected due to lack of experience or lack of response, and sometimes sufficiency and various other reasons. I am currently working on designing themes and invitations as a freelance work so that I earn my daily expenses".

Concerning the issue of unemployment and limiting it as a prevalent phenomenon in our society and in many societies as well, Salam believes that there should be specialized offices that work to provide job opportunities for youth in proportion to their field of study. There should also be training courses for them that develop their abilities, refine their talents, introduce them to the labor market, and provide them with the necessary experience.

Ruba Akram, a 24-year-old girl from Aden and a graduate of interior design) agreed with them, by saying, "I am a university graduate who is unemployed for various reasons, such as nepotism and mediation which gives entitlement to specific people. I am rejected because of the lack of experience, as they said,

concerning the unemployment, for us, youth, as it is a frustration".

From a psychological and practical point of view, there are many proposals that must be applied to reduce or mitigate the phenomenon of unemployment, the first of which is, according to Ruba, necessary to create new opportunities for young graduates who are looking for opportunities to prove themselves in the society, as well as to conduct training and rehabilitation courses so that the youth can apply for a job while they are aware and have experience in the labor market and its requirements.

Malik Amin, a 27-year-old graduate of the College of Business Administration from Sana'a's governorate) says, "Everyone has his own preferences and hobbies that he tries to develop and grow as well as his dreams do. I wanted to find a job that fits my field of specialization so that I can support myself and my family through it, but unfortunately things don't always go as planned (winds blow counter to what ships desire). I applied in more than one governmental and private institution, but in vain. I am currently working in a perfume shop and I provide the basic expenses that enable me and my family to live".

Regarding the solutions that can be offered in the matter of unemployment, Malik says, "It is necessary to establish employment and training offices for the university graduates, build new projects and support youth small projects".

Empowering Youth Economically Is an Opportunity for Sustainable Development

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The Role of Economic Institutions in Developing the Youth Energies

The Yemeni economy suffers from great economic and structural challenges, as a result of the conditions in the country for more than six years, which in turn led to a decline in the indicators of the important service and development sectors in the country. In fact, the economic declination contributes to the aggravation of the human suffering through the huge increase of the unemployed forces as well as the unemployment and poverty levels.

According to a report issued by the World Economic Forum of 2019, Yemen ranked 140 out of 141 countries in the world as a result of the decline in Yemen's measures in the sub-indicators, including the index of capacity, employment of manpower, development and technical knowledge due to the difficult political and economic conditions that Yemen is going through at the present time.

In 2018, it ranked 139th globally, and in 2017 AD, 130th with a rate of 48.35, which is the last rank in the countries' ranking.

Difficulties Facing Private Projects

The economic analyst Muhammed Omani says, "Small projects are one of the most achievable opportunities to ensure the national economy, which contributes to the elimination of unemployment, but as a result of the ongoing conflict, some individual, small and medium projects were affected, so many large institutions and projects abandoned a percentage of their employees and left, and so many of them have become unemployed, looking for work."

The project of Yahya Muhammed (owner of a juice shop in the Bajil area in Al-Hudaydah), has become threatened with closure as a result of the deteriorating economic situation, the increase of the store's rental prices and other costs such as taxes, electricity and others. He explains, "Like other young men, I suffered of unemployment, so we headed towards the private projects



to ensure a livelihood after we lost hope of finding a governmental job, and we are currently facing a great challenge because of the current situation, and we need programs and projects that help us face the burdens of living".

Economic Opportunities

The chairman of the Advisory Office for Coordination with the BRICS, Fouad Al-Ghaffari (founder of BRICS in Yemen and head of the BRICS Youth Parliament - Federation of the Emerging National Economies) says, "The BRICS countries are currently working to arrange a youth rights law in coordination with the United Nations, where the latter announced a strategy to activate the role of youth in achieving sustainable development goals." He adds, "the current stage in Yemen requires us to work on reviving the old Yemeni Al-Laban street, as it is a comprehensive economic project and a good golden opportunity.

If applied, it will open new doors and horizons to raise the Yemeni economy rates and eliminate the widespread unemployment among young people which negatively affected the entire society".

Furthermore, Al-Ghaffari stresses on the importance of the institutions role in developing the youth capacities and achieving their ambitions in order to revive the national economy, as we enjoy promising youth minds and souls that can be oriented to the right path to serve and develop the society.

Projects that Create New Job Opportunities

Some of the projects of international organizations related to the cash-for-work project contributed to improving the income of a number of families and eliminating the unemployment. "CARE" was the most prominent organization that implemented this project in a number of Yemeni governorates, including Aden governorate,

where it gathered a number of youths, girls and boys, in different directorates and distributed them to work on repairing roads, afforestation, street cleaning and health education, in a move to restore the infrastructure and improve access to the basic services.

Donia Muhammed (one of the beneficiaries of the Cash-For-Work project in Aden) says, "This project has offered new hopes for us, after we despaired of not getting job opportunities, especially in such deteriorating conditions that the country is going through. And we have received extensive training from qualified cadres in the field of health awareness against dengue fever, cholera and corona, and after the training, we actually implemented the work through field visits to raise community awareness, and the project lasted for four months, and we were paid a good amount that contributed to improving our income and raising our capabilities".

For her part, Rania Abdulla (one of the supervisors of the Cash-For-Work project in Aden) emphasized that these projects come in response to the situation that some Yemeni families are going through, especially unemployed youth, as a means to enhance livelihood opportunities and open new opportunities for work and skills development.

She added, "A large number of organizations provide sums of money to a number of families without return, so they depend on these sums and refuse to go out to work as a result of their dependence on this assistance, but the cash for work came out with two benefits, the first is to improve the source of income and the second is sustainable development and infrastructure improvement".

Entrepreneurs are a Means of Mobilizing the Workforce

The report of the World Bank of Yemen (Economic Prospects - April 2020 AD) indicated that the economic prospects in 2020 AD and beyond are ambiguous, and depend to a large extent on the political and security situation. And that stopping the ongoing violence and eventually political reconciliation, will help reintegrate vital state institutions, as well as will improve the operating environment for the private sector and facilitate the rebuilding of the economy and the social fabric.

The economic analyst Abbas Al-Mashriqi believes that businessmen have an active role in developing young people's knowledge and skills and changing their attitudes to enable them economically in the labor market by contributing to the activation of fine arts and technical institutes to develop youth skills in a way that serves the local market, and establishing monthly questionnaires through social networking sites to know the tendencies, aspirations and level of capabilities of the youth in various fields. In addition, merchants and business leaders opened workshops and factories to attract young people and mobilize the workforce.

Through "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope), he sent a message to the businessmen to work together on the advancement of youth, especially in this critical period.

"We Can Crew": From a Talent in Dancing to a Production Company

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

From a group of friends dancing in the street to a dance troupe using modern technology, then developing their business into a production company. The Young band "We Can Crew" was able to realize its youth dream by transforming their talent into artistic performances in luminous clothes that revive parties and festivals in Aden.

The band was founded in 2014 AD in Aden by four young foreign dance enthusiasts led by the 25-year-old young man Saeed Ehab, who chose, with his troupe members, archaeological and tourist areas as a front for filming a number of clips and dance shows in which they showed their talent.

Ehab recounts the beginning of his band's inception, saying, "We were a group of friends who loved foreign dance, and because of the situation the country is going through, the idea came to form a dance performance group that combines dance styles

in its various fields that will be a source of income for me and the members of my troupe".

He stated that he and his troupe members did not study dance arts, and all they did was learn dances through YouTube and rehearse them until they were able to master them.

"We can crew" is the first foreign dance troupe in Aden, and it performs hip-hop, break-dance, boo-bing, dubstep, robot and ta-tank, and various dances characterized by new ideas. A work called "Ghost of Fire" was presented in a professional manner, in addition to holding a championship for the middle-level hip-hop dancers in Aden, which included a number of young talents to compete for the title.

Saeed Ehab said, "The idea of the luminous suits led to present artistic performances came after many discussions to develop our work and distinguish it from other teams, so that the performances presented would be different".

He adds, "Renewal and innovation are the reasons for success, and we must break away from the ordinary and move away

from imitation and repetition by constantly and continuously thinking about achieving new and distinctive movements that make us different from others. Therefore, we must work on continuous development and create crazy and unusual ideas".

A qualitative leap by which "We Can Crew" transformed from a group of amateurs to a group of professionals who reached the realization of their own project, was the establishment of a private company for films production, advertisements and shows defying all the difficulties they faced, most notably the conflict in the country and the ongoing deterioration of the economic situation in the country in general, in addition to the lack of supportive bodies for them to train and record dance clips.

Today, "We Can Crew" has become a source of income from which Saeed Ehab and his troupe members earn money by dancing and performing artistic performances at parties and festivals, and he still aspires to reach their talent to the highest ranks and represent the country with foreign participations.





Expatriation and Youth: Between Dream and Necessity

Raising the level of income - Education - Searching for Safety; the Most Prominent Motives to Leave the Country

Many Reasons and Only One Solution.. Between dream and necessity stand the needs and hopes of many on the threshold of traveling abroad. Dreaming of living in safety, stability and receiving appropriate medical services, are the most purposes for the Yemeni youths to travel, as well as the desire to improve the level of income or receive better education.

One of the biggest motives that made Yemeni youth travel abroad is the damage to the educational infrastructure, as the ongoing conflict in Yemen has caused the destruction of educational centers such as schools and universities, and obstructed education for long periods.

By: Raja Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

According to the Economic Studies and Forecasting Sector of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the latest report issued in February 2021 AD indicates that the education sector in Yemen still suffers from obstacles and challenges, including the poor quality of education and its outcomes, and that 20% of the total children of school age are not enrolled in education, and that the illiteracy rate, especially among women, is 60%.

In the latest report published by the World Bank for the year 2021 AD, it clarified the extent of the damage to education until the beginning of 2020 AD; as 35% of educational facilities have been partially or completely damaged, many educational facilities have been turned into shelters for the displaced, and part of the educational staff has been displaced or transferred to other sectors as a result of the conflict, which has exacerbated the dropout from education, especially girls.

The young man, Ismail Al-Aghbari, says that traveling abroad to study or work is what he and many youths dreams of, and the biggest motive for traveling is to enjoy stability abroad away from the conflict, and that the Yemeni youth has become responsible to provide the requirements of his family, mentioning that the job opportunities in Yemen are few. The interruption of governmental job salaries has also weakened the economic movement, stressing that the Yemeni youths dream of traveling to change their life completely.

Somaya Al-Absi asserts that the link be-

tween expatriation and material ambition may be for the heads of families who have families to support, but the main concern of the young people is not to miss achieving their studies or their scientific ambition.

Expatriation and Material Ambition

Seif Amin, a young man standing in queues of people wishing to travel in front of the Ministry of Expatriates, says that working abroad with different currency rates will bring about the material ambition of many, but those who want to expatriate will bear its consequences and hardships. First, they bear the distance from family and friends, and most recently, the actions that some countries may take on foreigners, which may create a difference in the material return that the expatriate wants, as the years pass and no improvement is recorded in his income, but on the contrary, he may bear heavy losses.

The proportion of the Yemeni population with limited access to sustainable livelihoods reaches 50%, according to the Studies Sector of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Health Motive

The report issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in February 2020 AD, and a copy of which was obtained by "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope), stated that only 51% of health facilities are fully functional, while 35% of them are partially, and 14% are completely suspended.

The report indicated that more than half of the population lack access to health care, and that health services are characterized by severe weakness and wide variation in the provision of health services from one



region to another. In the same report, Yemen lags behind the regional level in terms of the number of doctors, beds and workers in the health sector compared to the population, and the health expenditure index is only 4% of GDP.

For these reasons, obtaining appropriate health services is one of the most important motives for young people to travel abroad, as Um Samah, a citizen, recounts the story of her suffering with an intestinal disease for years and says that she waited for a long time for conditions to improve in order to travel for the surgery abroad. She was recommended by most doctors to travel because her illness requires that, explaining that her case doubled her suffering, in addition to the costs of the treatment, there are the costs of traveling and living in the country in which she will go for treatment.

Expatriation is a Choice Despite Difficulties

"Many young people dream of emigrating and working abroad, and for this, they face many difficulties, the first of which is the high value of the ticket, and the difficulty of obtaining passports with different costs of reserving it, which may reach hundreds of dollars, approximately 300 dollars, and they continue to fluctuate. In addition,

language is an obstacle for us as young people", according to Ahmed and Ismail, who are standing in the ranks of expatriate seekers at the Ministry of Expatriates.

For her part, Soad Al-Dhababani confirms that the environment in Yemen is suitable for working and living when stability is provided and the conflict stops; a sense of stability is an important feature that encourages creativity, and it is sufficient for the young man to have a talent or a simple job and he will be able to live and provide his life necessities.

Afrah Abdullatif, Director General of Documentation and Information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Expatriate, reported that youth travel is mostly for work and education, and that the percentage of youth travel for education does not exceed 5%, 10% for medical treatment, and about 85% for work.

And about the suffering that young expatriates face abroad, she says that it is a lot, starting from the traveling through the only land port (the deposit), and ending with the suffering they face as a result of the treatment they face in the countries of expatriation and obtaining legal residence and the consequent financial and other expenses.

As for the solutions that can address the



Afrah Abdullatif

issues of expatriates, Abdullatif explained that the ministry began months ago to establish a database of expatriates in general, including young people, and says that this will contribute to knowing many of their conditions and issues, studies and work to alleviate them, both inside or abroad.

She indicated that the ministry supervises all the educational and cultural activities for all expatriates and makes the necessary facilities for them. As for the returning expatriates, the Ministry has agreed with many authorities to open the field of rehabilitation and training, introduce them into the local labor market, find job opportunities for them, make it easier for them to set up shops, or enlist them to work in many sectors such as agriculture, marine wealth, small investment projects and other economic and commercial fields.

Fifty Thousand People Awaiting Governmental Jobs

Youth Preferences between the Public and Private Sectors

By: Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Most of us dream of a prestigious job that secures a stable future and income by which to overcome the various demands of life, so accordingly the types of work sectors that may fulfill this wish vary.

Most young people, after the end of secondary education, go to public and private universities in order to obtain a university degree to get a job, and many of them seek jobs in the government sector, in order to obtain a government job degree that was a dream for most young people during previous periods.

Recently, young people have begun to turn more to the private sector, and between the advantages and disadvantages of a government job or working in the private sector, and which one do young people prefer, the details of this survey are conducted:

Preferences

Abdullah Al-Rasas (a 30-year-old man from Ibb governorate) says, "I prefer the private sector because it preserves your right at least, although its defect is that it oppresses the employee and gives him low

wages, but the advantage of the public sector is that it does not restrict you much and the working period in it is limited".

While Fahd (a 25-year-old man and owner of an advertising office in Ibb), shares his thoughts by saying, "In the past, we preferred the government sector in particular, and unfortunately, in light of what we are in, we now prefer the private sector as it is the remaining pulse of the remaining tributary in order to straighten the crooked life, and I think that the private sector despite all its disadvantages, is a luminous crucible in a dark space, and we used to dream of working in international organizations. However, the private sector remains more dominant than others, and the organizations remain better in terms of income and working hours, in my view".

Dina Abdul Rahim (a 24-year-old woman and assistant doctor in Al-Qaeda city in Ibb) says, "The private sector is closest to me. Its advantages are as many as its disadvantages, as it does not require a university degree, there is a high quality of the health insurance system, and a reasonable annual salary increase, and you can work overtime if it did not affect the basic work, and I personally prefer working in the private sector because it does not enslave me in the long



run like the public sector".

Fifty Thousand People Awaiting Governmental Jobs

When appointing, it is taken into account that there is a vacant job approved in the budget, that the candidate fulfills the specific appointment requirements and the completion of the appointment procedures, as well as the issuance of the appointment decision by the competent authority as stipulated in Paragraph (b) in Article (22) by

Law No (19) of 1991 AD regarding the civil service in the Yemeni constitution.

The Director of the Civil Service Bureau in Ibb, A. Muhammed Ablan said, "The office has fifty thousand names waiting in various disciplines, because recruitment has been suspended from 2021 AD at the beginning of the crisis".

Ablan referred to the recruitment mechanism that was adopted by saying, "The recruitment mechanism was according to the needs plan for each facility and the results of the differentiation at the level of

each specialty, directorate and governorate separately".

Public and Private Sectors

There is the general government sector that nominates jobs according to the college you graduated from and according to your estimation at the end of your university studies or institute, or sometimes government jobs in certain or different fields are announced in government newspapers such as Al-Thawra and Al-Joumhuria.

On the other side, you find the private sector, which consists of several companies, and each company is owned by a person or many, and of course they are under the tutelage of the government, and these companies are controlled by those who own them.

Nizar Al-Durgham (a 26-year-old man from Taiz Governorate) says, "Despite the suspension of governmental jobs, they were previously achieving job security with a specific and fixed work system, regular promotions and job ladders, and limited working hours, and now the public is moving towards the private sector, which is a haven in light of the conflict. Thus, the government is better in a more stable and safe society, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush".

Importance of the Youth Role in Decision-making

Youth in Yemen have become fully aware of their importance and role in building peace, especially in this difficult stage that the country is going through. They are also aware of the extent of his ability to apply the principles of good governance in various issues related to peace and security at the local and international levels, yet we do not find the concerned parties working to involve them in the peace process and decision-making.



Conflicts Created a Problem of Belonging and Identity for the Youth

By: Manal Amin
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Although the youth have become the focus of attention of local and international organizations in many of their programs and activities, they still suffer from obstacles and challenges in the way of their participation in decision-making positions, but these challenges did not reduce their resolution and determination to prove themselves in various issues, especially in the political process.

Customs and traditions

Ayoub Amer (CEO of Tahdeeth Foundation for Development) says, "Because of some customs and traditions that have entrenched the concept that participation in decision-making is limited to the elderly only and that young people have no right to that, this is one of the most important challenges facing the young people in their participation in decision-making, in addition to the absence of partisan and political activities that help contain the aspirations of youth and their vision for the future, especially in the recent years due to the exceptional conditions in the country for more than six years".

"The conflicting parties in the country shirk their duties and responsibilities towards supporting youth and enabling them to make decisions and build peace". This was confirmed by Ayoub Amer with regard to the issue of the concerned authorities' role in supporting the youth and integrating them into the political process.

The Youth are the Focus of Organizations

With regard to the role of local and international organizations, Amer said that recently, civil society organizations and other international organizations have highlighted the implementation of a number of programs and projects that target the youth and focus on developing their knowledge and skills and building their capacities to face political, economic and social challenges and build peace in the first place.

In the same context, Badi'i Sultan (journalist) says, "Youth are supposed to have a big and active role in participating in decision-making, especially in light of these conditions that Yemen has been experiencing for years, as youth have become aware



Ayoub Amer



Wehbi Ali Morshed



Badi'i Sultan



Ahlaam Abdul Raqib

of how the situation is going now and how things are going on the political, economic and security levels".

He explained, "One of the most important challenges facing young people today is the lack of qualification, training and knowledge of the scenes of politics, decision-making and other related fields, in addition to the political parties' lack of confidence in the capabilities of youth, as we still see old leaders dominating and occupying political positions for decades, and not just for years; these leaders must realize that they no longer fit in the current stage and that they must make room for new blood".

He also stressed on the importance of youth participation in decision-making, especially at this difficult stage in the country, and work to rehabilitate and train them so that they are able to change this reality for the better.

Identity and Belonging Crisis

For her part, the journalist Ahlam Abdul Raqib Salam (CEO of Sawasia Organization for Development & Justice) expanded her talk about youth and their role in decision-making, saying, "The societies of the world realize that it is necessary to involve young people in the development process and decision-making in order to develop their countries. It is an investment process for young minds, but in our country, the situation is different, as we still suffer from problems and challenges that have adversely affected the role that young people play in the social, economic, educational and even political aspects".

Ahlaam adds, "When we talk about the process of integrating young people into decision-making, there must be a space that provides them with psychological stability, especially after the dangerous twists and

turns that passed through the country and negatively affected the psyche and minds of young people who have started to suffer from a lack of identity or belonging to the country".

Regarding the treatments, Salam says, "The concerned authorities, the state and civil society organizations, should be interested in integrating youth into the political process and providing the opportunity for their participation in order to make decisions that advance society, as well as working to implement rehabilitation programs for young people in various fields, as they are the next generation".

Security Council Resolution 2250

Ahlaam sees the implementation of the Security Council Resolution No 2250 as one of the appropriate solutions to expand the political participation of youth, and adds, "The Security Council Resolution (2250) related to youth is facing difficulty in implementing it on the ground in Yemen in light of the real absence of the state's prestige, and the regression of the development and economic process and politics in Yemen".

It is noteworthy that the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 issued on the ninth of December 2015 was adopted to encourage the participation of the youth in the process of peace-building, security and decision-making, and to make young people an essential partner for countering extremism and violence with five main items: (youth participation in decision-making, youth interaction with the government, activating a mechanism to protect civilians, including youth, allowing young people to establish activities to build an environment that rejects extremism and promotes a culture of tolerance, disarmament and youth reintegration.)

In order to know the position of the Yemeni law on the UN Security Council Resolution (2250) on youth, peace and security, lawyer and human rights activist Wehbi Ali Morshed clarifies: "It is in accordance with the Yemeni constitution in Article No (6) that international agreements are a source of legislation. As the international charters, to which Yemen is a signatory, is considered binding on Yemen, and the process of implementing these charters is mandatory in the Yemeni law in accordance with Sharia, as well as the international treaties apply in the country just like positive law concluded in accordance with the Yemeni constitution as stipulated in the article".

Wehbi also pointed out that there is a clear shortcoming and delay in the Yemeni law, which is that it has not been amended since 2002 AD, especially in most of the existing positive laws, such as the Penal Code and Criminal Procedures. In fact, the Yemeni law has only been amended in some few articles, legal and constitutional, that adapt to the current situation, and this has caused apathy and stagnation in all the economic, political and social aspects and adversely affected the youth and their level of development.

In a different opinion on the process of implementing UN Security Council Resolution (2250), concerning the youth, on the reality and the extent to which it is mandatory, Badi'i Sultan asserts, "There is no actual implementation of this resolution, even the ratifying countries have been procrastinating in implementing it in its real and realistic form on the ground, including our country, so the decision will remain just words on paper until young people are politically prepared by imposing themselves on the ground".

Political Party

Badi'i suggested the formation of a po-

litical party for young people interested in their issues and concerns, and that the ages of its members range between 25-45 years only, and everyone over the age of 45 must submit his resignation and make room for other young people, participate in the parliamentary elections and have a seat in Parliament, and he believes that this proposal will embody UN Resolution (2250) literally.

Proving Themselves

Sahar Abdullah (a member of Aden Youth consultation) says, "The situation of young people in Yemen is still unstable and there are no signs of improvement from the concerned authorities, especially with regard to their participation in the political work; but with all the challenges, some young people were able to prove themselves through their participation in development and social initiatives, events and entities that indirectly contributed to strengthening youth efforts in building peace, resolving societal conflicts and bringing about positive change in the society".

She added, "In the Youth Consultations, we target a number of societal issues that the country suffers from by raising them with the concerned parties and specialists, discussing and analyzing them, which contributed to imposing the opinion of young people at the community level regarding societal issues and decision-making".

Between incomplete legislations, weak positions of political parties and organizations towards youth, and official neglect by the state, the Yemeni youth finds himself facing a challenge to prove his presence and impose his participation in decision-making positions, not only at the political level, but at all other fields.



Unemployment Among Youth: Multiple

55% of Workers Lose their Jobs in the Private Sector,



“Many scientific studies agree that unemployment is a concept given to a group of individuals who are healthy, scientifically and psychologically qualified to work but who have not found suitable job opportunities in the society in which they live, and therefore; these individuals do not have a resource or livelihood that provides them with their personal needs, whether economic or moral. The disabled, retired, elderly, sick and children are not included in this definition.



Wadid Maltoof



Eng. Adel Al-Araiqi



Dr. Muhammed Salem Bakhder

By:Manal Amin
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Ahmed Qaed, a 29-year-old man, is still waiting every day to receive a message or a call from one of the places where he applied for a job more than seven years ago in the city of Aden, without boredom or frustration.

With an optimistic smile mixed with grief and sadness, Qaed said, “Since I graduated from the College of Education, English Department in 2014 AD, I have been trying to improve myself by participating in various training courses for the opportunity to be accepted into one of the organizations or private companies in any field increases, and I have applied to more than one job but I haven’t received an answer so far”.

The condition of the 32-year-old young man, Ali Al-Murshed, from Lahj was not better than

Qaed, who was looking for work in the streets in order to provide a livelihood for his family when the economic conditions narrowed him after leaving his work in a private office where he was only receiving 25 thousand riyals more than three years ago due to the unstable security situation.

There are many holders of secondary, university, technical and vocational degrees who suffer from difficulty in finding work, even if it is low-paid, in order to guarantee their lives and the ones of their families in light of these bad economic conditions that the country is going through.

Youth: From Opportunity to Disaster

Wadid Maltoof (a human rights activist) see that “the main reasons that contributed to the spread of unemployment in Yemen during this period are the continuation of various conflicts in many Yemeni governorates and the worsen-

ing of the economic situation due to population density and the lack of investment in the available resources in the country that support small projects of young people.”

Wadid Maltoof confirmed that “the inability to reach radical solutions to get Yemen out of the bottleneck led to turning the youth from a hand to build society into a large part of the disaster, and worked to destabilize the country through the spread of armed chaos, crime, deviations and the increase of extremist affiliations.”

For his part, Eng. Adel Al-Araiqi (Public Relations Manager at the Skills Development Fund in Aden) believes that “the weak university education, the spread of cheating, and the failure to keep pace with educational curricula, especially

the universities with modern standards and technology, contributed to the labor market's lack of confidence in educational outcomes, and thus led to the spread of unemployment among the youth.”

Regarding the fund's role in promoting youth development, Al-Araiqi told “Sawt Al-Amal” (Voice of Hope), “The Skills Development Fund is making great efforts to integrate unemployed youth into society through training programs, both vocational and technical, and to enhance their competency in various disciplines so that they can get a suitable job opportunity.”

Delayed Human Development in Yemen

“The population of Yemen reached 29.1 mil-

lion in 2019 AD, as the proportion of the population under the age of 24 reached about 60%, down from 69% in 2000 AD”. This is according to what was stated by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat in 2019 AD.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs classified the ongoing crisis in Yemen as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, which has delayed human development for 21 years. If the conflict continues until 2022 AD, development will be delayed by 26 years.

Dr. Ikhlas Abdul-Jabbar Al-Jabra (Director of the Office of the Secretary-General at the University of Aden, Doctor of Sociology) believes

Yemeni Youth, a Waste of Wealth in the

By:Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

The problem of unemployment was not a spur-of-the-moment or the result of certain conditions imposed in the recent years. Rather, it is a chronic problem that has accompanied the Yemeni society, especially the youth group, for decades, and this problem remained in the previous and subsequent governments agendas, inherited from the cabinets and ministerial portfolios.

The problem of unemployment persists and has accompanied us since our graduation from university. We tried to apply in many places compatible with our specialties, but the experience was the obstacle that prevented us from obtaining job opportunities, and we were given the choice between being satisfied with other jobs that were not compatible with our

specialties and taking the path of creating a private project that usually requires a good trade and financing. The youth spend four to five years looking for work or experience”, said Ahlam Al-Riyami, who has a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering.

For his part, Ahmad Mani, a computer engineer, points out that although the specialization in computer networks and information systems is currently required in most organizations and institutions, a graduate from a university or institute cannot enter the labor market without experience, and attending courses in major institutes as intensive courses, as some computer skills require consolidation and training in institutes.

In addition to the deterioration of the infrastructure in Yemen due to the conflict and the weakness of the Yemeni economy, the youth, who represent the largest labor force in society, were among the most affected, and the damag-

es vary among psychological, social and occupational. In fact, the spread of unemployment was the biggest disaster because its impact includes the family and society in general.

Unemployment is a problem that has caused family problems, exacerbated violence within the family, provoked disputes, and caused many cases of violence, both between husband and wife or from the father towards his children, as the increase in anxiety and tension generates violence, according to the social worker Nafisa Al-Junaid.

Unemployment is the Country's Dilemma

Amal Mujam, an employee at the Ministry of Human Rights, says that there are many negative effects of unemployment, including committing crimes and theft, disappointment, isolation and depression among youth causing them to feel lost and suffering psychological problems, and when the unemployed feels

lost and despair, he is vulnerable to increased crimes.

Hana Ali, a citizen, explains that unemployment has a negative impact. They cause great psychological pressure on youth in the societies, as they are concerned with work and production, being the generation of strength, skill and creativity; therefore, they are keen to highlight their personalities in society, and a large group of them do not work and suffer from unemployment due to the lack of qualification and expertise, as well as the poor levels of education, or because the incorrect choice of specializations and nonsatisfaction concerning the salaries.

Nada Al-Afouri, a human rights activist, points out that unemployment was and is still one of the causes of migration, and youth bear the consequences of migration, whether from the suffering of travel or being away from their families. As well as unemployment is a cause

of poverty and the suffering of heads of families from psychological problems, some of which led to suicide and others murder, and in reality, there are stories about a father killing his children or committing suicide because he could not provide for a living.

And Al-Afouri added, “The problem of unemployment has worsened, especially with the conditions of the conflict, and the reluctance of many employees from governmental jobs due to non-payment or half salaries. Unemployment is a very serious disease, its consequences not only affect the unemployed person, but also his family, and the society as a whole”.

According to an electronic survey conducted by the Yemen Information Center for Research and Media (YIC), in mid-June 2021 on the reasons of the spread of unemployment in Yemen, the respondents' opinions suggested that 14.7% are due to the continuation of the conflict, 2.8% have dropped out of education,



Social, Economic and Security Implications

according to UN Reports

Supporting Small Projects, Facilitating Loans for Youth, and Encouraging Investment Are Keys to Addressing the Problem

that "the increase in unemployment has had negative effects on the individual and society in general, represented in increasing frustration, moral impotence, bad behavior, resorting to drug abuse, suicide, crime, and the youth's unwillingness to marriage and thinking about emigrating, traveling and joining extremist groups taking advantage of their need for money."

In a study by Dr. Ikhlas entitled "Unemployment in Yemen 2020 AD", she confirmed that "there is a disparity in unemployment rates for youth groups between urban and rural areas, reaching about 74.1% in urban areas and 81% in rural areas, and the unemployment of young females is exacerbated starkly among these age groups, as it reached about 78.3%, compared to 74% for males."

Dr. Ikhlas reviewed the reasons that affect the Yemeni youth, explaining to "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) that "The economic, security and health situation has significantly deteriorated in the recent period due to the deterioration of the infrastructure of institutions and the local currency, the crazy rise in the prices of oil derivatives and foodstuffs, the absence of the state and the oversight of security institutions, as well as the failure to impose the law on everyone, the emergence of security agencies under different names, the spread of epidemics, especially the Corona pandemic, which caused the closure of the labor market, and finally the failure to provide the necessary treatments and medical supplies. All of this and more contributed to the spread of unemployment and the loss of youth".

Unemployment Tunnel

7.3% the economic crisis, 1.8% other reasons, and 73.4% all of the above.

Education and Unemployment Outcomes

Mohamed Nasr, a social activist, explains that unemployment among youth is due to reasons including the lack of enthusiasm among youth to work, the lack of a plan for the future and striving to achieve it, the entertainment of some parents, the lack of work due to the situation and conditions the country is going through, the proliferation of machines that may replace many workers, as well as a large number of youth among the population due to the lack of travelling abroad.

Nasr adds that the solution is for several parties to come together and join hands. Each party has a relationship with the other, and among these responsible parties are decision-makers and parents, the media and its role in motivating youth to work, educators, guides,

55% of Workers Lost their Jobs

In the same context, Dr. Muhammed Salem Bakhdar (specialist in economics and Islamic banking) asserts, "Yemen has gone through political and economic crises that have negatively impacted the economic and living situation of the Yemeni citizen in general and youth in particular, as the Corona pandemic (Covid-19) came to cast its shadows. The negative impact on the economic and living situation of young people, and the conflict in Yemen has led to a significant reduction in job opportunities, as about 55% of workers in the private sector have lost their jobs, according to United Nations reports, and this crisis has also affected small and micro enterprises and 40% of families lost their main source of income".

Bakhdar pointed out to "Sawt Al Amal" (Voice of Hope) that "there are some reports issued by some international organizations on unemployment, inflation and the economic situation in Yemen, based on certain estimates, indicating an exacerbation of the unemployment rate since 2015 AD until now, where the unemployment rate has reached 32% of the workforce, most of which are of young people, and other reports indicate that it ranges between 60-70% in 2020 AD, and the percentage may rise.

Solution Map

To the question about the existence of opportunities for economic reforms that contribute to developing the capabilities of young people and reduce the unemployment rate, Dr. Bakhdar replied, "Working to end the current crisis that Yemen is suffering from, achieving political and economic stability and forming a competent government will contribute to addressing the effects of the crisis in various fields. In return, it will alleviate the effects of unemployment spread among young people and contribute to creating job opportunities for young people, by focusing on private projects and benefiting from Islamic financing formulas that help reconcile capital and experts".

On the other hand, Dr. Ikhlas emphasizes on "the need for coordination between all participating agencies; government and private facilities, local and international organizations to provide job opportunities according to specializations, the needs of the labor market, the necessity of referring the elderly to retirement and replacing them with young people to occupy their jobs, and focusing on improving the training and rehabilitation process in various fields".

preachers, such as opening technical and craft institutes, employing youth, and encouraging investment and supporting private projects for people with limited income.

Sharyan Muhammad, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Business Administration at the University of Hodeidah, says that the solution to the unemployment problem must be from the state, through its interest in the youth category, the absorption of their activities through project work, and the development of education so that the outputs are compatible with the requirements of the labor market.

Muhammad adds that encouraging investment within any country contributes to providing job opportunities for youth, and that cooperation with the private sector is important and can contribute to addressing the problem of unemployment, and that attention to youth initiatives will contribute to developing the capabilities of youth and their skills.

Unemployment in Yemen: Spinning one's wheels

Unemployment Leads to Insecurity and Violence Spread

Jamil Ayed, a 29-year-old young man from Al-Dhalea governorate, believes that unemployment is one of the main reasons that lead to the moral, economic and security deterioration of any society as the accumulation of young manpower creates many problems, such as the moral decay of the society as well as harms society in the security and economic aspects that result in many social problems. He adds, "I, as a mechatronics engineering graduate, feel great disappointment and psychological pressure, and the reason is due to the lack of keeping abreast of the scientific outputs with the needs of the labor market in accordance with the law of supply and demand".

By: Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Technological Development and Unemployment

One of the economic reasons for unemployment is the large number of employees, and the annual increase in the percentage of university graduates, with the small number of available jobs, and this is what makes the government unable to provide them with suitable jobs, which creates a real problem in the society.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Bishr, professor of agricultural economics at Ibb University, lists the most important economic effects of unemployment, saying, "Unemployment leads to wasting the value of human labor and the country's loss of national product, and also causes an increase in the deficit in the public budget. Unemployment also leads to a decrease in the gross capital formation and domestic product which over time leads to a decrease in the per capita of the gross domestic product".

Neglecting Education and Society

From a social perspective, Dr. Bishr stresses that one of the most important causes of the unemployment in Yemen is the rapid increase in the population, coupled with the lack of professions and jobs that contribute to the spread of poverty and unemployment day after day, in addition to the failure to activate the role of the local community development in the society, which depends on benefiting from the positive effects provided by the economy sector. Also, the lack of interest in the field of education which aims to spread awareness about important social problems, and ways to eliminate and treat them, and the spread of frustration and despair among young people.

The head of the Sociology Department at Ibb University, Dr. Jalal Al-Madhaji, says that the social effects of unemployment are many which may lead to the poverty of the head of household first as well as to marital problems and disputes that cause the wife to hate her unemployed husband, as she considers him a useless man, unable to assume his responsibility, and drives the spouses to the divorce and family disintegration and may push the family to beg, and it also causes the loss of feeling and sense of the social status.

He added, "The unemployed often has aggressive feelings, tendencies and motives of hatred against the society which pushes him into practicing violence against women, family members and society. Unemployment may force many of the unemployed to theft and crimes that threaten the security of society".

Unemployment Leads to Suicide

The counseling psychologist, Marwa Al-Awadi, analyzes the phenomenon, psychologically, by saying, "Work is a way to prove and respect oneself, and a condition

to what is stated in its lists of needs, and it has the right to obtain work permits and residence visas for these workers for a period of 3 years to be renewed upon the recommendation of the authority.

Efforts Made

The Director of the Oversight and Financial Collection Office in As-Sayyani district in Ibb Governorate, Abdul Jabbar Abdullah Ahmad, enumerates the efforts made by the state to reduce the spread of the unemployment among youth, such as expanding the state's financing of the emerging projects as well as small and medium-sized and micro-enterprises, and that banks facilitate the conditions for obtaining loans for youth and the payment methods, in addition to the efforts of the legislative institution in issuing legislations that would attract more investments and establish factories and labor-intensive projects.

In addition, many local and international organizations and institutions have supported local projects that reduce the problem of unemployment, and provided job opportunities for qualified university students, enhanced by training and continuous, financial and moral, guidance.

Ahlam Al-Mikhlafi, a journalist at Ibb 7press, says, "Our opportunity to support and guide the Internews is one of the most beautiful job opportunities that we were looking for, and we are grateful for the amount of support provided by the organization, whether through online or in-field training. We have learned a lot of professional values, and the methodological standards for independent journalistic work by amazing Tunisian female trainers. We hope that the support will continue with the end of the contracts signed between our website and the donor organization".

Beyond the Borders of the Country

The expatriate, Youssef Abdul Hamid, says, "We, the expatriates, constitute a great income for the national economy, and despite the suffering that we face outside the country, we are steadfast for the sake of our families that we support at home, and they are in dire need of the amounts we send every time to them. The state should put the problems of the expatriates abroad among its top priorities".

The strict government measures against employment in the Gulf states portend a major catastrophe in the near future, and threaten hundreds of thousands of Yemeni workers of losing their sources of income and the repatriation under difficult economic conditions.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, unemployment will become the most prominent problem in Yemen in the near term, after it reached 60% in 2018, according to a statistic published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. In view of all these reasons, and the circumstances and the situation of conflict that affected the future of Yemeni youth, the problem of unemployment in Yemen should be re-examined in a deeper and comprehensive way, and identified in the light of the conditions, merits and requirements of the local situation, in order to understand its effects in an accurate and comprehensive manner, and then look for solutions and treatments that mitigate its severity, such as the state support for emerging projects, activating the tax relief act for development institutions as well as providing job opportunities for the unemployed as much as possible.



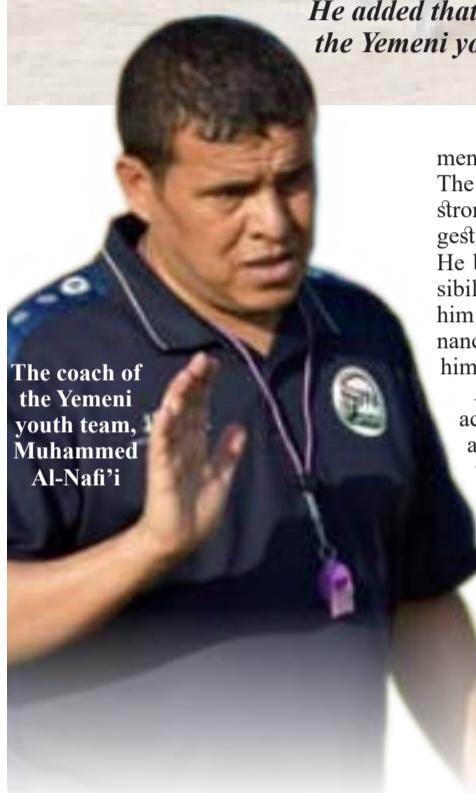
Sports among the Youth Interests

(Football is a Sport Model in Yemen)

"I was very interested in sports, and I was an athlete, but I left it some time ago because of my preoccupations, and the neglect that sports in Yemen suffers from". This is how one of the young football players responded previously, noting that the Yemeni team was neglected by the concerned authorities.

Mohammed Essam is a young man who loved football and was a player in the past but has quit it. He believes that the sports sector in general does not receive any attention, and that sports players, especially football players in Yemen, do not have continuous training and regular league, and that financial allocations do not motivate team members to perform better, stressing that because of the problems and events in Yemen, they could not form a united and strong team under a qualified management that senses responsibility.

He added that he is a fan of sports in general in Yemen, such as tennis as well as volleyball and football, and that sports are very important for the Yemeni youth, noting that it is necessary to motivate them to sports instead of Qat sessions, and that sports in general need attention.



The coach of the Yemeni youth team, Muhammed Al-Naf'i

By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Numbers

According to the General Directorate of Media at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) obtained the following statistics:

- The number of clubs in Yemen exceeds 300.

- All the 300 clubs practice football as a condition of recognition of any club, which includes the practice of more than seven sports.

- Players' rewards: the national team players receive a monthly salary of about 100,000 Yemeni riyals, which in total is a very small amount when compared to what players receive in other countries, including the countries of the region, which amount to tens of thousands of dollars per month. In addition to annual contracts that often exceed 100,000 \$ and perhaps 200,000 \$; there is no comparison whatsoever.

- There are three football teams (juniors - youth - national), in addition to the Olympic team. These four teams compete annually in Arab and continental qualifiers, some of which are officially approved by the Asian and international federations, and the participation of our teams in them is mandatory, meaning that if the team lags either it was "junior", "youth" or "national", for any tournament, it will make him liable to penalties, and sometimes leads to its exclusion from participation for a period of no less than five years.

Why does the Yemeni National Team Lose?

The coach of the Yemeni youth team, Muhammed Al-Naf'i, from Egypt, says that the Yemeni player is talented by instinct, is good-natured, and only needs capabilities, refinement and attention. He will compete at the local, Arab and international levels, if he receives half the attention that any player receives with teams whether Asian or African; the Ye-

meni player will greatly be something. The Yemeni player competes with the strongest players in Asia and the strongest African teams in an excellent way. He believes that the availability of possibilities to hone his talents would help him be creative, and that family and financial stability would be a support for him.

As for the rapid disappearance of the achievements accomplished by the athletes in some fields, Al-Naf'i says, "It is due to a lack of interest, and if there is interest, it is only during the tournament. The interest does not even represent 5% if we compare it with the rest of the teams, stressing that the Yemeni team, when the tournament ends, returns to search for a living. So, we demand that when the tournament ends, players be collected, and salaries be provided to offer him comfort with his family".

Media is the Mirror of Sports

Bashir Sinan, editor-in-chief of Al-Riadi Net website, stresses that it is necessary to reform the sports system in the laws and legislation that regulate the nature of the work of sports institutions, and to benefit from the experiences carried out by neighboring countries, especially with regard to marketing and sports investment, which is the air that football breathes.

Sinan notes that sports laws in our country are very weak, which has caused an accumulation of corruption, financially and administratively, in the clubs and federations. The general football league has not been organized for seven years, and the laws protecting the athletes are completely absent, which has helped to alienate the vast majority from playing sports. Adding that the sports media is supposed to be the mirror that reflects the true image of the work of those federations and sports systems in general, and uncovers the flaws.

The Yemeni player possesses the enthusiasm and determination that makes him able to give the best. Having a strategy that takes into account age groups and the continuation of local competitions is important, and the most prominent needs of the player are financial and psychological stability, and long preparation before participating in order to reach the



Yahya Al-Hilali
Sports Journalist



Hussein Shukri
General Department of Information at the Ministry of Youth and Sports



desired goal (improving performance), according to the sports journalist, Yahya Al-Hilali.

For his part, Dr. Aref Al-Nizami says that the players' bodies seem weak, and that the reason for this is the poor nutrition, and this sometimes has to do with chewing Qat because they lose their appetite, and also due to the lack of physical fitness, especially in the early morning, such as running, football and various exercises.

The Solution and the Role of Concerned Parties

The Director of the General Department of Information at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Hussein Shukri, confirms that the Yemen Football Association, and before it the Ministry of Youth and Sports, are keen on the Yemeni presence in various Arab and Asian competi-

tions, despite the unfavorable conditions experienced by the country and the almost complete destruction that followed for infrastructure (sports stadiums, halls, club headquarters, etc.).

He explains that there are cordial partnerships that are free, especially those that are not subject to the FIFA calendar, such as the Gulf Cup, for example. In general, throughout the year, the three teams, as well as the Olympic team, must, compulsorily, participate in all the tournaments in order not to be subject to sanctions. He added that the ministry is only a supervisory body, and its role lies in providing support and assistance to the associations in terms of allocating annual financial credits, or providing



What does a Yemeni Player Need?

Salem Awad, a player in the national team, confirmed what Coach Al-Naf'i mentioned concerning the players' performance being innate, and that he only needs elements that help him develop his performance, including qualified coaches, and educating him mathematically through regular periodic work at the level of the age stages in order to bring out his potential. In addition, the Yemeni national team also needs an infrastructure of facilities and stadiums to help the player develop his level and support him morally and materially.



Women Suffering from Unemployment

Spread of Unemployment among Youth Forces the Women to Leave the Labor Market

By Alia Muhammed – Manal Amin
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

"Women are the weakest link in the society". By this phrase, Umm Nermin (a 34-year-old woman from Taiz) begins by recounting her great suffering with her husband, who became unemployed six years ago, after he was working in a private company that was closed due to the prevailing conditions in the country.

Umm Nermin talks about her tragedy of being daily prone to many insults from her husband, criticism and receiving complaints as well as dealing with his failure in assuming his natural responsibilities towards his home and his four children, up to the point of beating.

And concerning the breadwinner currently in her home, she says, "Years ago, I sold what was left of my gold and valuables, and my brother is currently sending me a monthly amount from Saudi Arabia to spend on my children".

The ongoing deterioration of the security, economic and political situation in Yemen over the past six years, has led to the emergence of many negative phenomena in which the suffering of women has increased, being the main affected by these phenomena.

Ahlam Muhammed revealed the reasons for her separation from her husband, who was unemployed and did not accept any job offered to him and stipulated several conditions for accepting her on the pretext that they are inappropriate to him, which increased their family problems due to his long stay at home and his inability to provide the necessary and basic needs for the

house, and then she decided to go through separation.

Acquiring Unethical Behavior

Jalal Al-Madhaij (Doctor of Sociology) asserts that unemployment is a major reason for the increase of family problems and disputes, which leads to the wife's hatred for her unemployed husband, and makes her look at him with detraction as a useless man, unable to assume his responsibilities towards his family, which most often leads to divorce and the acquisition of immoral behaviors.

And he added, "What we notice is an increase in the spread of thefts, looting, fraud, embezzlement, beggary cases and other negative phenomena as a result of the loss of the individual's social standing. And this situation generates a feeling of hatred and aggressivity of the unemployed against his environment and society and leads him to practice violence against his wife and family members and his society in general, in an attempt to relieve and evacuate the pain that befalls him, the thing that pushes many of them to forcibly migrate to search for work, and this increases the suffering of many Yemeni families".

Al-Madhaij pointed out, "The unemployment has caused a rise in the rate of youth who are reluctant to marry due to their inability to meet the requirements and responsibilities of marriage, especially in light of the stifling economic conditions we are going through, which have had a negative impact on the society".

Women Submission

Many women have been affected by the

difficult economic, security and living conditions that led to most men staying in their homes due to the closure of the most private companies, institutions and shops, which forced many of them to look for work. Therefore, many markets and restaurants became crowded with women working in the shops and stalls.

"I learned to sew, but I did not know that it would be the cause of my misery". This is how D.H.S. described her suffering with her unemployed husband, who became more dependent after his wife learned to sew clothes, and started working in this field.

She says, "My husband has become majorly dependent on the money I earn from sewing clothes, which is now my only source of income to support my family and my husband as well. And when I refuse to give him money, he acts violently with me, threatening me of destroying the sewing machine, and this is what forced me to comply to him to avoid smashing it since it is the only source of support for my children".

For her part, Umm Fatima says that she was forced to work after she suffered a lot from her three unemployed young children. After they were working in the field of guarding in a private company, they became jobless, due to the emergence of the Corona pandemic because of which the company was closed".

Umm Fatima from Lahj greatly suffers from her children who only have a high school diploma, in the absence of their father, who died six years ago. Between fulfilling the demands of the house and their endless requests, she had to work as a

cleaner in one of the institutes.

There are women who struggled and defied difficulties. Umm Khaled, a 42-year-old woman, says that she sold all her gold to establish her own project, which is selling ready-made foods from her home through the means of communication, and worked to attract many customers, and also resorted to coordinating with some restaurants to display her merchandises which became famous in the city of Aden in order to meet the basic needs of living for her children and her unemployed husband.

Evolution of the Psychological Distress

Dr. Rania Khaled (a community and psychosocial support specialist) says, "The unemployment has had a great impact on women, especially in the psychological aspect, and this impact may be reflected on the family in general. Not to mention the social effects that may lead to an increase in the divorce rate in the society, especially with the increase in the unemployment rate and the price hike".

She added, "Psychological suffering may develop in women as a result of unemployment and the pressure exerted on her from various sides, exposing her to a mental illness such as severe depression and the unwillingness to communicate with the environment around her".

She confirmed "and because the woman is the wife, mother and daughter, she is under the care of the breadwinner of the family, so if the breadwinner does not have any income, the situation of poverty and disease increases, and the problems in turn are reflected in a bad psychological way on her".

Suggested Solutions

On how to reduce the pressure on women, Dr. Rania says, "It is necessary for all concerned parties to work to eliminate the cause that leads to the lack of work, and to seek to create job opportunities for youth and the breadwinner in general in order to make the negative impact of unemployment disappear, and basically reduce the pressure. On the other hand, small projects undertaken by women must be supported to develop their projects and improve their income in general".

Journalist Amani Al-Isary confirmed that "Yemeni women are part of the pain of this country that has not ended yet, as they have endured a lot of suffering due to the continuation of the conflict and the crisis of the Corona pandemic, and they have become the first breadwinner in many Yemeni families and bear the responsibility for spending, as they were forced to go out to work even at the lowest wage to push away the specter of hunger and need that can hunt her family".

Al-Isary stresses on the need to work to support women psychologically, socially and economically, especially those who are subjected to persecution by their families and economic suffering as women go out to work in unsuitable working conditions and environment, and Al-Isary believes that the state must activate the international laws against gender-based violence.

The office of the United Nations Population Fund in Yemen, through its Twitter account 2020 AD, indicated that there is a noticeable increase in gender-based violence in Yemen, coinciding with the spread of the Corona epidemic.

Educational Outcomes in Yemen: Disappointing Aspirations for Youth in the Labor Market

By: Alia Muhammed
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

University education plays an important role in the advancement and progress of society, but our current reality indicates that education in Yemen has greatly regressed from its developmental roles that contribute to the service of society and its members. This was confirmed by the Global Education Quality Index issued by the World Economic Forum in Davos. The exit of six Arab countries from the list of global assessments in the quality of education, including Yemen, due to the lack of the lowest quality standards in education was mentioned.

It is obvious to say that the outputs of university education must keep pace with the requirements of the labor market, unless the educational outputs will add new numbers to the ranks of unemployment, which will exacerbate the suffering of the unemployed youth.

Rami Al-Emad (a graduate of the College of Media from Sana'a University) was shocked by the practical reality after graduating from the university, as he found himself not qualified for the labor market in the field of his specialization that he studied at university, and he says, "What we received at the university were only keys to knowing the rules of specialization, It was not enough for us to be qualified, evolved and prepared for the practical reality, which makes it imperative for us, after graduation, to participate in various training courses to know the practical side that meets the current labor market".

As for Hiba Ahmad (a graduate of Laboratory Science from Taiz Governorate), she did not find a job because of the large number of graduates in the same specialization, so she had to work in a shop selling women's gowns because of her urgent need for work.

A Gap between the University System and the Labor Market

83% of the workforce suffers from a mis-



match between educational attainment and the skills required in their main job, while 3.4% of the working population has higher levels of skills required in their work. This was stated in a survey of the workforce in Yemen for the year 2013-2014 AD.

Here, Dr. Muhammed Ajili (Dean of Medical School and former assistant president of Hodeidah University) confirms that the educational outputs do not meet the requirements of the labor market as desired. There is an apparent gap and a fundamental imbalance between the society's needs for work and the outputs of university education, due to the quality, nature and reality of university education.

He added, "We are facing a great challenge due to the low quality of education, poor adequacy, absence of plans, perceptions and clear policies for admission to universities and linking them to the labor market. Therefore, we find ourselves in front of huge numbers of university graduates in stereotypical and recurring majors that the labor market cannot absorb".

Dr. Ajili believes that "we need to reconsider the outputs of university and technical education which outputs are better than higher education, but unfortunately in our country, the university education does not

meet the requirements of the labor market and does not match the theoretical and applied study curriculum in laboratories and workshops with professional reality, so the education outcomes are paper certificate, not an acquired skill that contributes to turning the wheel of development in society".

Curriculum and Poor Qualification

Nabil Al-Sharjabi (Professor of Crisis Management) explained, "The educational system in Yemen relies on a static, traditional, stereotyped method that focuses on recounting, indoctrination and preservation of information, and this is not commensurate with the educational and technological development witnessed by most countries of the world, which made Yemeni education unable to provide students the skills, abilities and professions they need in the labor market".

He continued, "The student does not get the appropriate training and application opportunities throughout the period of his university studies due to the absence of focus on the practical aspects from which the student acquires the skills required in the labor market, which are very different from what the student studies. Also, there are no

books and scientific references that help the student obtain sufficient information".

In the same context, Ali Al-Awadi (Assistant UnderSecretary at the Ministry of Higher Education) confirms that "most of the outputs of higher education are weak and do not achieve the aspirations of the labor market, and the reason for this is due to the obsolescence of higher education curricula, laboratory and electronic equipment and their failure to update them in line with the times, in addition to the weak infrastructure of most of the universities and the emigration of many faculty members and technicians abroad because of the bad conditions in the country".

Technological Development is Offset by Slow Understanding

Ali Adubisi (a sociology student from Aden) believes that "the more the years advance and the technology develops, the less the student's comprehension of the prescribed curricula begins, and from here begins the challenge of confronting practical life and the requirements of the labor market, which are developing day after day, stressing on the necessity of renewing the education system in general, according to modern data that is commensurate with

the current reality."

In the same context, Haifa Yahya (pharmacy graduate) says that "the scientific qualification and training makes the young man more efficient and able to meet the requirements of the labor market, especially since the world is witnessing a tangible technological development. Therefore, the student should focus on using appropriate technology for different sectors to support his university degree."

Solutions and Treatments

Ali Al-Awadi (Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education) believes that "to ensure a better education commensurate with the labor market, scientific disciplines must be developed that keep pace with the aspirations of the local, regional and international labor market and work in partnership with local and international universities to exchange experiences and knowledge and keep pace with developments."

Al-Awadi stresses on the importance of rehabilitating the infrastructure of the entire educational process in line with the changes of the times, as an optimal solution that advances the wheel of continuous economic development.

In turn, Hana Al-Mikhlafi (Doctor of Biology) stressed on the importance of applying comprehensive quality standards in the universities, and working to achieve good and continuous monitoring of the educational process that limits the process of lethargy in education, in addition to setting strict conditions for anyone who wants to open a university that is summarized in choosing the educational methods and curricula in accordance with the requirements of the labor market, and work to update and develop them in an appropriate manner.

She pointed out that all concerned parties in Yemen should keep pace with science and technical progress in various fields and sectors that increase economic production and develop youth capabilities, and this will lead to an increase in individual production and positively reflect on sustainable development.



Youth Initiatives and Voluntary Work that Support Youth Capabilities

“ Youth self-initiatives are the result of the work and effort of youth groups. Young people just blooming contributed through their voluntary work to helping the community in its social, economic, developmental and even relief fields. With youth souls that defy the exceptional circumstances that the country is witnessing, they wanted to build through voluntary field work what the conflict left behind.

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

“Thoughts of Youth” Initiative is one of the initiatives that aims at volunteering, development, rehabilitation and relief in the city of Taiz, and it targets the city itself, the countryside and the camps for the displaced in the governorate.

Saber Abdo (Deputy Director of the Initiative) says, “The initiative has presented many activities that work to reduce the phenomenon of unemployment by targeting young men and women from different directorates. These activities spread to various professional, technical and skill fields, in addition to making films and awareness flashes that evoke the negative aspects of unemployment, and its implications and impact on society as a whole”.

From Saber's point of view, “there are many solutions that must be implemented to curb this phenomenon through coordination with the relevant authorities and institutions, governmental and international, to attract young people who have been qualified to benefit from their potential in community service and employ it properly”.

As for the “Paths of Giving, Taiz” ini-

tative, Nabila Ahmed Seif (head of the initiative) says, “The initiative, in which young volunteers work, aims, through its programs, to alleviate the suffering of society and spread awareness among its members in all fields”.

She added, “The initiative supports small projects for emerging youth and works to help them open their own projects and get rid of the burden of unemployment. It also trains young men and women in various professional crafts commensurate with their abilities, and calls for awareness of the importance of work and self-reliance and the involvement of young people in awareness-raising processes and field visits which will offer them more experience and skills in dealing and communication”.

Nabila suggested that the supporting organizations focus on the process of rehabilitating and training young people in proportion to their abilities and fields so that they can get job opportunities, as well as supporting ambitious young people to be able to succeed, expand and prove themselves.

In the same context, Mahran Al-Jabri in “Youth Development Initiative” in Taiz, explained, “Young people of both sexes are working in initiatives because of their energy in field work, especially in the field

of development, education, peacebuilding and health which is one of the most prominent programs and activities implemented by the movement”.

He pointed out that the movement is working within economic empowerment projects to help some young people through financing to open their own small projects to improve their income level.

Mahran indicated that the lack of continuous support for the continuity of projects is one of the most important obstacles facing the work of the movement.

Social Fund and Initiatives

The Social Fund for Development works to develop and encourage self-initiatives based in local communities. In a report issued by the Fund, it reviewed several programs implemented during the year 2021 AD that focus on stimulating local communities through training and building human capacities, and supporting youth initiatives such as “Rawafed” program, which is one of the programs that target young university graduates in the rural areas, and aspire to bring about community and local development in which capital is invested and works on community participation and voluntary work to achieve sustainable development.

According to the statistics provided by the Social Fund for Development, the total of trained young men and women reached about 6,497 young people, 3,658 males and 2,839 females, from 20 governorates.

Contrary to the opinions of youth initiatives, Dr. Fairouz Al-Wali (Doctor of Sociology) believes that youth initiatives do not give the young man his right, but rather exploit the energy and time of young people in a way that did not benefit them well,

as initiatives do not transfer suffering and communicate it to public, regional and international opinion, due to failure to submit correct reports in most cases.

Al-Wali stressed, “The large number of initiatives does not benefit the community, but rather exhausts it, especially if there are no desired goals from the initiatives that help national belonging, then they will be words on paper”. Al-Wali wished that efforts would be united in a single initiative that would deliver the message and help the community and youth develop capacities in a correct manner.

Al-Wali stresses on the importance of paying attention to education, which is the basis for educating young people and society as a whole, by reformulating the curricula and paying attention to the English language in conjunction with the Arabic language in the early stages and by qualified teachers, in addition to supporting the institutions of socialization to nation-building.

Youth Opinions

Sala Amer Al-Hafashi (a 22-year-old man from Sana'a governorate) says, “Youth initiatives open many doors for young people to work, whether the work is voluntary or not. The initiatives with various objectives work to contribute and help alleviate the unemployment phenomenon by attracting unemployed youth, to train them and assign them various tasks. This in itself helps reduce unemployment, gain experience, and develop skills and abilities in dealing and forming relationships”.

As for Ahlam Al-Qubati (a 23-year-old woman from Taiz), she believes that youth initiatives are an opportunity for young

people to take advantage of their spare time with voluntary work aimed at improving their environment and society, and contribute to providing opportunities for unemployed and ambitious youth to prove themselves in society.

Khaled Ali (a 25-year-old man from Radaa) confirms that initiatives are the main engine that works to reduce unemployment, as initiatives open training courses that educate young people on how to open and manage small projects, as young people can start and continue with these projects along with many activities that reduce unemployment.

He added, “There are many solutions to address the phenomenon of unemployment by solving the equation between the requirements of the labor market and the capabilities of graduates, and this requires training graduates to delve into new areas needed by the labor market”, stressing on the importance of paying attention to practical and industrial education and encouraging young people to enroll in it without waiting to finish university degrees, and working on establishing service projects.

Hanan Hammoud (a 26-year-old woman from Aden governorate) says, “Initiatives play a major role in developing and educating society, and the services and projects they provide to reduce the spread of unemployment, and establish projects that help young people get jobs easily as well as teach them how to develop their skills to get the jobs that commensurate with their capabilities and work to facilitate investment and encourage investors to increase job opportunities in various societies”.

A Groundbreaking Experience in the Making of Opportunity and Self-Proof



By: Sawt Al-Amal
(Voice of Hope) - Samah Emlaak

I found her in a wedding hall, moving like a butterfly among the guests, carrying professional equipment for photography. Her loose smile makes the bride feel the size of her joy as she stands on the threshold of the marital world, documenting the smallest details in the wedding parties, being electronically empowered, unlike most women in Ibb governorate.

Adwaa Yassin Abdel Wareth, graduated from the Department of English at Taiz University, then she was forced to move with her family to Ibb governorate after the events of 2014 AD.

She found herself in a strange province, looking for a safe haven, but she did not stop searching for herself among the rubble left by the crisis.

She worked as a teacher in her field of specialization in private schools and institutes until she remembered her old hobby and dream as soon as her cousin gave her a “camera”.

Adwaa says that her beginnings in the world of photography were not simply a hobby and a passion, but it was born by chance when she received a gift after her marriage to her cousin who supported her.

She attended photography courses and documented her brother's engagement party as her first experience in the field of wedding photography because it was in a remote area where there were no professional photographers.

She says, “I found that my artistic touch was wonderful at my brother's engagement party, according to everyone's testimony, so I thought I'd start working as a wedding photographer after studying the social environment in the city of Ibb, where there was no interest in wedding photography”.

Adwaa's project was one of the first projects in this field, so she started by creating her page on the social networking site Facebook, to publish some details of her work.

Adwaa continues, “The interaction was great, I did not expect it, as it opened a large door of turnout for me. Many female clients in the governorate contacted me, and that's how I formed my team, as I am currently working with two female colleagues whom I trained by myself”.

Adwaa was initially apprehensive, but her brother supported her morally and physically, as he drove her back and forth to work sites to be reassured, as well as the family who provided Adwaa with a small printer that she started with.

She recounts some of the obstacles she encountered, saying, “The idea of photography in Ibb was nascent, the proud society was not interested in wedding photography in a special way, but I gradually built myself from scratch, and I

bought my equipment piece by piece until I reached the professional equipment that amazes everyone who deals with me today”.

Adwaa adds that she faced administrative difficulties in her office, her team, and simultaneous weddings as well, as soon as her team expanded and demand increased, and she overcame these obstacles by attending online courses about the administrative skills.

She currently manages her team and time smoothly due to her five years of experience working in the field of wedding photography.

She talks about the responsibility that falls upon her in documenting family occasions, such as engagement parties, weddings, birthdays, and others, in a conservative society. So, she's strongly careful about committing any lapse that may shake the confidence of her customers. For this reason, Adwaa prints all her works herself in her house without contracting any outside studios, aware of her responsibility, and stressing that her honesty is one of the greatest reasons for her success.

Adwaa adds “passion” to her features, saying, “The majority imitates and does not renew, and female photographers who are

passionate about photography are still beginners, and she added, “by continuing and developing, they will succeed in the quality of their work and creativity if there is a will”.

Adwaa attributes the credit for her leadership in the world of events photography, after God's grace, to her cooperative family and her understanding husband, the main supporter of her talent. While he has settled in Aden, away from his wife, who has taken from Ibb a fertile environment for her work, he is content with vacations to meet her either in Ibb or in Aden, and Adwaa considers herself lucky to have her husband always understanding and supporting her.

She says, “When I see the bottom line of the effort and fatigue after printing and editing, I feel the thrill of achievement and I sleep while feeling completely satisfied with myself”.

Adwaa did not give in to the difficult circumstances after graduating from university and her marriage, but she was optimistic and carved her name on the rock to create an innovative job opportunity for her with the harshness of displacement that forced her to leave her memories, and the place of her childhood when the situation worsened.

She concluded her speech with a sentence that said, “Work is an idea in the first place. If you find the idea in which you see yourself, your ambition and your passion, stick to it and bite it with your strength. After that, the reasons for success will be easier for you and all obstacles and difficulties will be removed. This is my story shortly”.



Civil Society Organizations: Embracing the Aspirations of Youth Witnessing a Bitter Reality

“ Local and international organizations have a significant and effective role in enhancing the capabilities of youth in various sectors and fields in Yemen. They have also participated in refining their creativity, capabilities and talents in many developmental and economic projects, activities and programs, with the obstacles and challenges facing them in obtaining suitable job opportunities.



Munir Qassem Al-Shahari



Dr. Nabil Al-Hajj



Bassam al-Qadhi

By: Hanin Al-Wahesh – Samah Emlaak
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Social Fund Activity

The report issued by the Social Fund for Development 2019 AD indicated that it implemented many programs that targeted youth and reduce unemployment, through the implementation of the Cash-For-Work program, which targeted 201,788 families, 85% of whom are youth, within the framework of the second response plan within the Cash-For-Work activity that is provided by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union, the German government, the German Development Bank, the British Department for International Development, the Social Protection for Community Resilience Project (SPCRP) and the Islamic Bank.

The Fund also reviewed the “Social Safety Net” program, which included the sectors of the Cash-For-Work program, cash-for-social services, and food cash transfers. Within the framework of the network, the community benefits from short-term job opportunities. In addition, opportunities are available for young people to improve their skills and get a job.

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) held a number of events aimed at building entrepreneurship among Yemeni youth, as it implemented a project called “Integrated support for young women and men in Yemen to access decent work” with the aim of building youth capacities in a number of professional and technical skills and knowledge of business development services, as well as improving the employability of young people, according to a report published by the organi-

zation in 2016 AD.

The report also referred to the implementation of the “Mubadara” (Initiative) programme for starting a business, which was developed by the International Labor Organization as a business guide for youth, and presenting it to graduates from selected colleges and universities. In addition, the programme aims at establishing private public partnerships which reflect labour market demand and the needs of training providers, maintain quality assurance, and facilitate their access to financial support to establish their projects.

INTERSOS

In the governorate of Ibb, INTERSOS targeted youth in the districts of Jableh, Al-Udayn and Hobeish with its projects that try to reduce the problem of unemployment.

Yasmine Al Yamani (a social worker at INTERSOS in Ibb) explained the type of these projects represented in the “livelihood” project, which targets young people from poor families to provide them with a range of trades and professions that include teaching sewing for young women, while young men were taught to maintain and install solar energy while providing an integrated kit for each trainee; in addition to the manufacture of incense, perfumes and accessories. This opened up great prospects and job opportunities for those targeted by our projects, which would suffice their families.

Local Organizations and Youth Programs

“Youth Without Borders” organization is one of the organizations that targeted young people and played an important role in developing and supporting their capabilities. Raed Abdul Raheeb Mohammed (Project Unit Officer at the organization) says, “The organization

implemented programs and projects targeting young people in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund as a project “Improving Peacebuilding mechanisms”, which aims to train and qualify youth, manage projects and small amounts of money, and schedule and implement projects according to a specific time plan, within the framework of a training program that is implemented four times a year and provides small grants of up to 2,000\$ for the work of youth development projects that serve the community”.

He also indicated that the organization implemented the “Network of Development Contribution” project, which is run in cooperation with the Yemen Resonate Foundation, Ajyal Marib Association and Volunteers Foundation in Aden and Hadhramaut, with funding from the European Commission, which targeted 40 young women and men in each governorate to raise their capabilities and competencies in the development process and consolidate the concept of social responsibility.

In the same context, Mawaddah Qadar (Executive Director of Wogood for Human Security Foundation Human in Aden) says, “The Foundation targets women and youth in its activities. It has implemented many programs that have contributed to developing youth perceptions of the importance of community development and volunteer work, such as the “Community Contribution to Community Security” project which targeted 20 young women and men, as it develops their facilitation and reporting skills”.

She added, “We faced many difficulties in implementing activities, events and projects due to the impact of the current unstable security situation, which had the largest part in delaying the implementation of some activities and programs provided to young people”.

Shaimaa Al-Shaibani (Responsible for the Interactive Women's Forum for IYSO Organization - Taiz Governorate) explains that one of the activities targeted by the organization with regard to youth is the “Developing youth capabilities and involving them in the field and developmental works” which has a positive impact on youth by developing their expertise and capabilities in various fields that meet the needs of the labor market.

For his part, Mazen Adnan (Logistics Officer at the Jannah Foundation, in Taiz) says, “Local organizations contribute to creating a community and job environment and opportunities for young people by implementing training and educational courses in many fields; professional, artistic and technical , where training courses in sewing and embroidery were held targeting young women, while young men are targeted by courses in the field of solar energy and its maintenance, electrical energy and maintenance of devices”.

Dr. Nabil Al-Hajj (Chairman of Wathiqun Foundation for Development) says, “Young people are the pillar of society. We can call Yemeni society the name of the youth community, where young people under the age of 30 years old constitute the largest proportion of Yemen's population which makes them a fundamental basis for economic and social transformation in all fields”.

He added, “The Foundation seeks, through its programs and activities, to attempt to eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere by supporting micro-projects, and focusing on the most vulnerable groups among young people through providing loans, facilitating job opportunities, and bridging the gap between academic and professional life”.

In an attempt to find radical solutions to address the problem of youth, Al-Hajj believes

that civil society organizations have an important role in mitigating the negative effects of the conflict through reintegration, rehabilitation and empowering young people in the society.

He affirmed that all concerned parties should strive to develop education and introduce new and targeted educational methods that are compatible with the main and evolving requirements of the labor market and facilitate the procedures by which young people obtain loans from the state easily and smoothly, in addition to reducing interest.

Youth opinions

Hiyam Abdullah (a 25-year-old girl from Aden governorate) says, “Local and international organizations have an active role in rehabilitating young people to contribute to reducing the problem of unemployment, and it has positive effects among young people in the Yemeni society, despite the difficulties that young people face in not providing suitable job opportunities”.

For her part, Adwa Al-Salahi (a 21-year-old girl from Ibb Governorate) said, “Local organizations and institutions play a major role in creating job opportunities among the private sector offices, and they bridge the large gap that lies between the total outputs and the reality of the labor market”.

Munir Qassem Al-Shahari (a 30-year-old man from Ibb Governorate) shared his opinion by saying, “The organizations must involve a larger group of young people who rely on them a lot in building the family and are the nucleus of society. I suggest that the relevant institutions strive to develop the skills of young people so that they can obtain employment that provides a living instead of giving it to them in charity, so do not give me a fish, but teach me how to catch”.

From Voluntary Work to a Private Project

From a person with a limited income to the owner of the “Takween” Advertising Agency in the city of Taiz, with passion and ambition and on the principle of great oaks from little acorns grow, Mohammed Al-Majidi, a 34 year-old an, started his own project.

By: Hanin Al Wahesh
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

Al-Majidi reviews his beginnings in the business world of which was the design of some advertisements and cards that are sometimes sold at nominal prices, and he often distributes them free of charge voluntarily. He is passionate and creative in the field of designs and advertisements for about ten years.

He says that the foundation was opened about a year ago in January 2020 AD after making a lot of continuous effort, and going through many challenges that he overcame with difficulty so as not to succumb to the specter of unemployment that dominates the future of most young people.

He added, “I started work while not having any budget for the project, but with continuous work, I achieved the dream that I hoped for”.

Regarding the challenges, he goes on to say, “The lack of capabilities greatly hindered my work, in addition to the general situation in the country, but the insistence on continuing contributed to overcoming all difficulties and realizing the dream of establishing my own project that developed my ability and talent in the world of designs”.

Al-Majidi fulfilled his dream with the cooperation of friends and family through the

establishment of the “Takween” Foundation with his own team, which was able to expand a lot, overcoming many difficulties represented in the unstable situation in the country, the constant power cuts and the lack of material capabilities, which were exacerbated by the deterioration of the currency, the rise in prices and the difficulty of finding a suitable location in an appropriate place”.

He also explained, “Before the foundation’s opening, I was implementing designs and innovations for new things related to the field of advertising through volunteer work, and collected directly a base of customers, and through them we were able to work more than one design according to their request, and we continued to work at a high pace during that period until the demand for designs increased. Gradually, year after year, the pressure at work increased, and we were unable to meet the demands across the governorates. At that time, we took a decision to establish the foundation and start participating and working together”.

Regarding the services, he says, “The foundation is not limited to design, but its work varied between design and printing of all kinds, as well as decoration and electronic marketing, which is currently considered one of the best types of marketing, and all the foundation’s team are trained and ambitious young professionals in this field”.



One of the objectives of establishing this foundation is to attract a group of youth with experience and competence in the field of designs to hone their talents to serve the community and contribute to alleviating the unemployment problem resulting from the deteriorating conditions in the country.

In the context of introducing the foundation, Al-Majidi explains, “The institution consists of several departments: the marketing department, which consists of three people who are responsible for presenting business to clients, creating new relationships and proposing new ideas for the business office and for clients as well, and the designers department, which consists of six people specialized in decoration and commercial services and the



brand works (identities), and the photography department, who are responsible for product photography, montage, documenting events, covering events and photographing advertising campaigns, because of which we gained the trust of many customers”.

In addition to some of the works that we

presented abroad, which included a university guide, designing a visual identity for Taif University in Saudi Arabia, and taking care of the identity of AlToor Company, the BaOmar Company, and other educational institutions.

On the ambition, development and future outlook, Al-Majidi hopes to expand his activity further and provide independent work offices for each department in order to accom-

modate the largest possible number of creative young people, thus contributing to providing new job opportunities for youth.

Al-Majidi sent a motivational message to the youth, saying, “Youth who have an idea should start working on its implementation without hesitation, facing all challenges with determination, and stick to the goal they hold”.

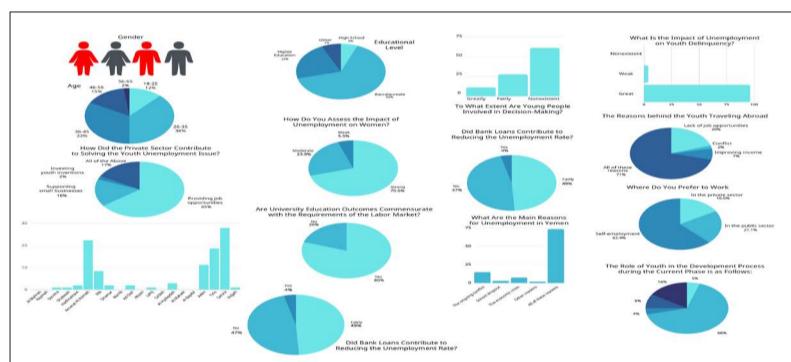


In an opinion poll 73% Affirm: The Current Situation Has Contributed to the Spread of Unemployment in Yemen

By: Sawt Al-Amal
(Voice of Hope) - Special

The results of the public opinion poll carried out by the Information and Poll Unit of the Yemen Information Center for Research and Media (YIC), on Youth and Unemployment in Yemen showed that 73% believe that the prevailing conditions in the country have contributed to the large spread of the unemployment rate during the past few years.

Also, 95% of the participants in the special poll of "Sawt Al-Amal" (Voice of Hope) newspaper confirmed that the aggravation of the unemployment problem in Yemen had a strong impact on the family stability in various Yemeni governorates, while 71% believed that the lack of job opportunities, the continuation of the conflict



and the weakness of the educational process with its outputs are among the most important reasons that contributed to pushing youth to travel abroad.

In the poll, which targeted 59% of males

and 41% of females of different ages and governorates in Yemen, 96% of those targeted confirmed that the impact of unemployment on youth delinquency was significant and influential, and 70% of the

participants said that women were strongly affected by the spread of unemployment; while 61% believe that the extent of youth participation in the decision-making does not exist on the field, and finally 80% do not see that the educational outcomes are commensurate with the requirements of the labor market.

On the importance of the role of youth in the development process, the poll shows that 66% confirm the importance of the role of youth in the development process during the current stage, through implementing initiatives to improve the economic and social situation, and launching small projects that reduce unemployment; while 49% believe that bank loans contribute to some extent in reducing the unemployment rate among young people, and that 62% prefer self-employment over the public and private sectors.

The Youth and the Challenge of Unemployment

Yemen is going through a critical stage that has made it the focus of the largest humanitarian crisis in the world and is at the fore of the group of countries threatened by the famine. However, the youth and young people today constitute the highest unemployment rates in the country, which amounted to 32%, topping the list of Arab countries, where Palestine comes in the second place at a rate of 31%.

According to the latest population projections for the year 2020 issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the youth and young people in Yemen represent 32% of the total population, which increases the importance of this group in the society and increases its economic needs in a reality where unemployment rates have reached 32%. As some statistics indicate that the percentage of young people outside the framework of education, training and labor market in Yemen amounted to 44% in 2013, and the unemployment rate among young people in the same year reached 33%, with females representing 74% of the percentage and males 26%, the reasons behind this are the failure of the educational system to prepare and train graduates for the labor market as well as the weak rate of economic growth.

The same statistics show that the largest percentage of the employed youth are those who work for others, at a rate of more than 50%, while 27% of them work for their families, and the percentage of the self-employed workers reaches 20%, and most of their work is concentrated in the service sector, which accommodates 49.3% of them, while 35% work in the agricultural sector, 14% in the industrial sector, and 8% in the construction and public administration sector. The most interesting of these statistics is that 75% of the working youth are either illiterate or have obtained the basic certificate only, 22.8% hold secondary certificate and 1.6% university degree.

With food prices rising by 200%, the vast majority of Yemen's population of 30.8 million people have lost their sources of income, either because of the suspension of salaries for about one million public employees, the cessation of the business of companies and private sector as a result of the war, or the displacement, where about four people have been displaced. Millions moved from their areas to other areas, and most of them live in camps that lack the most basic necessities of life.

Although 36% of the population in Yemen lives in the urban areas, while the vast majority live in the rural areas and depend for their lives on work in the agricultural sector which has been greatly affected by the conflict, or either due to direct confrontations, high fuel prices, road closures and difficulty in marketing. With it, the proportion of the population under the age of 24 years old declined to about 60%, down from 69% in 2000.

United Nations reports indicate that the value of the Human Development Index in Yemen was 0.483 in 2018, which puts the country at the lowest threshold of the category of countries with low human development, where it ranked 177 out of 189 countries, although in 2015 it was ranked 153 in the Development Index. If the gender inequality factor is taken into account, the country loses 32 % of its already low HDI value, largely due to the inequality in education.

The estimations since the start of the conflict in March 2015 indicate that the Yemeni economy has contracted by about 50 %, with a sharp drop in production by 28 % in 2015. Thus, in 2018, growth rates became positive for the first time, reaching 0.8 % and 2.9 % in 2019 but growth contracted by 3 % in 2020 and the oil and gas production has fallen by 90 % since 2014. The agricultural production has been largely affected by the conflict, water scarcity and fuel shortages. The cultivated area in Yemen decreased in 2016 by an average of 38%.

Moreover, according to the latest World Bank statistics, about 40 % of the families in Yemen have lost their primary source of income, and thus lost their ability to purchase their basic needs. And with it, Yemen reached the brink of famine. While about half of Yemen's population was considered poor before the crisis, 78.5 % lived on less than \$3.20 a day in 2017. In addition, more than 16.3 million people suffered from food insecurity and five million were at risk of starvation as well as 2.3 million children suffer from malnutrition.

The labor force participation rate was 38%, with a large discrepancy between the participation rate between men and women, which reached 70 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively in 2019.

Before the outbreak of the conflict, Yemen was making great progress in the field of education. The gross primary education enrollment rate increased from 73 % in 1999 to 94 % in 2016, while girls' enrollment increased from 52 % to 87 % during the same period. Nevertheless, the conflict has caused a deterioration in the education sector; more than 2,500 schools have been destroyed by the displaced people or armed groups and nearly two million children are out of school, while the dropout rate for girls is estimated at 36 % compared to 24 % for boys.



Arwad Al-Khatib



When Talent Defies the Unemployment and Disability

He expresses his feelings on a daily basis through his deep drawings... losing his hearing, the grace of speaking as well as one of his eyes did not stop him from conveying his message and expressing various issues and circumstances, and most importantly, employing his talent to challenge the unemployment and make it a source of earning a living.

By: Rajaa Mukred
Sawt Al-Amal (Voice of Hope)

and provide the requirements of life.

He Started at the Age of Thirteen

Al-Mujahid plastic artist began drawing during his childhood, at the age of thirteen; he used to draw on his own, and then mastered drawing at the age of twenty. His older brother Abdullah helped him

and was his first fan. Al-Mujahid sustained a fracture in his right hand and stopped drawing for about fifteen years, then he gradually returned to drawing.

The creativity of the artist Abdul Latif, who was born out of his suffering, made him enjoy a lot of interaction in the social networking site "Facebook" and left an impression on everyone who met him or saw his plastic paintings. He imitates landscapes or expresses the things he remembers from his childhood and draws from his imagination.

Talent Is a Profession

Al-mujahid artist did not reveal any future ambitions for

his talent, and merely indicated that it is a source of living income, defying conditions and unemployment, warning that he faces difficulty in not having some painting colors in Yemen due to the conflict, while others exist, but he cannot afford them because of their high price, and by repeating the question about the ambition, he indicated that he wished the conflict would stop.

Many of the pioneers of the social media praised Al-Mujahid artist's paintings, and considered his work in painting as a challenge to the bitter reality and difficult conditions, and described him as a brilliant success as he challenged disability



on the one hand, and conditions and unemployment on the other hand, wishing and hoping the officials would consider these competencies and provide them with the necessary support to facilitate their work and to be a role model for others.