Obstacles limiting economic empowerment of youth in the arabic region

Obstáculos que limitan el empoderamiento económico de los jóvenes en la región árabe

ALKHAZALEH, Rasmi Mezher Ali 1

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1. Introduction

In this research we aim to focus on importance of the stimulation of education, learning and the exchange of views on the challenges, opportunities and solutions for the economic empowerment of youth as a main way towards the sustainability of the economic, social and environmental development in the Arabic countries. An economic empowerment comes on top of these priority concerns. From this standpoint, the work on concerted efforts has become necessary to meet the challenges faced by youth (age 15-24) economically, especially in the labor market. The economic empowerment which can not be reached without empowering all areas of life which will address the obstacles to sustainable development for youth.

Youth must be the priority in human resources development. They lead the positive social change. Increasing their employment opportunities, enthusiasm and creativity, for the support of technological innovation will contribute significantly in achieving the development in the Arabic region.

Expanding options, opportunities and building the required human capital, leads to the emergence of a knowledge-based society which will require more concentration, coordination and investment of resources for youth empowerment.

The United Nations (UN) has strengthened its commitment to young people by directing and coordinating many international community's responses to the challenges facing this category in the 21st century. The United Nations did that by adopting an international strategy: "The world program of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond" to effectively handle the social and economic challenges of this group and to increase their opportunities to participate in society. This will lead them to be economically empowered and promote to active affiliation and participation and effectively to take advantage of their services. Society needs technical and personal skills of the youth. Scientific and practical development give them the opportunity of submitting their achievements and expressing development in the political field to ensure a good future for their country by empowering youth Economically so they must be able to express their opinions and on all public issues that concern society. They must be given the opportunity to participate in defining priorities needed by society, participate in the decisions making processes and to maintain the youth capacities to encounter the challenges and address it as much as possible.

The Arabian region failed to provide their nations with sustainable development, despite of having youth institutions, departments and many programs supporting youth movement and talents with having number of competent people leading these programs, but still unable to make the required development and empowerment of youth which result the rising of many extremist and terrorism groups in the region.

2. Methodology

Full employment was central objective of macroeconomic policies in the fifties and sixties of the last century in the Industrial Capital States This objective is no longer part of global plans of Stabilization that follows the Oil crisis in 1973 and 1979. Nowadays it’s necessary to promote the policies of the full employment to make this progress solid and sustainable and must be published and generalized. The principle to the labor markets defined as that everyone got a chance to work and a fair pay, and the engaging in this is might not be an option for all individual but the principle opens the door so that be an option for everyone.

The principle of full employment involves social benefits, despite of economic and social costs of unemployment which leads to permanent losses in production, reduced staff skills and productivity, and the loss of production accompanied by a decline in tax income, it is necessary to increase general expenditure to pay the unemployment compensation. long term unemployment is a risk on human mental and physical health and affect
the quality of life and education of children, is also associated with high rates of crime, suicide, violence and drug use and other social problems. The benefits of economic empowerment to community myriad

As employment contributes in the stability and social cohesion where decent work builds the individual's ability to respond to social and political variables and uncertainty situations that might make them easy prey for those who tempt to get involved in extremist groups. Despite all promises and attempts to bring economic empowerment, which still very weak due to many obstacles facing this goal.

2.1. Main Obstacles that limit Economic Empowerment of Youth

"Although Arab managed to make progress in many aspects of human development, and reducing poverty and inequality in the twentieth century, and its ability to achieve this again in the twenty-first century. It did not develop as fast as other areas had developed, due mainly to the lack of governmental institutions for transparency and accountability. Women's participation in political life and career is lower than the other countries. Especially the increases in the number of wars, conflicts, extremism and war from what was noted in the Arabic human development report year 2002 on creating opportunities for future generations. Arabic region suffers from providing social and economic options for the youth to keep them from extremism, also until these days the region could not achieve the necessities to join as a full partner to the global information society and the knowledge-based global economy in order to deal with the scourge of unemployment both economic and humanitarian bits, which affect the Arabic countries, more than any other developing region.

The Arabic countries face the same challenges issued in 2002 report as well as the spread of extremism ISIS appears in most Arabic countries and their effect on the youth which obstruct them economically, the Arabic countries can't overcome the deficiencies that help building human development in the Arab world as in:

- Respecting of human rights and freedoms as the cornerstone in building good governance detective for human development.
- Empowering Arabic Women's across all opportunities, especially those that helps in building capabilities for girls and women equally.
- Devoting of acquire knowledge and employ them effectively in building human capacity and employ them effectively in all kinds of activity in the community.

This study presents the reality of Arab youth suffering from crisis stands in the way of enabling economically as:

2.1.1. Conflict and political instability discourage development and economic empowerment:

Political turmoil, military conflicts, international sanctions and the siege damaged many economies in the Arabic region, leading to low productivity and unstable markets. Many countries are still struggling to recover from the fallout of wars, and came out burdened with debt, which tighten depressing in public spending. These countries found themselves facing political, economic and social problems. Internal army conflicts result in a slow growth and devastating infrastructure, social fragmentation and stagnation in the public sector. Some countries also suffered from hyperinflation and a sharp drop in the value of the currency, low foreign currency earnings. All these factors impact directly on youth development and needs of government.

According to the Arabic-themed human development report 2009 year 'challenges to human security in Arabic countries ' human security is a necessary condition for human development, and the lack of its presence in Arabic countries undermine the choices of people who live in them'. The concept of human security does not abbreviate the issue of survival, but also the basic needs such as access to clean water and quality of life issues. And often human security in Arabic countries threatens by a set of unfair political, social and economic factors, as threatened by competition for power and resources between divided groups.

The report identified a number of methods by which the Arabic countries can strengthen the human security such as encouraging the rule of law, protection of the environment, safeguarding women's rights, fighting poverty, facing hunger, raising the level of public health and ending the occupation and armed conflict to provide a sound environment for economic empowerment to the youth.

2.1.2. Lack of freedom

Repression of freedoms in Arabic countries lead to weakening humanitarian development. This factor is considered as a vulnerable political manifestation of under-development. Where the type of governance compreses a strong control state component. Lack of freedom scale shows that people in Arabic area were less of enjoying freedom globally in the 1990's. A brief glimpse of hope arose in 2015, from the beginnings of spring rebellions in many Arab countries, that returned to restrict freedoms and human rights violations. Indicators for representation and accountability, derived from other international data base, show this low level of freedom in the Arabic area. This group includes several indicators that measure various aspects of the political process, civil liberties, political rights and independence of the media. Arabic region came in last place in the line of all regions of the world based on freedom of representation and accountability.

2.1.3. Lack of empowerment of women

Women in most Arabic countries suffer of inequality in citizenship and legal rights, and not to take advantage of economic capabilities making them more vulnerable to unemployment. Young women also suffer from discrimination on opportunities, presented in employment status and wages. The indicators of the ILO show that the participation of Arab women in the labor market is lower as compared with the average in other geographical regions. The share of Arab women in the labor force is only 18.9% In 2017, compared with 48.7% for the global average. This ratio is below the other geographic regions where women's participation in the labor market is higher than 50 per cent. On the other hand, the challenges facing the situation of women's participation in the labor market in the region is increasing considering the high rates of unemployment. It is about 16.7% in 2017, almost three times the rate of women's unemployment which was around 6 per cent worldwide in the same year, this will which affects a wide range of young people and thus affect the development and productivity of society.

2.1.4. Lack of good governance:

We cannot understand human development stages and thus achieving economic empowerment for youth in Arabic countries without providing its components and set its terms through good governance. This requires reforming the substance of the provision, through the reform of State enterprises and raising the voice of the people that should be established by legislation Councils which is one of the most important institutions that must have considered the link between the regime and the people. Releasing human resources for economic empowerment in Arabic countries requires a comprehensive political representation in Legislative Councils done based on free, honest, efficient and organized elections which should be accompanied with restructuring of public administration which is urgent necessity in the Arab countries.

Governments and public sectors need to perform the tasks on a transparent and effective way. Public institutions also need restructuring to encourage the private sector on investment and growth to eliminate monopoly and get rid of corruption and nepotism, fighting monopoly and nepotism that frustrated youth initiatives, merit and creativity from the rewards and appreciation they deserved decisively is important steps to empowering youth economically. Deprivation of unequal capacities and opportunities is more dangerous than poverty.

Legal development in the social system is the heart of institutional development in the Arabic legislation. It is the cornerstone on which the other government institutions build on the integrity and fairness of representation and the efficient of State institutions. The judicial system in the Arab countries must focus on the reform of ensuring the law and administrative procedures associated with the rights of citizens to be consistent with basic human rights, specially the rights relating to freedom of expression and organizing guaranteed and protected by independent judiciary implementing the role of law with integrity. A work program has been developed to achieve this in the first Arab Conference on justice in 1999 that issued a declaration in the name of 'Beirut Declaration of Justice'.

2.1.5. Lack of Knowledge

In addition to capacity shortfalls caused by the shortcomings of the educational system there are serious gaps in knowledge caused by the following:

Scientific expenditures in 1996 formed only 0.14% of the Arab gross domestic product compared to 1.26% for Cuba and 2.9% for Japan in 1995. This shows that the investment in research and development is less than seventh of the global rate.

The use of network in Arabic countries is less than any other region in the world, where only 0.6% of Arab citizens use internet, and only 1.2% of them have a personal computer.
The gap between Arabic countries and the developed world is widened due to the information and communication technology with high susceptibility to monopoly and mergers, the high cost of high-speed information channels infrastructure, the increasing of Arabic talents emigration, and finally to a serious imbalance in the distribution range between developed and developing countries. Cyber space has become a place where the developed world powers prevail in most its regions and angles, there are many informational variations between the Arabic countries, even in the same level of human development. There are many obstacles expanding the digital gap within each Arab State notably by the language factor. They are still trying to face the information gap and they are concentrating on telecommunication infrastructure as well. Despite of the importance of these efforts, the desired results will not be reached unless they pay similar attention to the content factor where most of online available materials are available in English. English language is not mastered by many in the region where the lack of materials in Arabic language online will disenfranchise Arab citizens of the benefits of the information age.

2.2. The crisis of education, scientific researches and continuing qualifying

Knowledge is the mainstay of development increasingly in the era of globalization where technological changes accelerating like never. Knowledge is general benefit commodity supports social, economic and political environments. As already mentioned, there is a big gap in knowledge, and it will not be easy to overcome which can only be done by working on the interdependent and complementary fields that accommodating and acquisition knowledge.

Education is considered the most important way to generate the knowledge that should be a priority to ensure high quality universal basic education and strengthening the higher education and extermination of illiteracy, as well as the need to provide long life learning opportunities for graduates of the educational system. Lifelong education is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity to absorb knowledge in an evolving and rapid world in which the skills and knowledge of the past are no longer sufficient to meet the human right and a purpose and is an important instrument of improving welfare through its effect on productivity and other aspects of life, such as health and economic fields which raises the economic empowerment of youth.

Further more, absorbing knowledge is necessary to acquire it through respecting of science and knowledge and encouraging innovation and the use of the latest inventions to increase productivity and income and to improve human welfare. It is necessary to encourage scientific research and development activities related to the production process, and supporting the empowerment of the private sector environments in using new knowledge in response to market requirements in addition to collecting various types of knowledge available elsewhere and adjusting it by the opening on the rest of the world, with the need to spread knowledge through the spreading of information and reducing the cost of obtaining it through strengthening of information and communications technology and providing unprecedented opportunities in education.

2.3. The educational crisis

The report, issued by the Global Education Center at the Brookings Institution competent education quality issues in the developing world on February 2014, revealed the challenges facing educational systems in the Arab world, most notably the lack of linkage between education for productive life and youth employment. The report claims urgent action to develop basic skills in children and youth to enable them to progress in schools and universities. However, it is unable to keep up with scientific and technological revolution.

Schools and universities continue to suffer from inefficient study plans and curricula, poor education system, lack of teaching and educational and administrative cadres and development. Theoretical method tends to overcome this education as they are not subjected to monitoring, evaluation and follow up, and avoids applied education this leads to failure in create creative minds and skilled hands. All levels of education are still far from the level of universal basic education. The report stresses on that governments alone cannot improve the quality of education; the civil and private sectors must be involved in this process of improvement. They are the main beneficiaries of higher-level learning outcomes, because as we find that the Arab world needs to create 500,000 additional jobs and replace the 1.4 million teachers who will leave the Arabic region to Great Desert.

The lack of focus in Arabic countries on the pre-childhood phase that precedes the phase of youth, a determination of the reality and future of youth, childhood in its current status lives varies as the child from the start is not having sufficient attention from his family, particularly in terms of nutrition, health care, and psychological and social services especially in poor households with an estimated population of 90 million poor people in the Arab region, and the preoccupation of the head of the family in more than one job in order to secure minimum family requirements lead to no coexistence with his children and not to share their problems and aspirations. In addition to this reality, the ignorance of many mothers in child care basics, the high number of Individuals per family, and the difficulty to find a suitable home. Moreover, lack of appropriate quantity and quality wise of kindergarten and cramping of primary school students into classroom which is not in line with of the requirements of the educational process and not providing the opportunities for the development of children talent leading to not getting their physical or moral welfare, and grow up mostly in unbalanced tense atmosphere, that affected the future of their whole life process. If we really care for youth, we must make child care a priority as that staring puerculture at the beginning. The neglect of this leads to big and irreparable effects.

The report also emphasizes on that learning outcomes cannot be improved without addressing the problem of teacher´s incapacities and in the teaching quality. A study from UNESCO emphasizes that the Arab world has the second largest gap in the world in terms of teaching after The Great Desert.

As we find that the Arab world needs to create 500,000 additional jobs and replace the 1.4 million teachers who will leave the Arabic region to reach the level of universal basic education. The report stresses on that governments alone cannot improve the quality of education; the civil and private sectors must be involved in this process of improvement. They are the main beneficiaries of higher-level learning outcomes, because children and youth will form the working staff in the future. 1 million Arab children are not attending school since 2002 which is a negative significant decrease. 8.5 million children drop out of school many of the girls from poor and rural communities, living mostly in places affected by disintegration. 9.6 million of children in primary school are not learning something while they are in school comparing with 48% in junior schools. Despite of girls are less likely be in school they are more successful in the transition from primary to junior high and high school. They out perform boys in terms of learning, but they are less fortunate in the recruitment out of total youth in general.

The number of Arab students at all levels are estimated with more than 75 million in year 2000, this huge number is a double-edged sword, that will lead to revolution in the social and economic field within short period if we achieved effective education consistent with community needs and meets the aspirations of the development plans and keep up with global changes and developments.

If education in the Arab world remained on the status quo, despite all the efforts made to raise its level and the financial boom that hit most parts of the Arab world in the 1970s rising revenues due to high oil prices. and from that time the Arab world lives in Continuing regression in the national income and an expected decline in coming years because of internal and external factors, the out-coming of various levels of education will be a burdenon society as a whole rather than leading it forward. It will be a force against progress and development, in particular that the number of graduates in 2000 is near to 12 million people.

One of the most important difficulties faced by the educational process in the Arab world is the money spent on education. This does not exceed 30 billion dollars a year. The minimum required to have a good education impact is at least 60 billion dollars per year, and with time it will increase to 100 billion dollars which is equivalent to the entire Arab oil revenues.

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Leaders of the Arabic countries should realize the fact that all they are spending on education turns into unleash power and as soon as this power released will achieve increasing incomes and we should always remember that the people with effective education always having high profitability in profit, economic and social development.

2.4. Scientific Crisis

The world is now competing among themselves over who has the largest number of scientists and researchers especially youth, which is the most
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sector control on a large part of the sectors and productive institutions, with all the accompanying mismanagement and the spread of the scourge of unemployment on the up coming years, or labor migration including skilled labor in search of favorable opportunities abroad. Where the public low level of wages and returns. A growing shortage of employment opportunities for youth and intellectuals due to the lack of economic real

Causing problems and limiting economic development in the world, which put many States in the embarrassing predicament, particularly in educational matters supervisors and this will affect economic development. The big question is how to develop graduates of schools, colleges and universities so that they can accommodate slipstreamed modern industrial and needed science knowing that all scientific textbooks and technological books for different levels of education including the professional book if it is printed a new theories and technological developments is raised. In other words, almost all scientific book to study or scientific book available in bookstores is Lagging behind, and scientists are running after periodicals and journals so they can find the needed information, which led all countries especially the developed one to adopt and embrace the rehabilitation system that can subjected to from normal worker to even the premier level administrator and everyone has to attend theoretical and practical seminars ranging from several days to several weeks and maybe for months every year or once in a while.

If the Arab leaders want to rise to the level of developed nations, must pay attention to the continual rehabilitation system and give the importance they deserve. The ongoing rehabilitation process cannot be realized unless Arabs reorder its priorities and invite everyone to be involved (Governments, public and private institutions, individuals and families) in adoption of preparing youth for the present and the future, as its importance they deserve. The Arab human productivity ranging from 15-20% of human productivity in developed nations at best, and many statistics shows that productivity of Arab human does not exceed 36 minutes per a work day.

2.5. The gap between the demands of the labor market and skills.

Brookings Report on 2014 reached the conclusion that the surveys conducted by the private sector in the Arab region the existence of skills crisis which contributes to deepen the unemployment crisis. This situation worsens with rapid growth in the population of youth. There are 55% of the population under the age of 24 years, and 67% who are under the age of 30 years. Despite that, the total employment rate increased by 3.3% per year, this is not enough to accommodate the growth of the increasing numbers of individual working age.

This report found that in Egypt, by the mid-seventies of the last century, that about 80% of the youth jobs, in the other hand, the public or governmental institutions. These opportunities do not exist today. Law of supply and demand factors have combined to raise the unemployment rate by 10%. With the decline offer of the public sector Arab youth depends more on the opportunities offered by the private sector. On the other hand, while private investment is growing, studies point out the lack of talent with the qualifications required for this sector which constitute an obstacle to the continual rehabilitation could be the human productivity in the developed countries 7 times, whereas the Arab human productivity ranging from 15-20% of human productivity in developed nations at best, and many statistics shows that productivity of Arab human does not exceed 36 minutes per a work day.

3. Results

Causing problems and limiting youth economic empowerment in the Arab world, in which the critical point is having a steady population growth in the Arab countries, with low proportion of participants in economic activities caused by the lack of job opportunities, shortage in required skills, or low employability among graduates. A growing shortage in required skills for youth and intellectuals due to the lack of economic real investments and productive projects that provide job opportunities for the manpower coming to the labor market annually, this cause a high level of unemployment on the up coming years, or labor migration including skilled labor in search of favorable opportunities abroad. Where the public sector control on a large part of the sectors and productive institutions, with all the accompanying mismanagement and the spread of the scourge of corruption in various Arab countries that leads to the need to abandon the economic activities of the public sector for the private sector, which can inject new investments that increase employment and improve production.

The weakness of the productive structure in the industrial, agricultural and tourism sectors, which is reinforced by the lack of infrastructure and...
services required for the development of these various sectors, in addition to the lack of development and investment plans that help to relieve production capacity and competition locally and externally.

With the adoption of the proceeds of natural resources, primarily oil and gas, in order to secure the necessary financial resources for the budgets of many Arab countries, and the use of surpluses in foreign investments, especially in the purchase of sovereign bonds in America and Europe. With the economic disparity between the Arab countries, whether for political or social reasons or for a variety of other reasons. These differences led to the absence of opportunities for an Arab economic project. And at last the subordination of economic development in most Arab countries to the economies of the first world, which did not realize the importance of pursuing an independent development process capable of interacting with and influencing development tracks in Arab countries.

In addition to the lack of interest in the capabilities of youth and rehabilitation to work also not to participate in decision-making related to finding solutions to economic empowerments problems in the Arab world.

4. Conclusions
The research concludes that there are real problems and obstacles facing the economy of the Arab countries. Also, there are no strategic plans for regional governments institutions concerned with the economic aspects and development, and there is also weakness in the performance of observation over these institutions. In addition, this research finds that youth institutions do not play their role in terms of youth economic development, providing job opportunities and training them on projects building, either individually or collectively. To summarize all the points mentioned in the research:

The weakness of educational curricula in Arab universities and schools as they do not help young people to develop themselves and create a secure future for them and the society as a whole.

The lack of support for the private and government economic institutions for youth, because they are not convinced that youth are the future of countries and the main factor in the development of the economy.

Unemployment and low employment where economic growth is always linked to the number of job opportunities created by the market considered threats to the economy.

Internal conflicts exposed to some Arab countries, are among the biggest threats to the Arab economy. Even countries that do not live in civil wars are negatively affected by the wars that are taking place in their neighborhood. The civil conflicts that Arabs are living in Syria, Libya, Yemen and Iraq, will destroy the economic fabric of these countries and inflict serious economic damage on neighboring countries and thus eliminate the future of youth within these countries.

The threat of terrorism in the Arab world, which is hitting everywhere on the Arab map. It takes some countries the strongholds of their lands and their organizations as the continued activity of terrorist groups in the region will shrink business activity and leads to the disappearance of capital and will reduce large flow of investments. The tourism sector has also been directly affected by terrorism. Tourism revenues have been affected significantly in the Arab countries. Most of them rely on tourism to strengthen the economy and creates seasonal and permanent employment opportunities for young people.

5. Recommendations
Regional governments must create employment opportunities for new university graduates and orientation programs to insert them into the labor market, commensurate with their specialties and abilities.

Leisure time of the Arab youth should be reduced, so as not to be vulnerable to extremist thought, through the existence of effective youth institutions follow the government to organize in a manner appropriate to the age groups.

Improve quality and workmanship through continuous training and quality education and to strive for the end of illiteracy in the Arab world which prevents any real progress at the region or reducing it at least.

The need to rely on the main sources for the development of Arab society: science, technology and scientific research, as well as the maintenance, development and the achieving of the ambitions of scientific competencies in quantity and quality.

The need to pay attention to women role and to activate it in political economic and social activities development. Women integration into the labor market by encouraging women to join the labor force, promoting technical training for girls and training women workers, and eliminating digital illiteracy among females.

The need to increase democratic freedoms and encourage youth organizations and clubs, student unions, and all related youth activities like sports, artistic and cultural areas of creativity and encourage all kinds of hobbies.

The need to review all stages of formal education and develop the plans, methods of teaching, means of clarification and the type of school and educational curricula in Arab universities and schools as they do not help young people to develop themselves and create a secure future for them and the society as a whole.

The need to increase support for the private economic institutions for youth, because they are not convinced that youth are the future of countries and the main factor in the development of the economy.

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