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Contents

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
Rules of publishing	2 - 8
Introduction	10
<i>Research:</i> The Tourism and Rural Development in Yemen	13 - 66
<i>Economic Report:</i> The Conflict in Yemen and its Impact on the Economic Side	67 - 98
<i>Developmental Report:</i> The Community Empowerment Is the Basis for Promoting Comprehensive Development in Yemen	97 - 149



Journal Objectives:

Tanmia Wa E'emar (Development and Reconstruction) is a research journal that deals with human and applied research and studies on development, reconstruction, community coexistence and peace, and aims to achieve the concept of scientific research in line with the development of knowledge and the scientific and technological revolution. This concept is to embody the partnership and cooperation between the academic and institutional efforts for the various local developmental areas, reaching as well the regional and international level through the following:

1. Creating a documentary set (research, studies, papers) in the social and practical developmental sciences.
2. Building a partnership through cooperation and partnership agreements with local and international bodies sharing the same interests.
3. Publishing relevant experiences to keep pace with scientific and specialized developments in the various developmental fields and peace.
4. Presenting studies that contribute to the advancement of the functions of institutions and bodies concerned with the areas of comprehensive development
5. Publishing research and studies that meet the conditions of publication in the fields of studies and scientific research in various developmental fields and specializations in both Arabic and English languages.
6. The journal publishes summaries of university research that have been discussed and approved in the field of reconstruction, development and peace, provided that the abstract is prepared by the researcher himself/herself.

Admission Conditions (Research, study, developmental Report, scientific paper):

1. The study must be characterized by the originality of the presentation, with the respect of the scientific research methodology recognized in the fields of study, research, human sciences and administrative fields as well as the natural (developmental) sciences.
2. The research must be written in a proper language, taking into account the rules of control, and it must be free from linguistic, grammatical and typographical errors.
3. The research mustn't be published or submitted for publication in another journal.
4. The researcher must submit his/her research in a soft copy in a WORD file by e-mail.
5. The drawings, figures and graphs (if any) must be well presented, include titles and necessary explanatory data, and their dimensions and sizes should not exceed the page margins.
6. The number of the introduction words must not exceed 20 words.
7. The summary words in Arabic language must not exceed 200 words, and must not exceed 250 words in the English language.
8. The key words must vary between 2 to 5 words.
9. In the event that the researcher uses software or measurement tools such as tests, questionnaires, or other tools, he must provide a complete copy of the tools he/she used if it is not included in the body of the research or not attached to its appendices, and he/she must indicate the legal procedures that allow him/her to use them.
10. The number of pages of the research in its final form, including the abstract, references and appendices must not exceed forty pages with the following specifications:
 - The space between lines should be 1.5 cm.
 - The Arabic language writing size should be 14 written in (Simplified Arabic) and the titles in bold font style.
 - The size of the English writing should be 12 and the titles should be written in (Times New Roman) bold font style.
 - The page margins should be 2.5 cm on all sides and the page number should be at the bottom of the page in the middle.
11. The research must show all the sources and references in the reference list, so that Arab and foreign references, if any, be listed as follows:



An example of documenting a research published in a journal:

In the list of references: Kokaz, Faisal Saddam (2019): Peace, Community Coexistence and a Course in Comprehensive Development and Overcoming Crises, Issue number 7 p. 65 to 90.

In the text: (Kokaz: 2019)

Example of documenting a book:

Abu El-Nasr, Medhat (2017): Sustainable Development (Concept - Its Dimensions - Indicators), Arab Group for Training & Publishing, Cairo, Egypt.

12. The sources and references in the research are documented according to the documentation methods recognized in the human and natural sciences. Documentation is done in the text by stating the last name and year of publication. The researcher should avoid writing the name of the reference in the margin, which, by following the APA system, is taking into account that the sources and references order is listed from the newest to oldest, followed by all links to the sites at the end of the list.

Publication Conditions in Tanmia Wa E'emar Journal:

1. The topics must be compatible with the goals of the Yemen Information Center (YIC) and relevant within the context of areas of development - community coexistence and peace - areas of reconstruction.
2. The topics must adhere to the basic criterion, which is the objectivity of the scientific presentation, and the researcher's impartiality in dealing with them.
3. The researcher must adhere to what was stated in the paragraph (Conditions of accepting the subject for publication: p. 3), and in the paragraph (Types of Research and Studies, p. 4).
4. A written consent is attached to the research by the researcher or researchers to transfer the copyright to the Yemen Information Center (YIC), and the researcher has no right to publish it anywhere else.
5. The researcher bears full legal responsibility of the content of the topic, and the journal disclaims its responsibility for any rights loaded with the content that may expose the researcher to legal accountability.

Note: In the event that the research or study fulfills the conditions of publication in the journal, publication will be made free of charge, and there is a material prize for the best research or study, in addition to the medal of excellence in the annual conference of the center

The Researches and Topics Respect the Following Methods:

First: Field Research

- ◆ The researcher submits a summary that includes the general objective of the research or study in which he/she mentions the main themes that have been addressed, along with a brief review of the most important conclusions, recommendations and proposals that have been reached.
- ◆ Field research should contain an introduction in which the researcher clarifies the nature of the research and the justifications for carrying it out, indicating the nature of the problem and the extent of its impact on the developmental reality and peace, and briefly clarifying what previous research has shown about this problem. This is followed by a presentation of the study questions or hypotheses through which a solution to that problem can be reached, then the researcher presents the limits of the research in which the results of the study were generalized, and then he/she mentions the semantic definitions (the concepts and terms contained in the research). Then he/she reviews the most important and most recent studies related to the topic, analyzes and discusses them, clarifying his/her comments on them. This is followed by a presentation of the research procedures and methodology followed, then a description of the research community, its sample, the type of tools used in collecting the data, and determining the extent of its validity and stability, then presenting the results of the research and discussing them and the recommendations and proposals it reached. The research concludes by listing the sources and references on which it relied.

Second: Theoretical and Interpretive Research

-The researcher gives a summary that includes the general objective of the research or study in which he mentions the main themes that have been addressed, along with a brief review of the most important conclusions,



recommendations and proposals that have been reached.

-The researcher presents an introduction to the research in which he/she clarifies the nature of the problem or topic under study, with determining the importance of the research and its role in adding new to previous knowledge, followed by a presentation of the topics to be analyzed and discussed so that they are arranged in a logical manner with what precedes or follows it as topics that lead in its entirety to clarify the general idea that the researcher aims to reach, provided that it includes conclusions, recommendations and proposals to solve the problem or remove the ambiguity surrounding the topic under discussion. Finally, the researcher attaches a list of the sources and references he/she relied on.

Scientific Paper:

A brief summary must be presented in which the researcher explains the purpose of the scientific paper, the results, and the most important terms (key words), then an introduction is presented that shows the problem that is related to the developmental aspect and its role in addressing it for the topic under study and their importance, followed by a presentation of the terms of the paper in a sequential and interdependent manner. Discussing and analyzing them in a scientific and logical way in order to clarify the general goal that the researcher seeks to achieve, and the researcher can use various means such as photographs, maps or graphical figures to enrich the topic and clarify it in a better way, after that the researcher will present the results of the scientific paper, then it is discussed, analyzed, and the relationship between the findings of the paper and the theories related to the topic under study is clarified. After that, the researcher concludes the paper with a conclusion in which he/she mentions his/her findings in a clear and summarized manner, and attaches it to the list of sources and references he/she relied on.

Developmental report:

An executive summary is presented in which the researcher briefly explains the purpose of the report and his/her findings, provided that the report includes an introduction explaining the importance of the topic, then the terms of the report are presented in a logical and clear manner, and it is concluded with a comprehensive explanation of the results and what he/she can add to the field studied, then a brief conclusion with an attached

Introduction

Dr. Ahlam Al-Qubati

Vice of Studies and Programs Affairs



The Yemen Information Center (YIC) works, according to its capabilities and abilities to study the most urgent situations and diagnose them in order to contribute to providing indicators and solutions, believing in the importance of the scientific and specialized method in studying and analyzing problems, especially those afflicting Yemeni society as well as in order to alleviating the effects of the harbingers that Yemeni society lives under due to the ongoing conflicts that have entered its seventh year.

As a ray of hope, the outputs of the “Yemen Information Center” (YIC) aim to alleviate the suffering of the various categories of the Yemeni people. Therefore, the Center presents a series of publications, one of which is the magazine “Tanmia Wa E’emar”, whose topics focus on the areas of comprehensive development and reconstruction, as well as building the societal fabric to reach peace.

The journey seeks to achieve the goals of the “Yemen Information Center” (YIC) by presenting studies that are directly related to the concerns and flagrant challenges facing Yemen. The journal published in its first issue three research papers focusing on shedding light on the importance of building societal fabric and revitalizing coexistence in order to reach peace. This research included the following topics:

- (1) Peace and development between challenge and contribution from the view of Yemeni women.
- (2) The role of the academic staff in activating community coexistence.
- (3) The role of local media in promoting community peacebuilding.

While the second issue dealt with three developmental topics that focused on the strategies and requirements of the



reconstruction process, and they are entitled as follows:

- (1) Reconstruction strategies in Yemen (Research).
- (2) The impact of urban expansion on agricultural development in the city of Ibb (research).
- (3) The requirements for reconstruction in Yemen (development report).

As for the current issue (the third issue), it deals with the study of three developmental topics as follows:

- (1) Community Empowerment is the basis for Promoting Comprehensive Development in Yemen (Development Report):

The report addresses empowerment as a developmental strategy, whereby individuals, groups and societies are helped to overcome the challenges they face. The report focused on poverty, education, weakness of empowerment strategies, and a weak level of empowerment of women. It also reviewed a set of development experiences of several countries, and then presented a proposal on an empowerment mechanism to advance the comprehensive development of Yemeni society.

- (2) The conflict in Yemen and Its Impacts on the Economic Side (research):

The research shed light on the harbingers of the current situation and the resulting collapse of the economic situation, which was weak before, and then focused on the living situation and presented a set of recommendations to treat the current situation.

- (3) Tourism and Yemeni Rural Development (Research):

The research deals with the pillars of rural development and their level of availability in rural Yemen, using the city of Al-Mahwit as a model. The research reviewed the nature of the availability of the pillars of development, the role of tourism in the development of the countryside, and the determination of the constituents of tourist attractions. It also presented a proposal on how to activate the pillars of rural development.

We hope that our readers and those interested in the fields of development, reconstruction and peace provide us with their comments and suggestions.



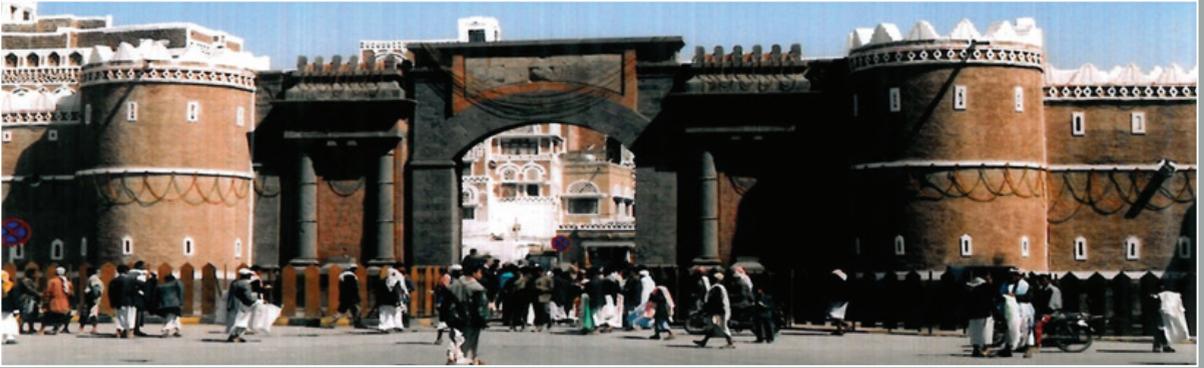
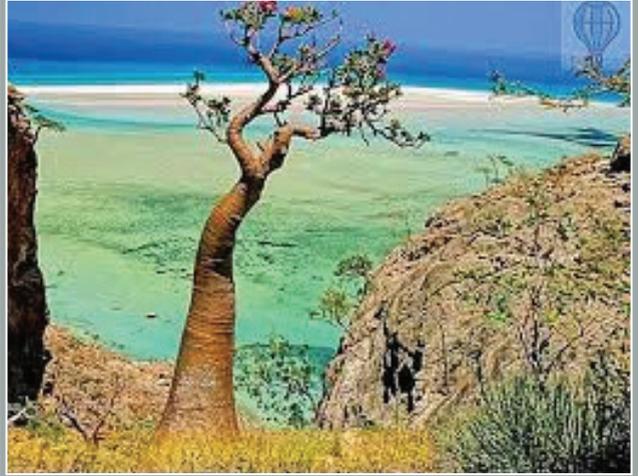
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Tourism and Rural Development in Yemen

Dr. Fathia Mohammad

Yemen Information Center (YIC)
April 2021



Summary:

The future stage in Yemen requires getting out of the current situation and focusing on development and activating it in all vital areas in the country in order to improve the standard of living of the Yemeni population, especially the rural population, who represent 71.15% of the general population. Tourism is considered one of the areas with an investment orientation aimed at achieving development. Therefore, the current research aims to identify the pillars of activating tourism for the development of the countryside in Yemen, and to present a proposed vision to activate those pillars to achieve that development.

The research was based on the descriptive survey and the comparative approaches, whereby the components and manifestations of tourist attraction were identified in rural Yemen. The concept of tourism and its requirements for the development of rural communities as well as the role of tourism in the development of the countryside were discussed. The research found many results, the most important of which are: Tourism in the countryside contributes to increasing economic returns by providing foreign currencies, opportunities for tourism investment and various job opportunities. The research also found that tourism development in the countryside requires strategic planning, marketing, tourism security, in addition to providing hotels and transportation. By comparing Yemen's tourism situation with the Kingdom of Morocco, the research confirmed that tourism in Yemen depends mainly on the pillar of the environmental dimension consisting of archaeological, historical and natural sites more than on other pillars. The research determined that the pillars of reviving the tourism to develop the rural are based on the economic, societal, cultural, urban, institutional and environmental dimensions.

Key words: Tourism, touristic development, pillars of tourism, rural development

Introduction:

Tourism of all kinds represents one of the sources of economic growth for countries that have various tourism potentials. In fact, tourism is a human activity that measures behavior in light of the available and varied resources. It is considered a means of intellectual, cultural and social communication among different peoples, and its importance is highlighted by attracting foreign currencies and capital to the country for investment in the tourism field, while it plays a prominent role in the process of employing manpower, eliminating unemployment and moving forward with the wheel of development in various developmental areas (Abdulaziz, 2008, 32). So, many countries revealed interests in rural development, describing it as one of the comprehensive economic and social development objectives due to its role in improving the economic returns and providing job vacancies, in addition to its role in improving cultural and social lifestyles in communities' individuals (Ahlam and Suriya 2018, 225).

Tourist countries have turned to the tourism industry, including tourism in the countryside, which reflects the amount of natural tourism assets that countries possess, and since Yemen is one of the developing countries that are making strenuous efforts to achieve comprehensive development in all fields, with the various components it possesses, especially in the field of tourism, as it is considered one of the countries in the world that possesses various tourist attractions. If it is effectively invested, it will achieve wide development revitalization in various economic, social and cultural fields which will positively affect the lives of the population, especially the rural population, as their rural areas represent a tourism and investment project. Therefore, this research was directed towards developing rural tourism in Yemen, in order to achieve comprehensive development for the population of rural areas, and to improve their different levels of life.

Research problem:

The rural population of Yemen represents 71.15% of the total population. They depend on agriculture as the main source of daily income, and it is no longer commensurate with their basic needs due to the increase in the population in the countryside, which in turn has created many social and economic problems. These problems have emerged more with the ongoing conflict and poor conditions that Yemen has been going through since 2015. Among the most important problems:

- ♦ Low level of per capita income.



- ♦ High rate of migration from the countryside to the city.
- ♦ Emergence of the unemployment problem with the spread of the phenomenon of poverty.

All these problems have been manifested in the Yemeni countryside despite the availability of the components of many economic activities, the most important of which is the tourism. Most of Yemen's villages represent various forms of tourism, but they have not been effectively exploited in the development process, which has negatively affected the rural population and their needs. In fact, the rural tourism is one of the modern economic trends that are achieving tangible success in the development process in the societies. This has raised questions as follows:

1. What are the components of the tourism attractions in Yemen?
2. What are the aspects of tourism in rural Yemen?
3. What is the concept of tourism and its importance?
4. What are the requirements of rural tourism?
5. What is the role of tourism in the countryside development?
6. What is the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco in tourism for the countryside development?
7. What are the pillars of activating tourism for rural development in Yemen?
8. What is the proposed vision for activating the pillars of tourism for rural development in Yemen?

Research hypothesis:

- ♦ There is no relationship between the economic boom in Yemen and the constituents of tourism in rural areas.

Research goals:

To achieve the strategic goal of the research represented in identifying the basic pillars for activating tourism in rural Yemen and working to put them in a proposed vision to activate them for the development of the countryside, the research sought to achieve the following procedural goals:

1. Determining the components of tourism attractions in Yemen.
2. Multipliciting of tourism aspects in the countryside of Yemen.
3. Clarifying the concept of tourism and its importance.
4. Determining the requirements for rural tourism.
5. Clarifying the role of tourism in the process of rural development.
6. Determining the pillars of activating tourism for rural development

in Yemen.

7. Presenting the tourism experience of the Kingdom of Morocco in the development of the countryside.
8. Presenting a proposed vision to activate the pillars of tourism for the development of the countryside in Yemen.

Research importance:

The importance of this research multiplies in its attempt to present a theoretical aspect about the components of tourism in Yemen and its countryside, to clarify the most important current pillars on which tourism in rural Yemen depends, to identify the pillars that tourism needs to achieve development in the countryside of Yemen, and to present a vision to activate these tourism pillars. The importance of the research can be determined as the following:

1. Clarifying the multiple roles of tourism in developing the rural population.
2. Developing the tourism sector in Yemen to achieve comprehensive development in all economic, social and cultural fields for all rural people.
3. Determining the pillars of activating tourism in Yemen for the sake of developing the countryside and achieving comprehensive development for the community of the rural population in Yemen.
4. The present study draws the attention of those in charge of tourism in formulating the necessary policies for interest in tourism in the Yemeni countryside.
5. Yemen keeps pace with the global tourism progress that is invested in all the fields.
6. The novelty of the current topic of research, as there is no Yemeni study that dealt with the topic of research and combining tourism and rural development in Yemen, as far as the researcher knows.

Terms of the research:

The current research adopted the following terms:

- 1- Tourism:** the tourism is defined as “the movement of individuals from one place to another for various purposes for a period of time greater than 24 hours and less than a year” (Ahlam and Suriya, 2010, 266).

The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) defines it as an in-

dustry that consists of a group of activities that produce goods and services and provide them directly to tourists (Sapra, 2014, 4).

- *The procedural definition of rural tourism:* is the move to rural areas for the purpose of entertainment and enjoyment of seeing ancient and historical monuments, natural areas, treatment and hospitalization, or for the purpose of education.

2- Tourism development: It is a complex process that includes many interconnected and intertwined elements with the aim of reaching the optimum utilization of the elements of tourism production represented in the competitive and natural tourism wealth, tourism services, and human resources (Osman, 2018, 10)

- *Procedural definition:* It is a set of interrelated activities in the economic, social, cultural and environmental fields, according to which the optimum utilization of the potentials available in rural areas to achieve the desired goals with high efficiency in the field of tourism.

3- Pillars of tourism activation: the current research defines it as a set of economic, administrative, social, cultural and urban dimensions in the light of which tourism development in rural areas is carried out, and the identification of various activities that have implications on the development of the rural population.

4- Rural Development: The researcher defines it as a set of social, economic and cultural changes that aim to improve the quality of life of individuals in the rural community.

Search limit:

The spatial, temporal and objective limits of the search were defined as follows:

- 1) **Spatial:** The Republic of Yemen and its countryside, Al-Mahwit Governorate (as an example).
- 2) **Objectivity:** Tourism and its role in the development of the countryside in Yemen, and tourism in Morocco.
- 3) **Temporalism:** The research was conducted in 2021 AD.

Theoretical framework and previous studies:

First: The theoretical framework:

This part of the research deals with the theoretical framework, and it consists of several axes:

- ♦ **The first axis:** The components of tourism attractions in Yemen.
- ♦ **The second axis:** The aspects of tourism in the countryside of Yemen.
- ♦ **The third axis:** The concept of tourism and its importance.
- ♦ **The fourth axis:** The role of tourism in the countryside development.
- ♦ **The fifth axis:** The rural tourism requirements.
- ♦ **The sixth Axis:** The pillars of tourism activation for the development of the countryside and the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Each axis will be dealt as follows:

The first axis: the components of tourism attractions in Yemen:

This axis deals with the components of tourism attractions in Yemen (natural and historical), as well as the official efforts in developing tourism in Yemen, as follows:

First: The elements of tourism attractions in Yemen

1- The Republic of Yemen location:

The Republic of Yemen is one of the most countries in the world that possesses many diverse tourism fields. The area of Yemen is 555,000 square kilometers. Various tourist regions are available in that area and distributed all over Yemen, and it is divided administratively into 21 governorates, which in turn are divided into 333 districts which includes 36,986 villages. Yemen is distinguished by many diverse tourism potentials, including:

A- Natural components

The natural components are represented in the geographical nature, where the terrain varies between mountains, plateaus, plains, deserts, valleys, mineral water sources, various landscapes, vegetation cover spread over vast areas, different animals and birds. These areas are characterized



by a variety of temperatures, humidity and the amount of rain. In fact, diversity has created many beautiful landscapes and variety of animals in mountainous, plain and desert regions (Al-Aroussi, 2020, 31), and this diversity is attributed to many components as follows:

- **Astronomical location:** Yemen is located between latitudes 12-19 north and longitude 42-35 east. Thus, Yemen lies between the equator and the Tropic of Cancer within the tropical region (the hot tropical region). The temperature is high, the amount of rain decreases in the coastal areas, and the temperature rises in Yemen in the summer, especially in the coastal and low-lying areas close to sea level (Abdullah, 2001, 67).
- **Geographical location:** Yemen is located in the south of the Arabian Peninsula in the southwest of the continent of Asia, and thus it overlooks bodies of water from several sides and is bordered on the west by the Red Sea, and on the south by the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, and this helped the climate variability and its impact on water bodies, which contributed in increasing environmental and biological diversity (Abdullah, 2001, 6).
- **Climate:** The geographical and astronomical location of Yemen had an impact on distinguishing the climate of Yemen, as we find it hot and humid in the coastal strip, moderate in the mountainous heights, and a desert climate in the desert regions.
- **Rain:** Rain falls throughout the year in different regions of Yemen, and the amount of rain varies from one season to another, as it decreases in the winter season and increases in the summer and spring seasons (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, 2008, 4).



Figure (1): Touristic areas in the Republic of Yemen

Source: Central Statistical Organization, Yemen, 2014

B- Historical components:

The human tourism resources are represented by what the ancient man left behind in the previous civilizations over thousands of years, Yemen is home to ancient civilizations such as Saba', Himyar, Qatabān, Awsan, Hadhramaut, and Ma'īn, and many states arose in the Islamic era, such as Ziyadiyya, Rasuliyyah, Banu Najah and others. Yemen has lived for many eras, and this in turn has left a diverse and limitless historical product, such as archaeological sites, temples, palaces, pottery tools, coins and other historical images that most of its features still present today (Al-Aroussi, 2020, 31).

C-The components of the cultural heritage:

The areas in the countryside of Yemen are famous for the diversity of tribal customs, traditions, norms and rituals inherited among generations, and according to the results of the archaeological survey, 600 cultural, artistic and folkloric types and patterns were found, and 4,000 models of Yemeni architecture (Archaeological Survey, 2000, 58).

Yemen is a wonderful and historical diversity, enormous and multi-picture, as we find historical monuments and sites, as well as the natural environment, so we find diversified vegetation such as trees and various and rare plants, in addition to animals, birds, breathtaking nature views and reserves and islands. All those tourist sights make clear that Yemen possesses a lot of investment resources that require a lot of tourist orientations for achieving a comprehensive development in the tourist areas.

2- Tourism development efforts in Yemen:

The tourism is one of the important sectors that increase the size of the economy through foreign currencies and attract various investment sectors. It also plays an important role in the process of developing tourist areas in various economic, social and environmental fields, the results of which are reflected in the residents of tourist areas. Therefore, the tourism sector in Yemen has witnessed during the past years a growing activity, as some legislative frameworks were defined for tourism institutions, and Tourism Law N°. 40 of the year 1990 was amended as well as the Tourism Development Authority was established, and a list of tourist classification specifications for establishments, hotels, restaurants and tourist parks was issued.

Also during the period 2000 AD - 2005 AD, the law of lands designated for tourism development was prepared, and many festivals were carried

out, especially in 2004 AD, the year of celebration of Sana'a, the capital of Arab culture, where many festivals were held, such as the Town Festival and Hawf in Mukalla, and the Seiyun Festival and Qarnwu (situated in Al-Jawf), and the Festival of Tanks in Aden, as well as it has created investments for the private sector through direct investment in tourism projects (Ministry of International Planning, 2010, 107).

During the years 2005-2010, many annual plans of the Ministry of Tourism were drawn up. These plans focused on administrative issues organizing tourism activities, which was reflected in the economic return that was weak, as the Ministry of Tourism indicated that the economic returns from tourism did not reach the required level and only represent (3%) of the country's gross national product.

The development plan of the Ministry of Tourism indicated that the infrastructure of the tourism facilities is very modest in some tourist areas, and is non-existent in many rural areas, and therefore the needs of tourism are not covered in the required manner, especially with regard to transportation, shelters, rest houses and other services, and this is accompanied by a lack of human cadres who are specialized in the tourism sector, and tourism promotion internally and externally, whether for tourist places or for traditional local products, in addition to the absence of a complete information base on tourism, the lack of a tourist guide, poor stability and the insecurity of the situation in the country (Ministry of Tourism, 2008, 25).

Table (1): Tourism Demand Indicators from 2005 AD till 2010 AD

Indicator	Measuring Unit	2005	2010	Growth Index
Number of arrivals for tourism	One thousand	336	540	12
Average nights tourism	Night tourism	6	8	-
Total nights tourism	One thousand	1836	4320	19
Total tourism revenue	One million Dollars	239	648	22
Tourism revenue relative to GDP	%	2.4	6.5	-
Total domestic tourism	One thousand	813	1386	11
Number of hotels	Number	578	1018	12
Number of rooms	One thousand	14.5	25.6	12
Direct job vacancies in the tourism establishments	One thousand	6.6	11.5	12
Indirect job vacancies	One thousand	13.1	23.1	12
Total	One thousand	19.7	34.6	12

(Source: Ministry of International Planning, 2010, 110)

The previous indicators indicate the weak growth of the tourism sector in Yemen in a manner that is not commensurate with the various components of Yemeni tourism. Despite the quantitative increase of tourists in domestic and international tourism during 2005-2010 with a growth rate of 11 and 12, it is considered low compared to the natural components that Yemen owned. This decline is accompanied by the lack of services available to tourists that are not commensurate with their needs. Although the total revenue increased during the years 2005-2010 at a growth rate of 22, this increase did not find a way in the process of developing tourism in terms of activities and infrastructure.

It is noticed from the foregoing that tourism in Yemen depends mainly on the natural and historical components to a large extent, with a weakness in the processes of interest in the natural and historical areas and archaeological sites, accompanied by the lack of basic and special services (hygiene, rest, restrooms), adding that the shortcomings in the process of providing other dimensions for tourism development are also evident. On the economic side, we find a lack of job opportunities, and a scarcity in holding various festivals concerning the cultural and popular heritage of various rural areas, in addition to the weakness of providing plans and programs for the development of tourism in the countryside, and the deficiency in the infrastructure of shelter services, transportation, restaurants and other requirements for tourism development.

The Second Axis: The tourist Aspects in the Yemen Countryside:

1. The Tourist Aspects in the Yemen Countryside:

Tourist aspects in the countryside of Yemen vary between natural ones such as mountain landscapes, waterfalls, mineral baths, islands, etc., and archaeological and historical sites such as ancient cities, temples, ancient monuments, castles, forts and others, including, for example:

Table (2): Clarifies some of the tourist aspects in the Yemen countryside

Tourist aspects	Their Types
Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jabal Al-Nabi Shu'ayb in Bani Matar District, with a height of 3,666 meters above sea level, and it is the highest mountain peak in the Arabian Peninsula. ♦ Jabal Bani Ahmad in Al-Haymah Al-Dakhiliyah district, with a height of 2,400 meters. ♦ Jabal Shibam, with a height of 2,920 meters. ♦ Jabal Adiyah, with a height of 3,510 meters, is located in Sanhan district. ♦ Jabal Kofen, with a height of 3,244 meters, is located in Bani Hushaysh. ♦ And other mountains.
Valleys	Wadi Mayfa'ah, Wadi Adas (Shabwa Governorate), Wadi La'ah, Wadi Mawr, and other valleys.
Temples	Temples are among the most important images of ancient Yemeni civilizations, including: The Temple of Sirwah (Marib Governorate), the Temple of Athtar (Al-Jawf Governorate), the Temple of Awal (Marib), and other temples.
Castles and Forts	It is one of the important monuments of previous civilizations, most of which were built on the slopes of the mountains, including: Samara Castle (Ibb Governorate), Al-Qahira Castle (Taiz Governorate), Al-Qafflah Castle (Saada), and concerning the forts: Kahlan Fort (Hajjah Governorate), Al-Manar Fort (Ibb Governorate), Quran fort (Raymah governorate).
The bottoms	Qaa Saada (Saada), Qaa Al-Bun (Amran governorate), Qaa Jahran (Dhamar governorate).
Desert areas	It includes many ancient and historical cities such as Sirwah, Qarnaw and Hajar Kahlan as well as many places, dams and temples.
Natural reserves	Yemen has nature reserves that contain hundreds of diverse and rare birds and plants in the world, the most important of which are: Socotra Archipelago, Hawf Reserve, Bura Reserve, and Atma Reserve.
Mineral baths	The latest statistics recorded the existence of 93 natural baths for healing and bathing, including: Zubair bath, Tabalah bath (Hadhramaut governorate), Al-Huwaymi bath (Lahj governorate), Jaref bath (Sana'a governorate), and Ali Aans bath (Dhamar governorate).
Islands	The Yemeni islands are spread over the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, the largest of which is Kamaran Island, Hanish Islands, and Socotra Island. The islands have a distinctive plant cover; one of the most famous of these trees is the Socotra Dragon tree, which does not exist.
Landscapes	The landscapes are spread all over Yemen between green landscapes (farms), mountain and valley landscapes such as agricultural terraces, and other landscapes.

(Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the tourist guide, Ministry of Tourism)



Agricultural terraces



Hutaib village



Mosque of Eshab-El-Kehf
(the Seven Sleepers)-Jabal Sabr



Jabal Hubaysh



Ahmed Bin Alwan Mosque



Jiblah city



Bura reserve





Wadi Bana Waterfall



Dar Alhajar (stone house)

Figure (2): Shows tourist areas in Yemen countryside
(Source: the researcher)

Tourist areas in the countryside of Yemen stand out in the form of unparalleled and wonderful picturesque, as they vary between green areas, farms of various crops, waterfalls, valleys in all directions, hot springs, and historical and archaeological areas. Yemen as God Almighty described it “a splendid country with all its tourist sceneries”.

2- Rural Population in Yemen

The rural population in Yemen has reached 20,430,000 people, at a rate of 71.15%, according to the statistics of 2015 AD (Central Statistical Organisation, 2015). These population groups were dispersed in many villages which reached 36,986. In fact, this dispersion is due to the geological structure of Yemen’s varied topography (mountains, plateaus, plains), in addition to the climatic diversity, and this was reflected in the cultural diversity of the various Yemeni regions represented in the social customs, costumes, folklore, folk cuisine, architectural styles, and ceremonial rituals in social and religious events, as well as the diversity of the archaeological and cultural stock of the various Yemeni villages, which represent areas of origin for many ancient Yemeni civilizations (<https://yemen-nic.info>).

The climatic and geographical diversity of rural areas in Yemen has gained positive and negative features. The natural assets have made the countryside in Yemen an unparalleled national tourism wealth, where we find beautiful landscapes, enormous mountains and diverse farms, while the negative effects lie in the rugged terrain and the difficulty of accessing tourist areas, as many rural areas and their inhabitants suffer from poor basic life potentials (healthy water, education, health), accompanied by the emergence of the problem of poverty and unemployment. Indeed, the Development Goals Indicators for Yemen showed that the rate of poverty

in Yemen is high in the countryside, amounting to 42.49% compared to urban area which is 32.29%. (Ministry of International Planning, 2011, 12).

The national survey report indicated that the percentage of Yemeni families that receive electricity services in the countryside is 67% compared to urban areas which amount to 97%. As for water and sanitation services, the percentage of rural families that receive water inside housing is 23% compared to the urban population of 48%. In addition, more than 75% of rural families do not obtain primary health care due to the low income, while the percentage of rural families' access to health care is 20% compared to 80% for urban areas, and this is due to the remoteness of health centers from the population agglomerations in the villages because of the rugged road and the lack of income of some rural families (Ministry of International Planning and Cooperation, 2014).

The strategy of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2008 indicated that the weakness of the communications network in rural areas requires improvement of the network of services for transportation and communication in tourist areas (Ministry of Tourism, 8).

The researcher believes that the tourism sector in Yemen in general, and the countryside in particular, is characterized by the following:

- ♦ The natural components of tourism in the Yemeni countryside are characterized by diversity and represent a high attraction for tourism, and this contributed to the diversity of tourism patterns in rural areas such as ecotourism, curative, natural, recreational, and historical tourism.
- ♦ The tourism sector in Yemen countryside suffers from clear deficiencies in many service areas, as there is no infrastructure for tourism, and there are no tourist hotels or suitable shelters in the countryside, in addition to the scarcity of restaurants and restrooms that suit the needs of tourists, the rugged roads, and the lack of providing electricity, sanitary water and other basic services.



The third axis: the concept of tourism and its importance

This axis deals with the concept of tourism, its importance, and tourism patterns according to the following:

1- The concept of tourism and its importance:

The tourism is an economic activity that appeared in the form of an intellectual term at the beginning of the eighties of the nineteenth century, as it came back as a modern phenomenon that stems from the increasing need for comfort and recreation, a change of atmosphere, a sense of the beauty of nature, and a feeling of joy and enjoyment available in its different areas of nature (Al-Amrawi, 2014, 97). Rural tourism has emerged as one of the modern tourism trends at the beginning of the twenty-first century, and has gained the attention of many tourist countries such as Hungary, the Netherlands and Britain, where the countryside represents a large part of its geographical area. Therefore, the perception of tourism in the countryside varies according to the type of tourism services provided by these countries to visitors. No matter how many descriptions were given to the tourism, it is considered one of the most important economic sectors in all countries of the world. The tourism is like black gold, this how we described it, as “The oil of the country that has no oil”. In fact, the importance of tourism is highlighted in the following:

- ♦ Providing job opportunities for residents of tourist areas (guides, employees, trade in tourist areas ...).
- ♦ Tourism attracts new investments for tourist countries, thus helping to provide hard currency (investments in building tourist hotels, tourism companies ...).
- ♦ Tourism helps in improving health in general by alleviating the pressures of daily life for tourists.
- ♦ Tourism increases the communication among people, which helps the spread of cultures among countries.
- ♦ Tourism contributes to the economic prosperity of tourist countries.
- ♦ Tourism increases the human’s knowledge and expands his perceptions (Kazem, Salman, 2016, 354).

Tourism and its activities in the countryside differ from one region to another, some of them depend on the archaeological sites, some on the environmental areas and their landscapes, farms and rural life, and some of them depend on the recreational activities in the rural area, and whatever the percentage of differences is, tourism in the countryside remains an economic resource. In fact, the World Tourism Organization reports indi-

cated that the return from tourism in the countryside is the most growing resource in the global tourism economy, which is as follows:

- 20.7 % of the total volume for tourist trips.
- 30.20% is the impact of the green tourism growth per year.
- 10.15 % is the percentage of the income generated from international tourism, based on European Union estimations for rural tourism.
- 2 million European beds from rural tourism (Khadra, 2014, 78).

Rural tourism has become an economic activity because the agricultural sector is no longer able to absorb the population increase in rural areas, in addition to the fact that non-agricultural rural activities are a way to reduce poverty in many rural areas because of the ability of the tourism sector to secure good income for agricultural and non-farm families by providing various job opportunities for all categories of skilled workers (Sydd and Essam, 2018, 78).

Tourism in general plays an important role in the economic field which aims at developing the economy of countries, developing the capacities of societies, eliminating many social phenomena such as unemployment, and alleviating poverty. In fact, the tourism is a source of enhancing the national income of tourist countries by providing foreign currencies. In addition, increasing the cash spending of tourists leads to an increase in the purchasing power of the local population. The tourism also affects the balance of payments by relying on the value of tourism spending. It has created a kind of economic balance as it relies on areas far from the industrial field and focuses on: landscapes, historical sites, natural remedies, mountains which leads to a reduction in the disparity among economic levels within a single society (Al-Basrawi, 2000, 209).

2- Patterns of Tourism:

The tourism patterns vary in general according to the goal (purpose), or according to the type (geographical area, sample, duration of stay), and despite their multiplicity, it is mainly domestic or international tourism. Subsequently, the goal or purpose of tourism is determined. In fact, the tourism patterns are defined as follows:

- ✦ **Domestic tourism:** It means the movement of individuals within the country itself, and this type needs various services to encourage the citizens of the country to the tourism. The role of this type of tourism is highlighted in the distribution of income among the citizens of the tourist areas and the alleviation of poverty and unemployment in order to provide job opportunities for the residents of those areas, in addition to the fact that the infrastructure



of the basic necessities of life is improved in those areas as a result of domestic tourism.

- ◆ **International tourism:** It is the movement from the country of original residence to another country, and many tourist countries seek to pay attention to it because of their high return in foreign currencies. Therefore, attention is being paid to providing various high-quality tourism services (Abdulaziz, 2008, 70).
In rural areas, the internal or external tourist comes, and the purposes of each tourist are different, but they do not go beyond being one of the following patterns:
- ◆ **Ecotourism:** This type of tourism is one of the most desirable tourist patterns among tourists. It is known as: moving to environmental reserves, green and clean natural areas far from pollution areas in order to obtain psychological comfort through hiking, and enjoy watching landscapes and different types of plants and animals.
- ◆ **Recreational tourism:** It is the oldest and most widespread type of tourism for the purpose of entertainment and recreation to see the diverse landscapes.
- ◆ **Mountain tourism:** It is the movement to mountainous areas, and it is considered one of the best quiet places to relax. Most of the mountainous areas are rich in historical heritage as well wonderful and picturesque landscapes.
- ◆ **Medical tourism:** is the fact of traveling from one region to another with the aim of treatment or hospitalization, and the hot springs represent the most important tourist areas for treatment (Al-Aroussi, 2020, 124).
- ◆ **Scientific tourism:** means traveling or moving from one place to another, whether inside or outside the country, with the aim of seeking education, acquiring knowledge, preparing scientific research and studies, visiting libraries and viewing manuscripts related to scientific research.
- ◆ **Historical and heritage tourism:** Moving from one place to another with the aim of visiting museums and historical archaeological areas (Al-Aroussi, 2020, 124).

The fourth axis: The role of tourism in the development of the countryside:

This axis deals with the rural tourism and development and the role of the tourism in the rural communities, as shown in the following:

First: The Rural Tourism and Development:

Many rural development programs focused on agricultural activity as the main and only entry point in rural areas. However, development in the agricultural field did not bear fruit in alleviating the problems of poverty, underdevelopment and unemployment, which prompted many researchers to create new areas for rural development, with various activities compatible with the rural area's environment aiming at alleviating the difficulties that rural communities face, and work to increase the income of the poor, achieve equity in income distribution, improve the infrastructure for social services, in addition to the economic conditions in the countryside while removing images of poverty and injustice, and preserve the environmental balance (Sapra, 2014, 42).

In light of these goals, the tourism in the countryside has emerged as a way of action for comprehensive development, as the World Tourism Organization stated that tourism development in the countryside will play an important and prominent role in the development of rural areas because it will contribute to promoting economic growth, providing multiple and suitable jobs for all, and eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving food security for all people (World Tourism Organization, 2015).

The tourism development in rural areas is considered a means of developing the lives of individuals and groups as well as improving their economic, educational and cultural levels of life by providing jobs, encouraging job diversification, providing various services, and stimulating arts and crafts (Sapra, 2014, 44).

The World Tourism Organization indicated that the development of tourism is an ongoing process that requires the active participation of all actors in order to make the most of the available resources, while preserving the natural heritage and biodiversity, respecting the social and cultural authenticity of the host communities, providing economic and social benefits to all workers in tourism as well as job opportunities to alleviate poverty (Massoud, 2018, 8), and according to many studies in this field, the importance of the tourism development for rural residents can be determined as follows:

- ◆ Providing new job opportunities for manpower in tourist areas.



- ♦ Increasing economic income in tourist areas.
- ♦ Increasing the quality of life in the rural area, improving public services, and revitalizing local folklore and traditions.
- ♦ Encouraging people who live in the rural areas to acquire new skills.
- ♦ Preserving the architecture of rural homes in rural areas.
- ♦ Maintaining the basic necessities of life, retail, education, transportation and other services needed by the population.
- ♦ Increasing general environmental knowledge of visitors and local residents in rural areas.
- ♦ Increasing the use of natural, cultural and historical potentials.
- ♦ Protecting landscapes and conserving wildlife (Sydd and Issam, 2008, 35).

There are many forms of tourism development in rural areas, such as villages, tourist resorts, farms and parks, and the services vary between basic and recreational services, all of which contribute to achieving development for many residents of rural areas, and they are summarized as follows:

- **Tourist villages:** It is a form of tourism that aims to provide a life characterized by simplicity, away from the pressures of cities, and it depends on the availability of natural sites, archaeological and historical sites, and therapeutic places, along with the provision of some recreational and sports activities.
- **Tourist resorts:** This type of tourism requires the merging of land use programs for resorts with social and economic development programs. This type of resorts needs to be available in tourist areas characterized by attractive activities such as curative and historical activities of archaeological and historical sites.
- **Rural farms:** Rural farms are concentrated in areas that are famous for agriculture, where specialized farms with an agricultural character are established in which shelters, and basic services are provided to tourists, such as the establishment of various cultural programs and markets for traditional products.
- **Isolation resorts:** These resorts are established in uninhabited areas such as islands and mountains, while providing the necessary services for the tourist's life (Ahlam and Suwariya, 2010, 239).

The tourism development is characterized by its comprehensiveness of the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of the tourist areas, and thus it reflects a comprehensive development of all sectors. Therefore, tourist countries seek to achieve the highest level of tourism evolution and development in rural areas.

Second: The role of tourism in the development of the countryside:

The tourism development in the countryside plays many diverse roles in the economic, social and cultural sphere, and these roles are reflected in the rural areas, and they can be summarized as follows:

1- Economic field: Rural tourism plays a prominent role in the economic field for individuals in rural areas as follows:

- ♦ Absorbing unemployment by providing various job opportunities for rural residents to work in the tourism field, in rural accommodations, guest houses, and camping sites that are offered to tourists.
- ♦ Contributing to the local and urban development of rural areas by caring for the development of new areas for tourist attractions in different places.
- ♦ Providing small restaurants and job opportunities for young tourist guides and craftsmen in the tourism field.
- ♦ Opening the door to marketing food products in the countryside in a wider way, and marketing the region's products, such as local and agricultural foods.
- ♦ Offering rural people various opportunities to increase their income and diversify its sources, as it is possible to practice agricultural work and market it within the region instead of traveling.
- ♦ Improving the overall economy and supporting small, local and diversified projects.
- ♦ Diversifying the tourism product and directing tourism investments towards rural villages.
- ♦ Encouraging the private sector to invest in rural tourism projects and stimulating it, and providing opportunities for investment in this field (Ahlam and Suwariya, 2010, 235)

2- Social field: The tourism in the countryside contributes to improving the social conditions of the population through:

- ♦ Opening the door to the social integration by providing the opportunity for youth and women to participate in providing some of the tourism requirements, such as: providing food, implementing handicrafts, selling local women's products, hosting tourists in some rural homes, providing job opportunities for educated youth, such as local tourist guidance for the rural area.
- ♦ Spreading the culture of respect, tolerance and understanding among members of society by promoting the diverse culture of



rural people, preserving their heritage and respecting their local traditions.

- ♦ Preserving the heritage of the diverse rural areas with their beautiful landscapes.
- ♦ Encouraging local and foreign investment opportunities to support rural tourism.
- ♦ Collective work with the rural population to preserve their heritage, environment and presence that distinguishes them from others (Tourism Strategy, 2014, 20).
- ♦ Supporting the process of providing the components of tourism that are represented in the infrastructure of roads, water, electricity and sanitation in the tourist attractions in the countryside, and this in turn will be reflected in the improvement of the standard of living of the rural population (Ahlam and Suwariya, 2010, 235)

3- Cultural field: The rural tourism plays a cultural role in rural areas and this role is evident through the following:

- ♦ Raising the level of cultural awareness among the inhabitants of rural areas about the importance of tourism and its attractions.
- ♦ Contributing to the development of the process of exchanging cultures, experiences and information among tourists and the host community to which we attribute the term “the dialogue among civilizations”.
- ♦ Providing the necessary funding to preserve the heritage of buildings and archaeological and historical sites from the tourism sources of each village (Ahlam and Suwariya, 2010, 235).

From the above, it is clear that tourism development in rural areas plays many economic, social and cultural roles, and this is clearly reflected in the tourist areas and their inhabitants. Therefore, attention must be paid to providing the requirements for tourism development.

The fifth axis: The requirements of tourism in the countryside

The rural areas reflect a tremendous diversity in the tourism patterns, as they possess many of the tourist attractions components, represented by nature, which is one of the most attractive factors for tourists, whether at the level of the country's population or abroad. Therefore, the process of tourism development in the countryside depends on three foundations:

- **The components of attraction**, which are represented in places of attraction for tourists such as landscapes, archaeological and historical sites, folklore, handicrafts and traditional industries and other tourist elements.
- **Places of residence**, which are for tourist accommodation areas, such as hotels, farms, old houses, and others.
- **Activities**: They are the activities that the tourist will practice during his stay, and these depend on the type of tourist area (Sydd and Es-sam, 2018, 79).

These foundations represent basic elements for the emergence of tourism anywhere in the world, but the practice of tourism activities needs many requirements that show the extent of civilization progress available in the tourist countries. The methods for the success of tourism reflect the level of security and stability, scientific and technical progress, and the intellectual and moral development that these countries and their inhabitants enjoy. Therefore, they are linked to many basic requirements, which are as follows:

1- Strategic planning: The tourism planning represents the central direction of the competent authorities in preparing a strategic direction represented in various medium and long-term plans that include comprehensive programs and plans for all tourist areas and be in the form of partial planning for the comprehensive development process that the tourist countries seek (Al-Nuaimi, 2018, 352).

The importance of strategic planning is highlighted in the following:

- ◆ Controlling the authorities concerned with tourism on the various tourism resources and working to employ them properly.
- ◆ Addressing solutions and remedies for the various problems facing the tourist areas.
- ◆ Promoting tourist areas that did not take the appropriate amount of tourist role.
- ◆ Evolving and Developing competencies and workforce that can be used in the tourism development process.
- ◆ Working on linking tourism with all sectors that participate in the development process, such as the industrial, commercial



and transportation sectors, and developing them in an integrated manner to serve tourism and its related activities (Al-Nuaimi, 2018, 80).

There have been many orientations of strategic planning in the tourism sector, and this is due to the role of tourism in the development of societies, and these trends are represented in the following areas: Economic orientation: The planning aims to maximize economic benefits in order to increase national income, provide job opportunities, and reduce unemployment.

Physical or spatial orientation: The planning focuses on the specific energies of the environment, the spatial patterns of tourists, and the designation of tourist eco-areas in order to reduce the negative impacts of tourism on the environment.

Social orientation: It aims to maximize social benefits by involving the local community in the tourism development process (Al-Ramidi and Al- Ziqq, 2018, 44).

2- Marketing: It is an integrated activity that includes all efforts made to attract the attention of local or international tourists to visit tourist areas (Rayan, 2018, 22).

Marketing is not limited to providing tourism services and programs and presenting them in the country and abroad, but it is concerned with studying the exported tourism markets and determining their needs. Marketing is also concerned with following up the tourist groups, knowing the degree of their satisfaction, their tourist impressions and the problems they faced.

The World Tourism Organization has defined the tourism marketing functions as follows:

- ♦ **Communication:** Marketing aims to raise the level of tourists' interest in the tourism product, in order to raise the material value of the tourism activity.
- ♦ **Development:** It aims to develop innovative products that allow the development of tourism services and make them more attractive.
- ♦ **Monitoring:** It aims to analyze the situation around tourism issues through the use of various methods and techniques, and to search for the required results (Khudairi, 2018, 109).

3- Tourism security: It means the administrative and security activities which aims at securing the course of tourism activities in various forms in an atmosphere of tranquility and serenity in a manner that enables the people working in this field to perform their tasks with-

out any obstacles. This matter has a positive impact on the tourists' attraction which raises the number of tourist nights, and the economic return of the tourist countries. There are many areas of tourism security as follows:

- ♦ The architecture tourism field: in which security is provided in establishments, hotel and semi-hotel facilities, and sports and recreational facilities.
- ♦ Tourism Security at the level of services and prevention: It is concerned with providing services in the event of pandemics, infectious diseases, injuries, or potential dangers.
- ♦ Tourism security at the social level: It is related to the social security components within the community, such as cohesion among community members, living security and stable economic life, and the provision of monitoring bodies within the state.
- ♦ Tourism security, customs and traditions: Care must be taken on the part of tourists to preserve the country's tourism customs and traditions in order to maintain the authenticity of society.
- ♦ Tourism security at the level of illegal practices: It is the legal protection provided by the state to tourists and their protection from attacks and illegal practices.
- ♦ Tourism security at the level of tourism guidance: The tourist countries are obliged to provide tourist brochures or a tourist guide in which they explain complete instructions and information about tourist sites for the purpose of organizing and controlling the issue of tourist density, and educating the tourist about the intended tourism area (Latifa, 2020, 52).

4- Accommodation services (hotels): Hotels play a major role in the tourism development process. The tourist is interested in determining the appropriate place to stay, especially in medical tourism. The beginnings of this service were the emergence of khans along the main roads leading to the tourist areas, and then it developed into hotels that took their current form. Hotels have been classified according to a set of specific criteria for the quality of service, number of rooms, space and other criteria, and among those shelters are: hotels, furnished apartments, camps, and resorts.

The diversity of hotels service contributes to increasing income from foreign currency, and it also provides various job opportunities for many young people. Some hotels in some tourist countries have organized tourist trips inside or outside the country in coordination with international airlines companies in other countries, and this in

turn increases the role of hotels in managing tourism programs (Abdulaziz, 2008, 44).

5- Catering services: Catering services represent an important role for tourists, despite the difficulty of measuring the return from this service due to its connection to more than one side. Restaurants' revenues may increase due to the increase in the demand of the local residents. However, the catering service is related to the cultural characteristics, customs and traditions of peoples. We may find that tourists prefer to eat the type of food of their home country, and some of them prefer to taste the local foods of the tourist destination, and most of the time the catering service is associated with hotels (Sapra, 2014, 13).

6- Transportation services: Means of transportation of all kinds represent one of the factors of tourism development, as it represents the link between the country exporting tourism and the tourist destination, and the tourist determines the quality of the means of transportation that is commensurate with him in terms of cost, comfort and safety, and the safer and more comfortable the transport vehicle is for the tourist, the more tourism will flourish (Sapra, 2014, 14). The means of transportation are as follows:

- ♦ By road: cars, railways, tourist buses, motorcycles ... etc.
- ♦ Aerial: jets, regular airplanes and helicopters.
- ♦ Marine: boats, ships, yachts. (Abdulaziz, 2008, 44)

The researcher believes that human requirements play a fundamental and complementary role with the natural components to attract tourists. The relationship is complementary, and there is no tourism without natural and historical components, and no tourism without a structure for tourism activities.

The sixth Axis: Pillars of Tourism Activation for Rural Development

This axis deals with the basic pillars of activating tourism for the development of the countryside through:

- ◆ Pillars of activating tourism for rural development.
- ◆ Morocco's tourist experience in developing the countryside and comparing it with the Al-Mahwit governorate (as a model).

1- Pillars of activating tourism for the development of the countryside:

The success of the different sectors role in the economic field depends on the extent of their contribution to the development of the national economy, and providing the needs and requirements of its members as well as a comfortable life, in addition to raising the standard of life for all. Tourism, in its role in the development of tourist societies, depends on various interconnected pillars as defined by the World Tourism Organization in the following dimensions:

- **The institutional dimension:** so that tourism is placed within the state's programs and activities, and work on tourism planning within the specialized agencies.
- **The social dimension:** Tourism development must contribute to achieving many values for a peaceful life, including: justice, democracy, equity, helping the poor people, caring for women and children, improving people's lives by involving them in presenting their traditional works, holding festivals while upgrading the level of facilities so that the tourist can receive services (Zinedine, 2017).
- **The economic dimension:** work must be done to strengthen and diversify the economy and provide opportunities for investment in order to provide new job opportunities, increase national income, and work to improve infrastructure and public services in host societies, while meeting the needs of tourists and raising living standards in addition to the necessity of effective use of tourist areas in a way that is reflected on the economic situation, in general, and the residents of tourist areas, in particular.
- **The environmental dimension:** the natural systems and their integrity must be respected and preserved by maintaining natural resources, raising environmental awareness, and paying attention to environmental issues of all parties (tourists, workers in the tourism field).



- **The urban dimension:** The cultural heritage must be preserved in the process of creating shelters and preserving the urban pattern in rural areas (Sayed and Essam, 2018, 90).
The International Union for Conservation of Nature gave a clear approach for the tourism development within the framework of the following dimensions:
- **The environmental dimension:** Through the preservation of biological diversity within the tourist areas.
- **The economic dimension:** Keenness to improve and develop the sources of income for the residents of the tourist areas.
- **The social dimension:** Planning for the development of tourism in a way that the residents of the tourist areas benefit in a clear way through communication with tourists.
- **The cultural dimension:** Tourism development must be in line with the culture of societies, and be keen on preserving the identity of societies (Latifa, 2020, 42).

The researcher believes, through the international orientations of tourism development, that the pillars of tourism for the countryside development are concentrated in: the economic, institutional, social and cultural, environmental, and urban dimension. She also believes that these dimensions constitute pillars of the tourism development process, which effects are reflected on the residents of the tourist areas, as they include the basic dimensions of population life through which many job opportunities are provided in support of the development of individuals' lives in various fields.

2- A comparative study (the Kingdom of Morocco and Al-Mahwit governorate) :

Yemen is one of the countries of the Asia continent, while Morocco is one of the countries of Africa, and despite the clear geographical distance, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has made it clear that the two countries represent the most countries that enjoy a lot of tourism potentials in the countryside, through the geographical location of the two countries, as they overlook wide watermark areas. Likewise, Yemen and Morocco are among the oldest countries in which ancient civilizations and at various times. Therefore, the research on Morocco was chosen because of the similarity of the components of tourism in Morocco with the tourism in Yemen, which has many tourist governorates. Therefore, Al-Mahwit governorate was chosen as a model for comparison with Morocco now, and tourism development in the future.

First: The experience of the Kingdom of Morocco in tourism and rural development

Morocco is one of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, and it is characterized by the diversity of its climate and terrain, in addition to the fact that Morocco is a country with an ancient civilization. All of these factors made the country one of the most beautiful tourist countries and this can be explained as follows:

1- Components of the tourist attractions:

A- Location: Morocco enjoys an important geographical location, as it is located in the north-west of the African continent, with an area estimated at 710,850 km², and it is characterized by a double Mediterranean and Atlantic front through its view of two water bodies, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, with its coastal strip extending in length 3,500 Km, and land borders with Algeria and Mauritania.

B- Topography: Morocco's topography varies by virtue of its geographical location as follows:

- Mountains: Morocco is characterized by the presence of the Atlas Mountains, the Rif Mountains (coastal Atlas), the presence of lakes and waterfalls, and the mountains of Morocco are considered reservoirs of water. Mount Toubkal with a height of 4,165 metres is the highest peak in the Arab world.
- The Sahara: There is a desert in Morocco that extends over 61.5% of the area of Morocco, and is distinguished by its scattered oases, mineral baths, springs and mineral springs, which constitute one of the elements of hospital tourism preferred by many tourists.
- Plains: There are many plains in Morocco, such as the plains of Wadi Drae and the plain of Wadi Sous. There is also a network of rivers that consist of tributaries of the mountain water, as well as the availability of a diverse ecosystem such as sand dunes, rocky slopes, salt marshes and dense forests (Shanhas, 2020, 76, 77).

C- Climate: The climate in Morocco varies according to the terrain and location. There is a moderate climate in the north, desert in the south, and oceanic in the west. Thus, coastal areas are moderate, while mountainous areas have a cold and humid climate during winter.

D- Historical components: Morocco is considered a land of ancient civilizations such as the Phoenician, Roman and Islamic civili-



zations. This historical diversity created an ancient and diverse civilization, and among its most important effects is the “Thomas Quarry”, which is located west of Casablanca, and the “Dar As-Sultan”, which dates back to the Stone Age, as well as “Thamud site” in the city of Tetouan, and one of the most famous tourist cities is Fez, Marrakech and Essaouira.

E- Economic activity: Morocco is a country rich in agriculture, natural resources and tourism, which are the most prominent in the Moroccan economy.

F- Industries: One of the most important industries in Morocco is handicrafts and ancient crafts such as carpet and weaving industries.

G- Folklore: The natural diversity is reflected in the customs, traditions and folklore that express the originality of the country, as many diverse festivals are held, such as the “Marrakech Folklore Festival”, the “Fez Festival of World Scared Music”, and the “Kanabira Bel Sadira Festival” (Shanhas, 2020, 76, 77).



Source: <https://www.mexatk.com>



Source: <https://www.hiamag.com>



Figure 3: Tourist Areas in the Countryside of the Kingdom of Morocco

Source: <https://www.hiamag.com>

2- Orientations of the Kingdom of Morocco to activate tourism for the countryside development:

Morocco sought to pay attention to the tourism sector and the beginning of the orientations was during the years 1980-1990, where the preparation for rural tourism was through the establishment of many restaurants, and the provision of qualified tourism personnel. In the year 2000, a strategic plan was developed called the Blue Plan 2000-2010, which sought to find new tourist stations, develop cultural products, improve land and sea transportation, activate marketing, and support housing energy and infrastructure with the aim of attracting one million tourists to Morocco, increase the country's foreign currency, whereas, it was expected that the increase would reach 480 million dirhams at the end of 2010, with job opportunities estimated at 600 thousand, and one of the most important pillars of that vision is to create an effective and real partnership with the public and private sectors in order to encourage investment opportunities in Morocco. The program for the development of tourism was implemented in two aspects: one side for the deserts, and the other side for the north, as the two regions were chosen based on a pre-planning of the reality of these areas and the market needs, and the project was implemented with the participation of Morocco and France. The planning was based on the following:

- ♦ Relying on various local products.
- ♦ Using technology in the tourism field.
- ♦ Building aerial waterways.
 - ♦ Activating the so-called accommodation for tourists among the residents, thereby alleviating the unemployment crisis.
- ♦ Creating natural baths, and providing cultural tourism resorts.
- ♦ Development of the camping program (oases) in desert areas (Bou-salem - Al-Ajali, 2019).

In 2010-2020 the second strategy was built to complement the previous plan and address its disadvantages, where new tourist destinations were created to attract 20 million tourists for the year 2020 AD, doubled the size of the tourism sector, increased the capacity of the number of tourists, and worked to increase job opportunities in the tourism sector to 47 thousand jobs, and the national income to 140 billion dirhams at the end of 2020 (Shanhas, 2020, 76).





Source: <https://images.search.yahoo.com>



Source: <https://images.search.yahoo.com>

Figure (4): some pictures of the development tourism in the Morocco Kingdom countryside

Source: <https://ar.wikipedia.org>

From the above, it is clear that Morocco is a first-class tourist country in which the tourism components vary between natural landscapes, historical sites and archaeological cities. Therefore, there are orientations for tourism development, and work to link them with development areas in tourist regions, and make this among the priorities of tourism development programs and plans, as well as to ensure the existence of effective partnership with the private sector, with the aim of developing tourism and raising the number of tourists to increase economic returns, and work to benefit from them in the development of the tourism sector in the tourist regions.

Second: Al-Mahwit Governorate and Tourism

Regarding the situation of Yemen, the researcher chose Al-Mahwit Governorate as a model for investigating tourism development in rural areas. Al-Mahwit Governorate was chosen due to its distinguished geographical location between three governorates: Sana'a, Al-Hudaydah and Hajjah, which reflected on its environmental diversity. In addition, the

governorate is rich in a huge historical and cultural heritage. For the above justifications, Al-Mahwit was chosen as a model for comparison with the Kingdom of Morocco.

1- Components of tourist attractions in Al-Mahwit governorate

Al-Mahwit Governorate is one of the governorates of the Republic of Yemen, which population constitutes 2.5% of the total population of Yemen, as their number reached 89,094 people (Central Statistical Organization, 2015). Al-Mahwit governorate is about 113 km away from Sana'a, and the number of its districts is 9. They are: Al-Khabt, Ar-Rujum, At-Tawilah, Al-Mahwit, Bani Saad, Hufash, Shibam Kawkaban, Milhan (<https://yemen-nic.info>).

Al-Mahwit governorate is distinguished by many of the tremendous and varied tourism potentials due to its location, climate, and topography, and these components are as follows:

A- Location and climate: Al-Mahwit is located on longitude 43-44 in the east and latitude 15-16 north. It is bordered on the north and south by Sana'a governorate, on the east by Hajjah governorate, and on the west by Al-Hudaydah governorate. The governorate is dominated by a varied climate between the mountain climate and the plain, where the mountainous regions are dominated by a moderate climate in the summer and cold in the winter, while the plain areas have a mild hot climate in the winter (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 1999, 4).

B- Topography: Al-Mahwit is a high and wide rocky area, the appearance of which is formed by mountain ranges and rocky plateaus, and between these mountains and plateaus, there are small drainage basins, and deep and steep waterways formed by torrential waters, and the topography of Al-Mahwit is distributed between high mountains covered with agricultural heights, and beautifully landscaped sceneries on the banks of deep valleys (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 1999, 2).

C- Natural aspect: Al-Mahwit governorate possesses tremendous wealth resulting from environmental diversity, where we find mountains, valleys, streams, and waterfalls, and it was named that way because the mountains and streams surround them from all directions, and the most famous of those mountains are the mountains of Hafash, Dhakhar, Al-Qarana'a and An-Nabi, and among the valleys of Al-Mahwit: Wadi La'a, Ahjar, Na'wan, Samea , Ayyan, and as for the waterfalls, there is Al-Khabti waterfall.



D- The cultural and archaeological aspect: The results of field surveys of monuments and archaeological sites that have been carried out since 1995 AD confirmed the existence of more than 800 archaeological sites and historical monuments, as Al-Mahwit contemplated many ancient states, as well as many ancient civilizations, and from those ruins are the following:

- **Historic cities:** Al-Samsara, Al-Ahjar, Shibam Kawkaban, Tawila District.
- **Archaeological and historical sites:** the city of Shibam Kawkaban, the worship complex in Jabal Al-Lawz, the cemeteries of Shibam Kawkaban, the rock cemeteries, the old central market.
- **Forts:** Radman Fort, Kawkaban, Al-Qarana'a, Hajar Al-Sayed (Dar Al-Hajar), Barash, Rahqa, Shafer, Al-Qefel, and others.
- **Castles:** Al-Ruwad, Al-Qefel, Al-Safken.
- **Religious places:** There are many historical mosques in the governorate, including: Al-Qal'a Mosque, Qidan Mosque, the Great Mosque, Hijra As-Sinfa, and Al-Imam Mosque.
- **Shrines:** There are many shrines in Al-Mahwit for a number of clerics who have gained a certain place in the lives of people, and these shrines include: Al-Mashaaqal shrine, Al-Munib shrine in the Bani Saad district, and two shrines in the city of Malhan (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 1999, 51).
- **Popular heritage:** Al-Mahwit Governorate was distinguished by its traditional industries, the most famous of which are Al-Asoub industry (Janabi belts), Al-Janabi (daggers), jewelry and silver (<https://yemen-nic>).
- **Natural baths:** They mean the sulfur water that originates from the ground, where most people go for healing, such as the Surdud Hammam.
- **Popular markets:** There are many weekly markets in the governorate, such as "Souk Al-Rajem" that takes place every Monday (<https://yemen-nic>).

Al-Mahwit governorate has a huge amount of natural and environmental factors for tourism, and thus the governorate, with its tourist areas, is a tourist attraction, but the reality of service or recreational activities is very weak and does not fit with the size of the natural attracting components, and this was confirmed by the results of the archaeological survey of the region, which indicated that the elements of tourism are exposed to many problems, including:

- ♦ The poor availability of basic services at archaeological sites, such as means of transportation and tour guides.
- ♦ The poor availability of basic services for tourism such as rest houses, cafeterias, public baths, hotels ... etc. in most tourist areas, whether natural or archaeological.
- ♦ The poor level of awareness among the population to preserve the cultural heritage.
- ♦ any castles and forts need restoration, maintenance, and preservation of what remains.
- ♦ Weak utilization of green spaces to establish parks or tourist resorts.
- ♦ The roughness of the road leading to the archaeological areas.
- ♦ Weak investment opportunities within the governorate.
- ♦ Lack of tourism investment opportunities within the governorate (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, 1999).





*Figure (5): Natural and historical landscapes in Al-Mahwit governorate
(Source: the researcher)*

Table (3): A comparison of the pillars of tourism development between the Kingdom of Morocco and Al-Mahwit

The Dimension	Morocco	Al-Mahwit
Environmental dimension	The Moroccan environment varies between landscapes, mountains, waterfalls, valleys, ancient cities, and palaces, and this is commensurate with the demand of the tourists on the rural areas in particular and the increase in their numbers.	Al-Mahwit is characterized by a tremendous diversity in the natural environment like mountains, valleys, and waterfalls as well as in the historical and archaeological environment such as ancient cities, forts, and castles, and these are factors that attract tourists from inside or outside Yemen.
Cultural and social dimension	In Morocco, ancient traditions are being revived by holding various festivals in the markets, which support the process of social communication between residents and tourists, encourage ancient industries, revive ancient crafts and festivals, and use old materials in the traditional industry process.	The governorate is distinguished by its cultural heritage and the distinctive folklore that is revived in the popular markets at the level of the local population only, without a tendency to hold festivals for agricultural seasons, and this in turn weakens cultural communication between locals and tourists.
Institutional dimension	The tourism authorities are interested in the process of pre-planning for the development of tourism in rural areas, and they work on the diversified marketing of Moroccan tourism with various means of modern technologies, and the official website is used in tourism advertising and promotion, with an effective partnership between the private and public sectors, and the provision of many diverse guides.	There is an institutional deficiency in the performance of the role that the competent institutions must play to activate tourism for the sake of community development, and this is clearly evident through the strategies that did not reflect the orientation towards developing rural tourism, the weakness of tourism marketing, as well the tourism investment opportunities for the internal and external sectors.

<p>Urban dimension</p>	<p>Diversity in the accommodation system, such as camps, or in farmers' homes, or what is called accommodation for the residents.</p> <p>Diversity in the system of service delivery.</p> <p>The establishment of modern mountain tourist villages for practicing golf.</p>	<p>There is a deficiency in the infrastructure of basic facilities and services in all regions of the governorate in general, as there are no hotels, rest houses, and restaurants for the tourism field, and this coincides with the weak availability of basic services for the residents of the governorate and its districts, as many residents of the region suffer from poor availability of basic services, and this affects the level of tourism in those areas, in addition to the apparent deficiency in the process of restoring historical and archaeological areas.</p>
<p>Economic dimension</p>	<p>High rates of employment in rural areas, both direct and indirect.</p> <p>Encouraging old industries and holding various festivals.</p> <p>Establishing specialized museums in historic cities.</p>	<p>There are no aspects of partnership between the residents and the tourism professionals in the process of encouraging traditional and local industries, despite their diversity, which may contribute to the development of the national economy in the future.</p> <p>Weak participation of people in tourist areas in tourism activities.</p>

(Source: prepared by the researcher)

Based on the foregoing, it is clear that tourism in Morocco relied on multiple pillars and dimensions (institutional, economic, urban, social, cultural and environmental), and focused on investing the natural and historical components for the development of human cadres from the people of Morocco, and included programs and projects for the development of the population of tourist areas in the countryside of Morocco, as well as revived the tourism marketing to increase the number of tourists, which is reflected in the economy, as various job opportunities were provided, and the level of national income increased. In this way, Morocco has eliminated many of the problems resulting from poverty and unemployment, and the latest development in the capabilities of human cadres, all in light of great concern to preserve the authenticity of Moroccan society and support its economy, and thus the Moroccan population has overcome many of the difficulties that hinder a safe life.

As for the field of tourism in Al-Mahwit, which is considered a model for tourism in Yemen, it has emerged completely dependent on the natural and historical factors that have been accompanied by neglect and poor maintenance. The level of services in rural areas is significantly weak, as the tourism planning process in Yemen focuses on the capitals of the governorates more than the countryside, which negatively affected the process of providing basic services such as water, electricity, transportation, hotels, restaurants, and other services.

All of this with weak communication between the residents of the governorate and tourists due to the lack of festivals or carnivals for agricultural seasons and other occasions in which traditional products are marketed in popular markets for local residents and tourists because they take place on specific days, and this may not be commensurate with the visits of the tourists, most of which are in holidays and weekends.

All the above shows that the tourism does not provide job opportunities for the local population, and this is due to the weakness of the planning process for what the tourism needs from the human cadres of the people of the province, as the tourism in that governorate suffers from deficiencies in the process of linking it to the comprehensive development of the governorate, so we do not find a way to activate economic and social activities, and the lack of interest in tourist areas in terms of lack of interest in the maintenance and restoration of historical and archaeological areas, with the weakness of basic services in natural areas.

Second: Previous studies:

The previous studies that dealt with the subject of the research were presented in two axes: the first axis is the studies that focused on activating tourism for the development of the countryside, and the second axis is the studies of tourism development in Yemen, and the details of this are the following:

A- The first axis: studies to activate tourism for the development of the countryside:

These studies focused on activating tourism for the development of the countryside, and were presented from the most recent to the oldest as follows:

- 1- Study (Al-Nuaimi, 2018): proposals for activating ecotourism in Iraq for the purposes of planning for sustainable tourism development: The study aimed to answer the following question:



Can ecotourism be activated and implemented in Iraq for the purposes of planning for sustainable tourism development, and how?

The study found the following results:

- ♦ It is possible to plan ecotourism in Iraq to achieve sustainable development.
- ♦ The necessity of tourism awareness with the participation of the local population in projects related to tourism and the environment.

2- Study (Syyd and Essam, 2018): Pillars of activating sustainable rural tourism in the Egyptian countryside:

The study aimed to explore the elements and components of rural areas in Egypt, and the extent of their effectiveness for integrating into the system of sustainable rural tourism industry. The study concluded that the most important pillars of activating the sustainable rural tourism system are summarized in:

- ♦ The environmental, economic, social, institutional and urban framework.
- ♦ That the process of activating the tourism system in the countryside requires the concerted efforts of those interested in the tourism sector and the residents of rural areas.

3- Study (Sapra, 2014): Activating the role of tourism in rural development:

The study aimed to know the role that tourism can play in improving the reality of Syrian rural societies, and to clarify the role of the competent authorities in the success of the role of tourism in the Syrian countryside. It concluded that tourism may play a positive role in the rural development process by diversifying sources of income, while benefiting from the returns of financial tourism in the process of providing agricultural work requirements, reducing unemployment in the countryside, and contributing to reducing the migration of young people to cities, and the tourism supports traditional industries and handicrafts. Effective efforts must be made to involve the competent authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the local community, and the local cooperatives in order to activate the role of tourism in the countryside.

4- Study (Khadra, 2014): Rural tourism is a development tool in Lattakia Governorate:

The study aimed to analyze the rural environment in the province of Lattakia to clarify the reality of the region for tourism in order to identify the role of the rural tourism in the development process. The

necessity that the practical practices of organizing the tourist atmosphere in the countryside contribute to changing the environmental awareness of the rural population in order to preserve the natural areas and the ecosystem, and to refine the ethical values in the field of rural tourism. And that the tourism development in the Syrian rural areas improves the standard of living through employing male and female workers, engaging the population in developing tourism, providing small projects, and creating special jobs in the villages.

- 5- Study (Ahlam and Suwariya, 2010): Ecotourism and its impact on development in rural areas:

The study aimed to find out how ecotourism affects the development of rural areas. The study concluded that the sources of cultural and natural heritage are among the most important components of tourist attractions in tourist areas of various terrain and climate, and emphasized the need to integrate rural areas in the tourism development process, and this due to the availability of the natural ingredients for tourism, environmental diversity, and green space.

B- The second axis: studies of tourism development in Yemen:

This axis presents Yemeni studies that dealt with the tourism development in Yemen from the most recent to the oldest, as follows:

- 1- Study (Al-Najjar and Essam, 2017): Regional division and spatial organization of tourism development in Yemen:

The study aimed to assess Yemen's experience in planning for the regional tourism development during the period 1990-2015 AD, and to identify the most important resources that can be found for developing the tourism product, while clarifying the extent to which tourism plans in Yemen take into account the spatial dimensions of tourism.

The study found that the diversity of the tourism environment resources in Yemen, between cultural resources such as cultural heritage, historical resources such as antiquities, and geographical environmental resources such as plains and deserts, all represent distinctive resources that can be relied upon to develop the tourism product spatially. The study also revealed a clear negligence in the process of accurately determining the spatial dimension of the tourist areas. There was a great interest in achieving the economic return without concern for the tourism development in the tourist areas in a fair way. In fact, most of the services for tourism activities were found in

the cities, thus were absent in the countryside. The study concluded that a vision was established for re-dividing the regional and spatial balance of the tourism environment and the mechanisms for its implementation in Yemen.

2- Study (Abadi, 2009): The Reality of Tourism Development in Yemen:

The study aimed to clarify the concept of tourism development and its elements, components and its impact in highlighting the tourist sites and their role in alleviating the problem of unemployment while identifying the components of the tourist attractions in Yemen and its importance in tourism development. The study concluded that tourism has become an important requirement for development in all countries of the world, and this requires building integrated plans to define the necessary priorities for the development of the tourism sector in Yemen in light of the legal legislation, the available requirements and the needs for development, while providing opportunities for the private and public sectors to promote tourism of all kinds.

Current research and previous studies:

Through a review of the previous studies, it is clear that it is consistent with the current research on the importance of tourism in the countryside and the need to pay attention to it as one of the modern orientations for the development of rural areas, and thus it was used in building the theoretical framework for the current research.

Advantages of the current research: This research is distinguished from the previous studies with its general objective of identifying means to activate tourism for the development of the countryside in Yemen, and in the study community (Yemen) taking the city of Al- Mahwit as a model, while the societies of previous studies have represented many Arab countries, such as the study of Sapra in Syria and Essam’s study in Egypt. In addition, the current research will provide a vision for activating the pillars of tourism for the development of the countryside in Yemen.

Third: Research methodology:

The methodology includes two axes, namely the research methodology and the research results, which are as follows:

A- Research Methodology:

The current research relies on the descriptive survey approach in order to collect information from its sources and work to describe and analyze it, and from those sources: statistics, reports, research,

books, as well as scientific sources specialized in tourism and its role in the development process, especially rural societies, in addition to the comparative approach to compare the pillars of tourism development between the State of Morocco and the governorate of Al-Mahwit (as a model). This approach is able to demonstrate the role of the tourism in the development, and to benefit from the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco in the tourism sector for the development of the countryside in Yemen.

B- Search results

This research reached the following results:

- 1- Yemen and its countryside possess a variety of tourism potentials (natural, historical, heritage). This diversity qualifies Yemen to be the most prominent tourist destination at the regional and Arab level.
- 2- Tourism views varied in the countryside of Yemen, which contributed to the diversity of tourism patterns, including: recreational, medical, historical and archaeological, and environmental tourism.
- 3- The tourism in the rural of Yemen faces many difficulties, the most important of which are:
 - ♦ The poor availability of infrastructure and superstructure for the tourism in most of the archaeological, historical and natural areas.
 - ♦ The weak level of the strategic planning in the tourism sector.
 - ♦ Weakness of the tourism marketing process for all the tourist areas in the Yemen rural.
 - ♦ Weakness of the investment opportunities for the government and private sectors in the tourism field.
 - ♦ Weakness of the tourism sector's ability to invest effectively the available human resources.
 - ♦ Weakness practice of the tourism for its economic role in developing the living standards of the rural population.
- 4- Tourism plays multiple roles in the development of the countryside, the most important of which are:
 - ♦ Raising the level of income at the national and individual level.
 - ♦ Improving the economic, cultural and social capabilities of individuals in tourist areas.
 - ♦ contributing to alleviating economic and social problems



- such as poverty and unemployment.
- ♦ Preserving the environmental diversity in the tourist areas.
- 5- The tourism development in the countryside requires many requirements, including: strategic planning, marketing, providing accommodation, transportation, food, and tourism security.
 - 6- The Moroccan experience reflects high-level trends, for many years, in developing tourism in rural areas to eliminate the problem of unemployment and alleviate poverty by providing opportunities for cooperation with the private sector in the tourism field, and working on tourism marketing to increase the number of tourists.
 - 7- The tourism development in the countryside depends on many pillars and dimensions, which are: the institutional, economic, environmental, cultural and social, and the urban dimension.
 - 8- A proposed scenario was presented to activate the pillars of tourism for the development of the countryside in Yemen.
 - 9- The results of the research proved that the rural tourism represents one of the tributaries of the economic development by providing various job opportunities, alleviating unemployment and poverty in rural communities, and increasing the country's foreign currency, and it also supports the stability of the population in the countryside. In addition to that, it works to develop the capabilities of the rural population in order to meet the needs of the tourism sector.

Fourth: A proposed scenario to activate the pillars of tourism for the development of the countryside in Yemen

In light of the results of the comparison between Morocco and Al-Mahwit governorate, a model of the governorates of the Republic of Yemen, and in light of the results of analyzing the indicators of tourism in Yemen, and by identifying the reality of the tourism in the countryside, and in light of the global orientations for the tourism development, and the preservation of ruins and the environment to achieve sustainable development in all areas of life. In light of all this, this research worked on presenting a proposed vision for achieving rural development in light of the interest in the tourism field. As Yemen is a country rich in various tourism resources and it is assumed that these natural and historical resources are to be exploited for the development of tourist areas and the improvement of the standard of living of its residents, and the proposed scenario is as follows:

1- Objectives of the proposed scenario:

- ♦ Improving Yemen's level economically and contributing to raising the national income.
- ♦ Increasing the tourism revenues and increasing its area of GDP for the tourist area which will be reflected in the development of the level of services that will be provided to the region in the future.
- ♦ Raising the standard of living of the residents of the tourist areas in the Yemeni countryside, and alleviating poverty.
- ♦ Preserving the ancient monuments and architectural heritage.
- ♦ Preserving the environment.

2- The foundations of the proposed scenario:

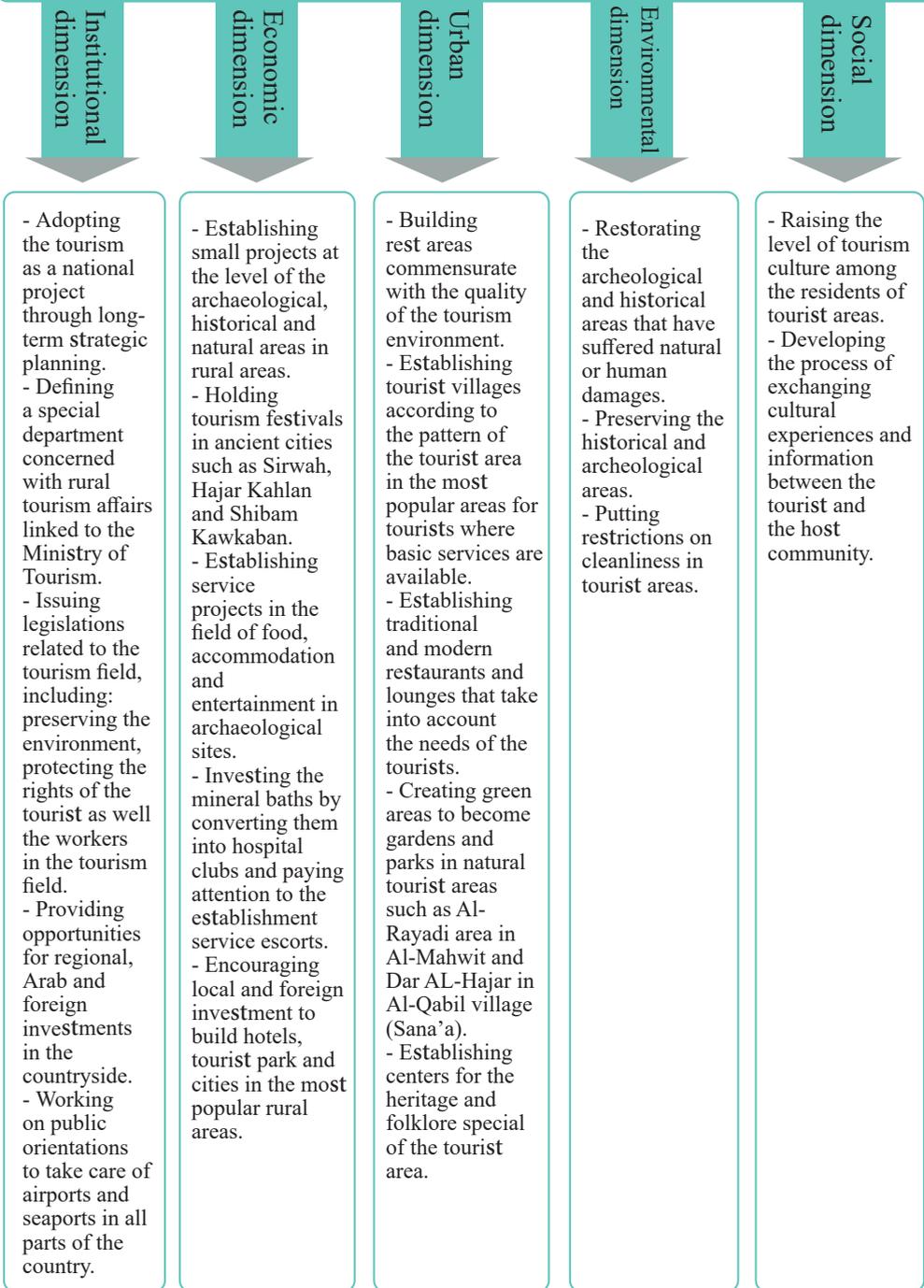
The proposed scenario consists of the following pillars (dimensions):

- **The institutional dimension:** supporting leaders in the senior management of the country for the tourism orientation in the countryside
 - Tourism adopts a national project through long-term strategic planning.
 - Defining a special department that is concerned with rural tourism affairs, linked to the Ministry of Tourism.
 - Issuing legislation related to the tourism field, including preserving the environment, protecting the rights of tourists and protecting the rights of workers in the tourism field.
 - Providing opportunities for regional, Arab, and foreign investments in rural Yemen.
 - Working on official directives to pay attention to airports and ports throughout the country.
- **The economic dimension:** Employing manpower in rural areas to work on:
 - Establishing small projects at the level of archaeological and historical areas and nature in rural areas, such as: grocery stores, rest houses, Internet service centers, and traditional gift shops, shops for selling popular foods, products of folklore, and agricultural products specific to each region.
 - Holding tourism festivals in ancient cities such as Sirwah, Hajar Kahlan and Shibam Kawkaban.
 - Establishing service projects in the field of food, accommodation and entertainment in the archaeological sites.
 - Investing the mineral baths by converting them into hospital clubs by caring for establishing a service escort.
 - Encouraging local and foreign investment to build hotels, tourist parks and tourist cities in the most popular rural areas.



- **The Urban Dimension:** Preserving the urban heritage of cities and ancient monuments, and paying attention to the urban heritage of each tourist area
 - Building rest areas commensurate with the quality of the tourism environment.
 - Establishing tourist villages according to the urban pattern of the tourist area in the most popular areas for the tourists, so that basic services are available.
 - Establishing traditional and modern restaurants and lounges that take into account the needs of the tourists.
 - Creating green areas (gardens and parks) in natural tourist areas such as Al-Rayadi area in Al-Mahwit, and Dar Al-Hajar in Al-Qabil village (Sana'a).
 - Establishing centers for the heritage and folklore of the tourist area.
 - Establishing private farms for tourism in which all the tourist services are available.
- **The environmental dimension:** preserving the environment of Yemen, including its antiquities, historical sites, and natural areas:
 - Restoring the archaeological and historical areas that have suffered natural or human damages.
 - Maintaining of historical and archaeological areas.
 - Putting restrictions on cleanliness and urban expansion in agricultural areas.
- **The cultural and social dimension:** preserving the originality of society through:
 - Raising the level of tourism culture among the residents of tourist areas.
 - Developing the process of exchanging experiences and information between the tourist and the host community.

Pillars to activate the tourism in order to develop the rural areas in Yemen



(Source: prepared by the researcher)

3- Requirements for activating the pillars of tourism for rural development in Yemen:

The proposed scenario needs many requirements that can be clarified as follows:

- 1) Achieving tourism security and stability by providing security at the level of Yemen.
- 2) Strategic planning at the state level to focus on tourism in the countryside, and work to build plans and programs aimed at assessing the reality of tourism in the rural areas in order to:
 - ♦ Determine the tourism needs in each rural area.
 - ♦ Determine the archaeological areas that need restoration and maintenance.
- 3) Establishing tourism rehabilitation institutions for residents of the tourist areas.
- 4) Working to establish a tourist guide center affiliated with the Ministry of Tourism, while providing branches in the most popular tourist areas.
- 5) Providing a tourism information network that depends on units, systems, and specialized skills to provide tourism information to the tourist areas, and to use geographic information systems to preserve, display and invest in the tourism resources for the various regions.
- 6) Activating the authorities associated with the tourism field, such as the Ministry of Communications, Transportation, Interior, and Health, in order to play their role in providing what is necessary for the success of the tourism activities.
- 7) Coordinating with the Ministry of Information to carry out campaigns on various audiovisual and print media outlets to educate citizens about the tourism and the need to preserve the natural and historical environment.
- 8) Providing opportunities for the private and public sectors to participate in providing infrastructure, such as establishing hotels, rest houses, paving roads ... etc.
- 9) Encouraging the tourism companies to operate in Yemen.
- 10) Granting facilities for the tourism projects that are established in the Yemeni countryside, such as reducing the value of operational materials when establishing hotels, or exempting owners of the small projects from tax for a specific period of time.

Suggestions:

The researcher proposes to do the following studies:

- ♦ The competitive advantage of the tourist areas in rural Yemen.
- ♦ The contribution of tourism to achieving economic development.
- ♦ Obstacles to tourism development in rural Yemen.

Recommendations:

In light of the previous results, the following recommendations can be made:

- ♦ Providing security and stability in Yemen as a basic necessity for activating tourism in Yemen.
- ♦ Establishing balanced national plans between rural and urban development in order to create a regional balance between rural and urban.
- ♦ Providing a human resource department in rural areas to provide job opportunities for people from rural areas to work in the tourism sector.
- ♦ Increasing the financial allocations provided by the concerned authorities for the tourism marketing process.
- ♦ Paying attention to marketing and media promotion in various media outlets, and participating in international conferences on tourism.
- ♦ Finding new ways and methods to attract international tourism companies.

Conclusion:

The countryside of Yemen represents a fertile field for tourism investment, as tourism images vary in it among landscapes, farms with a variety of crops, hot springs, and waterfalls, in addition to the historical and cultural components that vary in rural areas and reflect the ancient cultural heritage of Yemen. All of these components require concerted efforts from the public and private sector to carry out tourism development in the economic, social, cultural, urban and environmental dimensions, in order to increase economic returns at the country level as well the rural areas, and to contribute to overcoming the phenomenon of poverty, unemployment and immigration, in a way that contributes to achieving a kind of justice in the distribution of natural resources and their returns among the various



tourist regions, and the need to involve the local population in the development process so that they can contribute to activating effectively the dimensions of tourism by encouraging the youth participation in the tourism field, such as establishing various small projects, and implementing them to support the tourism activities, as part of a marketing framework inside and outside the country through participation in tourist conferences.

Yemen is a rich country with all its components, and it needs to unite the efforts of its entire people in various disciplines to carry out a comprehensive economic renaissance in all fields

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*The Conflict in Yemen and its Impact
on the Economic Aspect
(Economic Report)*

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Yemen Information Center (YIC)
April 2021



List of Contents

<i>Content</i>	<i>Page</i>
Executive Summary	69
The problem that the current report is investigating	71
Objective, Importance, Methodology	72
Previous Studies	73
Theoretical framework	74
Economic conditions in Yemen before the conflict	74
Yemen economic conditions during the conflict	75
The impact of the conflict on the economy in Yemen	79
Results	88
Recommendations	91

Executive Summary:

Yemen has been in a dire economic and humanitarian situation since 2015, and before this date the situation in Yemen was no better; as Yemen used to import up to 90% of the food and most of its needs of medicine and fuel, and the unemployment rate was 45%, while half of the population suffered from food insecurity and 8.4 million people could not access health care services. Before the conflict, grants and foreign aid represented 14.4% of the total public budgetary resources, and the government depended on energy exports for its resources.

Therefore, the current report aims to investigate the impact of the conflict in Yemen on the economic side, using the descriptive and analytical approach, and the results of this research are derived by reviewing the studies, reports and economic publications published during the timeframe of the study 2014 AD -2020 AD.

- The most prominent results were that the current conflict had created two financial systems in the same country and caused chaos and great losses to the national economy and the depth of the human tragedy. The results also indicated that the deterioration of the national currency is the flame or the spark that caused the deterioration of the goods and services prices of various kinds, and the deepening of the humanitarian situation to the worst. The results of the report also indicated that the twenty-year decline in human development is the result of the seven-year-old conflict.

The researcher recommends the necessity of ending the conflict in Yemen among the various parties and working immediately and seriously to remedy the current situation, starting with achieving peace in order to be able to save the national economy, in order to reach the advancement of development in all its fields.

Introduction:

The economy can play the role of an effective tool in maintaining peace, and states can use economic policies to avoid conflict. The incidence of interstate conflicts in the period of 1950 - 2000 decreased nearly ten times compared to the period of 1850-1949. Hence, it is interesting to know that international trade networks have nearly quadrupled since 1950.

It is not forgotten that the conflict on Yemeni land has affected the fragile economic capabilities, as Yemen ranks among the poorest economies in the world.

After the outbreak of the war, public revenues witnessed a major collapse, and the state's tax revenues decreased and became 8% of GDP, and foreign grants and aid that were provided to the country before the conflict also stopped, and energy exports that constituted more than 90% of the total exports to Yemen also contributed to financing the state's general budget and the availability of cash in hard currency. Also, the collapse in public resources led to a decrease in government spending to 36% by the year 2016, and freezing expenditures allocated to the development projects, and reduced the operational expenditures for the public services such as education, health and water, which exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.

In light of the great collapse of public finances, the foreign aid and remittances from expatriates played an important role in alleviating the social and economic suffering, as the percentage of officially registered remittance flows increased to 24% in 2017, and the domestic debt increased by 89% compared to 2014, and the external debt by 21% compared to the year 2014 AD. In addition, the cumulative shrinkage rate in the real GDP increased to about 45%, and the cumulative losses in economic activity were estimated at about 89 billion dollars until the year 2019. In 2019, the per capita share of the gross domestic product (GDP) reached an unprecedented level since the year 1960 AD, at about 1.950 US dollars per year.

Yemen ranked second in the world in terms of the level of income inequality exceeding 100 other countries during the period 2015 - 2019, and as a result of the stopping of oil revenues, the bank was forced to use cash stock from hard currency as the bank's reserves decreased from 5.23 billion dollars to 700 million US dollars only.

The so-called phenomenon of the war economy or "parallel economy" also emerged. In fact, the conflict led to the exploitation of the institutional frameworks of the countries and the enactment of legal legislation in order to increase the volume of taxes from the customs and Zakat.

And the merchant has started to suffer from the double customs, as the goods were getting into customs twice, and the decision to float oil deriv-

atives has also been opened.

As for the private sector, it suffered great losses, immediately after the outbreak of conflicts, as 26% of business enterprises closed their doors and lost more than 70% of their customer base, while 95% of the projects that were closed had incurred partial or total material damage, and 41% of the projects dispersed more than half of their workforce and the working hours were reduced by half, while the private sector's contribution to the GDP shrank to 18%, and in 2017, as a result of the fragmentation of state institutions, the private sector played a vital role and worked to fill the gap that arose in the provision of the basic services.

However, the conflict left a deep negative impact on the monetary policy in the country, where the so-called currency war appeared, and the decision to ban dealing with newly printed currencies led to large differences in exchange rates that negatively affected commodity prices and remittance fees to this day.

With the continuation of the conflict in Yemen, which is entering its seventh year, the bill of costs paid by the country is increasing at all levels, having shocking effects on the lives of Yemenis who make strenuous efforts to adapt and absorb severe economic crises.

A report issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates that the ongoing conflict in Yemen has caused a twenty-year retreat in human development, as this continuous conflict since 2014 has had many consequences in the fields of health, education, economic and food insecurity (France 24website: 2019). So, the report will focus on the current conflict in Yemen and its impact on the economic aspect over the past six years.

The problem that the current report is investigating:

Yemen has been witnessing a conflict for seven years, which has caused a clear negative decline in the economic aspect, according to what many reports and studies indicate. Therefore, the current approach was to find out and discuss the impacts of the conflict on the Yemeni economic aspect, and the problem was developed in the following main question:

What is the impact of the conflict on the economic situation in Yemen?

The following questions are emerged:

- ◆ What was the economic status of Yemen before the conflict?
- ◆ What are the indicators of the Yemeni economy during the conflict?



Objective:

The present report aims to describe the economic impact of the conflict in Yemen through:

Discussing the economic situation in Yemen before the conflict and getting acquainted with the economic indicators during the conflict for the various economic fields during the period 2015 AD until the end of 2020 AD.

Importance:

The importance of the report is highlighted by its general objective, which describes the impacts of the conflict on the Yemeni economy as well as the negative effects of the conflict on all areas of the economic sector.

Methodology:

The current research uses the descriptive and analytical approach as it is considered one of the most appropriate approaches due to its comprehensiveness and its ability to provide results that are similar to the reality, and it plays a major role in helping the researcher know the causes that led to the current economic situation. It also helps to address solutions and through this approach, the phenomenon will be fully analyzed and solutions developed.

Time, spatial and thematic framework:

- ♦ **Time:** 2015-2020 AD
- ♦ **Place:** Republic of Yemen.
- ♦ **Topic:** The economic situation in Yemen.

Sources of data and information:

The report relied on the secondary sources because relying on primary sources is very expensive. The secondary sources of information from which this research has drawn information are as follows:

- ♦ Published economic reports.
- ♦ Reports and economic bulletins on websites.
- ♦ Analytical articles by specialized thinkers and experts

Previous studies:

In general, it can be said that a country like Yemen, with its exceptional conditions, did not encourage researchers to study it, and this is observed by looking at the recent writings on Yemen. Despite its focus on the human aspect, there is a dearth of political- economic research if we exclude press reports. This may be due to the nature of the country, which suffers from economic weakness on the one hand, and political fragility for quite some time on the other hand.

Through our knowledge of this topic, it can be said that there is nothing to rely on, such as academic studies, about the conflict economy in Yemen as it happens in many countries that are going through similar situations, and given the lack of studies dealing with the conflict economy in Yemen, this part will focus on the studies that deal with the conflict economy in countries similar to the Yemeni case, such as Syria and Libya, despite the many and several differences that may go through. Based on that, the focus will be on two studies that dealt with the issue of the war economy, the first in Syria, and the second in Libya.

1- The study of Jihad Yazidi entitled “Syria’s war economy” (2014):

The study focused on the mechanisms by which the Syrian regime was able to resist the complete collapse in the areas it controls. Despite the multiplicity of these mechanisms and sources between the local and the international, the researcher indicates that the Syrian regime’s ability to survive is mainly due to the economic support of its foreign allies (Iran and Russia). In this context, the researcher lists figures indicating the amount of financial aid that the regime received, for example: the aid provided by Iran between 2011 and 2013 reached the limits of 10 billion dollars.

As for the Russian support, despite its limitations compared to Iranian support, Russia has provided a range of facilities to the Syrian regime in the form of bargains and exchanges of crude oil, as well as opening accounts in Russian banks and transferring Syrian assets in its endeavor to counter Western sanctions imposed on the Syrian regime. In this context, the researcher did not neglect the local sources of funding for the system, which he refers to as it came through raising customs tariff rates at times, in addition to the support provided by networks of businessmen linked to the political system.

As for the war economy opposition groups, the researcher points out that the most prominent sources of opposition groups are looting, kidnappings, and smuggling, in addition to the seizure of oil wells that were under the control of the Syrian regime, as well as the sei-



zure of the coffers of the central bank branch in some cities that were captured by some of the fighting groups.

2- Tim Eaton's study entitled "**The Profitable and Disruptive War Economy in Libya**": The researcher at Chatham House confirms that the global chaos that the Libyan state went through has provided various opportunities for armed groups to rise and continue, especially with the country's natural resources and geographical location. These groups have been able to seize and smuggle natural resources as well as seize cash. In addition, the armed groups have also relied on ransoms from the government, and black markets have played their role, especially in the issue of currency exchange differences, manipulation of them, and extorting the workers in the financial sector.

The researcher also indicates the existence of new means and sources used by armed groups and militias, most notably human smuggling and the accompanying emergence of new and organized criminal networks, such as the "Tabu" group that controls migrant smuggling routes on the new Libyan border.

Current report and previous studies:

The aim of the current report meets with the previous studies in studying the economic conditions in Arab countries suffering from the scourge of armed conflict, and differs from the two previous studies in dealing with the issue of conflict and its impact on the Yemeni economy, while the two studies dealt with the issue of the economy in Syria and Libya.

Theoretical framework

First: The economic conditions in Yemen before the conflict:

Yemen witnessed a steady population explosion from 17 million people in 2000 AD to an estimated 30 million by the year of 2020 AD, and with of this steady population growth, the urgent need of citizens in Yemen continued for clean water, basic foodstuffs, stable income, basic public services and access to electricity, infrastructure and housing, which will inevitably lead to repeated waves of unrest if it fails to meet these necessities of the economic priorities once again (Center for Strategic Studies, 2020).

In fact, Yemen is one of the poorest, least developed and food insecure countries in the Middle East even before the outbreak of the conflict before

2014. Yemen used to import up to 90% of its food and most of its needs of medicines and fuel, and the unemployment rate was very high, as it reached about 45% among youth, half of the population suffers from food insecurity, and about 8.4 million people have difficulty accessing health care services (Center for Strategic Studies, Sana'a: 2020).

Yemen is one of the least taxed countries in the world, as tax revenues were a percentage of GDP that did not exceed 9% before the conflict compared to the global average estimated at 17.7% in developing countries with the economies close to the size of the Yemeni economy. Over the years, Yemen has sought to adopt reforms aimed at increasing tax revenues as a percentage of total public revenues, but this percentage remained below 30% in the period 2010-2015 according to fiscal indicators.

The grants and foreign aid before the conflict constituted 14.4% of the total public resources of the budget in the period 2012-2014, and in August 2014, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, during the negotiation of a loan of \$ 560 million, according to which a decree was issued to cancel the fuel support program, and as a result of this decision, fuel prices increased, and government revenues have decreased since that time. The year 2014 witnessed a decrease in energy exports in Yemen by 77% to reach 1.35 billion dollars compared to 5.76 billion dollars. It is the rate of exports in the period 2004-2013. Thus, this sector has not witnessed any improvement until this moment (Center for Strategic Studies: 2019).

Second: Yemen's economic conditions during the conflict

Several economic axes will be presented during the conflict as follows:

1- General economic indicators during the conflict:

In this section, we will discuss how the conflict has affected general economic indicators in Yemen as follows:

A- The general revenues of the state

The conflict in Yemen prepared the acceleration of the general collapse that included the Yemeni economy, and this resulted in the state's public revenues being halted or reduced, as state tax revenues fell to 8% of GDP in 2018, and not only that, grants and foreign aid that was provided to the country during the pre-war period after 2011 have been frozen.

In April 2015, energy exports were completely frozen, after they constituted more than 90% of total exports to Yemen during the period 2011-2013 and contribute 40% of the total public resources, without the resources obtained from grants (Center for Strategic Studies: 2019).

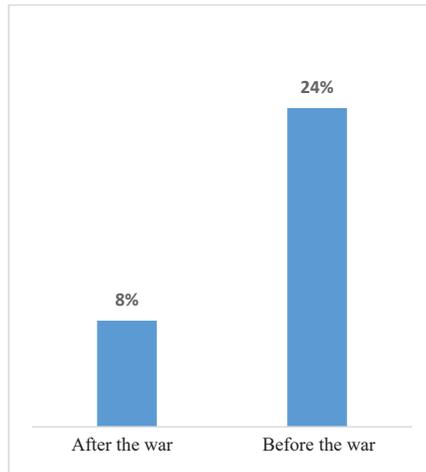


Figure (1): the tax revenues percentage of GDP

Exports of the oil and gas sector provided 50% of foreign exchange reserves, and contribute 50% to 60% in financing the general budget, and the suspension of the revenues of this sector led to a crisis in public finances and liquidity, which negatively affected public sector employees. In August 2016, the salaries of 1.25 million employees, that is, about 7 million people who are breadwinners (The Sana'a Center Economic Studies Unit: 2020).

This collapse in the public resources has led to a decrease in the government public spending and reached 36% between 2014 and 2016, when in 2015 the social security program, from which 1.5 million of the poorest families in the country benefited, froze, as well as the expenditures allocated to development projects, and operational expenditures for public services such as education, health and water have diminished, leading to the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis.

As a result of the conflict, economic conditions varied widely between different Yemeni governorates, and different levels of service availability emerged as a result, for example: the oil-producing governorates such as Marib, Hadramaut and Shabwah receive 20% or more of the proceeds from the sale of these resources, while the eastern, western and southern regions lack. In addition, this contributed to the deprivation of public finances from the revenues of those regions that constitute more than 75% of the total public revenues of the state according to the general budgets before the war (Studies and Economic Media Center: 2020).

B- Full economic dependence on transfers and foreign aid:

Both foreign aid and transfers from expatriates played a very significant role in alleviating social and economic suffering and stimulating economic activity in Yemen during the conflict. The percentage of transfers flows officially recorded as a percentage of GDP increased from 10% to nearly 20% in 2016, and about 24% in 2017 (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: 2018).

Likewise, cash and non-cash support, such as social cash transfers, food vouchers, in-kind food assistance, cash-for-work programs, and logistical aid, from international NGOs have played an important role in stimulating supply and demand in the Yemeni economy. As UNICEF reported that its emergency cash transfer projects in Yemen provided cash assistance to 1.5 million families benefiting from the Social Welfare Fund, with 9 million people benefiting from it between August 2017 and the end of 2019 (UNICEF: 2007).

The United Nations Development Program reported that 364 thousand Yemenis for temporary periods were employed in cash-for-work programs, and the World Food Program also provided food aid to about 13 million beneficiaries on a monthly basis as of April 2020 (UNDP: 2020).

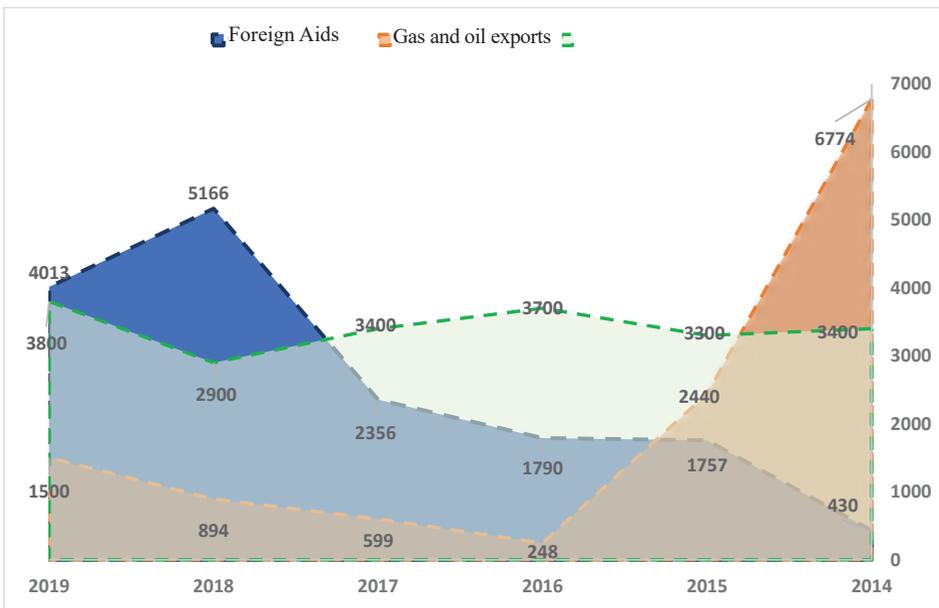


Figure (2): Cash Flow (one million dollars)

Source: Central Bank Annual Report 2015, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2019, World Bank estimation

C- High public debt and deficit:

In 2017 the World Bank estimated that the public debt ratio had jumped to 75% of the GDP, as well the government deficit for 2018 was estimated at 600 billion Yemeni riyals, as it was funded almost entirely by borrowing from the Central Bank (Center for Strategic Studies: 2019).

The conflict imposed a new reality on the economic scene as a result of the devastation and destruction of the public and private institutions, disruption of production, decline in economic and financial growth, and exposure of public and private institutions to change, so all the economic indicators of the state retreated, and all exports, including oil and gas, that were halted, have affected the trade balance and reserve ratios in an unprecedented way. The volume of foreign currency reserves was 4.6 billion dollars in 2014 (Central Bank of Yemen: 2014), and decreased to 700 million dollars in September 2016 before the transfer of the Central Bank.

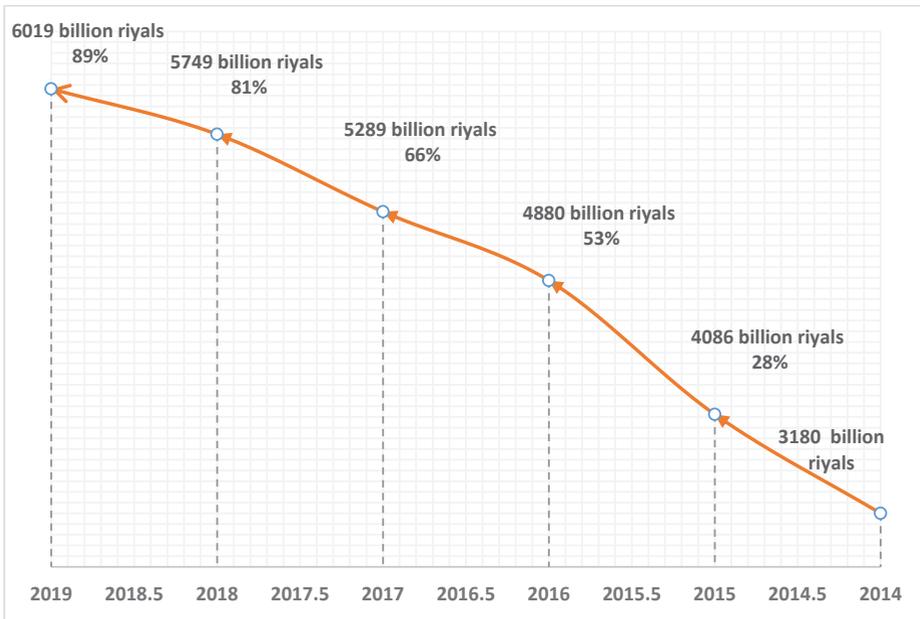


Figure (3): The Percentage of High Domestic Debt Compared to the Year 2014
 Source: Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Journal of Economic Developments, Issue 44, 2020 AD

We notice from the above figure that the domestic public debt has nearly doubled until 2019 AD by about 6,019 billion Yemeni riyals, with an increase of 89% compared to the year 2014 AD, and in 2019

AD the external public debt increased by about 21% compared to the year 2014 AD, where the debt increased from 7,250 million dollars to 8,765 million dollars by the end of the year 2019 AD (Studies and Economic Media Center: 2020).

Third: The Impact of the Conflict on the Economy in Yemen:

1- The impact of macroeconomic indicators in Yemen:

With regard to macroeconomic indicators, the Yemeni GDP growth rate decreased from 3.3% in 2010 to -30.3% in 2015, and stabilized at -10.9% in 2017. By the end of 2019, the rate of

cumulative contraction of real GDP in Yemen reached about 45%, and the cumulative losses in economic activity are estimated at 66 billion dollars (Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies: 2020).

A report issued by the United Nations Development Program indicated that the losses amounted to 89 billion dollars until the year 2019 AD, and in the event that the conflict ends in 2022, the cumulative losses will reach 180 billion US dollars (United Nations Development Program, 2019 AD), and the percentage of Yemenis living under poverty line increased from 48% in 2014 to 70% at the end of 2016 (Center for Strategic Studies: 2020).

The per capita gross domestic product has decreased to a level not seen in Yemen since 1960, as it decreased from 3,577 US dollars in the year 2015 to 1,950 dollars in the year 2019 AD (UNDP: 2019).

While a small elite of the population gained wealth during the conflict (Jonathan de Muir et al.: 2019), the vast majority of the Yemenis suffered a decrease of nearly 60% of their income and share of the gross domestic product (Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies: 2018). In 2019, Yemen ranked second in the world in terms of the level of income inequality, surpassing 100 other countries in the level of inequality during the period from 2015 to 2019 (UNDP: 2020).

In addition to the conflict, the Corona pandemic had an impact on the Yemeni economy, as it led to a decline in external resources, which led to a sharp contraction in GDP, and widened deficit gaps in the government's current account balance and the general budget. The transactions decreased by 70% according to the United Nations estimates., which created a contraction of 10-15% in the gross domestic product (Sana'a Center, Economic Studies Unit: 2020).



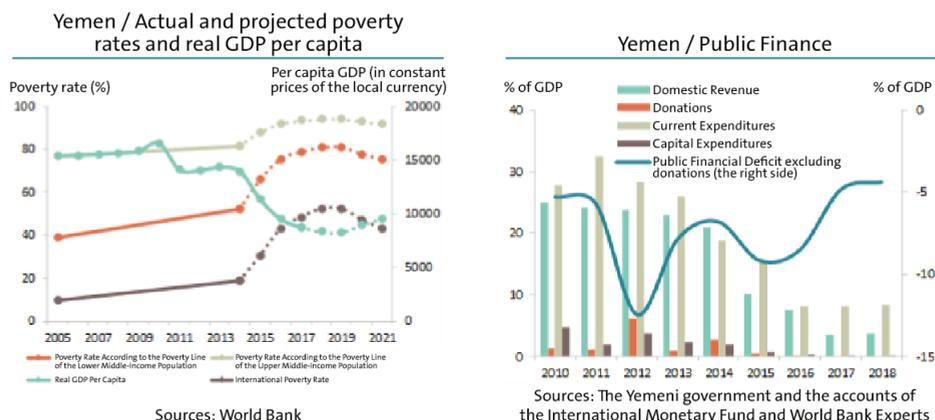


Figure (4): General Indicators

(Table (1): Microeconomics prospects and poverty indicators)

Chart (1): Microeconomics prospects and poverty indicators	Annual change in percentage, unless otherwise indicated					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Real GDP growth at constant market prices	-13.6	- 5.9	- 2.7	2.1	10.0	8.5
Private consumption	-5.3	0.0	- 7.6	- 1.5	0.1	9.4
Public consumption	- 26.9	- 31.7	- 4.1	5.3	12.6	14.9
Total fixed capital investments	- 26.2	39.8	137.6	22.4	15.5	7.9
,Exports products and services	- 66.2	- 3.8	25.1	- 14.9	305.4	7.0
Imports ,products and services	- 5.9	14.4	- 9.2	- 11.0	17.7	12.8
Real GDP growth development at constant production prices	- 14.3	5.8	- 2.7	2.1	11.5	8.4
Agriculture	- 10.5	- 6.6	- 2.8	2.0	4.0	9.07.1
Industry	23.5-	- 3.6	- 2.3	2.3	31.9	9.0
Services	- 10.5	- 6.6	- 2.8	2.0	4.0	7.1
Inflation) Consumer price index	- 12.6	24.7	41.8	20.0	7.5	5.0
Balance of ongoing transactions of (GDP%)	- 2.8	- 0.1	0.0	0.7	- 1.9	- 3.0
Net foreign direct investment (of GDP%)	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.1
General balance of funds	- 8.4	- 4.9	- 4.4	- 5.1	- 5.5	- 3.2

(of GDP)% debts	68.0	76.4	63.3	54.7	42.8	36.6
(of GDP)% primary balance	- 3.1	- 4.7	- 4.2	- 4.9	- 2.9	- 2.0
International poverty rate (1.9% on the basis of power parity in 2011)	42.6	48.2	51.9	52.1	47.0	43.1
Lowerty rate according to the line of the upper middle-income population	75.0	78.5	80.6	80.8	77.6	75.2
Poverty rate according to the line of the upper middle-income population	91.8	93.2	94.0	94.1	92.8	91.9

Sources: World Bank, Global Practice Sector for Poverty and Equity and Global Macroeconomic, Trade and Investment Practices Sector

Remark: Estimations = Predictions

A- The calculations are based on the 2014 House Hold Budget Survey Data. Effective data: 2014. Predictions: 2015-2018. Projections for the years 2019-2021.

B- Projections calculated using neutral distribution 2014 as the effect of the change in the exchange rate on the inflation rate (path through) = 1 on the basis of per capita GDP at constant prices for domestic work.

2- Conflict and Public Expenditure:

In the period 2010 AD - 2014 AD, current expenditures represented more than 85% of the government expenditures, while the investment and capital expenditures as a percentage of total government public spending did not exceed 13% (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, 2017). The Yemeni balance of payments has for decades suffered from current account deficits. The oil exports, before the conflict, accounted for approximately 83% of the total merchandise exports, while oil revenues represented 65% of the foreign exchange flows at the time (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: 2016).

At the same time, Yemen, before the conflict, imported nearly 90% of its food from abroad, in addition to its needs of fuel and other commercial products (Sana'a Center for Consulting Studies: 2019). Since its inception, the conflict has witnessed new and different factors that have burdened the balance of payments. The suspension of energy exports in 2015 and the loss of oil revenues caused the central bank to consume its foreign currency reserves to support imports of basic commodities, which led to a decline in those reserves from 5.23 billion US dollars at the beginning of 2014 AD to 700 million dollars by the end of the year 2016 AD, in addition to the failure of 27 international donors to commit to the aid pledged to Yemen, as the volume of pledges to be pumped exceeded 10 billion \$, but only 44% of them were supplied, and the loss of oil revenue exacerbated the deficit in the balance of payments, with the current account deficit

reaching 9% of GDP in 2018 (Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies: 2019).

3- Impact of the Conflict on Employees

Before the conflict, the government employed approximately 31% of the local workforce (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: 2017), and in the period 2010-2014 AD the general budget spent approximately 42% of the government revenues to pay the salaries of approximately 1.25 million employees. Civilian and military, equivalent to 75 billion Yemeni riyals, and 10% of the gross domestic product (World Bank, 2018). In return, the government paid social care expenditures quarterly to 1.5 million Yemenis with lower incomes, which reached 23 billion Yemenis. (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: 2016).

The aggravated employment in the public sector in Yemen put pressure on the state budget before the conflict to consume an average 32% of government spending in the form of salaries and wages between 2001 AD and 2014 AD (World Bank, 2019). The country’s public budget deficit, and thus Yemen faced a large deficit in the public budget, which was estimated at 660 billion Yemeni riyals in 2018, and this coincided with the contraction of the Yemeni economy (Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies: 2019).

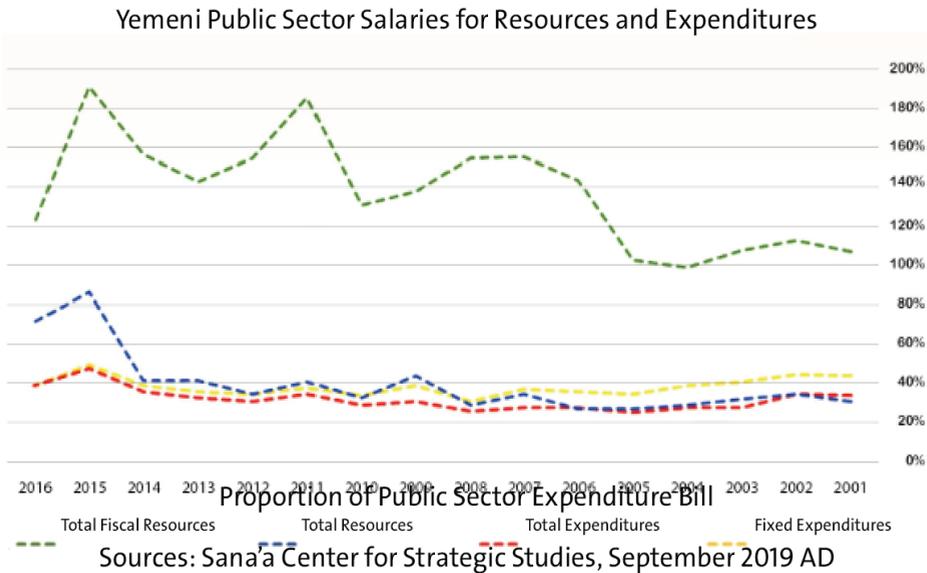


Figure (5): Yemeni Public Sector Salaries for Resources and Expenditures

4- Conflict and commercial movement in the ports:

The current report will suffice to address the commercial movement of the Port of Aden, due to the lack of information about the port of Hudhay-

dah, as the port of Aden witnessed a decrease in the number of ships arriving at the Aden Container Terminal during the period of January 2018 AD compared to the same period in 2014 AD, with a decrease of 42% (Studies and Economic Media Center: 2018), and the ships arriving to the port of Aden during the period from January to September 2018 AD reached 124 ships compared to 213 ships during the period of the year 2014 AD, and 115 compared to the same period in 2017 AD. See the following figure.

Number of Container Ships Arriving During the Period 2014 AD – 2018 AD

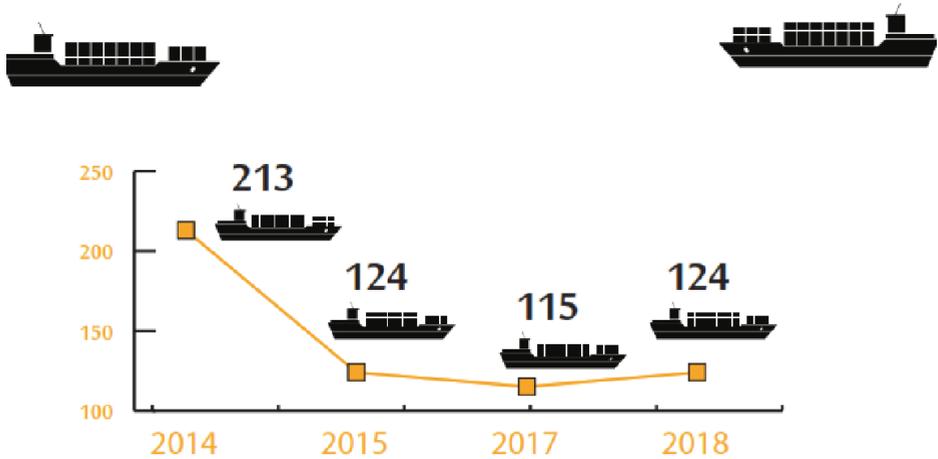


Figure (6): Container Ships Arriving During period 2014 AD- 2018AD (port of Aden)
 Source: Report issued by the Economic Media and Studies Center under the title of “ Fall of Yemeni Riyal” October 2018

5- Conflict economics (parallel economies):

The conflict economy is known in many literatures as a “continuation of the economy by other means,” and what distinguishes the conflict economy in particular is that “it is a fundamental factor in the destruction of the formal economy, and thus the growth of informal and black markets, and the deliberate extortion against civilians by the parties to the conflict, in order to gain control over the profitable assets and the exploitation of labor, as it is a decentralized economy, in which dependence on smuggling flourishes.” (<https://berghof-foundation.org/library>).

The sharp decline in foreign aid to many of the conflicting governments, especially after the Cold War, has contributed to the orientation of combatants and their dependence on mobilizing the private sector, so that these sources become the basis for supporting their military and political activities. Hence, it resulted in what could be called the new political economy of war (Le Pelon; Philip: 2000).



The war economy has many forms; this depends on the capabilities of the military factions and groups in obtaining local resources, military capabilities, domestic and international support, political and commercial relations, as well as geographical conditions, and among these forms: the state's war economy, which is usually through legal measures such as imposing taxes and borrowing from abroad. As for the other form, which is the most common, it is the group war economy; armed groups engaged in conflicts and litigations find themselves obliged to establish close friendly relations with the local population as part of their endeavor to provide local support resources, and there are other additional forms such as the war economy of armed groups, the economy of war of humanitarian intervention, as well as the economy of trade war (Le Pelon et al.: 2001).

The Yemeni economy is characterized by being a rentier economy, meaning its continuous dependence on the external resources, whether those resources are revenues from oil sales, international aid, remittances from expatriate residents of the state, or a combination of some or all of these sources. The continuation of this model in Yemen has led to many economic and political consequences, perhaps the most prominent of which is the fragility of the state and the encouragement of informal groups to build themselves and revolt against them (Abdullah Al-Faqih: 2012).

6- Exploiting the state's institutional frameworks and enacting legislation (to raise taxes and customs):

Starting from October 2017, the sales tax on mobile and international communications increased to 22% instead of 10%, on fixed line and internet services from 5% to 10%, and on the domestic and imported cigarettes and tobacco to 120% instead of 90%, and the car tax from 5% to 15%, which will raise the tax revenue on vehicle sales to 6 billion annually (16 million\$) (Abdullah Abdul Rahman: 2017).

Under this clause, legal amendments were introduced and included the tax and zakat laws, and the segment of the major taxpayers was expanded from 1,300 expatriates whose commercial transactions exceeded 200 million riyals in the old law to more than 25 thousand expatriates whose commercial transactions exceeded 100 million riyals per year in the amended tax and zakat laws, (Middle East: 2020).

New customs were also imposed to counter the lack of revenue, as these measures targeted shipments and goods that were subject to procedures for paying customs duties at sea and land ports such as Aden sea port of Al-Wadiha land port, and this matter led to a significant increase in the prices of imported materials in these cities (Farouk Al-Kamali: 2017).

Customs offices have also been established at the entrances to some governorates, and their number has reached 7 offices in Afar in Al-Bayda, Maytam in Ibb Al-Qataba, Sufyan in Amran, an office in Dhamar, another in the center of Amran city, and in Sana'a (Sana'a control), and an office in Al-Hudhaydah, and in Shawaba Arhab in the north of Sana'a.

The daily average income of a single office is estimated at about 80 million Yemeni riyals, equivalent to 142 thousand dollars per day, and according to the statement of the economist Mustafa Nasr, the total customs revenues obtained during three years (2015, 2016, 2017) is 300 billion riyals (Al-Mashhad Al-Araby website: 2018).

A- Zakat Law:

According to what was stated in a report issued by the Economic Unit at the Sana'a Center in October 2020, zakat was distributed in accordance with Local Authority Law N°.4 of 2000, which incorporated zakat revenues in the budgets of local authorities at the governorate and district levels to be a main source of financing infrastructure projects, and in accordance with Article 123 of this law, 50% of the zakat revenues collected at the district level are returned in the form of local resources for them, and the remaining percentage goes in favor of the budget of the larger governorate, and this law is an executive regulation of the Yemeni Zakat Law N°. 2 for the year 1999 AD.

In June 2017, a decree was issued by the Ministry of Finance to redirect the zakat revenues from the local authority accounts to a special account in the Central Bank of Yemen, and with the continuation of the conflict, several measures were introduced in 2018, such as the abolition of the General Administration of Zakat duties and the creation of a new Zakat Authority under the name of the "General Authority of Zakat". The decision becomes the collection, distribution and management of zakat duties as a function of the General Authority of Zakat (<https://almawqeaepost.net/news/40776>).

B - The impact of the conflict on the prices of oil derivatives:

The 2015 decision to float the prices of oil derivatives was of particular importance for workers on the black market. It opened the way for them to revive the black market, and the decision to float the prices of oil hardships decided to lift subsidies on them and sell them in the local market at the global stock exchange price, and according to the average purchase price during the previous month, according to what was stated in the Yemeni news agency Saba (2015), where the field was opened to importing oil derivatives, after importing and providing them to the local market was

limited to the Yemeni government oil company.

Thus, the profits of sales of oil derivatives have doubled, and about 140 thousand tons per month are sold, which equals 49 million liters. When selling at an average price of a liter of diesel and petroleum 400 riyals, the monthly sales amount to 19 billion and 600 million Yemeni riyals, half of which is the price of cost, transportation and taxes, and the rest 9 billion and 800 million riyals are monthly profits, and the report added, through a simplified calculation process, 9 billion and 800 million riyals in the months of the year equals 117 billion riyals and 600 million riyals annually as net profits, in addition to 28 billion and 812 million riyals revenues from the fees of oil derivatives at the port of Al-Hudhaydah (Al-Montasaf Net: 2020).

7- Impact of the conflict on the Central Bank:

The introduction of the economy into the conflict clearly began in September 2016, after moving the headquarters of the Central Bank from Sana'a to the temporary capital, Aden, after the bank's reserves were exhausted and only 700 million\$ of its reserves remained by September 2016, after the amount of the foreigner cash reserve was about 4.6 billion dollars at the end of 2014 (Center for Strategic Studies: 2020). This step reflected negatively on the Central Bank as an institution; it was divided between the two sides of the conflict and its institutional capacity has decreased, which in turn affected the country's economy, public institutions and employees, and contributed to increasing the economic burden on Yemeni families.

8- Cash control:

Yemen did not find stability for the monetary currency, as it found many measures that contributed to the weak ability to control it, including:

- ♦ A new paper currency was issued in 2017, which was characterized by the poor quality of printed papers, as it was estimated to have a shelf life of only two years. This expansionary monetary policy in the following years and in 2018 witnessed an increase in the total money supply by 53%. According to an informed Yemeni banking official, the Central Bank in Aden has printed about 1.7 trillion Yemeni riyals of the new edition by the end of 2019 (Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies: 2020).
- ♦ The circulation of the new currency was prohibited in some areas of Yemen in order to mitigate the inflationary effects of the expansionary monetary policy, which led to the difference in foreign exchange rates between the north and south of Yemen during the period from 2018 AD to mid-December 2019 AD. These differences generally

ranged between 5 to 15 Yemeni riyals.

- ♦ The different pricing of new banknotes against old currencies increased the differential exchange rates for converting the riyal into foreign currencies between Yemeni regions. As the exchange rate in 2019 reached 582 Yemeni riyals per US dollar in some regions, while it reached 612 riyals per US dollar in other regions, with a difference of 5%. This discrepancy increased as a result of this new liquidity movement, and the exchange rate jumped in some areas to 655 Yemeni riyals per US dollar compared to 590 riyals per one dollar in other regions, with a difference of about 11%, as a result, the bankers raised fees for remittances. Recently the national currency collapsed to lose 25% of its value after the dollar's exchange rate was about 661 in April, to rise in September 2020 to 825 riyals. The percentage of what the Yemeni riyal lost in its value within five years of War 176%.

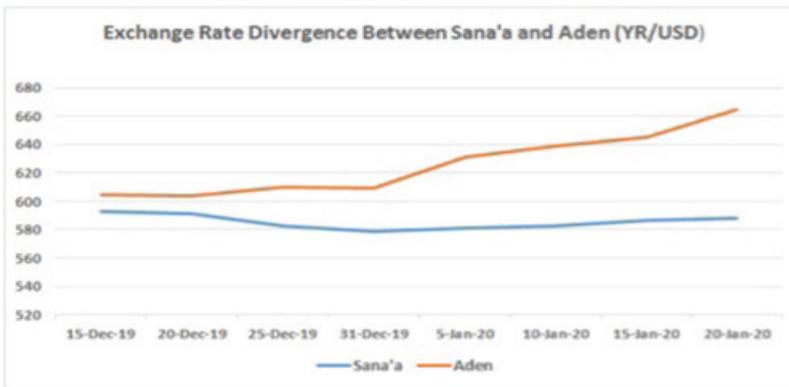


Figure (7): Comparison of exchange rates between Sana'a and Aden for the year 2020

9- Suffering of the banking sector:

In March 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) requested, as it periodically does, data on the official banking sector in Yemen, and the Central Bank in Aden had provided it until the end of 2019, but it failed to force financial institutions to continue providing their data to it in 2020 AD, and as a result, the bank began imposing fines on banks and companies, and so the banks and exchange institutions found themselves within the conflict. Therefore, the Yemen Banks Association and the Yemeni Exchangers Association sought implementation measures to create a neutral space that would enable the entities operating in the financial sector to perform their work, however these efforts were unsuccessful.



10- Impact of the conflict on the private sector:

Many economic images emerged as a result of the conflict that affected the private sector, including:

- The first shock:

After six months of the conflict, reports confirmed that 26% of business enterprises have closed their doors and lost more than 70% of their customer base in the most affected areas by the conflict, and that 95% of the projects that were closed have incurred partial or total material damage. As well, nearly 41% of the commercial enterprises had discharged more than half of their workforce by October 2015, and the working hours in the institutions were reduced by 50.6% from 13.5 hours per day before March 2015 to 6.7 hours per day, after that period (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: 2016).

- Resilience of the private sector:

After the first shock, the private sector showed great flexibility and a high ability to adapt to the conditions of war despite the many challenges compared to the public sector, which witnessed a large and widespread collapse in the field of service provision and the performance of state institutions. During the period 2015 AD to 2016 AD, the percentage of the private sector contribution in the GDP has reduced to 18% compared to the public sector, which was estimated at 31% during the same period. In addition, the private sector's contribution to the Real Gross Domestic Product increased from 62.3% in 2014 to 70% in 2016 (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperative: 2018). As the private sector has emerged as a vital player on the ground in light of the fragmentation of the government sector, and has filled the gap that has emerged in the provision of the basic services.

Results:

The current report reached the following conclusions:

- ♦ The armed conflict has created major and harsh negative effects on the Yemeni economy, some of which were momentary halted by the cessation of the impact, and some of them are still continuing today and intensifying, which is the conflict between the financial centers (banks) in Sana'a and Aden. The difference in the policies of both banks has resulted in many negative effects that directly affected the

private sector and companies, pushing the local currency towards further deterioration that the citizen pays for on a daily basis, as well as these policies are negatively reflected on the prices of goods, foodstuffs, services prices and oil derivatives.

- ♦ The current conflict has created two financial systems in one country, and caused great chaos and losses to the national economy, and the depth of the human tragedy.
- ♦ The deterioration of the national currency is the flame or spark of the decline in the prices of goods and services of various kinds, and the deepening of the humanitarian situation for the worse.
- ♦ The private sector suffered great losses immediately after the outbreak of the conflict, as 26% of the business enterprises closed their doors and lost more than 70% of their customer base. Nevertheless, the private sector played a vital role and worked to fill the gap that had arisen in the provision of basic services.
- ♦ Due to the suspension of oil revenues, the Yemeni Central Bank was forced to use its cash stock of hard currency, as the bank's reserves decreased from 5.23 billion dollars to 700 million dollars.
- ♦ The human development has declined by twenty years as a result of the ongoing conflict in Yemen.

Conclusion:

We made sure that this report is an analytical survey about the conflict in Yemen and its impact on the economic side and on the activities of statistical institutional entities. Economic bulletins issued by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Central Bank of Yemen, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and other sectors that were issued annually and are considered a source of reliable information (a source of official data) that can be referred to, studied and extracted from effects have stopped.

Despite the scarcity of information, we were unable to obtain accurate statistical information showing the magnitude of the losses resulting from the conflict in the health, educational, electricity, roads, communications sector and others, and not only this, but there is a scarcity of resources about the extent of the destruction of the private property, commercial and non-commercial, in order to clarify the magnitude of the economic losses resulting from direct destruction in numbers, and there is also a scarcity of information in order to calculate the losses caused by the conflict on the standard of living and life of citizens. Hence, an investigative field research should be conducted to obtain information targeting all the families



in all the governorates to identify the extent of losses incurred by families in terms of debts, loss of savings, job opportunities and sources of income, as well as in order to identify other effects caused by the conflict such as the disabilities, chronic diseases, loss of housing and deprivation of education, health services, breadwinner displacement, migration, loss, and a collapse in the family economy compared to the pre-conflict period.

In general, we have seen that this article becomes an economic report that describes, as much as possible, the impact of the conflict on the economic side, as we based obtaining information on the economic reports issued by the various economic centers, and on the press releases issued by economic experts and international and local organizations interested in the humanitarian affairs in Yemen.

It can be said that all previous reports were published dealing with the general estimated indicators of the Yemeni economy, and that there is no accurate monitoring of the size of the cumulative losses that have affected the Yemeni citizen since the first day of the conflict. Indeed, the Yemeni citizen himself has become unable to remember the size of his losses as it has become a daily routine and almost endless suffering.

It should be noted that the material losses occur only once, but some losses in the cost of living and survival that vary from one individual to another remain cumulative losses, for example electricity cuts have led to large losses among the citizens as a result of their demand for other alternatives that are not disciplined and have the desired effect only after spending many times, this applies to many things.

In short, the conflict resulted in a terrible economic hemorrhage at the general level of the country, and unfortunately this bleeding did not extend to the conflicting parties, but rather it affected the citizen, his life and livelihood. The citizen is the one who pays the price of the collected goods twice, he is the one who bears the new tax innovations, consequences of the rise of oil derivatives and rise in prices, and he is the one who bears the monopoly of parallel markets (black markets) or gray markets, and he is the one who pays taxes ... etc., while the conflicting entities became possessing parallel economies of their own (the war economy), which increased their power, which would complicate the chances of peace now and in the future, every entity in the conflict sees that everything that has been acquired is a right for it and the fruit of the martyrs or the lives that it has exerted cannot be waived. This right is seeking more gains, as the conflicting entities have become the heroes of a recurring, circular spiral of conflict in which the Yemeni citizen is draining and crushed in a frightening cumulative manner since 2015 until now, and fueled by the economics of wars and international interventions.

The report indicated that the involvement of the conflicting parties in the economic file has resulted in negative economic effects, as each entity used its papers in this conflict without taking into account the economic effects that the Yemeni citizen will incur, as well as the national currency was inserted into the conflict circle, and the financial institutions in its various sectors (customs, taxes), and the private sector won the greatest luck, and some sectors became subject to more than one authority, especially commercial banks, and some of these sectors still suffer from this problem in light of their inability to find common ground that enables them to withstand without extinction.

Finally, we recommend conducting an economic research that deals with the effects of the conflict in Yemen, and this research should allocate the possible resources and capabilities, and it can be done in two phases. The first phase covers the northern regions and the second covers the southern regions, and it includes historical samples at the household, regional and geographical levels, in addition to conducting a detailed evaluation in conjunction with the various institutions in an impartial manner without involving the political aspect in any way.

Recommendations:

The current report recommends the following:

- ♦ Ending the conflict in Yemen between the conflicting parties to achieve peace and development.
- ♦ Maintaining the basic services and infrastructure, in addition to fighting the corruption in all state agencies, and supporting the political and security stability.
- ♦ Reducing the conflict between the two branches of the Central Bank in Sana'a and Aden, and working to find common ground for the other economic sectors under their umbrella.
- ♦ The need to support the Yemeni riyal in a way that increases its value against the dollar.
- ♦ Working to unify the financial centers in Yemen (banks) in order to strengthen the local currency.
- ♦ Seeking, through the United Nations and international organizations funded by communicating with foreign banks, to lift the ban on the Republic of Yemen with regard to dealing with it in the field of banking activity and to facilitate the transfer of funds, to and from Yemen, to finance foreign trade, expatriate remittances and legitimate government transfers through the Central Bank of Yemen and local banks.

- ♦ Prompt negotiation with the companies operating the fields of oil and gas production, transportation and export, or logistical services companies for a speedy return to the production and export operations.
- ♦ Prompt negotiations with regional and international funding agencies, such as the World Bank, International Development Association (IDA), the International and Arab Monetary Funds, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Islamic Bank, the Saudi Development Fund, the Kuwaiti Fund, the Abu Dhabi Fund, OPEC and other organizations and donor countries, to lift the ban on their financing for projects that are supposed to be established and implemented, as well securing direct financing and withdrawals from the loans, aid and grants for projects under the direct supervision of these organizations and countries through exceptional procedures under the supervision of the concerned ministries.
- ♦ Lifting the maritime and air embargo on all Yemeni ports and airports to facilitate the economic and commercial activity.

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*Community empowerment Is the Basis
for Promoting Comprehensive Develop-
ment in Yemen*

(Suggested Proposal)

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List of Contents

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page</i>
- Summary	102
- Introduction	103
- Objectives	105
- Terms	105
Community Empowerment	
- Concept of empowerment	106
- Objectives of Empowerment	106
- Dimensions of Empowerment and its Strategy	108
- Criterion of Community Empowerment	108
- Stages of Empowerment and its Policies	109
- Empowerment and Sustainable Development	111
- Empowerment, Gender and its Relation with the Development	112
- Education	114
Poverty	
-Concept of Poverty	117
- Poverty Conditions in Yemen	119
- Reasons of Poverty in Yemen	120
- Impacts of Poverty	121
- Relation of Empowerment in Eliminating Poverty	124
Challenges that Community Empowerment face	
-Concept of Challenges	126
-Challenges of Empowering the Yemeni Community Members	126
- Challenges Facing the Education System in Yemen	127
Developmental Experiences	
-Qatar Experience	129
- Malaysia Experience	130
-UAE Experience	133
- Saudi Arabia Experience	135
- The Egyptian Arabic Republic	136
- Community Development Empowerment in Iraq	137

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page</i>
- Commentary on Developmental Experiences	138
The Suggested Proposal for Community Empowerment in Yemen	
Proposal for Community Empowerment in Yemen	141
-Conclusion	147
List of References and Sources	149
Index of Figures	
Figure N°. (1) Dimensions of the Community Empowerment	107
Figure No. (2) Stages of the Community Empowerment	109
Figure No. (3) Policies of the Community Empowerment	111
Figure No. (4) Poverty in Yemen and its Link to Eight of the Millennium Goals	119

Summary:

The report reviews the issue of community empowerment as a basis for advancing development in Yemen, where Yemen is experiencing a large-scale humanitarian emergency resulting from the ongoing conflicts and its decline in all areas of development, widening poverty, lack of basic services, absence of state authority, and weak rule of law in many areas. The conflicts have also displaced thousands of Yemeni families and affected families of others in one way or another. This crisis is considered one of the worst humanitarian crises that Yemen has experienced, and the citizen is still living under its continuous repercussions.

It is no longer feasible to look at the challenges facing Yemen in this critical period away from the human resources, and in order to get out of the current situation, it has become necessary to make the issue of the community empowerment a basic rule, as reconstruction and restoration of the economic and social situation will not be effective without empowering community members and developing their skills and capabilities.

The report referred to the most important difficulties facing Yemen, which are: the expansion of poverty, deterioration of the educational system, weakness of mechanisms for empowering human resources in particular the vulnerable groups, including women. The report also reviewed the context of empowerment, its goals, stages and dimensions, in addition to its review of six Arab and regional development experiences.

Finally, the draft report presented a suggested proposal for the community empowerment to advance the comprehensive development in Yemen in a way that suits the Yemeni society. The proposal presented a mechanism to raise the capacity of community members to rely on self-reliance, reduce poverty, raise the educational level, and employ empowerment strategies by activating the community participation in identifying needs, arranging priorities and taking decisions to benefit from all the natural resources and manage their distribution optimally to work on employing the development empowerment strategies that are consistent with the local capabilities and resources, raise the level of education, and secure the decent livelihoods for all the members of society in a fair and equal manner, in order to be an essential step in achieving the comprehensive development goals and social justice to provide a decent lifestyle for all the members of society equally.

Key Words: Community Empowerment, Development Advancement

Introduction:

The empowerment is a development strategy that represents a set of mechanisms and activities aimed at helping individuals, groups and societies to overcome the challenges they face in order to become able to achieve their goals and improve their living conditions. The empowerment is achieved when more responsibility and decision-making power is given to vulnerable individuals. In fact, the primary goal of the empowerment is to equip individuals with the skills to develop their abilities to reach a better standard of life, and to have the ability to discover themselves in order to work on increasing the options available to them and their societies in order to improve the access to their rights at all levels.

It is well known that the development is centered on the individuals and their environment more than on the profits and production. Therefore, creating opportunities for members of society by providing a set of standards and services, such as: working to reduce poverty, improving educational opportunities, providing appropriate health care, and acquiring strategies to the community members, in addition to empowering women in various fields as it is an essential element in the process of promoting development. All of this must be provided for the individuals to be able to contribute to the developmental advancement.

Japan is a pioneer in the economic development, as it provided the appropriate opportunities for its people, especially in the field of education, and it was the first before the European countries in terms of the education and the number of learners, and then good education led to the economic development and this was positively reflected in the development of human resources capabilities and skills in Japan.

The rise in the economy of many European countries is due to their interest in human development; that is why many theories have indicated the importance of caring for human capital as a fundamental pillar leading to the social and economic development, and for this reason, the empowerment is a set of strategies and mechanisms aimed at moving society from a stable or unsatisfactory position to a better one, which is a process of continuous development and improvement.

We can also say that the empowerment is a social, administrative, economic, cultural and political process that works to develop society and advance the skills and abilities of its members. Hence, the specialists in the field of development believe that the empowerment in order to advance development must proceed according to planned and organized stages in accordance with the requirements of society, and community members must participate in planning and determining the priorities of its needs, as well



the members of society must be involved in proposing and implementing the appropriate alternatives.

Among the dimensions of empowerment to achieve sustainable development: self-development, social, administrative, economic, environmental, and local community development.

What the current report focuses on is how to activate societal empowerment for the development of the Yemeni community because the development, in light of the current situation and its repercussions, has become overly dependent (Dependence), and the Yemeni society has become a passive recipient of development.

The history of Yemen urges the cooperation and self-reliance. In the past, the community cooperatives were the ones that brought about a developmental advancement and drive, and the example of the tremendous development that occurred years from the period of ruling of the late Ibrahim Al-Hamdi. During a short period of his ruling (three years), economic and social development was achieved, and Yemen got into lending the World Bank itself.

Generally speaking, the human resources are considered the most important pillar of the developmental advancement in its various fields, thus the development will not be achieved unless the human wealth is utilized as it is the goal of development, its basic tool, and capable of implementing the progress and building.

Objectives of the report

In order to find systematic solutions to confront these challenges, the strategic goal is to present a proposal to activate development empowerment strategies for the Yemeni society, and to reach this strategic goal, the following goals will be achieved:

1. Providing strategies and solutions for poverty reduction.
2. Introducing a mechanism to develop the education system in all its fields and stages, and eradicate illiteracy.
3. Promoting and activating strategies the developmental empowerment of human resources and gender.

In order to achieve these goals, the main challenges will be addressed throughout the present report, and those challenges are: poverty, education system, weakness of empowerment strategies for human resources and gender, in addition to reviewing the empowerment axis in terms of: the empowerment concept, goals, dimensions, strategy, community empowerment standards, empowerment strategies and policies, empowerment and sustainable development, empowerment and gender and its relation to development, empowerment relation to the poverty eradication and empowerment challenges.

The Basic Report Terms:

Developmental empowerment: It is the empowerment of individuals, groups and communities with skills that give them the ability to properly manage their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals, and also equip them with the mechanism through which they, individuals and groups, are able to help themselves and others to achieve the maximum value of their lives.

Advancing development: It is working on developing the capabilities of the local community members to help themselves participating in identifying their needs, planning to meet these needs, following up on, implementing and evaluating all the development plans, especially those that concern them and affect their needs. And it is clear here that the actions that the community wants to change and create are directly related to the community members that embodies the importance of the community empowerment and increasing their ability to raise the level of options among the community members to achieve their interests and societies and move them to a better condition in all social, economic and political fields.



Community Empowerment

► *The concept of empowerment:*

The Empowerment is a planned and organized process that aims to raise the political, social, economic capabilities and skills of individuals and societies to help them make the most appropriate choices and transform those options into the desired actions and results.

The empowerment, as an activity, refers to the process of self-empowerment and professional support for individuals that allows them to overcome their feeling of powerlessness, lack of leverage, awareness and use of their resources, to change their situation for the better.

In the field of the social work, the empowerment is a practical method of directed intervention towards developing the human resource skills and capabilities. The empowerment is also seen as a mechanism that works to provide the citizen's rights and give him responsibility towards his community and his country. The empowerment is also a key concept in the discourse related to promoting the effective community participation.

The empowerment, as a concept, is a move away from the powerless feeling towards a more power-oriented perception, and it can be found increasingly in the administrative and development sciences, as well as in the fields of the continuing education and self-help (Baquer: 2019).

► *Empowerment Goals:*

The empowerment generally aims to provide individuals with the capability to discover themselves and the abilities and skills that they possess leading them to the quality of life they want. The development does not mean getting more, but developing for the better, increasing the options available, improving access to various rights and services, and enhancing the capabilities of individuals. Herbert (1980) adds the following sub-goals of the empowerment process serving to connect the individuals to manage their lives:

- ◆ The empowerment is concerned with increasing the individuals' confidence in their abilities and their independence.
- ◆ Helping the individuals to identify their capabilities more appropriately in order to find self-solutions to their problems.
- ◆ Managing the personal life affairs and being able to handle the daily life matters.
- ◆ Getting the individuals to use their intense capabilities to work with others to bring about change.

- ♦ Creating a developmental context conducive to participation and interaction based on developing skills, abilities, self-confidence, and opportunities for cognitive development (Al-Shuaibni; et al.: 2018).

► *Empowerment Dimensions:*

The empowerment has several basic dimensions, and the following are these dimensions:

1) **Social Empowerment:**

The social empowerment refers to raising the capabilities of individuals and groups to independently establish relationships and conduct the necessary institutional and environmental activities to ensure their well-being and productivity.

2) **Economic Empowerment:**

It can be reached by securing more suitable jobs and livelihoods for the most vulnerable and focusing on youth, women and people with disabilities. And concerning the economy, the empowerment is essential to the eradication of poverty.

3) **Political Empowerment:**

The political empowerment refers to the level of broadening the participation of citizens in decision-making, and increasing the ability of the vulnerable groups to influence the processes that aim at achieving their well-being.

4) **Legal empowerment:**

It takes place through facilitating the principle of transparency, activating legal accountability, being able to ensure justice for those living in poverty, and providing individuals with the opportunity to claim their rights (The World Summit for Social Development: 2013).



Figure No (1) Community Empowerment Dimensions

Source: Report team according to the theoretical frame of the empowerment Dimensions



► *Empowerment Strategy:*

One of the empowerment strategies is to help the most vulnerable individuals defining their priorities and needs on the basis that they are the most capable of knowing what they need the most, and that managing change for the better can only come with their active participation in all stages. The process of empowering individuals or groups is the method for the full access to the personal or collective power, authority and influence, and the use of that power when dealing with the others, institutions, or society.

More precisely, the empowerment does not give the individuals the power because the individuals already possess a lot of power, rather, the empowerment is represented in the wealth of generating the knowledge and motivation in individuals to better do their work, encouraging them to acquire knowledge and skills that qualify them to better overcome the difficulties they face in their organizations or societies, and helping them develop their own and societal capabilities.

► *Empowerment Criteria and Conditions:*

The criteria and conditions that must be met for a sustainable community empowerment process are:

- 1) Activating the rule of law over everyone.
- 2) Introducing a civil system mechanism and reducing centralization at the governorate and district levels in order to ensure the availability of standards for coordination and accountability.
- 3) An inclusive and wide-ranging participation that involves the participation of all the concerned bodies and stakeholders in light of the availability of multiple channels of participation.
- 4) Activating the principles of governance and accountability at all levels.
- 5) Providing opportunities for participation that could affect decision-making processes.
- 6) Distinguishing between all the short and long-term goals while achieving rapid progress in the specific procedures in the short term in order to ensure legitimacy and maintain both compliance standards, and proposals related to the investment plans and financing strategy.
- 7) Facilitating the process planners in a manner characterized by skill, independence and flexibility.
- 8) Choosing the appropriate tools for the forms of participation processes according to their purpose.

- 9) Generating the desire in individuals to strive for results, supported by the necessary techniques to resolve the emerging conflicts.
- 10) Providing the support and cooperation with civil society institutions, and making use of the methodologies applied in organizing the activities of vulnerable groups to enable them in an appropriate manner.
- 11) Implementing monitoring and evaluation processes in order to monitor progress and results, and learn from experiences.
- 12) Strengthening the linkages in terms of legislation and practices between the various sectors working in the field of planning and implementation of all activities (World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

► *Stages of the Empowerment Process:*

1) Community awareness

The community awareness is one of the most important steps for successfully implementing the empowerment process, which helps achieving the comprehensive, sustainable development in societies.

2) Initiation and granting of authority

The first step is considered to be the beginning of the entry of the members of society to be an effective party in the development processes, and the efforts of the various parties must be directed to granting the members of society, especially the vulnerable groups, the right to effective and appropriately possible participation.

3) Community organization

The second step in the empowerment process is the formation of intermediaries represented by NGOs, associations, and community-based institutions, because the community organizing process requires forces that help in capacity-building training processes.

4) Community development continuity

This will be a very important step to ensure the continuity of the impact of the empowerment and to complete the activities of the empowerment process as needed in the future, as it allows community members to practice the self-development. (Tariq: 2014).



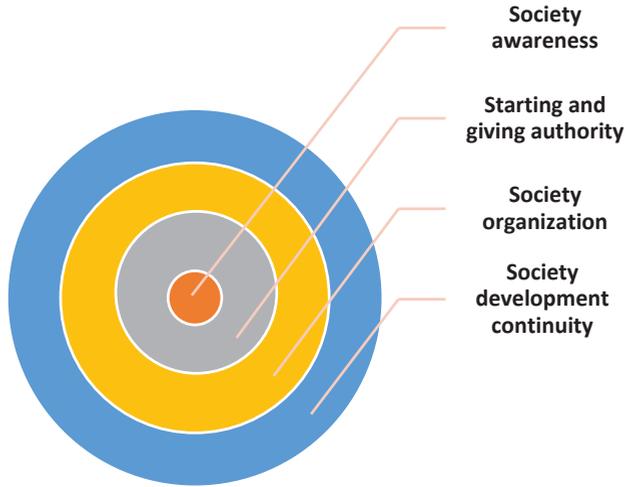


Figure No (2) Stages of the Community Empowerment

Source: Report team according to the theoretical frame of empowerment stages

► Empowerment Policies:

1) Social protection:

The social protection has proven to be an effective tool of empowerment for individuals, families and groups, working to reduce poverty, vulnerabilities and disparities, as well as to enhance the social inclusion approach.

2) Investing in education, skills training and health in the interest of achieving the empowerment and improving livelihoods:

In order to contribute to reducing poverty, creating job opportunities and encouraging social inclusion, it is imperative to focus on education and training, imparting skills to the community members and providing access to the health care as indispensable components of any empowerment strategy.

It is also working to expand the availability of information through information and communication technology, such as the Internet, mobile phones, and social media platforms that may help facilitate the participation.

3) Participation, Governance and Accountability:

The governance standards are a very important element in reducing and eliminating poverty and achieving social inclusion, as empowerment leads to the promotion of good governance that is characterized by the participation of the members of society, including the

vulnerable groups, building consensus, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, efficiency, parity and inclusiveness. (World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

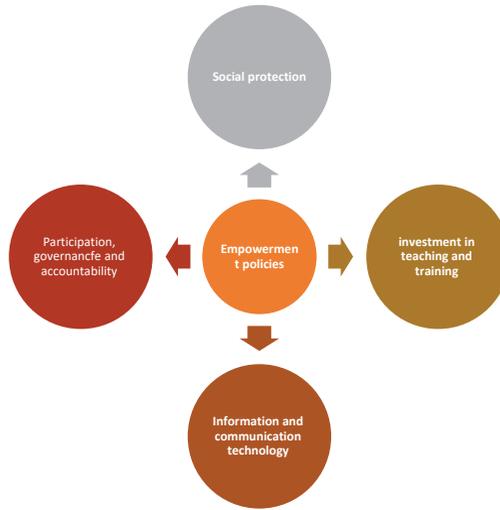


Figure No (3) Community Empowerment Policies

Source: Report team according to the theoretical frame of the community empowerment policies

► *Empowerment and sustainable development:*

The participation of all members of society in social, economic and political life is an important element that enables the achievement of sustainable development. It requires addressing challenges such as climate change and fundamental changes in human behavior in terms of both production and consumption patterns. These changes can be effectively achieved when people participate in the development of plans, policies, programs and their implementation.

► *Empowerment, gender and its relation to development:*

Empowering all the members of society (men and women) is the main pillar for developing the capabilities and skills that could not be unleashed without their empowerment. And in light of achieving the standards and foundations of social justice, equal opportunities, integrating gender in all plans and comprehensive development programs, raising community awareness of gender issues, enhancing the role of women in the family and society, and raising their capabilities and empowerment politically, socially and economically.



The empowerment is one of the most recent modern methods of inclusion and its means, and the success of development programs, ensuring their sustainability, and society's ability to absorb them can only be achieved with the participation of both men and women.

Therefore, the empowerment is often linked to equality and the consequent provision of fair opportunities for all in the use of society's resources and non-discrimination on the basis of gender, which makes both men and women freedom to work and produce, to act and control, which leads to support the implementation of the sustainable development process. (Al-Zalab: 2005).

Women and Empowerment

The religion confirms the fact that human life will not continue, create and develop without the presence of male and female (men and women).

In the national and international charters of the twenty-first century, the world unites, from all the countries, religions, parties, organizations, legislation, and laws, that enabling a decent life for the human being will only be achieved by realizing equality between men and women in rights and duties to ensure the sustainable development of the earth and the human being. In fact, it is achieved through the effective participation of both, men and women, as they are essential partners in building and developing societies.

From this standpoint, many global, international, Arab and domestic laws and charters have been approved and promulgated that affirm the importance of women's participation in building and developing societies, as stipulated in the articles of the Yemeni constitution and laws.

▶ *Low Participation of Women in Decision-Making Positions*

Women are the main partner for men in building and advancing community development and decision-making, which should be actual on the ground. The absence of women from their real and actual role has led to the occurrence of large and deep gaps in the process of building and developing society.

This was the result of many reasons and factors, including religious beliefs that are subject to the interpretation of some of those involved in the interpretation of the legal texts according to their own understanding and in what often serves their selfishness, as well as some customs, traditions, laws and legislations that are unfair to women.

▶ *Yemeni Women, in the Past and the Present:*

For centuries, Yemeni women have been playing their role in building and developing society. In fact, their role and participation had led to the existence of the ancient civilizational Yemeni state since thousands of years, including the Kingdom of Saba, Himyar, and Ma'in ... etc. Yemeni women were famous for their existence and their role in governance, politics and leadership, such as the Queen of Saba, Queen Bilqis in the time of the Prophet Solomon, and the Queen Sayyidah Bint Ahmed Al-Sulayhi during the era of the Sulayhid state and other Yemeni women.

During the past two decades, Yemeni women were able to gradually return to the pursuit of their role and participation in building the society, but they were not able to actually reach the actual and real participation at the required level, but only managed to achieve some rights and tangible participation in the education and health sector, and participation in the record and registration in the elections, while still being deprived of its right to explore the depths of the political sector.

▶ *The Political Participation of Yemeni Women:*

The political participation of Yemeni women is below the required level. Despite the progress witnessed by the status of Yemeni women in the areas of health and education, there are no similar indicators in the political field. The status of women in participating in the public and political life in the Arab region in general, and in the Yemeni region in particular, is among the lowest estimations in the world.

We can say that there is a very large gap between the international orientations and decisions and the reality of empowering the Yemeni women politically. While the Yemeni state tries to fulfill in its constitution and laws the requirements of the Arab and international orientations and decisions, there is, in practice, a great discrepancy between the essence of these orientations and the reality of the political empowerment of Yemeni women. As the women's exercise of her role in public life has become a national and humanitarian necessity, and in order to achieve this, there must be a supportive political will for women to access the parliament and the position of decision-making in order to be able to provide the support in the political field because they are more appropriate to build the societal fabric, thus the citizenship rights will remain grossly deficient if women are not empowered to participate in the public sphere, as it is a deficiency in the effective practice, not just in the legal legislation

The Yemeni women in the modern era are exposed to many practices

and beliefs that weaken their role and participation in building and advancing the development of society.

► *The Concept of Empowering Women:*

It is the process that makes women capable to take the strategic decisions providing them the skills and abilities that enable them to manage their lives.

Empowerment of women can also be defined as the process that leads to women's ownership of resources and the development of their ability to benefit from them and manage them more appropriately to achieve a set of accomplishments according to their acquired capabilities. And here the importance of having a set of elements available for women to be able to exercise their choices, including: management, resources, and goals. The management refers to a woman's ability to define the strategic goals that she wants to reach in her life, act on those goals, and to make decisions based on the results of those goals. While the resources refer to the expectations and the material, social and human aspect, as the goals refer to a variety of results that start from achieving a decent standard of living and improving it, and ending with the realization of the principle of the representation of women in the positions of taking the ticks and the political sphere.

Education

Education is the best mechanism and the primary factor for improving the living conditions of all members of society, and the most capable element of bringing about social, cultural and economic change, and the most efficient way to achieve development in its various fields. Those concerned with education affairs face great challenges by bridging the big gap between the minimum necessary and basic needs, and the quality and quantity of the educational services that are currently available.

The education we advocate must be united with practice, and it means reshaping the awareness with the aim of empowering people to defend their human rights and freedoms and calling for them to actually undertake and codify them more precisely and consistently than the constitutions include. In fact, the education and empowerment, that is, knowledge and practice, are inseparable. There is no minimal benefit from the education unless it means freedom from fear and the effective exercise of rights as part of the duty and civil responsibility of every citizen (Al-Naim, 2000: 36).

And because of the conditions that Yemen is experiencing from continuous conflicts over the course of 7 years, it has led to the collapse of the educational system, which was previously characterized by indicators of weakness. The low level of education is one of the reasons of the spread of poverty, as poor education is a factor with a major role in the expansion of poverty.

Poverty affects the level of the access to education opportunities. At the same time, the quality education is an important requirement for the poor due to the low access to it due to the accompanying material costs required to meet their needs in terms of supplies, books and other needs. The impact of poverty on poor students is reflected in their inability to focus and follow up school lessons, as they live in unsuitable places, or because they are malnourished due to the food insecurity.

The reality of education in Yemen:

Education is a fundamental factor in improving the living conditions and achieving development goals. Education indicators are very low, as the illiteracy rate among the community members is high, and in recent times, due to conditions, the enrollment rates have decreased more than before, for example in primary education, grades 1-9.

There is a wide gap between males and females in terms of the enrollment in education, especially in the rural areas, where the education faces many social, cultural and economic challenges and obstacles, and this is caused by poor distribution of resources due to the widespread of financial and administrative corruption, ineffective use of the available resources, and inappropriate distribution for the educational facilities that interfere with a set of considerations outside the regulation of the educational system, in addition to the quality of education.

The educational situation in Yemen is characterized by indicators that are considered the worst in the world in terms of the phenomenon of drop-out, the high rate of illiteracy, in addition to the recent low enrollment rates in basic and university education, especially among girls, and the widening gap in education between males and females, as well as between the countryside and cities.

There is a weakness in the efficiency of using and distributing resources in an optimal manner and explained by some parties to the scarcity of resources, in addition to the problems of distributing the educational facilities, limited educational inputs, their low quality, and the weakness of the educational management, in addition to the economic, social and cultural difficulties that affect the education system.



Some reports related to the education in Yemen have indicated that about half of the Yemeni citizens of adulthood who are fortunate enough can read and write. As for the children who enroll in the basic education, they do not exceed 70% in the best cases, and less than a quarter of girls in the rural areas are of primary education age, and less than half of the total number of girls of primary school age.

The war and armed conflicts in Yemen from 2015 until 2020 have contributed to the destruction of the educational process, and the size of the damage to the public education can be indicated as follows (Al-Khatib; Al-Raymi: 2021):

1. Education for All: Yemen has failed to achieve the Education for All goals by the year 2015, despite receiving aid amounting to about 800 million US dollars.
2. Human development: Yemen was ranked 153 in the year 2015 in the human development index (HDI), then it ranked 179 in 2020 out of 189 countries, and the expectations indicate that Yemen will not be able to achieve any of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030, and nearly a quarter of a million people have died as a result of the fighting directly, and as a result of the indirect availability of food, health services and infrastructure. Children under five formed 60% of the dead, and the conflict hindered development 21 years until 2019, and if the conflict ends in 2022, the development will regress 26 years over a single generation.
3. School book: The war led to a shortage in the printing of the school book due to the prevention of the entry of papers, stationery and ink for its printing, and as a result of the lack of financial resources for printing and the donor countries' suspension of support, it all caused harm to more than five million students in their education, and deprived them from 56,565,868 school books. It reflected negatively on the educational process in Yemen, and the average annual deficit in printing school books was about 84%, equivalent to one copy of the curriculum for every 7 students.
4. Educational cadre: The number of the educational cadres affected by the war and whose salaries have stopped since 2016 reached about 196,197 educators, or about 65% of the total educational cadre in Yemen, as well as the total number of educational staff working in the affected facilities reached 90,189 educators, i.e., 29.7 % of the total of that cadre.
5. Material losses of the public education due to the war: The Ministry of Education estimated the direct losses of damage to the education sector during the period from 26 March 2015 until 26 March 2020

at about 3 trillion riyals, and the total cost of losses and material damage of the education sector as a result of the continued targeting of schools and educational facilities was estimated for 383,110,000 dollars.

6. The human losses of the war: According to a report by the Global Education Coalition entitled “Education under attack” (9 July 2020), more than 5,000 students, teachers, and academics were injured, killed, and harmed in Yemen during the period 2015-2019, in addition to 3,804 wounded.

Poverty

► *Idiomatic Concept of Poverty:*

It is the lack of community members to the basic requirements recognized within the prevailing social framework of the family and the individual, and is represented in the failure to meet these needs to the point of inability to meet the needs of food, drink and housing in a manner that contradicts the requirements of a decent life. In addition, poverty has a set of indicators that goes beyond economic indicators such as: health status deterioration, low level of education, prevalence of deviant behavior, high crime rate, low level of individuals skills, as well as lack of job opportunities.

► *Poverty Phenomenon:*

Poverty is a social phenomenon with socio-economic dimensions, and multiple political implications. No society is devoid of it despite the difference in degrees of need, and some reports indicate that one-fifth of the world’s population has been classified as poor deprived of the minimum opportunities for a decent and safe living.

Despite the difference in defining the concept of poverty and its standards, the low and lack of per capita income is the main focus of this phenomenon, and this is accompanied by the weak ability to provide the necessary life requirements of food, drink and clothing, in addition to other necessary supplies such as medicine.

The impact of the phenomenon of poverty in Yemen increases due to the continuous conflicts, and the methods of treatment that aim to reduce this dangerous phenomenon and its effects vary accordingly. The concept of poverty may go beyond the economic dimension to represent the social,

psychological and cultural aspect related to the human dimension of poverty.

The financial and administrative corruption in state institutions is one of the factors that exacerbate the phenomenon of poverty, and this corruption has led to the class inequality through the emergence of obscene wealth and extreme poverty among the different groups of society, as well the absence of the equal rights standards, and the problem of poverty is closely linked to the deterioration of economic and political performance, which caused the emergence of differences that have turned into litigations and armed conflicts over large areas that have caused many businesses to stop, the deterioration of the situation of agricultural lands and farmers, and increasing the unemployment and the unemployed.

This, in turn, has led to a deterioration in the standard of living in general, in the economic situation in various areas of life and cast a shadow over the citizens. The lack of salaries exacerbated the worsening situation, which increased the rate of poverty, the loss of agricultural lands, assets and businesses, and the deterioration of per capita income, and in many cases the lack of it. In addition, the living conditions have deteriorated to the greatest extent, then infrastructure services in general, in addition to the spread of epidemics and diseases and the increase in deaths due to preoccupation with conflict management. This matter calls for urgent solutions to save the community members. International reports indicated that more than 20 million Yemenis are exposed to an inevitable state of famine.

In addition to the above, the continuing violent conflicts in Yemen have led to severe disruption in economic activity and exports of materials, in addition to severe damage to the infrastructure and suspension of basic services, which exacerbated the phenomenon of displacement and its spread and the situation worsened. And from here, it is imperative to work on housing the displaced, providing the most basic necessities of life for different groups and segments, preserving the dignity of affected individuals and families and supporting them in equal access to food, housing, protection, health and all the rights that guarantee their lives in dignity and safety.

In order for poverty to end, the war and armed conflicts must end, and the Yemeni people must begin to reunite, and to call for a national reconciliation that brings together all spectrum and groups in conflict, and to work on implementing reconstruction development projects in all fields to end the suffering of the Yemeni people and provide decent living under a safe and stable situation.

► *Poverty Conditions in Yemen:*

The poverty gap index reaches 8.9%, which means that there is a per capita deficit of up to 497 Yemeni riyals per month. On average, a poor individual should receive 1,431 Yemeni riyals per month in order to be able to break out of poverty. Typically targeting the poor requires 124.4 billion Yemeni riyals per year (about 4% of GDP) to bridge the gap between the actual spending of poor families and the poverty line. (World Bank January 2010).

Several international reports have also indicated that a large segment of the Yemeni population is in dire need of basic needs, and some reports have shown that 24.7 million which represents 80% of the population, are in urgent need of assistance, and that 16.2 million individuals are in urgent need. And that 4 million people have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict, children represent about 74% of the total number of the displaced people, and there are 137,000 foreign refugees living on the Yemeni territory.



Figure (4): Poverty in Yemen is related to eight of the Millennium Objectives

► *Causes of Poverty:*

Poverty is the product of a set of natural and human factors, local policies and external factors that combine together to create an environment conducive to the spread and increase of poverty, and manifestations of poverty differ from one society to another according to a set of factors such as the level of provision of infrastructure services and the increase in the number of families as well as the educational level of individuals and the geographical area.

The poor suffer from a lack of job opportunities, lack of possession of resources and assets such as agricultural land and money, in addition to high prices, scarcity of water resources, widening class inequality between groups of society and gender inequality. The segment of women and children is the most affected by poverty because it is the most vulnerable group.

Among the most important causes of the spread of the phenomenon of poverty:

1) The spread of the phenomenon of financial and administrative corruption:

The Millennium Development Goals take into account this broader concept of poverty for it is necessary to go beyond measures of linking poverty with income only because financial and administrative corruption is one of the main causes of poverty and the spread of corruption, undermines the foundations of development, and violates human rights, individuals and legal frameworks.

Among the manifestations of corruption is the looting of budgets that are approved to combat poverty, and corruption limits the possibility of economic growth, in addition to the low levels of internal and external investments, efforts to combat poverty and other efforts related to promoting development.

The spread of corruption leads to the failure of the implementation of development plans, as well as the increase of poverty. When the phenomenon of corruption ramps up, mechanisms to combat poverty, such as transparency, legal accountability and institutional responsibility, become non-existent.

As economists and sociologists have stated, the corruption tax is always paid by the poor, where the proceeds of natural resources are plundered for the benefit of limited individuals at the expense of members of the entire community.

2) Wars and conflicts:

In the recent period, Yemen witnessed a deterioration in the performance of the political side, which led to the outbreak and spread of conflicts, and resulted in the movement of the population and their displacement, which led to an economic deterioration in various areas of life and cast a shadow over the citizens due to the deterioration of the security situation.

The phenomenon of displacement and the homes and jobs left behind by the displaced are a cause of widespread poverty, especially among the most vulnerable segments of society, and the deterioration of the security situation leads to a decrease in the number of investors, which results in a weakness in the economy and a deterioration in the level of currency, in addition to the deterioration of the level of providing the infrastructure services for society, food security, health, education, and water.

3) State general policy:

The governance system of the state represents a fundamental factor in the fight against poverty or to increase its area. If the entity of the state is based on a civil system that relies on the law and protects the rights of individuals, and works to enact and implement laws that provide equal opportunities and capabilities, reduce poverty, promote equality among the members of society in a just manner and eliminate the class disparities and enacting laws and regulations that work to undermine corruption, the state will be stable and able to provide stability for its citizens.

The civil state is a state of rights in the first place and focuses on the basic needs of the poor and provides the largest number of job opportunities through the equitable exploitation of available resources for the equal benefit of members of society and preservation of them. Likewise, if the state is absent, factional, class and regional prevail, and the role of law disappears, the situation will worsen, the middle class will end, the number of poor will double, and the class inequality will intensify.

4) Inequality and class disparity:

The severity of class discrimination is exacerbated by the conflicts and their persistence, and this differentiation appears in the disparity in income levels of the community members, as well as the gender, sectarian and regional discrimination.

As for the children segment, children of poor families and rural areas are more vulnerable to health problems, including underweight, and



they are three times less likely to enroll in the education compared to children from rich families who live in cities. As for gender, the school dropout rate for girls is higher than the dropout rate for boys. Class disparity weakens the possibility of community members being able to obtain civil, social and political rights, and it also leads to the rich exploitation of the poor in the most horrific ways, and authoritarian and individual groups work on political, economic and social decisions to monopolize their members for the materials of the country at the expense of members of society, and captivate the poor in a state of poverty that is hard to get out of it.

5) **Low wages and economic growth:**

Low wages lead to a decrease in the number of the expert workforce, and to a deterioration in the level of services and outputs of all institutions and bodies, which builds upon the high rate of economic inflation during the period of crises, and the high rate of class disparity between members of the same community in the level of income, property and opportunities for a decent life.

One of the effects resulting from poverty is the low level of wages that leads to malnutrition resulting from extreme poverty, as well as a deterioration in the physical and psychological health of individuals, and also causes diseases that may prevent them from carrying out their work tasks, resulting in a shortage in the number of the workforce that is a source of production and helps to raising productivity. This results in a shortage in the number of the workforce, which is a source of production and helps to raise productivity, resulting in a proliferation of unemployment and poverty are two interrelated problems. In this context, the World Bank notes in one of its reports that unemployment is not the main cause of poverty, but rather low wages and the consequences thereof.

6) **Increasing the number of family members:**

The large family is more vulnerable than other families to the problem of poverty, especially if the head of the family is the only breadwinner, due to the large number of its members, and thus its requirements increase, and the situation becomes more difficult if the head of the family does not find a job opportunity with an income commensurate with the level of these needs.

7) **Traditional agriculture:**

The agricultural sector represents an important activity in the economy, but it faces a set of challenges, including:

- ◆ Scarcity and misuse of water resources.
- ◆ Population growth and urbanization at the expense of agricul-

tural lands.

- ◆ Rough terrain and poor infrastructure.

Among the causes of low productivity in the agricultural sector:

- ◆ The typicality of the agricultural methods used which are described as old.
- ◆ Scarcity of water resources.
- ◆ Price fluctuations for seeds and agricultural means.
- ◆ Insufficient agricultural production requirements.

8) Poor health:

Due to the repercussions of the current situation, diseases have spread, the level of health facilities services has deteriorated, and this situation has worsened the population density in some cities as a result of displacement from conflict-raging areas, as well as the disruption of salaries for state employees, as more than 50% of the health facilities are not working or are almost stalled, due to the lack of medical supplies, and this requires about 12 million people to intervene in the health services to reach the minimum life-saving services, and it has become necessary to contribute to saving the operational costs of health facilities and to pay incentives to the health service providers.

The poor, and even the lack of, health facilities services lead to more dire challenges facing the Yemeni people, most of whom cannot afford to pay for treatments, and thus citizens cannot obtain the health services. Most health facilities have stopped providing their services due to the repercussions of the current situation, in addition to the additional financial costs that it causes on a daily basis to provide the necessary treatment.

Poverty affects the health side, as the lack of income has led to most families living in unhealthy places such as homes that suffer from unsound sanitary threats, or in camps that are not equipped with the lowest living services what caused many diseases to the children such as various fevers, severe diarrhea, intestinal infections, dehydration and other illnesses due to the polluted environment in which they live.

The nature of the level of housing, most of which lacks the good ventilation for its residents, causes multiple diseases such as respiratory and kidney diseases due to the lack of bathrooms in some of these dwellings, in addition to the widespread of frightening diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, Chikungunya, tuberculosis and Corona virus recently, as thousands of families lack the source of income, live



in unqualified housing, such as an entire family living in only one room, and there are thousands of similar cases, or live in displacement camps, are more vulnerable to the diseases and epidemics.

9) Poverty and Gender:

Women are more vulnerable to poverty compared to men due to the war and displacement, and due to the burdens, that they bear. Most of them suddenly become the ones on whom the families rely on after losing the head of the family, or getting injured and becoming disabled. Sometimes women and children are exposed to death, disability, or injury in the areas of confrontation. Indeed, many of them become exposed to great dangers such as harassments and threatens, as well many unscrupulous people take advantage of their situation in horrible ways, and the luckiest of them accept any work for low wages usually less than the wages of men in professions for different jobs.

The current and deteriorating conditions of women in Yemen have caused most of them to become in dire need of work in addition to the presence of a large proportion of uneducated women, which makes it difficult for them to find suitable work, so they accept working in simple and low professions to get a low wage that is not sufficient in many cases to the basic requirements of their families.

Also, the expansion of poverty has dire effects on children, as most children in Yemen suffer from malnutrition, especially infants who are at risk of contracting respiratory infections or epidemic diseases that may cause them long last damage, and affect their bodies and their psychological and harmonious conditions in the future. In addition to the general impact of malnutrition on the positive level of children's performance in school, which leads to a decrease in their level of productivity in the future.

► *Impact of Poverty:*

Psychologists and sociologists emphasized the need to focus on the phenomenon of poverty, and they indicated that there is a big difference in children's mental levels according to the different economic levels of their families, as most children who belong to families with low economic levels have lower achievement scores on school exams than children belonging to families with high economic levels.

Scientists have also concluded from the experiences that there is a disparity in the level of children's ability to acquire behavioral and professional skills, as children who belong to the poorest families are more likely

to acquire aggressive behavior, are more prone to violence, and they are the most dropout from different stages of education, which makes them more likely to be unemployed in the future.

The scientist Maslow stated, through his pyramid of human needs, that the basic human needs were arranged according to their urgent priorities, starting with the need for food, water, housing and sleep (physiological needs), then to a sense of safety and then belonging to the environment and society, and gradually moved until he reached other individual needs such as self-esteem and realization, and others.

Maslow emphasized that individuals are unable to satisfy their higher needs, such as appreciation and self-realization, except after satisfying their basic needs of food, drink, shelter, etc. Depression and despair, which may be exacerbated by some of them because of suffering and other more serious negative manifestations arise, such as a weak sense of belonging to the family and society, and problems of family disintegration. In fact, the seriousness of the negative aspects of poverty is exacerbated by the widening of the large gap between the rich and the poor, with class disparity, the emergence of obscene wealth and extreme poverty, which leads to more manifestations of behavioral and value deviations such as the exploitation of the poor in the most horrific ways that may reach the crime of trafficking in human organs and multiple human violations against them. Indeed, the phenomenon poverty is an ethical challenge that can often be difficult to overcome.

This clearly shows the importance of finding radical solutions to the spread of the phenomenon of poverty, and working to spare many personal, family and social problems that are aggravating, and the phenomena of trade in human organs and trafficking are the most ugly, as well as displacement and begging and what results from them, in addition to the effects of the spread of the phenomenon of poverty on children who are considered more vulnerable to physical and material abuse and exploitation, as well as the prevalence of abnormal behaviors among the poor themselves to earn food and money such as theft and other crimes.

The relation of empowerment to poverty eradication, full employment, social inclusion, and decent work:

1) Empowerment and eradication of poverty:

In order to achieve the goal of reducing poverty, members of society, especially the most vulnerable groups, should be actively involved as they are most capable of identifying its causes and ways to address them.

2) Empowerment, full employment and decent work:

Providing employment and decent work opportunities are two means of critical importance in improving living standards, and they can be necessary components of social inclusion and empowerment, provided that they achieve adequate wages and a secure income, as well as access to social protection.

3) Empowerment and social inclusion:

Social inclusion is activated to empower individuals equally without any discrimination through the provision of decent work opportunities, the enjoyment of basic services and the full participation in the political and social life. (World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

Challenges Facing the Community Empowerment

► *Concept of Challenges:*

Challenges are meant as those changes occurring in the societal environment that affect it in different weights and shapes, and constitute constant pressures and worries, which increase as the pressures and threats increase in case society's response is not parallel to it, in addition to the many capabilities and opportunities that these changes provide that enable it to face it.

First: Challenges of empowering Yemeni society members:

- ◆ Not to involve the community in determining its needs and independence in formulating and implementing local development plans.
- ◆ Conflicts and political instability.
- ◆ Absence of good governance.
- ◆ Low efficiency of the local executive bodies.
- ◆ The lack of comprehensiveness of local development plans and policies.
- ◆ The weak role of the private sector and civil society in the developmental construction.
- ◆ Poverty and the spread of financial and administrative corruption.
- ◆ False beliefs.
- ◆ Customs and traditions that are foreign to the authentic Yemeni ones.
- ◆ Weak education and the spread of illiteracy.
- ◆ Continuing political confusion, conflicts, wars and conflicts.
- ◆ Social and cultural obstacles.
- ◆ Economic constraints.

- ♦ Vulnerable groups (the poorest) are not represented in decision-making processes.
- ♦ Discrimination, inequality and parity, in addition to the lack of seriousness of the decision-making authority in the state and the government in granting women the right to participate in the advancement of community development and decision-making.
- ♦ Failure to empower women to actually exercise rights and truly participate in all areas, particularly in decision-making positions.
- ♦ The weakness of the mechanism for activating the political participation of women, as well the personal status laws.

Second: Challenges of the Education System in Yemen

The system of education challenges in Yemen is represented by internal and external challenges. The internal challenges of education are the obstacles and concerns that the education systems in Yemen suffer from resulting from the internal conditions of this or that educational system as it is on its way to carry out its functions towards achieving its educational goals, where these challenges put pressures on the education system and pushing it towards changing itself in form and content, renewing its methods and means, and arming itself with everything new and developed in light of contemporary educational experiences or orientations so that education in Yemen can carry out its tasks and roles enabling the society to face its challenges with high capacity and sufficiency.

As for the external challenges of education in Yemen, they are the economic, social, cultural, and political changes that Yemeni society is witnessing ... etc., and the various dimensions of their effects, whether local resulting from its conditions, resources and forces, or the international and regional resulting from the scientific and technical revolution and the information and communication revolution that translates these changes into burdens and demands placed on education in order to respond to and adopt them in its philosophy and goals, and reflect them in its plans and programs, so that it fulfills its roles and responsibilities entrusted to it to overcome these pressures and challenges, and enable society to achieve the development and progress it aspires to. In the sense that the challenges of society are translated and transformed into challenges surrounding education, pushing it to respond to them and enable society to face those challenges, so education becomes the bridge across which people cross to achieve their aspirations for progress and prosperity (El-Hajj, 2007: 166).

And what complicates and worsens the conditions of education is that reform efforts and strategies for developing education were fragmented

and unrelated, and were often limited to certain aspects of this or that education. Therefore, it was natural that visions and perspectives varied, paths contradicted, methods and means contradicted, and then the results were disappointing. Rather, stagnant conditions did not stir the types of education which complicated education problems and exacerbating their impact on all sides in light of political disregard, the absence of supervision, and a great material and human resources impotence... etc.

If the current conditions persist, the future of education in Yemen will be very critical if the development of education is not given the highest priority of the government and society as a whole, and if all current efforts to reform and develop education are not radically reconsidered, as well as to work seriously while being up to date to create a comprehensive vision for the development of education with a long-term strategy that addresses all types of education in an interdependent and harmonious whole, in light of the challenges that Yemen faces from its accelerating international and regional dimensions, and to provide all kinds of support and care officially and publicly in order for the educational system to assume its vanguard place in driving the change in the society, and to join effectively in pushing forward the desired development processes for Yemen.

These challenges can be categorized as follows:

First: The internal challenges facing education in Yemen:

- ◆ Security unrest and ongoing conflict.
- ◆ The spread of the phenomenon of dropping out of education in all its stages due to the spread of poverty.
- ◆ Unsuitable placement of school buildings.
- ◆ Lack of school supplies and equipment.
- ◆ Far-reaching transformations in curriculum and content building, teaching methods, evaluation, and means of implementing them.
- ◆ Lack of operating expenses for school facilities in the public sector.
- ◆ Teacher's rights are virtually non-existent.
- ◆ The modularity of school and educational administration.
- ◆ The centralization of the decision in the hands of the higher authorities.
- ◆ Low enrollment of girls.
- ◆ Illiteracy is widespread.
- ◆ Poor preparation and qualification for work and development needs.

Second, external challenges facing education in Yemen:

- ◆ Changes and increases in population growth and movement.
- ◆ The amazing development in the flow of knowledge, science and technology.
- ◆ The radical transformation of the concepts and implications of development.
- ◆ The rapid development in the media and communication.
- ◆ Big companies are responsible for education and training.
- ◆ Increased free time.
- ◆ Orientation towards a knowledge society.

In light of the foregoing, it can be said that education in Yemen, in its current state, is unable to meet the aforementioned challenges as it is far from society's issues and concerns, and has even become a heavy burden on the development plans, and a major cause of exacerbating the labor market crisis.

Developmental experiences**Experience: Qatar (Sustainable Development Vision 2030)**

The developmental dimensions that Qatar's vision focused on and the solutions that have been developed:

The challenges

There are social, economic, environmental and institutional challenges

- ◆ Social challenges.
- ◆ Economic challenges.
- ◆ Environmental challenges.
- ◆ Institutional challenges.

Objectives

1. The vision aims to transform Qatar by the year 2030 into a country capable of achieving sustainable development and ensuring the continuation of decent living for its people, generation after generation.

Strategies adopted

- The social dimension:

Establishing a population committee, proposing solutions for the reform process, controlling urban growth, encouraging work in the private sector, establishing health centers and linking them to scien-

tific research.

- Economic dimension:
Raising wages, establishing laws to facilitate real estate financing, limiting liquidity growth, and encouraging scientific research and technological development.
- Environmental dimension:
Enacting laws, building wells, using modern technologies to treat wastewater and waste, supporting companies, establishing environmental institutions, and raising awareness.
- Institutional dimension:
Establishing legal mechanisms, founding a culture of sustainable development, increasing interest in scientific research, providing incentives for scientists, and encouraging the private sector to open research centers.

(Qatar National Vision 2030 AD, The General Secretariat for Development Planning, PO Box 1800, Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar).

Malaysia (The Developmental Experience Dimensions in Malaysia)

Challenges:

There are internal and external challenges, including those related to the global economic crisis, the decline in exports and the accumulation of goods resulting from the nature of the Malaysian economy that is dependent on the external environment.

- **Social side:**
 - ♦ Ethnic pluralism, gender differences, and social diversity.
 - ♦ There are more Chinese than native Malaysians, which has created a lack of confidence.
- **Economic aspect:**
 - ♦ Chinese merchants are the dominant group.
 - ♦ Ethnic unrest.
 - ♦ Poverty of minorities marginalized by English colonialism.
 - ♦ Corruption, unemployment and deterioration in the standard of living.
 - ♦ The economy dependent on the export of raw materials, which is slow to regenerate.
 - ♦ Malaysia has adopted an economic production policy that depends on the international market and trade. It is natural that it will be affected by any external changes, whether positively or negatively.
 - ♦ Insufficient or lack of foreign direct investment.

- ♦ Increasing inflation pressures that require the authorities to raise interest rates to absorb the high level of liquidity.
- ♦ The lack of untrained workers due to the large population, which leads to an increase in the productive cost.
- **Political aspect:**
 - ♦ political corruption.
 - ♦ Power succession at the state level.
 - ♦ The social handicap (the prevailing ethnic plurality in the Malaysian social components and composition and its diversity).
 - ♦ The Malaysian state finds itself between the compulsory acceptance of some demands and the problem of marginalizing one ideological group at the expense of another, with the impossibility of meeting all the factional demands due to the great diversity of beliefs.
 - ♦ Obstacles related to British colonialism (colonialism left a distortion in the demographic and social structure in Malaysia and worked to dismantle the social structure and raised the differences among ethnicities (Malay - Chinese - Indians).
- **Environmental aspect:**
 - ♦ demographic growth in front of the provision of an appropriate environment.
 - ♦ Loss of green spaces due to industrial and urban activity.
 - ♦ Fresh water crisis.
 - ♦ Air pollution due to old cars and the huge volume of medical waste.
 - ♦ Forest fires.

Objectives:

- ♦ Transferring society and the economy to entrepreneurship.
- ♦ The human being is at the center of development.
- ♦ Returning the human being to the true meaning of Islam.
- ♦ The citizen's living welfare.
- ♦ Balance and inclusiveness in the economic renaissance.
- ♦ Providing food security, the right to own land, and ensuring the formation of a distinguished good generation.
- ♦ Protection of the rights of women and minorities.
- ♦ Consolidating the defense capacity of the homeland.
- ♦ Combating poverty and unemployment.

The Malaysian experience focused on the following strategies:

- ♦ Qualified human capital is the most important for achieving comprehensive development.
- ♦ Adaptation of experiences and successes to suit the privacy of the



local community in terms of resources, values and principles, which combined modernity with Islam.

- ◆ Creating a consensual democracy and gender accommodation (the policy of social cohesion and national unity).

The development dimensions that Malaysia focused on for the success of development.

◆ Political level:

- ◆ Pluralism and party competition.
- ◆ Applying standards of good governance.
- ◆ The independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

◆ Economic level:

- ◆ Establishing an Islamic bank.
- ◆ Freedom from the dependency of the capitalist system.
- ◆ The five-year plan.
- ◆ Privatization policy.
- ◆ Wawasan Vision 2020 policy (a national policy aimed at the development of Malaysia).
- ◆ Malaysian nationalism, coexistence and strengthening the sense of the state.
- ◆ Encouraging private enterprise, industrialization and technology development.
- ◆ Achieving coexistence between Islam and contemporary technology through building Islamic economic and educational institutions.
- ◆ Focusing on the powers of the state in economics and politics.
- ◆ Transferring the experiences of Japan and Korea (setting financial, economic and monetary policies that take into account the specificities of Malaysian conditions).

◆ Social side:

Malaysia has set up mechanisms to pay attention to the social and humanitarian aspect (human security), educational, civilized, and decent living, including:

- ◆ Coexistence.
- ◆ Human capital and education.
- ◆ Combating unemployment and poverty.

◆ Environmental aspect:

- ◆ Strict control, oversight, and laws to protect the environment and the citizens' biosphere.
- ◆ Recycling of wastewater and establishing desalination plants for sea water.
- ◆ Declining in natural resources due to the rapid expansion of the

wood industry.

Factors for the success of the Malaysian experience:

- ♦ Existence of an appropriate political climate characterized by the creation of appropriate conditions to accelerate economic development.
- ♦ Negotiations and participation in political decision-making.
- ♦ The government's refusal to reduce expenditures for infrastructure projects.
- ♦ Improving social indicators of human capital, improving living conditions, health and education.
- ♦ Dependence on internal resources.
- ♦ Careful dealing with foreign investment according to conditions in favor of the national economy, including not competing with local production.
- ♦ Diversity in the industrial structure and cautious openness to the outside world.
- ♦ Existence of a future vision for the development and economic activity through five-year plans.
- ♦ Companies whose capital amounts to 2 million dollars are allowed to recruit 5 workers to fill the jobs.

(Dimensions of the development experience in Malaysia 2019, an analytical study on backgrounds - foundations - prospects).

UAE (Sustainable development vision 2030)

Challenges:

First: The challenges of sustainable educational development (the educational dimension).

Second: Challenges of sustainable social development and mechanisms to achieve goals (the social dimension).

Third: The challenges of sustainable economic development for the United Arab Emirates and the mechanisms for achieving the goals (the economic dimension).

Objectives:

- 1) Establishing institutional policies to build educational and pedagogical foundations for all individuals from the primary education to the higher education and finding available financing options and implementing them within a specific period of time with the aim of achieving a strong educational base and a conscious, educated and

efficient generation.

- 2) Launching awareness-raising governmental programs and initiatives to educate community members about the importance of climate action and environmental preservation at the national level, with the aim of preserving the environment and addressing various environmental risks.
- 3) Enacting laws that impose social equality between the sexes in all social, economic, cultural and political fields and working to implement them with the aim of equal rights and responsibilities and non-discrimination between the sexes.
- 4) Forming specialized economic and research committees to conduct research and studies in order to identify all aspects of available and untapped national resources, and determining the best way to exploit them with the aim of rational use of available resources and their spending in order to achieve sustainable national development.

Strategies:

- **The economic dimension:**

- ◆ The Future National Strategy for Food Security (2018 AD).
- ◆ The Program for Accelerating the Adoption of Modern Agricultural Technology (2018 AD).
- ◆ “Future Food Valley” platform.
- ◆ “Good Endeavors Initiative” (2018 AD).
- ◆ “The Policy for Motivating the Ability to Work” (2017 AD)

- **Educational dimension:**

- ◆ Early Childhood Policy (2018 AD).
- ◆ Inclusive Education Policy Framework (2018).
- ◆ The Ministry of Education has been concerned with developing the smart educational environment.
- ◆ The Council of Ministers approved a record federal budget of 180 billion dirhams (49 billion US dollars) for the three years.
- ◆ The United Arab Emirates has achieved the first position in the world in the index of number of international students, according to the Global Talent Competitiveness Index report for the year (2018 AD).

- **Environmental dimension**

- ◆ Launching the climate project (2018 AD).
- ◆ Adoption of the National Climate Change Plan (2050 AD).
- ◆ Launching the National Adaptation Programmes of Climate Change (2017 AD).
- ◆ Energy and Water Demand Management Programme (2050 AD).

- ♦ Implementing the UAE Water Security Strategy (2036 AD).
 - **Social dimension:**
 - ♦ The issuance of a law to increase the representation of women in the Federal National Council to become 50%.
 - ♦ The promulgation of the law of equal wages and salary between the sexes.
 - ♦ The National Strategy for Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship (2015-2021 AD).
 - ♦ Launching the Gender Balance Index (2017 AD).
 - ♦ Launching the citizens' redistribution policy (2018 AD).
 - ♦ The unified online portal for self-employment for people with skills (2018 AD).
 - ♦ The National Policy to Empower People of Determination (People with disabilities) 2017 AD.
- (The UAE Experience, General Secretariat of the National Committee for Sustainable Development Goals, PO Box: 127000 Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018 AD)

Saudi Arabia (Sustainable Development Vision 2030)

Challenges

- ♦ The economic aspect.
- ♦ The educational aspect.
- ♦ The health aspect.
- ♦ The environmental aspect.
- ♦ Lack of women's participation in the labor market.
- ♦ The high unemployment rate of Saudi hands.
- ♦ Lack of competencies of the Saudi workforce.
- ♦ Dependence on oil as a major economic activity, low level of productive efficiency, lack of diversification of sources of income, and gender inequality.

Objectives:

- ♦ The rise in the size of the economy and its move from 19 to 15 first place in the world.
- ♦ Increasing the percentage of local content in the oil and gas sector from 40% to 75%.
- ♦ Raising the value of the assets of the Public Investment Fund from 600 billion to more than 7 trillion Saudi riyals.
- ♦ Raising the percentage of foreign direct investment in GDP from 3.8% to the global average 5.7%.

- ♦ Reaching the private sector's contribution to the GDP from 40% to 65%.
- ♦ Raising the percentage of non-oil exports from 16% to 50% at least of the non-oil GDP.
- ♦ Increasing non-oil government revenues from 163 billion to 1 trillion riyals annually.
- ♦ Raising the percentage of household savings of their total income from 6% to 10%.
- ♦ Increasing the non-profit sector's contribution to GDP from less than 1% to 5%.

Strategies:

By implementing a number of programs, including:

- ♦ Government restructuring program.
- ♦ Program for achieving financial balance.
- ♦ Project management program.
- ♦ Systems review program.
- ♦ Performance measurement program.
- ♦ Adopting a culture of performance as a business principle.
- ♦ Saudi Aramco's strategic transformation program.
- ♦ National Transformation Program.
- ♦ A program to strengthen government work governance.
- ♦ The privatization expansion program.

(Saudi Vision 2030 www.vision2030.gov.sa)

Egypt Experience (Sustainable Development Vision 2030)

The challenges

The most important challenges mentioned in Egypt's development plan were the following:

The repercussions of global economic conditions on the Egyptian economy negatively affected:

- 1) Traffic in the Suez Canal.
- 2) The ability of Egyptian industries to penetrate international markets.
- 3) The internal situation affected the tourism sector greatly, which caused the Egyptian economy to lose resources that were guaranteed and increasing in foreign exchange significantly in financing the development needs of the country.
- 4) An increase in the percentage of deficit in the general budget by 11.5% of GDP.
- 5) Increasing the public debt ratio to reach 94% of the gross public product.

Objectives

The report dealt with the most important initiatives launched by the country to achieve the sustainable development goals, which can be presented as follows:

- ♦ The first goal: Improving the quality of life of the Egyptian citizen and his standard of living.
- ♦ The second goal: justice, social inclusion and participation.
- ♦ The third goal: a competitive and diversified economy.

Strategies

Focusing on achieving development according to the following dimensions:

-The economic dimension:

The first axis: Economic development.

The second axis: Energy.

The third axis: Knowledge, innovation and scientific research.

The fourth axis: Transparency and efficiency of government institutions.

- The social dimension:

Fifth Axis: Social Justice.

Sixth Axis: Health.

The seventh axis: Education and training.

The eighth axis: Culture.

The ninth axis: The environmental dimension.

The tenth axis: Urban development.

(The sustainable development Egypt Vision 2030 www.sdsegypt2030.com)

Iraq experience (Economic Development)

The Iraqi economy has been accompanied by a set of challenges, the most prominent of which are: structural imbalances, political instability, challenges of corruption and poverty. On the other hand, Iraq possesses enormous natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals, and it also possesses great human wealth. Accordingly, focus should be placed on the mechanisms to increase growth rates, employment and achieve economic stability by following the following strategies:

1. Increasing the contribution of national and foreign investment, especially in the non-oil sectors.
2. Ensuring the gradual transformation into an institutionalized economy subject to free market conditions.



3. Taking measures to increase Iraq's exports of industrial and agricultural commodities and reducing imports.
4. Extensive application of human development programs, skills rehabilitation and productivity improvement programs.
5. Allocating oil revenues to finance infrastructure projects, basic social services or public utilities, and introducing advanced technology in the fields of production, communications and information.
6. Providing an appropriate economic environment that enhances the state of competition between the public and private sectors on the basis of productive efficiency and submission to market forces, and granting the private sector a full opportunity to play its role in the development process.
7. Strengthening the rule of law and urgently ending the role of armed organizations and militias that participated in spreading chaos, sabotage, killing and disrupting the economic, social and political process.
8. Taking serious and effective steps to combat administrative and financial corruption in Iraq.

Commenting on the development experiences

The development experiences in each of Qatar, Egypt, UAE, Saudi, Iraq and Malaysia.

As for Qatar's development experience, there is a great similarity between the challenges of the development process in most of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in terms of their primary dependence on oil in their national economy, and despite the huge return of the State of Qatar, from its wealth, the most important of which is oil and gas, compared to its small population, which represents a significant increase in per capita income, the comprehensive sustainable development is based on a balance in the factors of its advancement.

The State of Qatar faced challenges and obstacles regarding the development, the most important of which was the total dependence on oil and gas, the lack of a national strategy for sustainable development and the weakness of the scientific research and development system. To face these challenges, Qatar has devised effective strategies to address the obstacles of the sustainable development process, the most important of which was the establishment of various economic mechanisms and the strengthening of manufacturing sectors, building and financial services, establishing a culture of sustainable development, increasing interest in scientific

research, providing incentives to scientists, and encouraging the private sector to open research centers.

As for Malaysia and its exemplary experience in development, the situation is very different from the Arab countries. Rather, it is one of the experiences that are distinguished by their specificity and importance for the aforementioned countries and for all the third world countries, so that it is possible to follow in their footsteps to rise from backwardness and dependency in the economy and class and sectarian discrimination. It has transformed from a country dependent on the export of simple raw materials to the largest exporter of commodities and industrial technologies in the Southeast Asian region, for the fundamental reason that it made the right of citizenship for all guaranteed by law, regardless of religion, affiliation, or any other considerations. And It faced challenges by giving education the lion's share of the comprehensive development, paying attention to qualified human capital, and adapting experiences and successes to suit the privacy of Malaysian society, and to create a consensual democracy, and to accommodate the gender in development. To achieve this, it has adopted practical mechanisms according to a unified scientific planning, such as: the strategy of dependence to a large extent, the strategy of relying on internal resources to provide the necessary capital to finance investments and many local programs for the development of individuals.

As for the United Arab Emirates, it has undergone a profound transformation from a poor region and a small desert emirate to a modern country with a high standard of living. Indeed, it has become at the present time among the first ranks in the world in terms of some economic indicators, mainly due to the enormity of its natural resources of oil. Like other countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, one of the main challenges for sustainable development in the country was the total dependence on oil and the weakness of securing sustainable sources of food, in addition to the low quality of education and the weak level of representation of women in society.

Hence, the UAE practiced exemplary development policies compared to the rest of the GCC countries, as it was based on a comprehensive government approach from which a national committee concerned with sustainability goals emerged, called the "National Committee for Sustainable Development Goals, which is concerned with ensuring the implementation and evaluation of activities that achieve the 17 sustainable development goals" by launching policies, mechanisms and initiatives to advance the development process, such as: the inclusive education policy, the national strategy for women's empowerment and leadership, the promulgation of the Equal Pay Law, and the future national strategy for food security.

With regard to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its economy ranks among the strongest economies in the world, and is the largest oil exporter on which its economy is mainly based, as oil wealth enabled rapid economic development in the country, despite this, the comprehensive development process in the Kingdom has faced many challenges, what it proves the necessity of developing resources to ensure their sustainability, and the most prominent of these challenges are: dependence on oil as a major economic activity, low level of productive efficiency, lack of diversification of income sources, and gender inequality.

Saudi Arabia faced these challenges by developing strategic plans and specific mechanisms aimed at sustaining development in all its dimensions, the most recent of which was the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which mainly aims to preserve development gains, reform the Saudi economy and continue its growth, and end its dependence on oil as a main source of income.

Among the mechanisms that it has adopted to do so are the government restructuring program, the fiscal balance mechanism, and the expansion programs for economic planning. This was followed by the supervision, evaluation processes and measuring of the development activities effectiveness. As well, the unification of the efforts of the parties in the Kingdom had an effective role in the success of the comprehensive development process.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is characterized by a very high population density as well enjoys fewer natural resources than Iraq, the Egyptian government faces many challenges in all aspects of development, especially in recent times after the political chaos that had a major impact on the Egyptian economy and investment, for example, as well as the aftermath of the recession. The global economy, which caused a negative impact on the Egyptian revenues and national product and thus weakened the wheel of development, which forced the state to start implementing institutional mechanisms to carry out the development process in all its aspects, such as launching the Egyptian economic reform program, and reducing the interest rate for a number of industrial private sector initiatives, providing a financial allocation to support the sectors of health, education and social solidarity, and many mechanisms that were followed by direct activities that have been highly effective in advancing the aspects of social, economic and environmental development.

As for the Republic of Iraq, it possesses enormous untapped natural resources and resources such as oil, gas and minerals, and it possesses a large human wealth that constituted a great burden, in addition to the fact that the Iraqi economy has been accompanied by a large set of administrative, structural and national problems and challenges that faced the emergence

of effective sustainable development in the country. The most prominent of these obstacles are the structural imbalances, political instability, and corruption and poverty challenges.

This necessitated that the Iraqi government's focus, in recent times, on the development strategies to increase growth rates, employment and achieve economic stability, as the main means to advance the comprehensive development of the state, and began implementing basic measures to advance the process of economic development, such as: allocating oil revenues to finance infrastructure projects, and introducing the advanced technology in the fields of production, communication and information, and moving towards a gradual transformation into an institutionalized economy subject to the conditions of the free market, as well as strengthening the rule of law and taking serious and effective steps to combat administrative and financial corruption. It was found that the programs pursued in the State of Iraq have a progressive, effective and tangible impact on all dimensions of the development therein.

Suggested Proposal of community empowerment to advancing the development in Yemen

Everyone knows the value of the Yemeni cultural, human, religious, and social knowledge (inheritance), and so on. This inheritance is what makes it compete with high efficiency and have the desired impact in the era of globalization, as well as the actual empowerment of its people, making a difference in the labor market and absorbing the digital revolution as a product of knowledge and its employment.

Proposal objectives:

1. Providing strategies and solutions for poverty reduction.
2. Introducing a mechanism to develop the education system in all its fields and stages, and eradicating illiteracy.
3. Enhancing and activating strategies for enabling the development of human resources and gender.

Procedural steps impeding empowerment in Yemen in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

First: Poverty:

The current raging conflicts and the accompanying unprecedented collapse of the Yemeni economy have resulted in the absence of most basic services and the widening of the humanitarian crisis in a frightening manner that the country has not experienced before in its contemporary history. Recent reports have shown an increase in poverty rates from 49% in 2014 AD to 62% -78% in 2017 AD. According to the UNICEF estimations in 2019 AD, the poverty rates among the younger age groups reached 53% in 2014 AD to 84.5% in 2017 AD, with the almost complete collapse of institutions, and this impeded the desired societal empowerment of the Yemeni state.

The scarcity of job opportunities, collapse of infrastructure, and food insecurity, in addition to the existence of grinding conflicts, have all decimated the entire economic situation, and according to estimations by international organizations, there are 21.6 million Yemenis who fall below the poverty line, equivalent to 80% of the population.

Therefore, poverty reduction has two main aspects:

The first aspect: strengthening strategic institutional work and supporting it by enhancing recovery efforts by supporting capacities in all local institutions of various degrees and forms, and these strategies include:

1. Establishing a database based on the comprehensive survey of Yemeni society (economic, social, ...) to provide real data on individuals and society, such as identifying the category of poverty, measuring its forms according to gender and age, and collecting and analyzing data accurately.
2. Implement an integrated national strategy for poverty alleviation.
3. Creating an effective and integrated system to face poverty in the future.

The second aspect: Promoting multi-sectoral policies that benefit the poor:

The economic and social challenges of vulnerable groups, especially the poor in rural and remote areas, must be addressed through a curriculum that includes the following:

1. Supporting agriculture and hunting to be a community protection that includes important components, namely:
 - A. Activating social security mechanisms to include all the target groups.
 - B. Protecting the labor market, especially in the countryside and remote areas.
2. Building a comprehensive collective protection system capable of facing the crises and emergency risks facing especially the poorest segments.
3. Providing decent and productive job opportunities for women and youth in rural and remote areas.
4. Focusing on small projects for the affected districts.
5. Supporting the field of agriculture to enhance economic growth.
6. Creating an atmosphere for the local community in which all citizenship rights are available.
7. Activating the role of the private sector in cooperation with the international community.
8. Activating poverty alleviation programs with the governmental external partnership programs and civil society organizations.

It can be said that the poverty reduction is linked to the lack of equality standards among members of society, as it is imperative to achieve equality in the distribution of resource revenue and the level of income for all members of society without any discrimination, as well as between the sexes, the participation of women in the labor market, politics, economic empowerment projects, and achieving community justice.

Second: Developing education in all its forms and stages and combating illiteracy:

The level of general education has decreased and enrollment rates in secondary education reached 27% in 2012 AD due to the increase in drop-out rates at its various stages. And with the intensification of the current conflicts and war in Yemen, this has resulted in severe damage to the infrastructure of educational institutions, so the illiteracy rate increased to 21.4% of males and 60% of females, up to 40% of the population.

In order to address the problem of collapsing education and eradicate illiteracy, we must:

- 1) Establish peace rules and building the modern Yemeni state.
- 2) The workers in educational institutions are neutralized from any political, sectarian or regional conflicts or disputes.
- 3) Promote initiatives and systems concerned with raising the level of education and solving its problems.

- 4) Build educational institutions and facilities and taking into account the differences and various aspects between the sexes and people of determination.
- 5) Apply the law of the compulsory basic education, and the prohibition of child labor and their recruitment.
- 6) Reduce the educational gender gap and equal access to education.
- 7) Take care of reducing child labor and begging, and combating school dropout by the state.
- 8) Encouraging scientific research and interest in its institutions.
- 9) Raising awareness of the local community about the importance of education.
- 10) Paying attention to curricula and linking them to scientific and technological development.
- 11) Qualifying the educational personnel.
- 12) Paying attention to educational policies.
- 13) Developing of the entire educational system.

Third: Empowering Human Resources and Gender:

The empowerment strategy for human resources can be strengthened and activated through some measures, the most important of which are:

- 1) Participation of all the members of society from different groups on an equal basis without any discrimination.
- 2) Raising the capabilities of youth and women and empowering them according to their capabilities and needs.
- 3) Increasing the capabilities of community members to discover and developing their potential.
- 4) Creating a partnership between the public sector and the civil society organizations sector.
- 5) Activating community initiatives according to the developmental needs of different groups, particularly the vulnerable.
- 6) Directing the capabilities and skills of human resources to create sustainable development.

Yemen faces many challenges, one of which is the discrimination according to the gender (male / female). The gender gap must be bridged in order to reach equitable societal empowerment, and among the challenges that hinder this are:

- A. The difference between the enrollment rates of boys and girls in education.
- B. The phenomenon of underage marriage is widespread.
- C. Restrictions imposed on women related to their social, economic and human rights lives.

D. Lack of job opportunities under stringent standards.

The strategies for building community empowerment must take into account a number of actions and plans at all levels, as follows:

On the social level:

In order to achieve a development empowerment for different groups and focus on the weak ones, such as Yemeni women, it is imperative to:

- 1) Paying attention to human development and reducing the gender gap.
- 2) Paying attention to the infrastructures of various infrastructure facilities, such as schools, hospitals, sewage networks, water, electricity ... etc., whether in terms of infrastructure or in terms of appropriately providing operational expense.
- 3) Paying attention to raising awareness about the importance of educating girls.
- 4) Paying attention to the economic development aspect based on pre-prepared plans and programs.
- 5) Paying attention to the civil rights of women in all their forms.
- 6) Combating the domestic violence.

On the political level:

- 1) Paying attention to and consolidating the national identity at the level of both the individual and the state.
- 2) Settling a culture of dialogue and participation in political decision-making.
- 3) Working to consolidate the principle of justice and equal opportunities.
- 4) Charging individuals' humility and paying attention to their creative energies.
- 5) Making the laws for the protection of women within the laws of the country and the labor laws in particular, and amending what is required of them.
- 6) Increasing government expenditures on women empowerment programs.
- 7) Working in harmony with the international conventions ratified by the Yemeni state, to achieve societal justice.
- 8) Applying an internal reform of party visions and the involving the youth of both genders in decision-making within them.
- 9) Activating the sources of power in the context of individual and societal patriotism.



On the economic level:

The economic aspect depends on developing plans and programs to be comprehensive strategies that create job opportunities contributing to help empowering women and youth through:

- 1) Linking education to labor market requirements as a preliminary step.
- 2) Building model schools interested in mental skills in several specialized fields.
- 3) Empowering by granting small and medium loans.
- 4) Settling policies and programs for women in cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.
- 5) Training to upgrade skills.
- 6) Practical policy for solving legal problems for women in society, such as inheritance and others.

Economic conditions can be rearranged in terms of:

- 1) Preventing the unfair exploitation of resources for the benefit of specific individuals or groups.
- 2) Working to increase productivity to raise the competitive capabilities in all fields.
- 3) Diversification of the economic activities.
- 4) Paying attention to improve the standard of living.
- 5) Emphasizing the principle of efficiency, quality, accountability and transparency, and creating a supportive infrastructure.
- 6) Making the necessary adaptation and positive interaction with the requirements of globalization and the knowledge economy a strategic choice.
- 7) Creating a partnership between the state and the civil society and international organizations sector by setting up projects aimed at improving the capabilities and skills of human resources, especially the vulnerable groups (the marginalized, children, and women), and working for them to obtain their rights fairly.

The principle of health care must be provided through:

- 1) Partnership between the state and business entities in saving health care costs.
- 2) Reorganizing the social security network.
- 3) Adopting the small projects in terms of the strategic options.

Conclusion

The issue of empowerment and advancement of socially vulnerable groups is a multi-dimensional and phased process that requires building an integrated approach to sustainable development in all fields, and it also requires continuous cooperation and coordination among various parties, public opinion leaders, vulnerable groups and civil society in order to develop integrated development programs to implement the requirements of national strategies, and focus on the quality of plans and programs for those groups and the integration among them, and working on the inclusion of all groups, especially the most vulnerable, starting from the planning process until the evaluation and follow-up process, in addition to the importance of the institutional linkage and coordination among the development institutions and their various fields such as education, economics, health ... etc., as well as focusing on programs aimed at the advancement of local communities and civil society in addition to coordination with the relevant countries, and identifying obstacles and constraints, as well as the ways of their impact and how to overcome them.

The world has unanimously agreed that the pursuit of the sustainable development means the optimal use of all available resources. Hence, the human element is one of the most important pillars of these resources, and since vulnerable groups, especially women, constitute the largest proportion of the human element, so it is imperative to continue building their capabilities and energies. A qualitative change must be made at the level of their empowerment programs, and those programs must be evaluated to determine their impact on advancement, especially in the aspect related to women and their role in building and advancing society in order to achieve the sustainable development.

This requires the framing of a scientific and practical model to assess the quality of all activities and programs to empower and enhance the capabilities of these groups, and to enhance them socially, politically and economically.

As for the development experiences that have been reviewed, the success of many countries, such as Qatar, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, is clearly evident in moving forward in improving the conditions of their peoples and moving them to a better condition. The global experiences are rich in experiences worth studying in order to learn from them best practices for integrating human resources, especially women, in state policies and programs within various development fields, taking into account the specificity of the situation of Yemeni women.

The role now is for Yemen to seize opportunities and benefit from the

results of national, regional and international reports, studies and surveys on all challenges and difficulties facing various socially vulnerable groups. It is also imperative to work to identify obstacles to implementing community empowerment programs and weaknesses and strengths in all programs and activities, and focusing on integration of its dimensions to achieve the sustainable development.

It is important to benefit from the essence of the lessons learned from the achievements and failures, and work based on them in the experiences of different countries and among them to push forward the reform and development process, in addition to the necessity to encourage optimal investment of inputs, processes and outputs for empowerment strategies, whether related to all human resources sectors or vulnerable groups (youth, woman).

The economic, political and social changes that Yemeni society witnessed during the past six years, the increase in the pace of armed conflict and the resulting suspension of a large part of the productive processes in the economy, absence of the government from the economic scene, complete cessation of public investment programs, as well as the flight of a large part of the owners of the local capital went abroad to search for investment opportunities in safe areas, and then closed many productive and service establishments, especially small ones, layoffs part of the workforce or reduced daily working hours, and increased unemployment and poverty rates among members of society. For all of this, the empowerment process of Yemeni society members must be at the forefront as an urgent priority in the agenda of the Yemeni authorities to enable developmental advancement in all its fields, on the basis that enabling community members to define their priorities and needs and involve them in building local development plans and exercising a monitoring role over them will contribute to reducing the major problems and challenges that Yemeni society faces at the present time.

Following a new socio-economic model based on working on activating law and accountability, providing rights and duties to all members of society without any discrimination, and what supports the achievement of this, will enable the Yemeni state to rise and play its role in social empowerment and adopt the economic model away from the corruption mafias that it nested in all the sectors.

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