

Analysis of Human Development Indicators in the Maysan Governorate

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This research is concerned about clarifying human development in the Maysan Governorate, by addressing it and its most important measures, as well as highlighting health, education and the standard of living. The research found that the Maysan governorate experiences significant disadvantage, in addition to deterioration of the levels of health, education, and standard of living, despite its contribution to oil production. This decline is due to the decrease in allocations, as well as high level of administrative and financial corruption in implementing projects.

Keywords: *Human development, development benchmarks, development indicators.*

Introduction

Human development is one of the important issues as all countries are searching for economic and social progress, and seek to occupy a position that places them in the rank of developed countries in welfare and using material and human potential to attain this goal (Ali, Almagtome, & Hameedi, 2019; Ali, Hameedi, & Almagtome, 2019; Almagtome, Shaker, Al-Fatlawi, & Bekheet, 2019). All countries in the civilized world seek to achieve a standard of living that guarantees the individual and his or her family a decent standard of living away from destitution and poverty, and to ensure a level of education that increases status and develops skills, ensuring an extended lifespan free from health problems and traditional and unconventional diseases. Countries of various developmental levels seek to achieve advanced levels of human development by investing in renewable human resource and support it with a set of measures such as health and educational standards in an effort to reflect the most accurate and credible state of human development and its indicators. As this concept is of the utmost importance represented in the advancement of human beings, it's

hoped that this concept will be reflected in the main focus of this research, which is represented in the province of Maysan, in order to improve the situation, which is in desperate need of development that raises the capabilities of the province's population to advanced levels of efficiency and skill capable of providing the best for Iraq, especially in light of the exceptional circumstances during the past three decades.

The importance of the research is based on the analysis of human development indicators in the Maysan Governorate and knowing the extent of achieving the desired goals. Development indicators do not achieve the functional efficiency of the results, as there is no harmony or balance between the size of the population of the Maysan Governorate and the development indicators according to the planning criteria, as this affects the level of human development. Human development indicators do not reflect improvements in the Maysan Governorate, as they improvement are only digital and do not translate into real improvement, as there are deficiencies in the ground. This paper aims to examine education and health indicators, the nature of the level of income and the standard of living in the Maysan Governorate, and the extent of raising the efficiency of indicators that improve the level of human development.

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework for Human Development

The area of human resources has received significant attention from numerous parties such as government institutions, international organisations, companies and administrations in the current era, due to their important role and significant impact on the success and progress of these various bodies, they also affect the level of production and the future of their work and stability of their conditions as well as their sustainability (Papalia, Olds, & Feldman, 2007).

Emergence of Human Development

More than one term has been used to express the concept of human development. For example, the term human development or human capital development was used initially, then human resources development followed by social development, until the consensus settled on the term defined by the United Nations Development Program through its pioneering work that appeared at the beginning of the nineties through the Human Development Report, while the content of human development varied according to the nomenclature adopted. Development in the forties and fifties was focused on the material aspect, while development during the sixties focused more on the human aspect as people in charge of development issues believed that this approach could develop people's public life, while the sixties focused on investing in human beings through education more than material aspects, especially at the end of this decade, when the focus was on policies aimed at fair distribution of income, as well as focusing on ways to eliminate poverty and improve



living standards and interest in education, Economist Schultz explained that the investment in human capital is the reason for the high productivity of advanced technological countries (Nureev, 2017). Development during the seventies was concerned with providing health, education, housing, clean water, sanitation and other services called “entrance to the basic needs of economic development,” which was considered to be an indication of the degree of economic development and reduction of poverty (Bergman, Hajikhani, & Blomqvist, 2019).

The Nature of Human Development

The concept of human development is derived from the theory of social development, in which the human being is the most important element, while it is necessary to harmonise and follow the relationship between physical and spiritual factors: a human being acquires specific professional experiences that help him or her to develop material and spiritual needs including a person's need for high ideals and values, firm principles and true religious belief and to meet material needs while preserving spiritual values (Ljajić, Stošković, & Kostić, 2018). Human development is the process of expanding human choices, as it has more potential and opportunity. It requires people to have the ability to influence their lives. Economic growth is an important means of achieving human development (Barry, Barry, Fulmer, & Long, 2019).

Likewise, "human development can be defined as the industry of the individual who is able to achieve advanced levels of economic and social well-being at the level of the individual and the state, such as providing food, clothing, housing, education, health and work, and contributing effectively to building the state and maintaining security and order politically, economically and socially through a set of mechanisms provided by human development to manufacture that productive individual" (Liu & Si, 2018). Human development is the process of increasing individuals' options, and includes three main options: a healthy lifestyle, increasing knowledge and providing resources that contribute to individuals attaining a reasonable standard of living (Nugrahadi & Rinaldi, 2018). Based on the above and multiple definitions of the concept of human development, the goal for each three elements of human development are depicted in Table 1.

Table 1: The elements of human development and its goals

No.	Element	Goal
1	Standard of living	Providing an appropriate standard of living by providing social protection services to individuals, especially the poor, and providing food and financial benefits for the poorest families, as well as providing housing for those who need them.
2	Health	Living in a healthy environment is achieved by providing basic health services, health care facilities, preventive and medical services and specialised care for each stage of a person's life.
3	Education	Developing the knowledge and skills acquired by supporting the basic education system, in addition to training young people professionally, and helping them to acquire the necessary work skills.

Source: Majd Farajeh, Human Development Goals 2019, <https://mawdoo3.com/>

The three elements of human development are required by countries around the world, regardless of whether they are advanced or developing nations, as health and education are essential to life thus improving human development which, requires a safe environment, social relations and democratic institutions in accordance with the principles of justice, law, equality and respect for human rights and dignity (Eun, 2019).

Table 2: Human development index indicators

Indicator	Minimum value	Maximum value
Average life expectancy at birth (years)	25 years	85 years
Adult literacy rate (%)	0	100
Total school enrolment ratios (%)	0	100
GDP per capita (PPP in US dollars).	100	40000

Source: Ziyad Ahmad Nimer Zebdawi, Human Development, A Study in Measuring Human

Development, Masters Thesis, Birzeit University, Palestine, 2007, p. 26.

- The previous table shows that each of these indicators represents one of the three dimensions of human development (health, education, income), where (life expectancy at birth) represents a (health) dimension, which indicates that life expectancy is limited between (25) and (85) years, while the two indicators (literacy among adults and gross enrolment ratio) represent the (education) dimension, as they refer to literacy rate

amongst adults, and the total enrol ratios for various levels of education for both sexes between the minimum value (zero) and the maximum value (100%). On the other hand, the indicator represents (the real GDP per capita that is limited to (100) (one hundred) and (40,000) (forty thousand) dollars according to (ppp) represents (income) dimension adjusted by purchasing power parity, and there are other complementary guides to measure human development, including:

- Poverty: This indicator measures the degree of poverty resulting from lack of income or consumption, lack of consumption capacity required to meet basic needs or reaching a minimum standard of living.
- Other indicators: Other indicators were added, such as the environment, empowering women, or improving public sector management, planning human resources, and providing basic human needs.

Table 3: Ranking of countries according to the human development index, along with the index value during 2018

Country	Development index	Country	Development index
Norway	0.953	Iceland	0.935
Switzerland	0.944	Hong Kong	0.933
Australia	0.939	Sweden	0.933
Ireland	0.938	Singapore	0.932
Germany	0.936	Netherlands	0.931

Source: The researcher

The Challenges of Human Development in Maysan

The Maysan Governorate is one of the Iraqi governorates located on the Iranian border from the east, while its centre is Amara and located on the Tigris River, its land area is sixteen thousand and seventy-two square kilometres, its population consists of (1,106,208) million (Marza, Shaaibith, & Daly, 2018). It consists of fifteen administrative units, six districts, nine subdistricts, while the area of those districts is varied, as the Amara district is the largest area (6287.07 km²) and (39.1%) of the total area of the governorate, followed by the district of Ali Al-Gharbi, Al-Maymoonah, Al-Majar Al-Kabir, Qal'at Salih and Al-Kahla, with a percentage of (22.4%), (13%), (8.9%), (8.5%) and (8%) respectively (Essa, 2016).

Table 4: Population in the Maysan Governorate by Administrative Districts for 2016

Administrative unit (district and district)	Urban	Rural	Total	Male	Female	Total
Aleamara	521,409	35,071	556,480	277,978	278,502	556,480
Kamivat	10.778	26.412	37.190	18.265	18.925	37.190
Almaiaru alkabir	92.857	19.544	112.401	55.986	56.415	112.401
Aleadl	16.757	4.816	21.573	10.731	10.841	21.572
Alkhavr	8.858	15.497	24.355	11.985	12.370	24.355
Oaleat salih	37.671	23.962	61.633	30.527	31.106	61.633
Al-Azeer	18.095	28.219	46.314	22.807	23.507	46.314
Almaymuna	19.665	32.586	52.251	25.721	26.530	52.251
Alsalam	19.145	18.494	37.639	18.593	19.047	37.640
Sayid Ahmed Al-Rifaei	1,555	12,646	14,201	6,941	7,260	14,201
Alkuhala	22.133	16.706	38.839	19.216	19.623	38.839
Almasharah	12.781	18.044	30.825	15.189	15.636	30.825
Bani Hashem	1.672	17.786	19.458	9.505	9.953	19.458
Ali Al-Gharbi	17.372	14.491	31.863	15.755	16.109	31.864
Ali Al Sharqi	11.657	9.529	21.186	10.477	10.709	21.186
The overall rate at governorate level	812,405	293,803	1,106,20	549,676	556,532	1,106,208

Source: Ministry of Planning, Maysan Statistics Directorate, 2016, private data.

According to Table (5), the most deprived governorate is the Maysan Governorate in the health sector, followed by the Dohuk and Diwaniya governorates, while Karbala Governorate is the least while the Maysan Governorate is the most disadvantaged in the field of Education. the Anbar Governorate is the least disadvantaged in this field, as well as infrastructure, which includes drinking water services and the availability of electrical energy and sanitation, The Maysan governorate is the most deprived governorate, followed by Diyala and the provinces of Dhi Qar and Babel, while the Dohuk governorate is the least disadvantaged in this field. Family economic status in Al Muthanna is the most disadvantaged with a significant difference from the average Iraqi families, while Dhi Qar, Nineveh and Diwaniyah, Dohuk, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Erbil and Anbar have in a much better status than other provinces.

Table 5: Percentage of deprivation from health, education, infrastructure and economic status of families according to governorates for 2007

Governorate	Health	Education	Infrastructure	Family economic status
Dohuk	39.8	40.4	30.2	43.8
Almawsil	28.1	30.8	55.3	47.6
Alsulaymaniya	29.2	29.8	35.6	16.6
Kirkuk	29.2	22.2	61.8	21.4
Erbil	38.0	33.7	32.9	21.3
Diyala	30.3	16.4	83.8	42.4

Anbar	15.8	15.1	48.2	25.9
Baghdad	21.0	16.7	34.3	19.9
Babil	23.0	40.3	74.4	36.0
Karbala	13.1	52.1	59.5	39.1
Wasit	37.3	32.7	59.6	39.3
Salahuddin	21.7	33.6	72.3	36.7
Najaf	18.4	38.6	40.5	40.4
Diwaniya	39.0	39.3	63.5	44.2
Almathnaa	26.1	46.3	63.4	53.0
Dhi Qar	26.4	35.8	74.7	48.7
Maisan	53.1	51.7	87.9	36.8
Basra	27.2	21.6	66.4	38.1

Source: Ministry of Planning, Government Investment Programs Department, Studies and Research Department, Population and Deprivation Degree in Governorates, 2010, p. 4.

The Challenges of Health in Maysan

Improving health is a human right without regard to race, religion, political beliefs or socio-economic conditions, as the World Health Organisation defines health as a state of complete physical, psychological, and social fitness and not limited to the absence of disease (Harding & Libal, 2019). The total population of Iraq in (2016) was 37,203,000, and the average life expectancy 68/72, while the probability of dying before the age of five for each (1000) is 27, while its probability between the ages of 15 and 60 years for each (1000) 213/133 (Creech, Swift, Zlotnick, Taft, & Street, 2016). According to table (6), increase in the birth rate compared to death rate, if Duhok Governorate is considered as the first with an increase in birth rate (45.5%) per 1,000, then the Maysan Governorate comes second (38.5%) per 1000 people. As for the death rate, Salah al-Din Governorate is the lowest (2.1%) per 1,000 people, followed by Sulaymaniyah Governorate (2.3%) per 1,000 people.

Table 6: Total births and deaths in Iraq by governorates for 2016

Governorate	Total deliveries	The rate of crude births per 1000 population	Total death rate	Crude death rate per 1000 population
Dohuk	234579	29.4	44521	5.6
Almawsil	101365	35.5	11745	4.1
Alsulaymaniya	20772	5.7	6114	4.3
Kirkuk	41998	38.5	3357	3.1
Erbil	37765	29.8	4784	3.8

Diyala	35891	22.4	6192	3.9
Anbar	25699	33.0	3112	4.0
Baghdad	62653	31.0	7908	3.9
Babil	43171	36.1	5593	4.7
Karbala	35384	22.6	5480	3.5
Wasit	43312	32.0	5143	3.8
Salah uddin	63202	30.8	7528	3.7
Najaf	28496	35.7	2933	3.7
Diwaniya	23201	22.0	2227	2.1
Almathnaa	51451	35.6	6704	4.6
Dhi Qar	69719	38.3	6025	3.3
Maisan	57738	45.5	5800	4.6
Basra	40281	19.0	4945	2.3
Total	1023687	27.3	140111	4.2

Source: Iraq, Ministry of Health / Environment, Annual Statistical Report, 2016, pp. 42-56.

The health indicators for 2016 show the health status of the Maysan Governorate compared to the rest of the governorates of Iraq. According to Table (7), the governorates (Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil) have the highest number of government hospitals (48, 32,25), while Maysan and Muthanna have the lowest only (4,7), and this is reflected in the decrease in health services. Regarding primary health centres, the same governorates have the highest number of primary health centres as Sulaymaniyah has 439, Erbil 276 and Baghdad 250.

Table 7: Spatial variation in the number of actual and standard government hospitals and primary health care centres and according to the governorates for 2016:

Governorate	Governmental hospitals			Primary health care centres		
	Record number	Actual number	Amount of deficit or surplus	Record number	Actual number	Amount of deficit or surplus
Almawsil	74	15	-59	370	181	-189
Kirkuk	31	7	-24	155	128	-27
Diyala	32	9	-23	158	98	-60
Anbar	35	12	-23	176	176	0
Baghdad	158	48	-110	788	250	-538
Babil	40	17	-23	200	120	-80
Karbala	24	8	-16	118	62	-56
Wasit	27	8	-19	134	72	-62
Salah uddin	31	11	-20	154	122	-32
Najaf	29	13	-16	143	81	-62
Diwaniya	25	8	-17	125	82	-43
Almathnaa	16	4	-12	79	69	-10

Dhi Qar	41	9	-32	203	158	-45
Maisan	22	7	-15	108	84	-24
Basra	56	14	-42	282	128	-154
Dohuk	25	13	-12	125	141	16
Alsulaymaniya	42	32	-10	210	469	229
Erbil	36	25	-11	180	276	96
Total	744	260	-484	3708	2667	-1041

Source: Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, National Development Plan 2018-2022, p. 194.

The Reality of Education in Maysan and the Most Prominent Challenges

Primary education includes the number of children aged (6-11) years and is indicated for pupils who are in the primary stage, while those in the secondary stage are referred to as the number of students aged (12-17), while the post-secondary level consists of higher education (Universities and Institutes) for students aged (18- 23) years including crowded classrooms, low rate of study days, narrow spaces in school buildings, lack of suitability of schools due to lack of maintenance and financial allocations to improve them, as well as financial and administrative corruption, and the failure to build new buildings or expand on existing ones.

Table 8: Number of students leaving education in primary education (government, private and religious) schools in the Maysan Governorate for the period (2015-2019)

Year	First grade		Second grade		Third grade		Fourth grade		Fifth grade		Sixth grade		Total		Total
	Boys	girls	Boys	girls	Boys	girls	Boys	girls	Boys	girls	Boys	girls	Boys	girls	
/2015 2016	500	935	228	464	230	487	281	603	451	953	256	452	1946	3894	5840
/2016 2017	502	937	230	462	229	487	280	603	451	954	256	452	1948	3895	5843
/2017 2018	556	475	301	239	319	212	391	364	670	577	166	171	2403	2038	4441
/2018 2019	488	373	296	326	301	272	361	336	535	542	96	141	2077	1990	4067

Source: Republic of Iraq, General Directorate of Educational Planning, Department of Statistics, Primary Education Statistics in Iraq, academic year 2018/2019, p. 86.

Table 9: Number of Iraqi students who failed, postponed and abandoned primary University education at Maysan University for morning and evening studies for the academic year (2015/2017)

Year	Deferred		Depositors		Leaving		Total		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	male	Female	
2016/201	623	457	64	76	44	14	731	547	1278
2017/201	258	151	62	60	40	33	360	244	604

Source: Republic of Iraq, General Directorate of Educational Planning, Department of Statistics, Secondary Education Statistics in Iraq, academic year 2018/2019, p. 56.

Standard of Living and Economic Level in Maysan and Its Most Prominent Challenges

After 2003, Iraq witnessed a set of changes that accompanied the biggest revolution of its history, after both health and education were reviewed. However, this change did not stop with the reform of health and educational, it also includes most if not all aspects of modern life in Iraq after 2003, in addition to compromising the life of the Iraqi population through exposure to the source of daily income, including monthly share of GDP, especially for those who benefit from government spending, whether employees, retired, or beneficiaries of the social protection network in light of the deterioration of the private sector, which was unable to keep pace with the public sector. This is in light of the increasing number of beneficiaries of government spending after 2003, due to numerous advantages enjoyed by the public sector connected to the state, compared to private counterpart as well as the pattern of unprotected work that prevails in the private sector, as the worker is expected to lose his or her job without retirement or social security (15), as well as the retreating of other economic sectors, which recently met the needs of the local market, such as the agricultural sector, despite the qualifications Iraq has in terms of agricultural land or water resources and their relative scarcity in recent times due to the policies adopted by the source countries or those countries that the Tigris and Euphrates rivers pass through before its entry into Iraqi lands such as Iran, Turkey and Syria, represented by the construction of dams along the course of the two rivers, as well as the decline of the agricultural sector in the Maysan Governorate as a result of previous conditions in addition to the reluctance of the peasant from agriculture and the tendency to engage in military jobs (Al-Wattar, Almagtome, & AL-Shafeay, 2019; Almagtome & Abbas, 2020; Khaghaany, Kbelah, & Almagtome, 2019). However, this does not reduce the role of the agricultural sector and what can be played as an important source of income and reducing unemployment rates, as well as meeting the needs of the domestic and foreign market.

In addition to the absence of investments from other important sectors including the industry, tourism and service sectors in light of the challenging security conditions of capital, or the rule of administrative and financial corruption, and this phenomenon is common in all governorates of Iraq, including the Maysan Governorate, as well as the reluctance of

business people and investors to risk investing their money in a country which has a security condition that is unstable, except for investments in some areas that witnessed stability, such as the governorates of the south and Kurdistan region. The commercial sector in Iraq has improved after 2003, due to the lifting of economic sanctions that were imposed on Iraq's imports, in addition to the abolition of taxes and customs duties on goods entering Iraq from abroad. Customs duties on Iraq's imports have been reduced and standardised with a fee of up to 5% of the value of imports, while food and medicine were exempt from the fee (16), and the import of many of its products that dominate the Iraqi market in the absence of competition from their Iraqi counterparts. However, Iraq did not benefit from oil investment. Rather, most of the oil-producing provinces, including the Maysan Governorate, were not given importance by the central government, either at the level of the province's reconstruction or its economic or social support.

Conclusion

After 2003, human development indicators in the Maysan Governorate did not improve in conjunction with the increase of financial revenues of Iraq from its oil. Though the indicators witnessed improvement during the period of the research, it only to improvement from the digital side, and was not applied on the ground. The Maysan governorate possesses numerous qualities that qualify it to develop the oil industry, such as large oil reserves and few production costs, as well as expertise and technical cadres specialised in the field of the oil industry, all of which would be of great benefit to the Iraqi economy if used correctly. The increase in allocations in the Iraqi budget is attributed to the increase in oil production in Iraq rather than the contribution of other sectors, but this increase did not attain the required level, which is compatible with the importance of the three human development components (health, education and standard of living) for the Maysan governorate. Despite a partial improvement in human development indicators in the Maysan Governorate, which is life expectancy at birth, literacy rates, rate of enrolment in various educational stages and improvement of individual income level, this was only digital, as the reality in the Maysan Governorate differs from this improvement. Deteriorating conditions of health as well as problems in financial and administrative corruption and the migration of doctors, in addition to the low number of schools and the collapse of infrastructure, the high level of poverty and deprivation in Maysan Governorate remain challenges. It's important to take necessary measures to improve the level of health, encourage domestic and foreign investment in the health sector, and activate the oversight of the work of hospitals and medical centres and drug control. Paying attention to improving education by increasing the number of schools and developing existing buildings, in addition to motivating students to continue in various academic stages and reducing dropout and failure rates through financial and moral support y and rewarding outstanding students to spread the spirit of competition. Improving the standard of living by reducing poverty rates and disparities in income and unemployment



levels through a set of measures, including the adoption of progressive taxes, the provision of soft loans for projects, the support of youth initiatives, as well as the development of laws protecting workers' interests in the private sector are also crucial. Finally, diversifying sources of income and working to promote them, whether in support of work in the agricultural, industrial, service and tourism sectors, are necessary to develop in the Maysan Governorate.

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