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The Role of Soft Power in Dominating Public Sector and Increasing Unemployment Rates in the Economy of Iraq: An Analytic Vision

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Abstract

The problem of the research is that soft power mobilized most of the local labor force towards employment in the public sector without focusing on creativity in creating private business opportunities for a promising future of self-reliance with the absence of strategic care for these contributions through financing and incubating them in private incubators. Research hypothesis: soft power leads to a slackness of the public sector and an increase in unemployment rates, which contributes to wasting human capital and local energies, as well as pressures in the public budget for more employment. The aim of the research: to shed light on the importance of the role of soft power in its passing political rather than economic goals through increased employment in the public sector, neglect of the private sector, Deterioration of real economic indicators and high unemployment rates. The research found that the public sector was slack in light of soft power. It was a call to request more employment with political gains regardless of economic efficiency, which contributed to the migration of large numbers of local youth energies, while neglecting the role of business incubators in nurturing private leadership of youth energies in order to increase. The research recommended giving exceptional importance to the role of business incubators in refining the talents of the workforce and relying on self-development of local youth energies. which contributed to the migration of large numbers of local youth energies, while neglecting the role of business incubators in nurturing private leadership of youth energies in order to increase recruitment. The research recommended giving exceptional importance to the role of business incubators in refining the talents of the workforce and relying on self-development of local youth energies. which contributed to the migration of large numbers of local youth energies, while neglecting the role of business incubators in nurturing private leadership of youth energies in order to increase recruitment. This research recommended giving exceptional importance to the role of business incubators in refining the talents of the workforce and relying on self-development of local youth energies.

Keywords: public sector slack; weak employment; weak worker productivity; unemployment rates; soft power.

1. Introduction

The intensification of competition between the political elites in order to ascend to power has caused serious economic damage, resulting in the death of many economic resources, especially the financial resource, as a result of the export of crude oil. After 2004, no assessment of the economic scene in Iraq has taken place by these elites and prompting him to take any serious steps. From sacrificing for the future of Iraq. This, in turn, stimulated soft power to push the attention of most of the labor force towards employment in the public sector without the private sector, while narrowing the horizon for the role of the private sector in managing economic activity, which led to weak productivity and the absence of real production relations, and then high unemployment rates, which led to the spread of activities Unorganized economic and the spread of economic and social problems in society.

1.1 Research importance

Soft power pushes the local workforce towards employment in the public sector, which causes the public sector to sag, weaken its productivity, complicate administrative red tape and poor services, in

addition to increasing unemployment rates, weak employment, and disruption of the local production structure.

1.2 Research problem

Soft power mobilized most of the local labor force towards employment in the public sector without focusing on creativity in creating private business opportunities for a promising future of self-reliance, with the absence of strategic care for these contributions through financing and incubating them in private incubators.

1.3 Research Hypothesis

Soft power leads to slackness in the public sector and an increase in unemployment rates, which contributes to wasting human capital and local energies, as well as pressures in the public budget for more employment.

1.4 search objective

Shedding light on the importance of the role of soft power in passing its political rather than economic goals through increased employment in the public sector, neglect of the private sector, deterioration of real economic indicators and high unemployment rates.

1.5 Temporal boundaries: period (2003-2019), spatial boundaries: Iraq.

2. Research Methodology

Adopting (the deductive approach) in order to analyze the economic relations related to the phenomenon in question through a set of macroeconomic indicators based on books, references, periodicals, the Internet and local databases. The first topic: the theoretical framework for soft power, the public sector, and unemployment. The designation of soft power came by the American political science professor "Joseph Nye" during his review of his article in 1990, as he emphasized the immaterial existence of the attractive force based on the culture of the state generated by its goals and practices according to certain values (2). This presentation came as an extension of the later academic and theoretical concerns that were employed to understand the trends of indirect material power in international and political relations that govern the world and its countries alike (6). In another place, Nye warned of the danger that soft power has dominated towards unipolarity or the trend towards unilateralism in drawing up a control strategy by the owners of these forces from other countries or entities. Soft power is about modifying that effect with soft mechanisms that aim at the same basic purpose from which the strategies of those countries or other political entities were launched. (3). Therefore, we find that the political forces that came after 2003 in Iraq have striven to harness all their capabilities and efforts towards adapting public opinion to them through several channels, some of which are sectarian and others material, which left a negative impact on the type of production relations prevailing in the economy. The development of the state's role in economic life as a result of the development of markets, ownership of production elements, knowledge development, scientific concentration and other factors, which directly and indirectly called for the state's intervention in economic affairs, which caused an increase in the size of the public sector as a result of the branching and branching of service activities that the sector is now undertaking. general. With the emergence of a competitive state that combines the formulation of prudent economic policies to build a flourishing economy with the aim of general economic balance, and the freedom of the private sector to manage its activities to ensure the effectiveness of market mechanisms, we find that the role of the public sector is expanding with the passage of time. (11). The weak performance of the public sector is often matched by a low performance in the private sector, and therefore they are the product of an underdeveloped society and a modest economic performance. The economic, political and social reform must target these two sectors in order to strengthen all other sectors of the economy and society. (8). Unemployment is defined as ((the condition of a person who does not find a job, although he searches for it diligently." The term unemployment does not include those people who are not looking for work because of old age or because they suffer from a mental illness, or have a physical or mental illness, such as or doing homework, such persons are generally classified as outside the labor force.)).(9). Or ((the case that includes people who are of working age, who are able to work, and who are qualified for it in the type and level required, and who are willing and looking for it, and who agree to access it in light of the prevailing wages, and do not find it within a period of time.(5). In order to identify the size and

dimensions of the unemployment problem, it is necessary to measure the unemployment rate, which is defined as “the ratio of unemployed individuals to the available labor force in a certain period of time. Interest in this rate is increasing in most countries of the world as an indicator of economic performance. (7). The heavy reliance on the principle of employment in the public sector leads to the slackness of the staff, the decline of the role of the private sector in managing economic activity, the spread of administrative and financial corruption, bureaucracy and the complexity of administrative red tape, which results in weak productivity of the public sector and the deterioration of its services, and then the government’s ability to manage economic resources and its weak ability to Stimulating the income and output cycle. (10). The second topic: analyzing the role of the public sector in employment and unemployment in Iraq and the constraint of soft power. The Iraqi economy suffered from weakness in economic activities and a sustainable imbalance in the output, which caused a major imbalance in the labor market in favor of the economically active force. Table (1) confirms that there is a gap in the labor market in favor of the job offer throughout the research period, as it reached in 2003 (9622002751549715215894). The labor market gap in Iraq confirms the existence of a major problem in the output market that has led to a decline in employment and then a rise in the number of job opponents, which leads to a decrease in the average per capita income and an increase in poverty and unemployment, and then the spread of economic and social problems. The number of employees indicator also confirms that there is a large fluctuation in it during the research period, as it reached in 2003 (7414095(population), and it continued to increase until 2010 to (8213,000(people, while the year 2019 reached)14872920 people, that the continued increase in employment was for the benefit of the public sector on which soft power was based in order to pass the interests of the political elites and reap popular gains in the fastest and least costly way for them, despite the economic damage that accompanied the increase in employment in the public sector. The heavy reliance on the public sector in public budgets and mobilizing the largest share in favor of operating expenses without investment and without concern for the future of the economy, crowded the private sector and its weak role in managing economic activity, which resulted in a significant increase in the number of unemployment, as the total unemployment in Iraq reached in 2003 (9622002(people, 2014)6416455(people and the year 2019)15215894A population of economically active population.

Table (1) The labor market gap, the number of workers and unemployment in Iraq for the period (2003-2019) (people)

| Unemployment number | Number of productive workers | labor market gap | years |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 9622002 | 7414095 | 9622002 | 2003 |
| 9455227 | 5452783 | 9455227 | 2004 |
| 6506990 | 6448392 | 6506990 | 2005 |
| 6554275 | 6720834 | 6554275 | 2006 |
| 4514632 | 6810362 | 4514632 | 2007 |
| 6343915 | 6915952 | 6343915 | 2008 |
| 5598195 | 7810000 | 5598195 | 2009 |
| 4603833 | 8213,000 | 4603833 | 2010 |
| 5374085 | 8765000 | 5374085 | 2011 |

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|------|
| 7515497 | 8849,000 | 7515497 | 2012 |
| 5058911 | 9123000 | 5058911 | 2013 |
| 6416455 | 10328930 | 6416455 | 2014 |
| 582771 | 11379389 | 5862771 | 2015 |
| 5862771 | 12409829 | 5862771 | 2016 |
| 5702920 | 14872920 | 5702920 | 2017 |
| 11200831 | 15678191 | 11200831 | 2018 |
| 15215894 | 16399240 | 15215894 | 2019 |

Source: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Annual Statistical Collection, various years.

The employment rate of the total population reached 38% in 2008 as a maximum and (13%) in 2015 as a minimum, and this confirms that a very small percentage of the population is then employed during the research period. And that the unemployment rate index reached (29.8%) in 2018 as a maximum and (10.6%) in 2012, and that these percentages have dangerous economic implications that spread a large number of economic and social problems, dismantling the family bond and strengthening the tendency of societal hatred in light of a large disparity in the population. Entry of individuals in light of the expansion of the informal economy due to soft power.

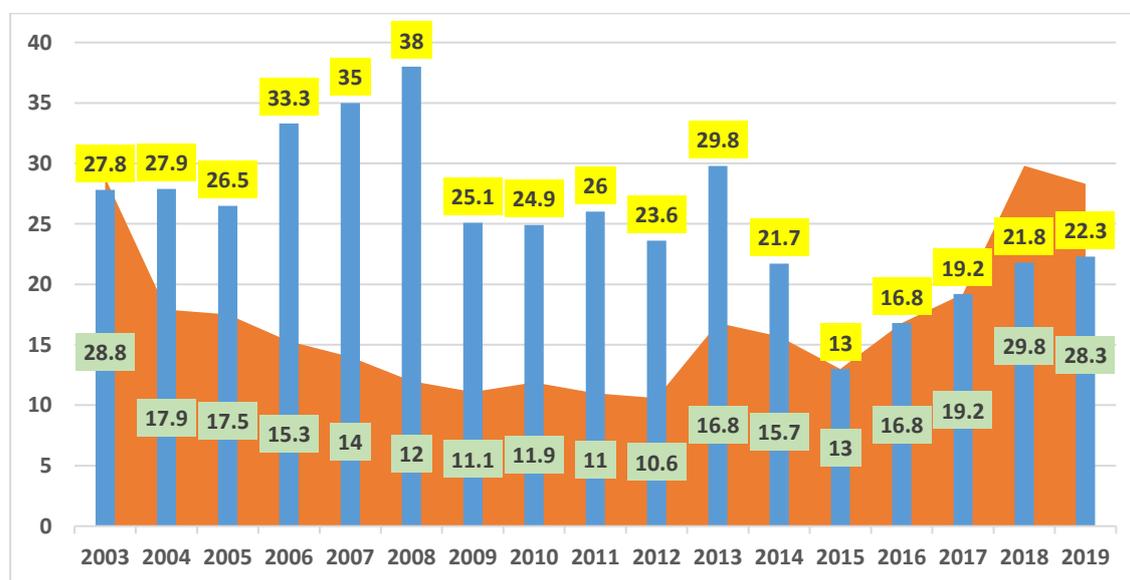


Fig. 1. Employment and unemployment rate in Iraq for the period (2003-2019) (%). Source: From the researcher's work based on data: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Annual Statistical Collection, various years.

Figure (2) shows the development of male and female productivity. Male productivity in the public sector ranged between (0.76%-0.49%) during the period (2004-2013), while their productivity in the private sector ranged between (2.95%-4.25%). The productivity of females in the private sector ranged between (0.72%-2.13%) and the productivity of the total workers ranged between (4.26%-5.14%). In general, these indicators confirm the weak productivity of workers in general in the public and private

sectors, despite the improvement in the productivity of workers in the private sector compared to the public sector.

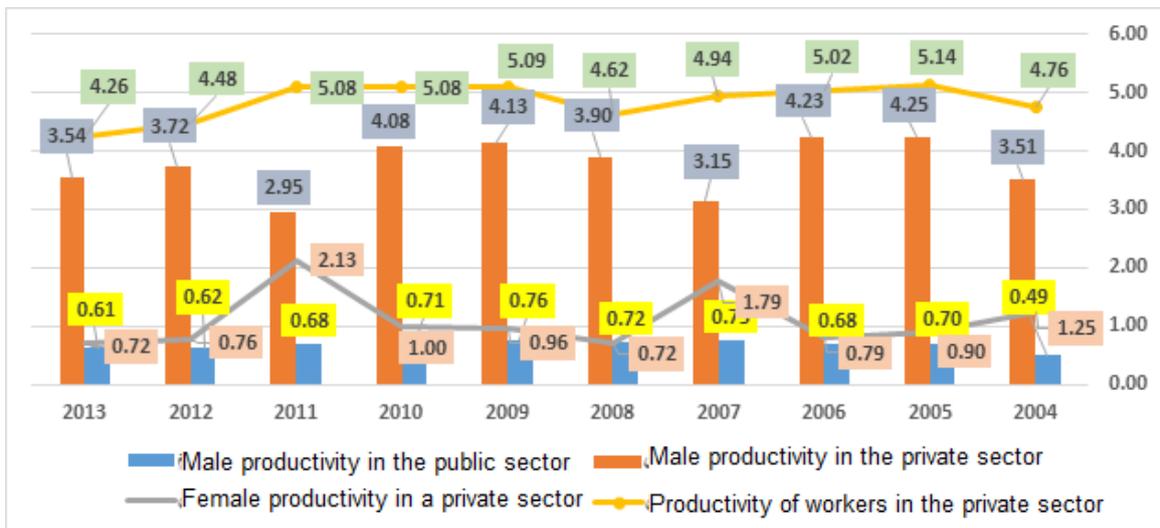


Fig. 2. Male and female productivity in the public and private sectors in Iraq for the period 2004-2013 %. Source: From the researcher’s work based on data: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Annual Statistical Collection, various years.

It is clear from Figure (3) that the productivity of the worker in economic activity in Iraq reached (11.17%) as a maximum in 2003 and (5.21%) in 2013 as a minimum, which is generally very low, and this level came due to the preference for soft power to employ quantity over quality. Until most of those employed in the public institution have a very weak scientific level, regardless of their educational attainment, and are unable to absorb the cognitive development and pour it into the reality of their work, especially those responsible for managing public institutions.

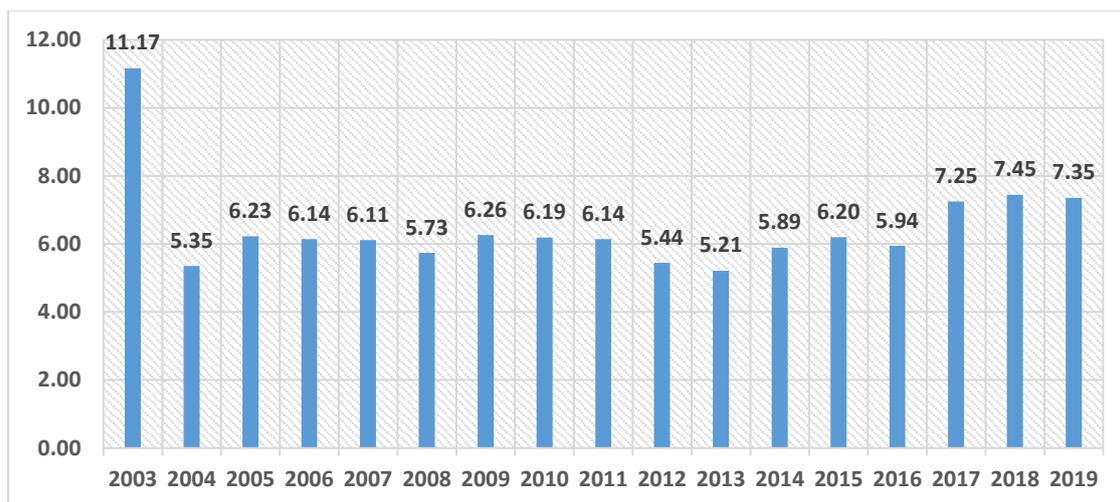


Fig. 3. The total productivity of the labor component in Iraq for the period (2003-2019) (%). Source: From the researcher's work based on data: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Annual Statistical Collection, various years.

3. Conclusions

1- The slackness of the public sector in light of soft power was a call to request more employment with political gains regardless of economic efficiency, which contributed to the migration of large numbers of local youth energies, while neglecting the role of business incubators in nurturing the private leadership of youth energies in order to increase employment.

2 Weak employments in the Iraqi economy due to poor management of economic affairs and the absence of a strategic vision in building a good economy.

3- The high rates of unemployment and the spread of economic and social problems that accompanied it, which caused a waste of youth energies and the ability to take initiative and create the future.

3- Soft power has succeeded in directing the workforce towards employment in the public sector because of stable material gains, in contrast to employment in the unstable private sector.

4- Weak worker productivity due to the absence of incentive to increase the creative ability of the worker resulting from quotas in directing leadership positions.

5- The expansion of the public sector corresponds to the decline of the private sector, and then the weakness of employment, the increase of unemployment and poverty, the waste of resources and the weak economic management of productive activities.

4. Recommendations

1- Giving exceptional importance to the role of business incubators in refining the talents of the workforce and relying on self-development of local youth energies.

2- Allowing the private sector to freely manage economic activities and enhance the prevailing productive relations.

3- Supporting the creative initiatives of youth leaders with the aim of depositing confidence in themselves in order to manage projects that serve the Iraqi economy.

4- Allocating financing channels for small and micro projects to small investors that would enhance the saving tendency versus consumerism, and then increasing investment leads to an increase in production in order to confront the structural imbalance and eliminate production problems.

5- Strengthening the role of partnership between the public and private sectors in order to serve the Iraqi economy, using the leading international experiences in this aspect.

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