



## THE PHENOMENON OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADEN, YEMEN

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### Abstract

Unemployment is economic, psychological, social and political problem. The youth generation is the generation of employment and output because it is the energy and skill generation. Disabling that physical energy among young people leads to a negative effect on them psychologically causing a lot of problems. The unemployment, in many countries of the world (Yemen is one of them), turns to be complex fundamental problems. That unemployment is a dangerous phenomenon that threatens the Yemeni society. It is one of the direct impacts of economic and political crises and wars afflicting Yemen.

In reference to the importance of the impact of unemployment in the social structure of the community, it has been focused on the concept of unemployment and identifying the most important impacts of the spread of unemployment and its increase proportion in communities.

For this purpose, it has been prepared a questionnaire to study of factors affecting the unemployment of graduates of the University of Aden, and their causes. The distribution of the questionnaire was to a sample of 179 graduates from the applied-science and human faculties of the University of Aden.

The study found many results and made some suggestions that may be useful in addressing the issue of unemployment on young people graduate level.

**Key words: Unemployment – Graduates – Causes for unemployment – Education policy.**

### 1.0 Introduction

Unemployment phenomenon currently represents one of the main problems facing the countries of the world in different levels of progress, and its economic, social and political systems, where unemployment exists in most if not all the countries of the world, so employment of the labor force remains a target and a requirement sought by all countries.

The Phenomenon is considered for a large scale of the study and the concerns of economists and researchers. Studies have been spread and economic theories varied to explain this phenomenon by these countries in order to increase the employments' rate and decrease unemployment. So, this is considered one of the most important economic, social and political' goals for societies and economic policy makers.

The emergence of attention to the situation of unemployment of individuals and its impact on community in terms of the study, analysis and processing in accordance with the methodology of the methods in the social, economic and political science field is not new. It has started in the nineteenth century, when Jahoda et al ( 1933 ) have described the devastating impacts of unemployment in one of the cities of Austria and coincided with the economic recession experienced by Europe in general during 1930 [Albeker, 2010, p144]

Most of the Arab countries, especially Yemen bear a large burden in order to address the rising rates of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment and those with academic degrees and reduce the negative impacts from the social , economic , a political aspects and psychological frustrations as a result of overlapping of a number of direct relevance to operational issues, factors such as population growth, labor force growth and levels of its skill and productivity, economic performance and political and social developments ... etc

Despite the high rates of spending on education, educational institutions have been unable to improve the quality of education to keep up with the qualitative development in the labor markets, and education outputs in response to it, through the need to pay attention to raise the skill and knowledge to increase productivity and competitiveness levels. University graduates are young. Youth category forms the broad sector of the Yemeni society. Work is placed upon this layer of society to develop it towards the advanced stages of awareness and great efforts that will yield a generation that belongs to the development and production. The issue of youth employment and the elimination of the phenomenon of unemployment among them is not considered the issue of justice but are considered in the opinion of many experts as the issue of the defense of human dignity and protect him from wasting human capacities, and the preservation of human feelings.



This ancient and modern interest in the subject of unemployment was not without some uncertainty that accompanied this concept as a term scientific, as a result of the multiplicity and diversity of operational definitions of the concept of unemployment.

## 2.0 Unemployment Definition and its Types

Scientific studies and research of unemployment, as a scientific and logical basis for process of analysis and discussion, requires procedural and accurate identifying to the situation of unemployment, which reflects the meaning of a scientific concept of unemployment. An unemployed person can be defined as the individual who physically has the ability to work, and at the same time is looking for a job but cannot find it.

The International Labour Organization defines the unemployed as (everyone who is able to work, would like to work and looking for a work, also willing to accept the wages at the prevailing rate, but useless [Zaki, 1997, p. 17])

There are many types of unemployment. The following are the most important ones.

### 2.1 Open Unemployment and Underemployment

**Open Unemployment:** It is apparent state of unemployment that a portion of the available work force suffered. Its types:

1. **Cyclical Unemployment:** Economic activity is facing ups and downs during the period of between three and ten years, which is also called the term of the economic cycle, where the unemployment associated with it in an expansion and contraction way. Unemployment rates fall in the expansion phase and rise in the recession one.
2. **Structural unemployment:** It is that infect part of the labor force because of the structural changes occurring in the national economy which produces a state of incompatibility between work and the experiences of job seekers.
3. **Frictional unemployment:** It is unemployment that occurs because of the ongoing movements of workers between different regions and professions which arise due to the lack of information at the job seekers and the employers who have jobs available.
4. **Underemployment:** It is the kind that a large number of workers are higher than the actual need for work. In other words, if some workers were pulled from the output circuit, this does not affect the volume of production.

### 2.2 Optional unemployment and Compulsory Unemployment

1. **Optional unemployment:** It refers to the unemployment worker who leaves and quits from the work that he has, either because he was looking for a better job provides him higher wages and better working conditions, or his unwillingness to work or other reasons.
2. **Compulsory unemployment:** Where it refers to forcing a worker to stop work, although he wants to continue and accepts the level of current wage.

**2.3 Seasonal Unemployment:** It appears in the seasonal economic activities that production is limited during a certain season of the year as in the agricultural sector or certain industries.

It is clearly noticed that Yemen is suffering from structural unemployment, which is caused by the gap between supply and demand in the labor market, especially among the educated and recent graduates of young people, in addition to the suffering from transitional forced unemployment to look for work for a long time or to work in areas that do not fit with their qualifications and abilities.

## 3.0 Problem of Study

The study of graduate unemployment and analyzing the causes and impacts is an interest of a lot of countries and organizations at the moment. This interest has grown significantly, whether at the state level (locally) or at the level of international organizations and bodies (worldwide) due to the reality of faith and the devastating impacts of unemployment on the individual and society and the state level, where the issue of unemployment is mainly linked to key aspects of the social construction of society and the state, such as the security, the social, economic and health aspects. The problem of unemployment of university graduates are characterized as affecting the segment of society holds its members highly qualified does not entitle them to participate in community development, but also in the leadership change and development operations, then the study problem is to answer the main question as follows

What are the most important impacts that result in unemployment of graduates of the University of Aden, and what are its causes?

## 4.0 Objectives of the study

The study aims to

1. Identify the impacts of the phenomenon of unemployment.
2. Identify the reasons for the increasing rate of unemployment among graduates of the University of Aden from the viewpoint of some of its graduates.



3. Provide recommendations that can be beneficial the specialists in the field of planning for higher education and all areas.

### 5.0 Questions of study

1. What is the degree of the impacts of the unemployment phenomenon from the viewpoint of the graduates of the University of Aden?
2. What are the reasons for the increasing rates of unemployment from the viewpoint of the graduates of the University of Aden?
3. Are there significant differences between respondents' answers about the impacts of the phenomenon of unemployment according to their personal characteristics?

**6.0 Approach of Study:** The descriptive and analytical approach has been followed for its suitability to the nature of the subject studied.

**6.1 Population and Study Sample:** The study population consists of graduates of colleges of the University of Aden, who are looking for jobs and not finding them. It has been selected a random sample number (179) graduates from various disciplines of the University.

**6.2 The Study Tool:** The researchers have used the questionnaire as the primary tool to collect the necessary data to answer the questions of the study.

**6.3 Statistical Methods Used:** To analyze the data of study and answer the questions, the researcher used (SPSS), where data has been entered into the computer memory according to Liker scale (five points)

The main statistical methods used:

1. Means and standard deviations
2. Independent t test
3. One way ANOVA

### 7.0 Presentation and Discussion of the Results of the Field Study

The researchers used the statistical package for social sciences to unload the data collected from the questionnaire, to get more accurate results. The most important results were as follows,

#### 7.1 Personal information of Respondents

Table follows explains, frequencies and percentages of the personal characteristics of the respondents

**Table No 1, Frequencies and percentages of the personal characteristics of the respondents**

Variables	Variable categories	Frequency	%
<b>Sex</b>	Male	86	48.0
	Female	93	52.0
<b>Age</b>	less than 25	25	14.0
	25 to less than 30	102	57.0
	30 and above	52	29.1
<b>Qualification</b>	Bachelor	140	78.2
	Higher Diploma	19	10.6
	Master	11	6.1
	Ph.D.	9	5.0
<b>Specialization</b>	Applied Sciences	75	41.9
	Social and Human Sciences	104	58.1

Source: Primary Data.

#### 7.2 The Results of the Question of Study

**7.2.1 The results related to the first question of the study, which stipulates** What is the degree of the impacts of the unemployment phenomenon from the viewpoint of the graduates of the University of Aden? It was shown in the following table:

**Table No.2, The impacts of the phenomenon of unemployment in descending order according to means**

Impacts	Mean	Standard deviation	Severity of impacts
Economic	4.17	0.509	High
Political	3.57	0.655	High
Social	3.51	0.486	High



Psychological	2.87	0.822	Medium
<b>Impacts together</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>0.362</b>	<b>High</b>

Source: Primary Data.

It is clear from the results in table (2) that the degree of impacts of the economic, political, and social factors is high while the degree of the physiological factors is medium.

The mean of the whole impacts is 3.52 which indicates that the agreement degree of the respondents to the impacts of unemployment is high.

### 7.2.2 Results of the second question of the study

To test the differences in respondents' answers about the impacts of the unemployment, according to personal characteristics, the researchers use (t test) to test the significance of differences according to each of the sex, and scientific specialization.

The researchers also used one way ANOVA to detect the significance of differences in the answers of respondents, according to educational qualification and age.

**Table No3, The most important results o (t- test) to test the significance of differences between respondents' answers about the impacts of unemployment depending on the sex and specialization**

Variables	Variable categories	Frequency	Mean	Std.deviation	T value	Sign.
Sex	Male	86	3.57	0.360	1.804	0.073
	Female	93	3.50	0.359		
Specialization	Applied Sciences	75	3.54	0.351	0.911	0.363
	Social and Human Sciences	104	3.49	0.376		

Source: Primary Data.

T test results described in Table (3) showed that no statistically significant differences between the means of the respondents' answers about the impacts of unemployment depending on the specialization and sex.

**Table No.4, The most important results of ANOVA to test the significance of differences between respondents' answers about the impacts of unemployment depending on the age and qualification**

Variables	Variable categories	Frequency	Mean	Std. deviation	F value	Sign.
Age	less than 25	25	3.49	0.420	1.722	0.182
	25 to less than 30	102	3.56	0.339		
	30 and above	52	3.45	0.369		
Qualification	Bachelor	140	3.50	0.338	2.082	0.104
	Higher Diploma	19	3.51	0.467		
	Master	11	3.78	0.296		
	Ph.D.	9	3.50	0.467		

Source: Primary Data.

One way ANOVA results described in table (4) showed that no statistically significant differences between the means of the respondents' answers about the impacts of unemployment depending on the age and qualification.

### 7.2.3 Results of the third question of the study

Regarding the third question of the study, the most important reasons that led to the increase of unemployment rate are described as follows:

**Table. No4, Most important reasons that led to the increase of unemployment rate, in descending order according to the arithmetic means**

No.	The Reasons	Mean	Standard deviation	Severity of impacts
1	Political and security disorders in the country	4.64	0.516	Very high
2	The large number of graduates	4.51	0.774	Very high
3	Unemployment is increased by the poor strategic planning and integration between the various parties	4.48	0.706	Very high
4	The lack of job opportunities that fit qualification	4.47	0.697	Very high
5	Education curriculum in colleges are not appropriate with the needs of	4.36	0.732	Very high



	the labor market in Yemen			
6	Lack of social solidarity	4.32	0.707	Very high
7	Lack of training institutes to qualify graduates for work	4.23	0.634	Very high
8	The lack of job opportunities	3.63	0.718	High
9	The trend to hire graduates of foreign universities	3.18	0.641	Medium
10	The trend toward the use of technology	3.13	1.000	Medium
11	The need to master the English language in many jobs	3.12	1.020	Medium
12	The lack of practical experience for the graduate	3.06	1.018	Medium
13	Difficult to work outside the home city	2.92	1.104	Medium

Source: Primary Data.

It is seen from the results shown in the table (4) that seven reasons were the cause of the rise in unemployment to a very high degree, while graduates believe that the five reasons got over medium-approval, and one reason obtained a high approval.

## 8.0 Findings and Recommendations

### 8.1 Findings

1. The degree of the impact of economic, political and social factors on graduate unemployment, were high while the degree of physiological factors is medium.
2. No statistically significant differences between the means of the respondents answers about the impacts of unemployment depending on the specialization, sex, age and qualification.
3. Political and security unrest in the country are major causes of unemployment in Yemen.
4. Education curriculum in colleges is not appropriate with the needs of the labor market in Yemen.
5. Unemployment is increased by the poor strategic planning and integration between the various parties.

### 8.2 Recommendations

To address the issue of unemployment of young graduate's level, many steps must be taken such as the following:

1. Linking education and training to the needs of the market. education and training are the two main axes of development aspects; economic, social and cultural.
2. Suggesting educational and training policies needed to achieve a balance between supply and demand on the labor force, and studying its size in the future and working on its characteristics and distribution.
3. Developing the skills and competencies of graduates to enable them from the competition and engagement in the labor market.
4. Reviewing education policies and the system of admission of universities and colleges to correct the direction of students' desires and guiding them to the areas that suffer from a shortage of work power.
5. Universities should focus on the skills required by the labor market, such as English, computer, communication, and report writing skills.
6. Freezing specializations that are not tied to the needs of the market and reducing the number of enrolled students.
7. Restructuring programs and teaching plans, updating courses, and reviewing disciplines, programs and curricula offered by universities in a periodic review in the light of the future vision for the development needs and the demands of the labor market.
8. Paying attention to women's empowerment to become an active member in the community and increasing their opportunities because they is a wasted potential energy.
9. Building a database on the level of the country for the jobs offered and those who seek jobs, similar to the level of Western countries, on the account of the employment banks.
10. In the public and private sectors, with the work to update them.

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