

Statistical Capacity Building – Experiences in Iraq

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Abstract

Iraq government gave official statistics tremendous importance when the statistics divisions were founded within the structure of the Ministry of Finance in 1930. The statistical code No. (42) was issued in 1939 followed by statistical code No. (42) in 1962 then the statistical code No.(21) in 1972 according to which the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) was organized according to a scientific and modern base. CSO performed many tasks, the most important being the conducting of population and agricultural census and other economic and household surveys. CSO in cooperation with relevant national and international institutions conducted many significant censuses and surveys based on international standards using modern techniques which enhance its role to provide best services for people. Challenges facing official statistics are lack of formal awareness within ministries of the importance of statistics to promote country development plans. Some ministries lack statistics departments. There are no annual work plans for producing statistical data by departments in ministries. There is uniformity in the concepts, definitions and classification used and in addition they are not following the international recommendations. Lack of usage of modern communications technology in exchanging and feeding back data, not using computer and software in recording, tabulating and data processing, Lack of data assurance roles and standards which summarizes in a methodology of (Define – Measure – Analyze – Improve – Control) (DMAIC)lack of stability of trained staff in ministries statistics divisions, not linking the academic study courses with practice, lack of capacity building of the statistical divisions staff in ministries.

The final paper will contain explanations and recommendations.

Key words: awareness, uniformity in the concepts, DMAIC, capacity building.