

Iraq Youth Empowerment – Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract

Iraq is considered to be a young country as its population pyramid base is expanding and youth constitutes third of its population. It is also close to have the so-called "demographic gift". Despite the gradual improvement in the education level of youth, this group is still facing many challenges the most critical of which is the increasing of unemployment rates especially among females, Besides, the political changes in Iraq since 2003 had apparently affected youth and their aspiration through positive factors represented by the demographic transitions and others negative related to the aspects of negligence and weakness of empowerment programs.

This paper aims to discuss the possibility of youth empowerment in the fields of education; and employment through statistical analysis, and by using the most recent data available from surveys conducted by Iraq Central Statistical Organization.

Keywords: Youth Unemployment, Youth Education