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## The role of women in social development a field study in Dhi Qar governorate

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#### **Abstract**

After we have studied social development, and what is the role of women in it, we find it necessary to draw up a summary of the most important ideas addressed in the research, not to give a clear and integrated picture of the role of women in social development. In all areas of life, where women played a prominent role in the development and progress of society, through the roles that they played, so they participated in political, economic, social and cultural work.etc. Women have factors that helped their participation in taking their roles in society, such as the factors of legislation, meaning that there is a factor that legitimizes a woman's work for an economic need or for other needs that fall within the moral motive. As well as education and training, there is no doubt that education contributes greatly to changing the situation of women and guarantees them a better future. This contribution depends on the extent of their participation in economic and social activities, as well as freedom from discrimination and poverty, and the media and culture have an impact on educating women to take their role in society. The concept of social development means development and growth in society, and that this growth creates an active mobile society that can keep pace with the wheel of development and progress recommended by developed countries, so it generally works on using human energies in order to raise the standard of living and meet the needs of the individual. Therefore, it is linked to all aspects of society without leaving one of them. If there is a change or development in one aspect of society, it is possible that this change will permeate all aspects of society. Social development is represented by economic capacity, and these capabilities are subjective to the individual himself, in order to achieve his desires and satisfy his needs.

## **Keywords**

Social Development, Women Role, and Study.

#### Introduction

The issue of the role of women in social development is one of the most important topics that have attracted the attention of researchers in its study, based on the fact that women constitute half of society. Women have a role in the process of development and the development of society through the roles they play. Women have played social, political, economic, cultural roles....etc. Therefore, women are half of society, given that they play various roles. Women are sisters, mothers, and wives.

As for the research axis, it consists of two sides, the theoretical side and contains three chapters. As for the field side, it consists of three chapters. The first chapter of the theoretical side (the general framework of the study) contains two chapters. The third chapter deals with the role of women in social development and contains the first topic, the role of women in the development of society, and the second topic, the factors that helped women in social development. The third topic includes the concept of social development and the factors and foundations contributing to its development. As for the field side, the fourth chapter contains the methodological framework of the study. The first section organizes the methods used in the study and the means of data collection, classification and analysis. The second section organizes research hypotheses, fields of study, and sample design. As for the third section, it organizes a discussion of research hypotheses, results related to the research, and recommendations, then the conclusion and a list of sources and references.

#### First: Research problem:

The stage of choosing the research problem is one of the important stages in social research. As women are considered an important factor in the personality of society and its progress and the achievement of its economic well-being through exerting efforts for the growth, development and progress of society and building its sectors in its various fields and at all levels, through its contribution to the growth of society and in the field of education, for example, it has a role in raising the educational and cultural level from Through its efforts in the role it plays, as well as its contribution to work, politics, and methods of development in its various branches and fields. The research problem includes some questions, namely:

Q 1 / Do women have a role in the deSvelopment and progress of society? Q2 / Is the role of women in social development negative or positive?

## **Second: Research importance:**

The importance of research lies in the contribution of women in satisfying

the needs and requirements of individuals and achieving the growth, progress and well-being of society, that is, their role in the social development of society and achieving its goals, as well as knowing the factors that help highlight the role of women in social development. And that women have a clear position and role in society and have an imprint in the development process, whether it is social, educational or economic development... etc. and in all areas of life, because women contribute to the process of developing and building the society in which they exist.

Scientific importance: Women have a role in education at all scientific levels because of their prominent role in the educational process, whether in schools or at home, so they are equal to their male counterparts, meaning that they must be given a role in the development of society at the level of its various sectors.

#### Third: Research aims:

In the light of what has been presented in the problem and the importance of the research, the researcher set the goals that he intends to reach as follows

- 1 Know the role of women in social development.
- 2 Knowing the factors that contribute to highlighting the role of women in social development.
- 3 Knowing the role of women in development, whether the role of women is positive or negative.
- 4 The researcher also aims at the most important factors that lead to highlighting the role of women in development.
  - 5 To know the extent of women's participation in the field of development.

## The role of women in community development:

The most important thing left to us by the twentieth century is the concept of comprehensive development, whose application luck varied among the countries of the world, but it has become among the firm foundations for measuring the progress of societies and evidence that development has become an urgent and essential demand for all contemporary societies, due to its important social, economic, political and cultural implications. Also, because of the decisive results that result from it in the present and future of these societies, and if the main goal of development is the happiness of people, meeting their needs and bringing them to an appropriate degree of development, then in itself it does not depend only on the people themselves, who are the most important means of achieving it (1). With comprehensive development and based on the fact that development is based in its requirements on mobilizing the human energies present in society without distinguishing between men and women, attention to women and their role in the development of society becomes an essential part of the development process itself, in addition to its direct impact on the other half, because women make up half of society and therefore Their productive capacity has become obligatory and contributes to the development process according to the principle of equality with

men. Indeed, the progress of any society has become closely linked to the extent of its progress. Women and their ability to participate in the economic development of this society against all forms of discrimination against them (2). Since women played a role in all fields, where they were queens, judges, poets, courtiers, writers, jurisprudents, warriors, and narrators of the noble hadiths of the Prophet, and until now they are still in Islamic societies toiling and toiling and contributing with all their energies to the care of their home and members of their family, as it is the mother who bears the responsibility of raising future generations. As she is the wife who manages the house and directs its economies, and she is a daughter, sister, and wife, and this makes the role that women play in building society a role that cannot be closed or disrupted, but the woman's ability to play this role depends on the quality of society's view of her and the recognition of her value and role in society and her enjoyment of her rights (3). Especially if she is qualified, educated and knowledgeable, develops her personality and broadens her perceptions, then she can carry out her responsibility towards her speed in entering the field of work and participating in the field of public service (4).

The International Women's Decade began in (1985-1975) and until the March Conference in (1996) the beginning of global interest in the issue of women and their ability to perform their role effectively like men and to participate in decision-making in various positions of political, economic and cultural life (5). This interest was accompanied by many countries and international and regional bodies and associations, through holding a series of seminars, discussions, work lessons and conferences, the latest of which was the Arab Women Summit Forum in Manama in April 2000, passing through the first summit conference in Cairo in 2000, and the extraordinary Arab Summit in Morocco in 2001. In addition to several forums on women, women's politics, women's society, women's flags, and women's economy in the diaspora, which were held in several Arab countries (6). This is clearly evident in the high contribution of boys and women to voluntary work, which will emerge within the work of organizations, associations, institutions, and institutions, especially human ones. Some people accept women's involvement in the fields of work, although some groups prefer women's work in certain jobs, such as medicine, but it harms what affects the better living conditions of the family. As for most women in our country (7).

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## Factors that help women participate in social development

Most of the research and studies conducted in this regard indicate that several factors affect the rates of women's participation in social development, and they are factors linked to several dimensions, including cultural and social...etc. The reality of women is the result of the interaction of these dimensions and the most important of these factors:

**First:** The legislation factor: All the policies and procedures taken by societies to develop societal systems that limit rights and duties, and regulate the relationship between the state and the citizen. and legislation <sup>(1)</sup>. It gave them the opportunity to join political organizations and voluntary associations so that they could carry out their activities in society, and gave them the opportunity to assume the supreme leadership in society. Among the women who entered the Egyptian parliament in 2000, it reached (11) masters, and the percentage of women who reached positions reached Leadership in 1998 (9.4%) <sup>(2)</sup>.

Second: Liberation from discrimination and poverty, in order to achieve equality: It is not possible to talk about the advancement of women without removing the forms of discrimination that limit their empowerment and their inclusion in development. The first form of discrimination is the suffering of women as a disability, and women living in rural and remote areas in particular, from living violence and poverty (3). Which established his idea of constant poverty, considering that women are the most affected, deprived, and backward. Studies have shown the existence of important causative cases, between some rights such as the right to participation and freedom of expression or the right to liberation from discrimination and poverty, and there can be no evidence of avoiding major social calamities that have other manifestations between civil and political rights and social and cultural rights <sup>(4)</sup>. Discrimination against women can be the cause of their deprivation in terms of nutrition and health, and it is clear from the data evidence that the rise in levels of malnutrition and low-income infants at birth cannot be fully explained by usual determinants such as income, health care, female education, female literacy, and female age at birth. The first marriage, aside from the explanation for this increase is the discrimination against women in the distribution of food and health care within the family <sup>(5)</sup>. This discrimination results from the fact that social and cultural rights in society are weaker. Discrimination according to gender continues all over the world, and it is still part of our lives, because customs may have changed, but they are not fast enough. Discrimination and inequality were officially recognized in laws, but there is still discrimination in policies, and then discrimination and inequality remain prevalent in almost all countries <sup>(6)</sup>.

**Third:** Media and culture: Audio-visual and written media play a serious role in changing opinions and beliefs, and usually guide the behavior of individuals, especially in cultural segments and economic and social classes, where it is easy to influence and change their beliefs and patterns of prevailing behavioral values <sup>(7)</sup>. Media and education agencies of all kinds are widespread in the countries of the Islamic world, and this title transmits in its programmes, resources and methods positive images and social values about women in terms of their keenness to settle in their families in terms of their respect for customs and traditions <sup>(8)</sup>. However, we find, on the contrary, in many media programs that may perpetuate values alien to our Islamic society, in which women do not appear except for images of weakness or intellectual deficiency and dependence on men <sup>(9)</sup>. For example, it is noticed that the media policies related to women's culture contradict each other, as many cultural programs perpetuate prevailing ideas about rights and duties, and demand women to participate more in the various activities of life, while you find many dramatic programs that call women to submissiveness and prosperity <sup>(10)</sup>.

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- 7. 7-Same previous source
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- 9. 9- The same source, pg. 161
- 10-Abdullah Abd Al-Daem, The Role of Education and Culture in Building a New Human Civilization - Arab Culture between the Clash of Cultures and Their Interaction, Beirut, Dar Al-Talee'ah for Printing and Publishing, 1998, p. 113.

Fourth: Education and Training: There is no doubt that education

contributes to a significant change in women and guarantees them a better future and depends on the extent of women's participation in economic, social and political activities. This is based on the education and training we have obtained, as education and training are linked to women's ability to work and raise their level of expectations in life (1). It decreases the fertility rate and displaces the erroneous traditions, and this is as published by the statistics if it is shown that the percentage of women's participation in economic activity rises with the increase in the educational qualification that they obtain. The women's system will lead to the work force. In Bahrain, women did not participate effectively in the work force, except after they were given the opportunity to learn, then work in the task of teaching, then work in the field of nursing. That is why we find that girls' education rates in the countries of the Islamic (2), world are large periods, as they have been able to Some countries fully responded in the primary education stage, and the net enrollment rate increased in both the primary and secondary stages together, from 50% in 1970 to 72% in 1968 (3). Indeed, this progress was uneven between regions and between society in these countries in terms of its keenness on cohesion and stability among its family members, and in terms of respect for it. However, we find, on the contrary, many media materials and programs that have enshrined Western values about our Islamic societies, not the woman shows it, except for the female image, which perpetuates the ideas of qualitative weakness or intellectual deficiency, and the popularity of the man contradicts each other (4).

**Fifth:** political factors and administrative factors: Proper administration is not upright without a rational policy, and corruption in its political content has repercussions on its administrative apparatus. If they come together in a country, there is no way to eliminate its backwardness. If management is a disease, then politics is a germ, and vice versa. The soundness of the administrative structure of the state, for example in its ministries and administrative institutions, depends on the administrative philosophy that the state adheres to, and on the political systems that it adopts for this. The development in the capitalist countries was different from the development in the socialist countries, at least in terms of style, and what is the difference between each other in the philosophy of public policy and in the administrative systems (5).

# The methods used in the study and the means of collecting, tabulating and analyzing data

First: The method

By the methodology of the study, we mean (the curriculum) is a system of methodologies used in the study in order to collect, classify, analyze and theorize data <sup>(6)</sup>. For each systematic study, it is tested through broad plans for the course of that study. This methodology is more like the path or way leading to the discovery of the truth in the sciences by means of a set of logical standards and rules that dominate the mental process and define its operations until it reaches a known result <sup>(7)</sup>. Accordingly, the concept of the method involves on the way or

how the researcher follows in studying the problem or phenomenon <sup>(8)</sup>.

Hence, the study relied on two main approaches:

**The** comparative **approach:** This approach focuses on studying aspects of similarities and differences between phenomena, for the purpose of revealing the forces and conditions that accompany a social phenomenon, or a specific practice. one community. During a limited period of time or a phenomenon comparison in one community over a period of time

**Social survey** method: We can define this approach: It is a method or method of social research methods, in which the steps of the scientific method are scientifically applied to study a specific social phenomenon or problem prevalent in a geographical area. After classifying and analyzing this data, it can be used for scientific purposes <sup>(9)</sup>.

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## Second: (methods of data collection):

The most important of these methods used in this research Questionnaire: Defined as a tool for collecting data and information on a specific research topic through a form to be performed by the respondent <sup>(1)</sup>. It is a means of collecting data by preparing a set of questions that must be asked by individuals and recorded by the researcher accurately <sup>(2)</sup>. Or it is a set of various questions and inquiries that are related to each other, in order to achieve the goals that the researcher seeks in the light of the topic or problem that he chooses. There are three types of questionnaires: the closed questionnaire, in which the tongues are specific to your answers (yes) or (no), and the questions are not specific to the answers that are

left to express an opinion. There is a questionnaire that needs some specific questions with specific answers <sup>(3)</sup>.

Third: tabulation and analysis of statistical data

Checking: making sure that every question has an answer

Coding: Converting answers into symbols in the coding card for the purpose of placing them in special statistical tables.

Creating statistical tables: Developing results in order to prepare them for the analysis stage

Analysis: It means analyzing the tables scientifically with the standards of statistical analysis to determine the results of the research. (4).

The second topic: the design of the statistical sample.

First: Designing the statistical sample. Designing a statistical sample requires attention to important steps related to determining the size of the sample, testing its credibility, and determining the geographical area. We will explain these steps in detail:

Determining the size of the sample / The size of the sample depends on several factors, including the subject of the research under study, the degree and accuracy of the data to be identified through the research, and the nature of the researched community, that is, it is homogeneous or semi-homogeneous, in terms of social, material, cultural and geographical characteristics. On the material, temporal and human capabilities of the researcher <sup>(5)</sup>.

## Second: fields of study

The human field: It is intended to define the research community or the people on whom the study is being conducted. This community may consist of a number of individuals or several groups, depending on the problem or phenomenon studied.

Spatial field: It refers to the geographical area in which the study is conducted, and this area is in Dhi Qar Governorate (*Qalaat Sukar*).

Temporal domain: It refers to the time frame that the study extrapolated.

## Third: Hypotheses.

Hypothesis is defined as a guess about the aspects of the relationship between a variable and another variable, or between a group of variables justified by the social researcher, in order to explain what he observes in terms of phenomena and facts, so that this hypothesis can guide him in the research <sup>(6)</sup>. Developing and formulating scientific hypotheses is one of the most important stages of social research. Because it gives a clear and accurate picture of the studied phenomenon, as well as an objective and scientific explanation for it, after the hypotheses are ready for examination, analysis, and confirmation of their credibility <sup>(7)</sup>.

The most important hypotheses used in the research are

1Women have a role in social development

**2**The low educational level of women leads to a decrease in their role and status in society

**3**Women play a role in raising the educational, health and economic level of society.

4 Traditional values have an impact on women's participation in social development.

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- 5- Muhammad Sobhi Abu Saleh and others, Introduction to Statistical Methods, Amman, Al-Yazuri Publishing House, 2000, p. 183.
- 6- 6-Mohamed Abdel Karim, Scientific Research in Social Studies, Cairo, Ola Books, 2000, p. 120.
- 7- 7-Abdul Jalil Al-Taher, Social Problems in Civilization, Baghdad, Dar Al-Maarif Press, 1953, p. 111.

#### First: the basic data of the research

Table No (1). This table shows (age)

Age	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
23-25	8	33.33	11	42.3	19	38
26-28	11	45.83	14	53.84	25	50
29-31	5	20.84	1	3.84	6	12
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

# Table No (2). This table shows (Sex)

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	24	48
Female	26	52
Total	50	100%

Table No (3). This table shows (Marital status)

Marital status	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Married	16	66.66	18	69.23	34	68
Single	6	25	7	26.92	13	26
Divorced	2	8.33	1	3.84	3	6
Widower	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (4). This table shows (Economic situation)

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Economic situation	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage		
Poor	6	25	5	19.23	11	22		
Average	15	62.5	14	53.84	29	58		
Good	3	12.5	7	26.92	10	20		
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%		

Table No (5). This table shows (Academic achievement)

Academic achievement	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Intermediate	3	12.5	2	7.69	5	10
Highschool	10	41.66	7	26.92	17	34
Bachelor	10	41.66	15	57.69	25	50
High Study	1	4.66	2	7.69	3	6
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (6). This table shows (Housing)

Housing	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Property	21	87	25	96.12	46	92
Rent	3	13	1	3.84	4	8
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	100%		100%		100%

Table No (7). This table shows (Are men and women equal in rights and duties?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	7	29.16	3	11.53	10	20
No	7	29.16	15	57.69	22	44
Almost	10	41.66	8	3.76	18	36
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (8). This table shows (Do prevailing traditional values have anything to do with women's participation in social development?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	14	58.33	18	69.23	32	64
No	4	16.66	2	7.69	6	12
Almost	6	25	6	23	12	24
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (9). This table shows (Parents have a role in giving women a role in development)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	19	79.16	22	84.61	41	82
No	-	-	1	3.84	1	2
Almost	5	20.83	3	11.53	8	16
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (10). This table shows (The low educational level of women leads to a decrease in their status in society)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	20	83.33	20	83.33	40	80
No	2	8.33	3	11.53	5	10
Almost	2	8.33	3	11.53	5	10
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (11). This table shows (Parents have a role in giving women a role in development)

0	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	21	87	15	57.69	36	72
No	1	4.16	3	11.23	4	8
Almost	2	9	8	30.76	10	20
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (12). This table shows (Does the woman in the Iraqi society have a leading role in the process of social development?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	9	37	2	7.69	11	22
No	6	25	8	30.76	14	28
Almost	9	38	16	61.53	25	50
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (13). This table shows (Women's appreciation of the importance of their role in society helps their participation in that development)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	12	58.33	20	76.92	34	68
No	8	16.66	2	7.69	6	12
Almost	4	25	4	15.38	10	20
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (14). This table shows (Parents have a role in giving women a role in development)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	24	100	23	88.46	47	94
No	-	-	2	7.79	2	4
Almost	-	-	1	3.84	1	2
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (15). This table shows (Parents have a role in giving women a role in development)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	11	45.83	9	34.61	20	40
No	4	16.66	7	29.16	11	22
Almost	9	37.5	10	79.16	19	38
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (16). This table shows (Is that one of the reasons why a woman goes out to work is her poor financial condition?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	10	41.66	7	26.92	17	32
No	5	20.83	11	42.3	16	32
Almost	9	37.5	8	30.76	17	34
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (17). This table shows (Does working women have a role in the development and progress of society?)

		•		,	,	
	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	21	87.5	15	57.69	36	72
No	1	4.16	3	11.53	4	8
Almost	2	8.33	8	30.76	10	20
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (18). This table shows (Do you prefer to marry a working woman or vice versa?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	12	50	19	73	31	62
No	6	25	2	8	8	16
Almost	6	25	5	19	11	22
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (19). This table shows (Does the state have a role in supporting women's participation in the social development process?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	10	41.66	11	42.3	21	42
No	4	16.66	5	19.23	9	18
Almost	10	41.66	10	38.16	20	40
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

Table No (20). This table shows (Does women's political participation give them one

## of their rights in society?)

	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	16	66	19	73	35	70
No	3	13	1	4	4	8
Almost	5	21	6	23	11	22
Total	24	100%	26	100%	50	100%

#### **Conclusions**

- 1. Women have a role in the social development process.
- 2. Women contribute to raising the educational level of society.
- 3. Women contribute to raising the economic level of the family.
- 4. Women contribute to raising the health and cultural level in society.
- 5. Traditional values have a relationship with weakening women's participation in the social development process.
- 6. Women were able to prove their competence in the process of social development through their contributions in the various sectors of society.

Society has helped women in giving them a role, which helps increase their participation in social development.

Illiteracy leads to a decrease in the role of women.

#### Recommendations

- 1. Opposition to the prevailing social customs and traditions in society that limit the freedom and humanity of women. Where customs and traditions are considered an obstacle that stands in the way of women.
- 2. Spreading and consolidating social awareness in societies that emphasize the role of women, rather than assigning them roles in society.
- 3. The need to pay attention to the means that support women, such as the visual and audio media.
- 4. The need to take care of the means that guarantee women's education and combat illiteracy in society.
- 5. Spreading religious and Islamic awareness that emphasizes women's work, through which women guarantee their rights and respect for their humanity.
- 6. Attempting to amend some regulations and laws that hinder women's work.
- 7. Holding seminars and discussions that urge women to work.

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