



Social Vulnerability

A qualitative research on the reasons behind social vulnerability in Erbil city

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Abstract

The concept "social vulnerability" is not frequently used to describe people or communities in Erbil. It is a new concept that is commonly used in social sciences for academic purposes. The term "social vulnerability" refers to an individual or a community that has weaknesses in their security, economy, and social aspects that make them unable to face a disaster, whether natural or man-made, and come out with little loss. Following the disaster, these vulnerable people have limited ability to rebuild.

Various international definitions of vulnerability, as well as the effects of natural hazards and man-made disasters on people, have been investigated in this study. The three components of social vulnerability were discussed. Following that, social vulnerability in Iraq was discussed.

The researcher interviewed ten people from Erbil city, from various backgrounds, using a qualitative method to collect data and thematic analysis to analyze them. The interviews were conducted in Erbil.

Finally, data analysis revealed that economic and social problems are the reasons behind social vulnerability in Erbil city.

Key words: Vulnerability, social vulnerability, disaster.

1-Introduction:

This research is about recognizing social vulnerability in Erbil city and the main causes of it. Social vulnerability is the inability of an individual or a community to face a disaster or a hazard and recover from it properly. The research explores the different definitions of social vulnerability, its elements and their relation with natural hazards, then focusing on social vulnerability in Iraq in general.

Research Problems: finding social vulnerability in every aspect of our life and seeing it spread across the society. According to the researcher's knowledge, there is a lack of publications and data on social vulnerability in our society, and finding answers about the increasing rate of social vulnerability.

Research Question: What are the types of social vulnerability? And what are reasons behind social vulnerability in our society?

Research Aims: to identify the various types of social vulnerability in Erbil and to investigate the causes of increased vulnerability in society.

2-Methodology:

The qualitative method was used to collect data for this study. Semi-structured interviews were used to interview people from various educational and professional backgrounds to hear their perspectives on social vulnerability. In qualitative methodology, the researcher needs to analyze the collected data using content analysis, but the gathered information through interviewing, observing and using different resources and publications if there is any about the research topic. As for using semi-structured interviewing, it helps to have open discussions and gain more information to not be restricted with only previously prepared



questions, but also to ask any question that is related to the research topic during the interview even if it is not listed in the previously prepared list of questions. Also, thematic analysis has been used to analyze the collected data.

(10) People were interviewed, with (5) females and (5) males from various educational and professional backgrounds and social classes, whom work in public and private sectors, participated in the interviewing process. The samples were chosen from public and private sectors to show that there are similar ideas and opinions about social vulnerability and the reasons behind it, whether the interviewee has a permanent job working in public sector, or a job based on annual contracts with no guarantee for renewal. The interviews were conducted during (February 2023), with some of them were done face to face, and others were done online depending on the availability of the interviewees. The interviewees were given a consent letter that promised them confidentiality and explained the purpose of the research. Each interviewee in this research provided their consent to use the gathered information about social vulnerability and publish it without revealing their real identity.

There were few obstacles throughout working on the research such as the lack of resources on social vulnerability in Erbil city, the limited understanding of the concept by many people and translating it to Kurdish language.

Additionally, the interviews were conducted in Kurdish; afterward, they were translated into English for the purposes of analysis and writing the research. In order to protect each interviewee's privacy, letters rather than their names were used to refer to them throughout the research.

3- Literature Review:

1- Social Vulnerability definitions:

Social Vulnerability is a phenomenon that occurs within communities that are facing some type of a problem or a hazard which exposes its people to different social problems and weaknesses “A term used to define the susceptibility of social groups to potential losses from hazard events or society’s resistance and resilience to hazard (Blaikie et al., 1994, Hewitt, 1997; Tapsell et al., 2010, p4). There are many definitions for social vulnerability written by different scholars, but first, the term vulnerability should be defined and explained.

A group of scholars defined vulnerability as “‘Vulnerability’ has emerged as a central concept for understanding what it is about the condition of people that enables a hazard to become a disaster” (Tapsell et al., 2010, p4). They also explained an equation to show that vulnerability equals the level of function people have after a hazard or a disaster.

Vulnerability = function (s, v)

The relationship is defined by the susceptibility (s) of the system in question to adverse consequences following hazard impact; thus incorporating the inherent characteristics of the composite elements of this system and the value (v) placed on the system by society.

If the people of a certain community are well prepared for a disaster, have the ability and resources, they can function after the disaster and recover from its effects, which mean they are not vulnerable. But if the people are not informed, not prepared, or they don’t have the resources to help them, then they are vulnerable, and the disaster will affect them greatly.

To support their definition for vulnerability, Tapsell, McCarthy, Faulkner and Alexander, quoted another definition that explains vulnerability as the number of people who lose their lives, their financial support, or their properties when a hazard or disaster affects their community.

Vulnerability can also be defined in terms of the likelihood of the outcome of the losses of a system measured in the form of economic or human life losses.



Another view is that vulnerability is a combination of a particular state of that system with other factors such as capacity to cope and recover; the latter introducing the concepts of resilience and resistance (Galderisi et al., 2010; Tapsell et al., 2010, p.4)

Furthermore, “The United Nation’s definition for vulnerability supports Tapsell, McCarthy, Faulkner and Alexander definition that explains the state of the community before a disaster strengthens or weakens its recovery process after the disaster. Whether the community has a powerful economy, established a good environment friendly area, has strong physical structure, or has strong social relationships and networks supports the community to recover. However, if the community is underprivileged, located in a hazardous area, lacks support systems, or is physically incapable of doing so, and then this community is vulnerable.

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) (2017) defines vulnerability as “the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards.” (Tierney, 2019, p.129)

The same definition for vulnerability has been published by Virendra PROAG, explaining the social and economic effects on people’s ability to recover from a disaster:

The concept of vulnerability implies some risk combined with the level of social and economic liability, and the ability to cope with the resulting event. Vulnerability has been defined as the degree to which a system, or part of a system, may react adversely during the occurrence of a hazardous event. (Virendra PROAG, 2014, p.p. 370-371)

History, politics and social relations and networking affect the level of vulnerability for a certain community, especially during a hazard or a disaster. Having strong political relations and networking provides resources to help and support vulnerable people during a disaster.

Vulnerability describes a set of conditions of people that derive from the historical and prevailing cultural, social, environmental, political, and economic contexts. In this sense, vulnerable groups are not only at risk because they are exposed to a hazard but as a result of marginality, of everyday patterns of social interaction and organization, and access to resources (Watts and Bohle, 1993; Morrow, 1999; Bankoff, 2004). (Cardona, Van Aalst, Birkmann, Fordham, McGregor, Perez, Pulwarty, Schipper, and Sinh, 2012, p.71)

According to Tapsell, McCarthy, Faulkner and Alexander, there are different facets for vulnerability depending on what aspect of the community is weak and the disaster affects the most. For example there is the physical facet, which is related to the strength or weakness of buildings, properties and other necessary resources for life such as food and water. The physical facet of vulnerability will appear during wars and natural hazards, when buildings will fall, food and water resources will be cut from the community which makes them vulnerable.

Then, there is the organizational facet of vulnerability:

The ‘organizational’ facet might refer to the potential for loss and reduced ability to recover caused by the exposure of individuals, communities or local economies to the adverse consequences of an organization’s critical shortcomings. (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.5)

There is also ‘Territorial’ vulnerability, in which a country or a community usually faces during an invasion on its territory, trying to control its people, language, religion, politics, and natural resources.

Finally and most importantly, there is the economic facet for vulnerability:

‘Economic’ vulnerability is viewed as the susceptibility to, or potential for, loss of economic assets and productivity. This includes the loss of the



livelihoods such assets support and the wealth and economic independence they create together with financial deprivation and debt dependence and ability to recover from the losses. (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.5)

Poverty is the main factor for social vulnerability in many third world countries; it causes physical, organizational and territorial weaknesses for the community and weakens its people so they will not be able to recover after the disaster.

What all those scholars didn't focus on was the health facet for vulnerability. There is a gap in those definitions that not covered vulnerability caused by diseases. After COVID-19, people faced many social and psychological problems caused by being affected with COVID=19, or the economic depression that was the result of the pandemic which affected the international economy as well as the national.

COVID-19 can be described as one of the factors that cause social vulnerability for individuals and communities, especially when those communities do not have access to developed medical services and economic stability to provide needed medical treatment and support people during the pandemic.

2- Social vulnerability and natural hazards:

There is a strong relation between social vulnerability and natural hazards, as most of the communities become socially vulnerable during facing a natural hazard that affects its environment, buildings, physical and social strengths, and exposes these communities' weaknesses.

Social vulnerability is often a product of inequalities and causes external to natural hazards and unrelated to the type of hazard. Moreover, from a strategic point of view the hazard type could also be said to be irrelevant as the primary concerns for all hazards are to prevent loss of life, infrastructure damage, financial loss etc. (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.13)

Natural hazard could be an act of nature such as: diseases, floods, earthquakes, natural fires due to dry and hot weather, and an extremely cold or hot weather. But also it could be human made, such as: wars, technological hazards such as hacking the economic system of a country, or diseases caused by human made viruses such as COVID-19.

Smith (2004) argues that precise definition of natural hazards, like that of environmental health (Ball, 2006), is difficult. Burton and Kates (1964) and Burton et al (1993) emphasized the role of 'forces extraneous to Man' in their definition of natural hazards. However, contemporary thinking even in the natural sciences recognizes that most hazards are hybrid, having natural and human components. Indeed Smith (2004) goes as far as including technological hazards in his definition. (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.13)

The location of a certain community and environmental nature where they live is going to expose it to natural hazards or protects it from it. If a community is established on the bank of a river, with weak infrastructure and limited resources to strengthen the peoples' houses, then during the floods this community is going to be socially vulnerable, the flood is going to affect the buildings, the farms (if there is any), the organizational and educational systems, as well as the loss of lives of many people.

Traditionally, disasters were viewed as "acts of nature" that were also "social levelers" in that they had similar impacts on those who were similarly exposed to physical hazard. Vulnerability is still seen largely as a function of exposure to natural hazard, with the exposure resulting from location and from attributes of the built environment driving from such things as building codes, lifeline systems (i.e., water, power, and telecommunication services), and transportation infrastructure. (Enarson, 2010, p. 260)



Therefore, whether the disaster is a natural hazard, or a human made hazard, living in poverty, poor location, lack of strong infrastructure or political and social relations exposes communities to the negative impacts of these disasters and makes the recovering process a very difficult one.

Social Vulnerability: Place-based and built-environment vulnerabilities have to be taken into account in developing a full picture of why and in what ways societies and communities are at risk of experiencing disaster losses, because, as we have seen in earlier discussions, community residents become vulnerable to disasters in part because they often live in highly hazardous areas and vulnerable structures. (Tierney, 2019, p.133)

For communities to be able to face a hazard or recover quickly from its effects, they should have resources to help them to predict the occurrence of the hazard, to raise people's awareness about the upcoming hazard and how to resist it and be well prepared, and to build people's strengths physically, financially, and socially so they can recover and rebuild after the hazard.

In contrast, the approach to social vulnerability used here is broader. It asks which social groups across the community are more and less likely to have access to, and control over, the key assets and resources that help people anticipate, cope with, resist, and recover from the impact of a natural hazard. These highlights (1) people as members of groups with a shared social status, (2) the assets and resources that are available to the group, and (3) the possibility of increasing these capacities well before a disaster. (Enarson, 2010, p. 260)

Again, poverty is one of the main factors for social vulnerability during a natural hazard. Poor people live in poor areas with limited resources and services, they usually reside in simple and weak structures that cannot resist natural hazards, and they don't have the financial resources to recover and rebuild after the hazard.

The everyday living conditions of the nation's poorest, sickest, most dependent, and most isolated residents directly and indirectly increase the exposure of these residents to physical hazards and to the social, economic, political, and psychological impacts of disastrous events. (Enarson, 2010, p. 261)

3- Elements of social vulnerability:

There are three main elements for social vulnerability that are: security, economic, and Social. Security covers a lot of things, such as secure buildings, secure location, or secure community to live in. When people have security, the community will be strong and can face a hazard and recover from it. But if the community lacks security such as weak buildings or non-safe environment, the people will be vulnerable to hazards and face a lot of problems. Also, having resources to help people recover from any hazard is a secure net to prevent them from falling as victims to the hazard.

Security: Issues of safety and longer-term stability; these factors incorporate the 'physical' impact of an event on the natural and built environment where people are located. Also considered is the ability for key institutions to respond and manage the event effectively to cause minimal disruption to exposed communities. (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.9)

What the authors' failed to mention is security in the form of safe community to live in such as having a low crime rate, a war-free community that lives in peace, and secure legislation that organizes individuals'/ stake holders' rights and responsibilities which will improve the community and helps it to develop and be stronger against any kind of vulnerability.

The second element is economic, which is very common element for vulnerability in many communities. Poverty on Individual/ community/ or country levels expose them to different



kinds of vulnerabilities. Due to lack of financial resources, people will live in bad conditions, poor locations, and don't have the necessary resources to face and recover from hazards. Furthermore, poor people usually face lots of social problems, including: domestic problems when they are not able to provide everyday life necessities, child labor, high rate of crime, and peoples' low level of education for not being able to attend schools / universities whether for not having the ability to pay or having to spend their time working.

Economic: Levels of vulnerability are highly dependent upon the economic status of individuals, communities and nations. Economic factors exert a profound influence upon social vulnerability, to the extent that the two can be difficult to untangle and thus we may see references to 'socioeconomic vulnerability'. It is not the lack of wealth directly that makes an individual or community socially vulnerable; it is the provision and access to resources that 'money can buy' which is of interest. The economic vitality of an area in general has been shown to influence quality of life: conditions prior to a hazard event (e.g. out-migration, economic recession) are likely to continue post-hazard event (Cutter and Emrich, 2006). (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.9)

And:

Economic vulnerability assesses the risk of hazard-causing losses to economic assets and processes. These falls into two groups: Direct. Damage to or destruction of physical and social infrastructure and its repair or replacement cost, as well as crop damage Indirect. Loss to production, employment, vital services, income disparities. (Virendra PROAG, 2014, p. 371)

The third element of vulnerability is the social element. When an individual or a community is not able to face a hazard, suffers significant loss as a result of the hazard, and is unable to recover and rebuild as a result of the hazard, this individual/community is socially vulnerable.

Social: The characteristics of the at-risk individual or community which alter the degree of susceptibility and sensitivity to hazard impact. These may include demographic characteristics such as age, gender, family structure, health and disability, occupation and employment, as well as access to political power. (Tapsell et al., 2010, p.9)

Any weakness in a community's social structure exposes it to vulnerability. During wars or natural hazards, children, old people, and disabled people are the most socially vulnerable groups because they are not able to defend themselves, or help the community to recover after the disaster. Moreover, low level of education and not having people who are specialized in different areas such as engineering, medicine, teaching and agriculture will limit this community's human resources and assets to strengthen the community before the hazard and rebuild it after the hazard. "Social Vulnerable groups include women, mentally and physically handicapped persons, children, and elderly persons, the poor people, refugees, and livestock." (PROAG, 2014, p. 371)

4- Social Vulnerability in Iraq:

Erbil city is the capital of Kurdistan Region – Iraq, is related with the central government on political, social and economic levels. Some None-governmental organizations published reports about vulnerability in Iraq, including Kurdistan Region.

From the three elements of social vulnerability mentioned above, economic and social elements were the major types of vulnerability in Iraq. The MPCA program's aim (with the support of USAID) in writing this report was to assess the most vulnerable families and provide them with help and support.

Understanding who the most vulnerable households are and determining an effective means of identifying those households are two key questions for the design of MPCA programming. This type of assistance aims to enable socio-



economically vulnerable households to reach autonomous consumption for the duration of the assistance, in other words to be able to ensure the minimum household expenditure needs are met. In order to identify those in need of consumption support, the selected indicator for understanding vulnerability is consumption, proxied by per capital monthly expenditure. (Leape et al., 2021, p. 7)

To measure economic vulnerability, the USAID report stated the importance of measuring the expenses of the households as well as their income. Income is a major factor for supporting families and any loss or decrease in the amount of the income will expose the family to social and economic vulnerability. Throughout the report, it became clear that some families hide the real amount of their income, or any other extra income they receive to be able to receive help and support from the humanitarian organizations; therefore, the report depended on information about the household expenditure as a method to measure their level of vulnerability.

Increased levels of social vulnerability have been observed among Iraqi families after COVID-19 and its effects on the national and local economy, social relations and health aspects. According to UNICEF's report "Assessment of COVID-19 Impact on Poverty and Vulnerability in Iraq2020" COVID-19 affected Iraqi families in many ways, such as their health and need for treatment, economic depression due to lack of labor especially for families who are dependent on daily salaries, and access to schools and universities.

Besides the immediate and tragic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, the preventive behavioral responses by households and the government's transmission control policies are likely to affect Iraqi households' livelihoods and welfare through multiple channels. First, the need to attend sick family members or to recover from the illness and the sharp decline in national economic activities will reduce households' labor earnings from wages and self-employment. Second, the economic slowdown will reduce domestic and international remittances, impacting households' non-labor income. In addition, fiscal pressures due to significantly lower oil prices could affect food (Public Distribution System or PDS) and public cash transfers. Third, disruption in domestic and international supply chains may increase prices, particularly for food, while reduced access to education, healthcare, transport and other services will also significantly impact the welfare of the Iraqis. (UNICEF, 2020, p. 2)

The report presented poverty as a main factor for Iraqi families' vulnerability, 20% of Iraqi people are very poor "Overall, 20 percent of Iraqis were living under the poverty line" (UNICEF, 2020, p. 5) which exposes them to social and economic vulnerability. These families are not able to access services to treat their ill members, they cannot provide everyday life necessities for their children, and accessing good level for education is very difficult for them. Kurdistan Region – Erbil city included, recognized high rate of poverty during the pandemic "Kurdistan region, again, would experience highest increase in near poverty rate." (UNICEF, 2020, p. 11)

These reports focused on the economic element of vulnerability and poverty as a main reason for vulnerability, but none of them researched about the social problems that rise from the pandemic, economic depression and increased rate of poverty. Domestic problems, work problems, and lack of social relations are other negative impacts of economic depression that exposes families to social vulnerability.

This research explores the different problems and issues that make people socially vulnerable in Erbil city.



4-Research findings:

Through interviewing 10 adult people in Erbil city, 5 females and 5 males, from different age, educational, economic and social backgrounds: A married male university teacher (A.), a house wife (M.), a married male clothes shop owner (B.), a single female teacher (H.), a single male taxi driver (T.), a single female doctor (S.), a married male restaurant owner (O.), a married female employee in a governmental institution (R.), a single male electronic shop owner (C.), and finally a single female university student (Z.). Economic and social elements of vulnerability “Socio-economic vulnerability” have been found within Erbil community, problems in the following aspects presents the reasons behind families’ weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

1- Economic problems:

Economy is one of the main reasons behind social vulnerability in Erbil city. All the interviewees when asked the main reason behind their everyday social vulnerability the answered in one word “Money”. To have a good life and be able to provide everyday necessities needs money and money comes through work. During and after the pandemic, many people lost their income and economic stability, T. a single male taxi driver said:

“I am the main bread winner for my family, I use what I get every day from my work as a taxi driver to buy food and other necessities for them, during the pandemic, I had to stay at home for almost 40 days, as a result we faced lots of problems, we stopped eating meat and food with good quality, I couldn’t buy my mother’s medication, we started selling things from our home to buy food and I had to break my engagement because I couldn’t afford what was required from me to pay and buy as a groom.”

From T.’s statement, it has been found that the lack of income was the reason behind his economic and social vulnerability. Similar statements have been made by most of the male interviewees whom don’t have a stable income. Having jobs that depend on the market and people coming and going faced a big issue during the pandemic, shops stopped selling clothes and electronic equipment, and restaurants closed until further notice. Some of them couldn’t the rent of their shop, and others, like T., started selling their wives’ jewelry and other expensive items such as their cars to be able to pay for food and medication, especially as all the interviewees got affected by COVID-19 and needed medical treatment.

Furthermore, the economic vulnerability stayed with them until now, since losing their shops and clients, and the general economic depression the country is facing didn’t help them to re-establish their businesses until now.

A., is a 65 years old male University teacher, was not that affected by the economic vulnerability, because he has a job with monthly salary he got even during the pandemic, and his children are all grownups and have their own income.

The single female interviewees were not that much concerned about the economy during the pandemic, since they live with their families and have their families’ financial support. While S., who is a doctor, said that she faced some problems:

“I had to close my clinic for a while, I had my shifts at the hospital, but the salary was not enough to pay the rent of a closed clinic. That made me lose some patients, and now after reopening, I am trying to stand on feet again.”

Not having a regular income affected the interviewees socially and psychologically. The stress and depression level increased, they were not able to sleep well and were angry most of the time that reflected in their social relations. This weakness caused them to be vulnerable, they couldn’t communicate with their family members without arguing due to the stress, and they couldn’t help and support their loved one, which is one of the explanations of social vulnerability. Therefore, it has been found that lack of income is a reason behind social vulnerability for both male and female community members.



2- Social problems:

Social problems are the most common results of economic vulnerability that expose people to high level of social vulnerability. As T. mentioned above, he had to break his engagement, and lose his chance to create his own family due to financial problems. Z., a single female university student explained how her parents had lots of arguments about finance, then his father's stay at home due to the pandemic and his interference to every single issue at home caused these arguments that eventually turned to domestic violence.

Also R., a married mother of two children, stated that she had many arguments with her husband during the pandemic, and the reasons behind their problems were: lack of income, because her husband works in construction and depends on daily wages. What added to their problems was the limited connection to her family caused by the pandemic, which increased the level of stress for both her and her husband and made them argue all the time for simplest of misunderstandings. M., a housewife, said that she faced the same domestic problems with her husband during his stay at home, but the arguments were not based on income, but on his interference at everything at home that bothered her. While her husband is at work, he never interfered with what she cooked, when she cleaned the house or who she talked on the phone with, but during the pandemic, he was home and disturbing her daily routine that increased the stress in their relationship and caused them to have many problems.

B. a married male clothes shop owner and O. a married male restaurant owner, expressed similar statements about their domestic issues and social problems due to the stress of losing their business during the pandemic, and their inability to go out and meet with people every day, which caused them some level of depression and affected their relationship with their wives and children.

These socio-economic problems affected people in great ways, especially during and after COVID-19, and exposed them to social vulnerability. All the interviewees faced some kind of social or economic problem that made them social vulnerable. Some of the married couples are still working to rebuild their relationship after the stress of their domestic problems, the ones whom were affected in their jobs and businesses are still working to gain back what they lost from clients and income, and all of them lost their connections with their extended families and friends and now have a cold relationship with them.

These issues and problems have a continuous effect on an individual, as well as the community, people lost their connections to each other and as a result their support to each other, domestic problems increased and marital relations weakened, businesses got affected and income decreased, therefore, the whole community is socially vulnerable.

5- Conclusion:

The terminology of social vulnerability was explored in this study, along with national and international definitions, the relationship between social vulnerability and natural hazards, and the components of social vulnerability.

Social vulnerability is the inability of an individual or a community to be prepared before a disaster, and then face it without too much physical, economic and social loss, and to recover from that disaster. This inability is the cause of this particular individual's or community's weaknesses in economy, social, security or both or all these elements.

During COVID-19, USAID and UNICEF reported on social vulnerability in Iraq, and they discovered that one of the main factors for social vulnerability for Iraqi people - KRI included - is poverty.

Then, after interviewing ten people in Erbil and analyzing their statements, two major causes of vulnerability were discovered: Economic and social issues that arose as a result of the pandemic during COVID-19. Most of the social problems were caused by the economic ones, and the two are linked together that is why it is called "socio-economic problems".



Finally, these problems are the reasons behind people being socially vulnerable in Erbil city, since they are still recovering from the effects of these problems and trying to rebuild their social relations and businesses.

As for recommendations, it is important to for social welfare institutions and organizations to have annual reports about socially vulnerable people, understand the reasons for it, plan and deliver the necessary services to help those vulnerable people to cope and recover from their vulnerability. Also, through special programs provided the social welfare institutions, help to raise peoples' awareness about paying more attention to their weaknesses and to try to help them to strengthen them, and these programs can be implemented by social workers and employees in the institutions of social affairs.

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7-Annex:

Social Vulnerability in Erbil

Consent to take part in research

- I..... voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.
- I understand that even if I agree to participate now, I can withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question without any consequences of any kind.
- I understand that I can withdraw permission to use data from my interview within one week after the interview, in which case the material will be deleted.
- I have had the purpose and nature of the study explained to me face to face and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.
- I understand that participation involves having an interview with the researcher, answering personal and general questions asked by the researcher, and providing information related to the topic.
- I understand that I will not benefit directly from participating in this research.
- I agree to my interview being audio-recorded.
- I understand that all information I provide for this study will be treated confidentially.

- I understand that in any report on the results of this research my identity will remain anonymous. This will be done by changing my name and disguising any details of my interview which may reveal my identity or the identity of people I speak about.
- I understand that disguised extracts from my interview may be quoted in a published.
- I understand that I am entitled to access the information I have provided at any time.
- I understand that I am free to contact any of the people involved in the research to seek further clarification and information.

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Signature of participant:

بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تي

توژينه وه يه كي چۆن تڤيه له سه ر هۆكاره كانى پشت بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تي له شاري هه ولير

مژده محمد عزيز

به شي كاري كۆمه لايه تي- كۆلژي ئاداب/ زانكۆ سه لاهه ددين- هه ولير

پوخته

چه مكي بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تي زۆر كه م به كارد يت بۆ ناساندن و وه سفكردي خه لك يان كۆمه لگاكاني هه ولير. چه مكي نوڤه كه زياتر له بواري زانسته كۆمه لايه تڤيه كان و نه كادي مڤيه كان به كارد يت.

نه م چه مكه تاماژه يه بۆ نه و تاكانه يان كۆمه لگايانه ي كه له رووي ئاسايش، ئابووري و كۆمه لايه تڤيه وه لاوازن و ناتوانن رووبه رووي كاره ساته كان بڤنه وه، جا كاره ساته كه سروشتي بن يان ده ستردي مروڤ يت، هه رچي تاكامه كه له ده ستردي تڤيه كه مڤيش يت له دواي رووداني كاره ساته كه، نه م جۆره خه لكانه توانايه كي سنوورداريان بۆ رووبه رووي و نه وه كان ده يت بۆ سه ر له نوڤ بونيدانه وه.

پڤناسه ي تڤوده وه تي جياواز بۆ بيدهر تانان هه يه وه ك كارگه ريه سروشتي و ده ستردي كانى كاره ساته كه له سه ر خه لك، به شيويه كي تڤرونه سه ل خراوه ته به ر باس و ليكۆڤنه وه، هه ر سه ي پڤكه اته ي بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تي باسي لڤوه كراوه، دواتر تڤيش خراوه ته سه ر بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تي له عيراقدا.

توژره چاوپڤكه وتي له گه ل (10) كه س، به جياوازي ته مهن، پاشخاني خوڤنده واري، ئاستي ئابووري و كۆمه لايه تي، رڤيازي چۆن تڤيه به كارها تووه بۆ كۆكرده وه ي و شيكرده وه ي زانباري. چاوپڤكه وته كان له شاري هه ولير نه نجام دران.

له كۆتايي شيكرده وه كه دا توژره گه يشته نه و ده رنه نجامه ي كه كيشه ئابووري و كۆمه لايه تڤيه كان له هۆكاره سه ركه يه كانى بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تڤيه كان له شاري هه ولير دا.

وه كلييه كان: بيدهر تاني، بيدهر تاني كۆمه لايه تي، كاره سات.

الضعف الاجتماعي

دراسة نوعية عن أسباب الضعف الاجتماعي في مدينة أربيل

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ملخص

إن مفهوم الضعف الاجتماعي لا يمكن استخدامه بشكل متكرر لوصف الناس أو المجتمعات في أربيل. إنه مفهوم جديد غالباً ما يستخدم في العلوم الاجتماعية للأغراض الأكاديمية. يشير هذا المفهوم إلى الأفراد أو المجتمعات التي تواجه حالة من الضعف من النواحي الأمنية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية وغير قادرين على مواجهة الكوارث، طبيعية كانت تلك الكوارث من صنع الانسان، حتى لو كانت عواقب تلك الكوارث قليلة، لكن تبقى لدى هؤلاء الأشخاص قدرة محدودة لمواجهةها وإعادة البناء.

في هذا البحث تم التحقيق في التعاريف الدولية المختلفة للضعف، فضلاً عن آثار الأخطار الطبيعية والكوارث التي هي من صنع الانسان، كما تمت مناقشة المكونات الثلاثة للضعف الاجتماعي، ومن ثم مناقشة الضعف الاجتماعي في العراق.

أجرت الباحثة مقابلات مع عشرة أشخاص، من مختلف، وباستخدام الدراسة النوعية في جمع وتحليل البيانات. وقد أجريت المقابلات في مدينة أربيل. وأخيراً ومن خلال تحليل البيانات وصلت الباحثة إلى أن المشاكل الاقتصادية والاجتماعية هي من الاسباب الرئيسية للضعف الاجتماعي في مدينة أربيل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الضعف الاجتماعي، الكارثة.