



Article

The Impact of Unemployment on Deviant Behavior among Youth in Iraqi Society: A Sociological Study

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Abstract: General Background: Unemployment is a persistent global issue affecting both developed and developing economies, posing serious economic and social challenges. It is recognized as a primary factor influencing social instability and crime rates. Specific Background: In Iraqi society, youth unemployment has become a pressing concern, particularly among graduates, leading to an increased prevalence of deviant behaviors. The lack of job opportunities, economic instability, and weak institutional responses exacerbate the issue. Knowledge Gap: While previous studies have examined the relationship between unemployment and crime, limited research has specifically explored how unemployment contributes to deviant behaviors among Iraqi youth, highlighting a need for a sociological investigation. Aims: This study aims to assess the impact of unemployment on deviant behaviors among Iraqi youth, identify the most common forms of deviant behavior, and analyze the social and economic factors contributing to these behaviors. Results: The findings reveal a significant correlation between unemployment and the spread of deviant behaviors, with a general mean of 3.701. Key deviant behaviors identified include increased social aggression, participation in unlawful activities, and weakened adherence to social norms. Novelty: Unlike previous studies, this research focuses specifically on youth in Iraqi society and offers a comprehensive sociological perspective on the issue, integrating various theoretical frameworks to explain the phenomenon. Implications: The study suggests urgent policy interventions, including job creation initiatives, vocational training programs, and economic reforms to mitigate youth unemployment and reduce its impact on social stability.

Citation: Hasani, K. S. The Impact of Unemployment on Deviant Behavior among Youth in Iraqi Society: A Sociological Study. Central Asian Journal of Literature, Philosophy, and Culture 2025, 6(2), 70-90.

Received: 21st Feb 2025

Revised: 01st Mar 2025

Accepted: 07th Mar 2025

Published: 14th Mar 2025



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Keywords: unemployment, deviant behavior, youth, iraqi society, crime, social stability

1. Introduction

Unemployment is currently a fundamental challenge facing countries with their various economic and political systems. Researchers in the fields of sociology and economics agree that available international statistics on unemployment indicate its wide spread in both developed and developing countries, with its rates continuing to escalate, which poses a threat to social and political security in many countries[1].

Some Arab and European countries have witnessed protests and social movements due to the high unemployment rates among young people and the accompanying high rate of poverty among the population, at present, unemployment is the first problem in various countries of the world, where there are more than one billion young people in the age group (18-30) years suffering from full or partial unemployment, and unemployment

has become a structural problem for more than four decades, as it continues to worsen despite technological progress and economic recovery and growth[2].

In countries that were socialist and did not know unemployment previously, the number of unemployed increased with the transition to the capitalist system that began in the early nineties of the last century, while in developing countries, unemployment is exacerbated as a result of the failure of development efforts[3].

External debt increased, and strict fiscal discipline programs such as restructuring and privatization of public sector enterprises employed large segments of workers and employees. Some studies, such as [4] have indicated a positive relationship between unemployment on the one hand, and the commission of crime on the other; the higher the unemployment rates, the higher the crime rates, which indicates the importance of unemployment as a major factor in committing crime, in addition, some studies such as [5] show that the factors causing crime and delinquency include globalization and technical development, increasing population growth rates, high rates of urbanization, and migration from the countryside. to the city, and the failure of development plans and programs. However, unemployment and poverty are a major factor contributing to social delinquency among unemployed youth. Unemployment in Iraq is one of the most serious social and economic problems that a large part of young people suffer from, especially graduates of universities, institutes and secondary schools, and the Iraqi economy faces structural challenges[6].

Periods of economic growth did not lead to a decline in unemployment rates but continued to worsen, and factors such as heavy dependence on the oil sector, weak economic diversification, and slowing investment projects contributed to higher unemployment rates;

Recognizing the seriousness of the spread of unemployment and its high rates, and the importance of addressing it to reduce its negative effects, this study came as an attempt to uncover the impact of youth unemployment on the perpetration of behavioral deviations among young people in Iraqi society, in addition to investigating the underlying causes and effects[7].

Study problems and questions

Unemployment is a pressing social and economic issue that affects large segments of society and is particularly serious among young people, who constitute a large segment of the population in Iraq. In recent years, Iraqi society has witnessed an increasing growth in youth unemployment rates as a result of multiple factors, including economic challenges, declining job opportunities, and the instability of the political and security situation, which has led to growing feelings of frustration and despair among this group. The high unemployment rate among Iraqi youth is no longer just an economic problem, but a social issue of serious proportions, as unemployment is seen as a major factor pushing young people to adopt deviant behaviors such as violence, crime, drug use, and joining illegal groups[8].

From this standpoint, this study seeks to explore the impact of the growing problem of unemployment among Iraqi youth on their behavioral deviation patterns, with a focus on the factors that contribute to the exacerbation of this phenomenon, and to analyze the role of social institutions in reducing its negative effects[9].

Study Questions:

The study attempts to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the impact of unemployment on the perpetration of deviant behaviors among young people in Iraqi society from their point of view?
- 2) What are the most prominent deviant behaviors reflected in the high unemployment rates from the point of view of young people in Iraqi society?

The importance of the study

The theoretical and practical significance of the study is derived from the following:

First: Theoretical importance

1. This study derives its scientific importance from the scarcity of studies that dealt with the relationship between growing unemployment among young people and behavioral deviations in Iraqi society, as unemployment is one of the most serious social problems that affect the stability of individuals and society.
2. The study contributes to analyzing the magnitude of the problem of unemployment among Iraqi youth, and shedding light on the extent of its prevalence and impact on different age groups.
3. It aims to explore the socio-economic factors that lead to high youth unemployment rates in Iraq.
4. The study seeks to understand the negative social effects resulting from unemployment, especially its relationship to the spread of deviant behaviors, such as crime, violence and addiction, which enhances the sociological understanding of this phenomenon.

Second: Practical Importance

1. The study provides a practical vision to confront the unemployment problem and reduce its negative effects on Iraqi youth, based on the results of the research and its analysis.
2. Assist decision-makers in developing effective policies and programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and reducing its impact on crime rates and behavioral deviations.
3. The study proposes a set of measures and procedures in the form of recommendations, which may contribute to reducing the spread of unemployment and its negative effects on youth in Iraqi society.
4. This study can constitute a basic reference and a rich source of data and information, which helps researchers in Iraqi and Arab universities, in addition to study centers, to benefit from it in their research, and this study may pave the way for new studies dealing with the relationship between unemployment and other variables for Iraqi youth.

Objectives of the study

The study seeks to achieve the following:

- 1) Analyze the impact of unemployment on the perpetration of deviant behaviors among young people in Iraqi society from their point of view.
- 2) Identify the most deviant behaviors resulting from unemployment among Iraqi youth.

Study concepts

– Unemployment:

Unemployment is of complex economic and social concept, as there is no comprehensive definition that prevents it, due to the different views of researchers about its nature and limits, and the extent to which it is related to other concepts such as employment, employment, full employment, underemployment, and types of unemployment and its causes[10].

The Encyclopedia American defines unemployment as "the state of total non-employment that includes individuals who are able and willing to work, who seek it, who seek it, but who do not find it." The International Labor Organization has adopted this definition with some additions, defining an unemployed person as "any person who is able, willing to, seek, willing to work at the prevailing wage level, but unable to find it" [11].

According to international definitions, the determination of unemployment is based on three main criteria that must be met together to classify a person as unemployed [12]:

- 1) Non-work: i.e. not engaging in any paid work or for the same person.
- 2) Willingness and actual availability of work: that is, the young person is ready to work and looking for a job opportunity.
- 3) Job search: Any actual steps to find a job, job, or independent job opportunity that results in financial remuneration.

The ILO has adopted these criteria in its definition of unemployment, which is adopted by most UN member states, and therefore will be adopted in this study because it is the most comprehensive and accurate in describing unemployment and its dimensions[13].

Behavioral deviation

Behavioral deviation is defined as any behavior that contradicts the values, traditions, and social norms prevailing in society, which may expose its owner to social or legal accountability. The manifestations of this deviation may vary between simple behaviors that do not entail legal penalties and can be corrected by guidance and education, to more serious behaviors that may develop into criminal acts if not treated and prevented[14].

In the context of this study, the concept of behavioral deviation among Iraqi youth is associated with the impact of unemployment on negative behavior patterns, as the absence of job opportunities and economic stability may push some young people to adopt abnormal behaviors, such as violence, drug use, theft, and involvement in illegal activities[15].

Behavioral deviation is defined in this study as a set of unacceptable behaviors carried out by unemployed youth, that are contrary to societal rules and values in Iraq, and include deviations related to social relations, behaviors contrary to public order, in addition to illegal activities that may result from frustration and pressures resulting from unemployment.[16]

Youth Concept

From the perspective of sociology, youth is defined as the age stage characterized by the appearance of signs of psychological, social, and biological maturity, as it is seen as a period of education and personal formation, during which skills and knowledge are acquired that contribute to the refinement of the individual's personality and integration into society

Youth are considered a broad and diverse social segment, which cannot be treated as a homogeneous mass, as its members differ in terms of attitudes, educational level, culture, as well as in terms of work environment, housing, and class affiliation; accordingly, youth can be classified according to three main categories:

Educated or educated youth: It is the category that possesses extensive experience and knowledge, and is considered a leader in society, because of its awareness and ability to influence in various fields.

Conscious youth: This category includes individuals who have a certain amount of culture, education, and the ability to choose, but their actual activity may be limited compared to their potential, and part of this category includes active individuals who may meet with the first group in some aspects.

Young followers: It is the broadest category, characterized by poor awareness, education, and lack of initiative, and despite its participation in various activities, it relies on others to lead and direct it, rather than making independent decisions or initiating.

Literature Review

Theoretical framework

There were many social theoretical frameworks that tried to explain the factors causing deviant behavior and criminality, and each trend and perspective had its

foundations from which it proceeded and from the theories explaining the subject of the study, the following:

Social stress theory

The American sociologist Robert Agnew (Agnew, 2001) provided a psychological and social explanation for committing deviant behavior, as he relied on the concept of frustration as a main variable that refers to the psychological state that the individual goes through as a result of not achieving his goals, such as obtaining a job opportunity or engaging in the labor market, and this theory was also classified within social explanations, as social frustration is associated with interaction with others, where society exerts pressure on individuals by determining the value of the individual based on his social and professional role[17].

Agnew has redefined the concept of stress, explaining that some types of stress generate negative feelings that drive individuals to deviate. According to this theory, committing deviant behaviors may arise in young people as a result of the pressures they feel, however, the response of young people to these pressures is influenced by their personality traits, young people with low self-control are more likely to deviate, especially if they grow up in environments that support this behavior, and when various pressures accumulate, whether Personal, objective, acting or expected, it leads young people to feel negative emotions such as hopelessness, frustration, and fear, which leads them to adopt a negative adaptation that may lead to perverted or criminal behaviors[18].

Agnew identified three main sources of stress that drive individuals toward deviant behavior: the first source is the individual's inability to achieve goals of positive value, as they may experience complexities that hinder the compatibility of means with future goals, suffer from a gap between their expectations and actual achievements, or feel an imbalance between what they consider fair and the results they get. The second source is related to the loss of positive stimuli of value to the individual, such as the loss of important social support such as the death of a loved one or the loss of a job, or exposure to environmental changes such as moving from one place of residence to another, which may affect his or her psychological and social stability. The third source is exposure to negative stimuli, events, or situations that put pressure on the individual and negatively affect their lives, such as poverty or job marginalization, which increases the likelihood that they will respond to deviant behaviors [19].

According to Agnew, the frustration of these pressures can lead an individual to commit a crime through several mechanisms. Loss of positive motivation can lead to heightened feelings of anger and a desire for revenge, such as when a job is lost or fired from a job, where an individual may seek to compensate for this in illegal ways. Also, failure to achieve positive goals due to barriers to progress can generate frustration that leads them to deviant behaviors. In addition, confronting negative stimuli, such as unemployment or marginalization at work, limits the achievement of one's goals and prevents them from excelling, which may lead them to seek alternative means of self-fulfillment, which may be illegal [20].

According to this theory, the pressures that lead to deviation are classified into several types. Objective pressures include social problems experienced by society in general, such as poverty and unemployment, which are undesirable by most individuals. Subjective stress arises from personal experiences, such as failures and emotional trauma, and directly affects them, on the other hand, there are acting pressures, which occur when an individual is affected by the suffering experienced by others around him, as he becomes more sensitive to the pressures faced by his social environment. Finally, there is the expected stressor, which is to worry about problems that may occur in the future based on past or ongoing experiences, which creates in the individual a sustained sense of insecurity [21]. According to this theory, unemployment contributes to increasing rates of deviant behaviors through their direct impact on the feelings of young people, as frustration and

despair resulting from the inability to fulfill basic needs and personal ambitions lead to the search for illegitimate solutions to fill these gaps. When a young person is unable to achieve his goals in legitimate ways, he may resort to illegal means as a way to cope with these pressures and achieve psychological and social balance, which increases the likelihood of engaging in deviant behaviors.

Theory of relative deprivation

The theory of relative deprivation was developed by the American scientist Ted Gurr in 1970, which focused on the relationship between economic inequality, the spread of terrorism, and criminal behavior. According to this theory, individuals become rebellious when they cannot tolerate the misery and deprivation they feel compared to others. This theory is based on psychoanalysis and not only on social influences, as it focuses on the emotions generated by class inequality and its impact on the behavior of individuals. Papp and Winkelmann assert a clear link between unemployment, poverty, and violent behavior, where the growing material disparity between rich and poor leads disadvantaged groups to feel worthless, which can lead them to adopt deviant or even violent behaviors[22].

This theory proceeds from the hypothesis that economic deprivation, represented by low income, unemployment, and poverty, contributes to an increase in the rates of deviant behaviors, as it leads to an increase in the number of poor and unemployed, leading some to seek illegitimate means to meet their needs or to express their dissatisfaction with their social and economic conditions [23].

Frustration Theory – Aggression

The theory of frustration-aggression explains the relationship between the obstacles that an individual faces and his tendency to deviant behavior, where frustration appears when the individual faces obstacles that prevent him from achieving his goals or satisfying his needs and motivations, whether these obstacles are related to the surrounding environment or personal circumstances. The concept of frustration not only refers to the lack of fulfillment or postponement, but focuses on the negative emotions that result, such as distress, stress, anxiety, disappointment, and sometimes even depression [24].

From the perspective of this theory, unemployment is one of the driving factors toward deviant behavior and arises from the individual's tendency to express aggression as a result of a sense of frustration, aggression is one of the most common responses in situations in which the individual is frustrated and takes multiple forms, such as physical aggression represented in violence against others, or aggression against property such as theft, vandalism, and robbery. The individual often directs their aggression toward the source perceived as the cause of their frustration, which can lead to criminal behaviors or other behavioral deviations [25]. According to this theory, unemployed youth who suffer from poverty and social marginalization may find aggression a way to express their frustration; instead of adapting positively to their situation, they may engage in violent behaviors such as physical abuse, turn to economic crimes such as theft and robbery, or even participate in acts of sabotage that reflect their dissatisfaction with their living conditions. The surrounding environment also plays a role in determining the direction of aggression, Living in areas with high unemployment rates increases the likelihood of forming groups that engage in aggressive behavior as a means of obtaining resources or achieving social recognition.

Thus, the frustration-aggression theory confirms that unemployment is not only an economic problem but is a catalyst for criminal and aggressive behaviors, as a result of a sense of injustice and lack of opportunities, which makes individuals more likely to engage in manifestations of violence and crime in reaction to the frustration they experience.

Another theory that can explain the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior is the theory of non-normativity by sociologist Émile Durkheim (1858-

1917), which holds that when individuals have difficulty achieving their ambitions and goals due to the absence of legitimate means, such as obtaining employment, they become vulnerable to frustration and dissatisfaction. This constant sense of frustration may lead them to a state of social alienation, increasing the likelihood that they will adopt deviant or extreme behaviors in response to the conditions imposed on them by society [26].

From the psychoanalytic perspective of Sigmund Freud, the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior is explained by its influence on an individual's personality and motivation. According to Freud, man naturally seeks to satisfy his needs and fulfill his desires, and when the unemployed person is unable to meet his basic needs due to his lack of a stable source of income, he becomes more vulnerable to psychological disorders that affect his emotional and behavioral balance. This disorder may lead him to feel alienated from society, leading to his tendency to adopt extreme and aggressive behaviors in response to his sense of helplessness and unfairness[27].

Through the presentation of the theoretical frameworks explaining the subject of the study, it is clear that these theories provided an integrated explanation of the role of economic, social, and psychological factors in explaining criminal behavior and delinquency, with a focus on the relationship between unemployment on the one hand, and deviant behavior on the other. It is noted that these theories complement each other, as each of them offers a new dimension that helps to understand the phenomenon under study from a different perspective. As for the theory of social pressure, which is one of the most prominent theories that link social frustration and crime, it confirms that the pressures resulting from not achieving goals, losing positive stimuli, or exposure to negative influences push individuals to adopt deviant behaviors. This theory accurately illustrates how poverty and unemployment affect the feelings of young people, making them more vulnerable to criminal behavior, especially if these pressures are combined with social environments that support this pattern of behavior. The theory of relative deprivation focuses on the psychological and emotional dimension of the individual compared to others, where class disparity generates feelings of anger and resentment, which may push individuals to adopt aggressive or deviant attitudes. This idea is in line with studies suggesting that high unemployment increases feelings of inequality and social injustice, which can lead to crime as a result of this sense of injustice.

The frustration-aggression theory reflects the psychological aspect of deviant behavior, interpreting crime as a direct result of feelings of frustration resulting from failure to achieve goals, which corresponds to the reality experienced by many unemployed. Constant frustration leads to the accumulation of aggressive emotions, which may manifest themselves in the form of violence against others or economic crimes such as theft and vandalism. Durkheim's theory of anomatism offers a structural explanation linking social changes to the absence of clear values, causing individuals to lose direction in an economically and socially unstable environment. Unemployment is one of the most important manifestations of non-normativity, as individuals feel useless and alienated from society. This increases the likelihood that they will resort to crime as a means of adaptation. Psychological theories also add an internal dimension in explaining the relationship between unemployment and the perpetration of deviant behavior, as Freud believes that frustration resulting from the lack of fulfillment of basic needs leads to psychological disorders that may push individuals to criminal behavior. This explanation reinforces the idea that unemployment not only affects an individual's economic status but extends to his mental health and social behavior. Previous studies: This part of the study includes a presentation of the most important studies that dealt with the variables of the subject of the study, where previous local, Arab, and foreign studies that examined the subject of the study were dealt with and presented for these studies: conducted a study aimed at exploring the views of faculty members in Jordanian public universities on the relationship between "poverty and unemployment" and committing crimes among Jordanian youth, in addition to identifying the factors that lead to the spread of poverty

and unemployment in this category. The study relied on the social survey methodology, using the questionnaire as the main tool for data collection, and the sample included 449 faculty members from six public universities, namely:

University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Mutah University, Hashemite University, Tafila Technical University, and A'1 al-Bayt University. The data were analyzed using descriptive and analytical statistical methods. The results showed that faculty members showed high tendencies towards a close relationship between poverty, unemployment, and committing crimes among Jordanian youth, and the study also showed that theft and assault crimes against others are among the most prevalent crimes among young people who suffer from poverty and unemployment[28].

Al-Budairi conducted an analytical study entitled "The Problem of Unemployment and its Social Effects in Crisis Societies (Iraqi Society as a Model)", and the study dealt with the problem of unemployment as one of the prominent social challenges in Iraqi society, as it delved into its causes and social repercussions. The study indicated that unemployment leads to worsening crises within society, which increases instability and affects individuals and society in general. The study sought to analyze the underlying causes of the spread of unemployment, focusing on the need to address this phenomenon by strengthening the role of institutions. Develop effective legal legislation that contributes to reducing its negative effects. The study also stressed the importance of coordination between government agencies and the private sector to reduce the spread of unemployment and its repercussions at the social and economic levels. Mansour conducted a study entitled "Unemployment and its Impact on Social Development: A Field Study of Latakia Governorate", with the aim of analyzing the reality of unemployment in the governorate by studying the percentage of registered and appointed jobs in various educational and professional categories. It also sought to measure the impact of unemployment on social development at the individual, family, and community levels. The study adopted the descriptive analytical approach, where it targeted a sample of (377) unemployed, and the questionnaire was used in addition to analyzing the time series of the unemployed during the period. The results showed that unemployment negatively affects unemployed individuals, as they are forced to accept jobs that do not match their qualifications, and suffer from feelings of frustration and inability to self-realize, which creates a feeling of being a burden on society. Unemployment also leads to delayed marriage as a result of financial pressures. It increases feelings of psychological alienation and a lack of hope of finding a suitable job opportunity. At the household level, the study revealed that unemployment is a significant economic burden, as families are forced to bear the expenses of unemployed individuals, which pushes some of them to take children out of education and involve them in the labor market to secure an additional source of income. Many families are also resorting to debt as a result of increasing financial pressures, which increases the social and economic burdens on them. The study dealt with [29] the problem of unemployment in Iraqi society, and highlighted its seriousness = and its negative effects on individuals and society, the study relied on the descriptive approach, and relying on official statistics, and the results of this study showed that unemployment is associated with the spread of poverty and marginalization, and high crime rates, in addition to its psychological, social, security, economic and political repercussions, and the study also showed that unemployment contributed to the migration of large numbers of young people, as well as its negative repercussions on family stability. This study recommended the importance of analyzing the causes and repercussions of unemployment, stressing the need for concerted efforts of civil society and government agencies in developing development projects to reduce it, and strategic planning to provide quick and sustainable job opportunities, especially for young people, through specialized development centers aimed at enhancing their role in comprehensive development projects. Flowers conducted a study titled "The Relationship between Youth Unemployment and Terrorism," which aimed to analyze the relationship between youth

participation rates in the local labor force, aged 15-24, and their level of involvement in terrorist activities. The study sought to determine whether the low rate of youth participation in the labor market is associated with an increase in terrorist activities in a given country over a specified period of time. The results of the study showed an average relationship between youth unemployment rates, levels of labor force participation, and involvement in terrorist activities. Nilson & Ageel conducted a study on the relationship between unemployment and crime in Sweden during the period 1996-2000. The results showed a statistically significant correlation at the level of significance (0.05) between the general unemployment rate and major money crimes. The study revealed that the sharp decline in unemployment in the late nineties, from 11.9% to 6.8% (and from 21.3% to 9.4% among males under the age of 24), led to a decrease in burglaries by 15% and car thefts by almost 20%. As for crimes against individuals, the study found that the relationship between them and unemployment was relatively weak, but indicated an association between the high rate of unemployment of young males and the increase in looting.

What distinguishes the study from previous studies:

It is clear from the presentation of previous and related studies that they dealt with the relationship between unemployment, committing behavioral deviation, and crime from multiple angles, as the study of Al-Shalloul focused on the views of faculty members in Jordanian universities on the relationship between poverty, unemployment and committing crimes, while Al-Budairi's study focused on the social effects of unemployment in Iraqi society. On the other hand, Mansour discussed the impact of unemployment on social development, while Al-Dulaimi highlighted the psychological, social, economic, and political effects of unemployment in Iraqi society. Internationally, Flowers focused on the relationship between youth unemployment and involvement in terrorist activities, while Nelson and Agile examined the relationship between unemployment and crime in Sweden, showing the impact of low unemployment on the decline in financial crime.

The current study is distinguished from previous studies as the first to focus directly on the impact of unemployment on the perpetration of deviant behaviors among young people in Iraqi society.

2. Materials and Methods

Study Methodology: This study falls within the descriptive and analytical studies, in line with the nature of its subject and the objectives it seeks to achieve. The descriptive analytical approach was relied on in its survey part, with the aim of studying the impact of unemployment on behavioral deviation among young people in Iraqi society. The relationship between the prevalence of unemployment among young people and their level of involvement in deviant behaviors was analyzed by collecting and analyzing data to reveal the patterns and dimensions of this effect. **Study population and sample:** The study population consists of unemployed male youth in Iraqi society, given that they are the most affected group by the phenomenon of unemployment and its repercussions on social behavior, and with the aim of investigating the impact of unemployment on behavioral deviation in this group, the study sample was selected electronically by publishing a questionnaire via social media using an electronic link prepared on Google Forms. Unemployed youth from various Iraqi provinces were targeted. The questionnaire was published on social media platforms concerned with youth issues and the labor market, with a clear explanation of the objectives of the study and the method of answering questions to ensure accurate and objective data.

The study tool was applied to the sample electronically by publishing the link through various social media platforms, targeting unemployed youth between the ages of [18-35] years, and the questionnaire was applied to the participants during the application period, which lasted for 14 days, where (840) responses were retrieved, and after reviewing

the data, it was found that all responses are valid for statistical analysis, thus reaching the final number of questionnaires subject to analysis [840] questionnaires, and this sample is statistically acceptable according to the preview table. The statistics of Krejcie and Morgan (1970), determine the acceptable number of members of the study sample for large communities at (384) individuals.

3. Results

Characteristics of the study sample:

To identify the general characteristics of the youth of the study sample, frequencies and percentages were found in Table (1).

Table (1) shows the general characteristics of the study sample in terms of social status, age group, and educational level, which contributes to understanding the nature of unemployed youth in Iraqi society and the extent to which they are affected by unemployment and its behavioral repercussions. Looking at the social status, it is clear that the largest group of the sample is singles at 69.85%, which reflects that unemployment may be one of the factors that delay marriage, due to the inability of young people to bear its financial burdens. Married people constitute 25.85%, while divorcees (2.77%) and widows (1.54%), despite their low percentage, their presence in the sample indicates that unemployment may be a factor contributing to the collapse of family relations or the deterioration of the individual's social status. As for the age group, the data shows that the largest percentage of the unemployed are from the 18-24 age group, where their percentage reached 46.00%, which reflects the challenges facing young people at this stage after graduation or during the search for job stability. They are followed by youth in the 25-29 age group at 36.31%, a group that may include old graduates who face difficulties in entering the labor market. The least represented group is the 30-35 age group at 17.69%, which may indicate that some individuals at this stage have been able to find job opportunities, while others are still unemployed, which may lead to frustration and deviant behavior as a means of coping with economic and social pressures. In terms of educational level, the data shows that more than half of the sample (50.77%) hold a bachelor's degree, indicating that unemployment is not limited to those with low education, but also includes university graduates who may face challenges related to mismatch between their specializations and the needs of the labor market. The category of holders of technical institutes and colleges also constitutes 25.85%, reflecting the lack of opportunities available to this group despite their possession of technical skills. In contrast, those with a high school diploma or less constitute 15.54%, which may be related to the weak skills required to obtain stable jobs. As for postgraduates, their percentage was 7.85%, which may indicate that this group has relatively better job opportunities, or that the number of postgraduate degree holders in society is limited compared to other groups.

Table (1)

General characteristics of the study sample

(%) percentage	Repetition	Category	Variable
25.85	217	Married	Marital status
69.85	587	Single	
2.77	23	Divorced	
1.54	13	Widowed	
100	840	Total	
46.00	386	24 – 18	Age
36.31	305	29 – 25	

(%) percentage	Repetition	Category	Variable
17.69	149	35 – 30	
100	840	Total	
15.54	131	Secondary school	Educational level
25.85	217	Technical colleges	
50.77	426	Bachelor's	
7.85	66	Postgraduate studies	
100	840	Total	

In general, this data reflects that unemployment affects different age groups and educational levels, as the older group suffers from difficulties in maintaining job stability, while new graduates face challenges in entering the labor market. The spread of unemployment among married people also reflects its profound impact on family and social stability, which may push some individuals to seek illegal alternatives or deviant behaviors as a means of adapting to living pressures. Therefore, there is a need to find effective economic solutions, such as providing training programs to bridge the gap between education and the labor market, supporting small projects, and stimulating the private sector to provide job opportunities that suit young people at different educational levels, which contributes to reducing the impact of unemployment on behavioral deviation in Iraqi society.

Study tool

The questionnaire was adopted as the main tool for collecting data from the targeted study sample, with the aim of achieving the research objectives and obtaining information and facts related to the study topic. The questionnaire was chosen because it is one of the most efficient means of collecting data from participants in a systematic and accurate manner.

The questionnaire questions were prepared in a closed form (Closed Questions), where the possible responses for each question were determined, which contributed to facilitating the statistical analysis process and ensuring the accuracy of the results. The study tool was built according to precise scientific standards, subjecting it to validity and reliability tests to ensure its reliability, according to the following procedural steps:

Building the study tool:

A questionnaire was designed specifically for the study based on:

- The study topic, its objectives, and research questions.
- Reviewing the scientific literature and previous relevant studies.
- Analyzing the theoretical framework of the study.
- Benefiting from the opinions of academic specialists in the field.

The questionnaire was divided into a number of main parts that cover the various axes of the study, ensuring the collection of comprehensive and accurate data that contributes to achieving the research objectives. The study tool consisted of the following parts:

Part One: Primary data: related to the youth of the study sample, including personal data: social status, age, and education level.

Part Two: This part included (29) paragraphs, which were distributed over the following axes.

Axis One: It includes (15) paragraphs related to measuring the impact of unemployment on the commission of behavioral deviations among youth.

Axis Two: It includes (14) paragraphs related to measuring the extent of the spread of deviant behaviors reflected by unemployment among youth.

The answers to the paragraphs of the first and second axes were graded according to the five-point Likert scale to (1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4-agree, 5-strongly agree),

Validity and reliability tests of the study tool

A- Apparent validity of the study tool

The study tool was presented in its initial form to (5) arbitrators who were selected from faculty members from Iraqi universities, in order to express their opinions in determining the affiliation of each paragraph of the study axes to the axis in which it was included or not, and the validity of the paragraphs of the study tool axes to measure what it was designed for, and the suitability of the rating scale for answering the paragraphs of the study tool axes, and the sufficiency of the number of paragraphs to clarify the axis it includes, and the clarity of the wording of the paragraphs of the axes, as well as making modifications, deletions, or adding new paragraphs with the aim of improving the study tool and making it more capable of achieving the goal for which it was designed. After conducting the arbitration process, reviewing and taking into account all the comments, the proposed amendments were made to the paragraphs that received agreement (80%) or more from the arbitrators, where one paragraph was made. The wording of 6 paragraphs was also modified, and the arbitrators agreed on the need to amend them. In light of the arbitration process, the final number of paragraphs became (29) paragraphs.

B- Construct validity (internal consistency):

After confirming the apparent validity of the study tool, the integrity of the study tool and its construct validity were verified, as the questionnaire was applied to a survey sample from the study community consisting of 30 young men from outside the study sample, who were asked to answer the questionnaire paragraphs. After retrieving it, the construct validity was verified by calculating the Pearson Correlation coefficient between the paragraphs in each axis and the total score of the axis to which it belongs.

Table (2) shows the correlation coefficients between the paragraphs in each axis and the total score of the axis to which it belongs.

Table (2)Correlation coefficients between the paragraphs and the total score of the study tool axes

The prevalence of deviant behaviors reflected in unemployment among young people		The impact of unemployment on the commission of behavioral deviations among young people	
Correlation coefficient	Paragraph number	Correlation coefficient	Paragraph number
**0.54	1	**0.50	1
**0.59	2	**0.69	2
**0.62	3	**0.45	3
**0.67	4	**0.55	4
**0.70	5	**0.45	5
**0.63	6	**0.46	6
**0.58	7	**0.55	7
**0.55	8	**0.54	8
**0.72	9	**0.56	9

The prevalence of deviant behaviors reflected in unemployment among young people		The impact of unemployment on the commission of behavioral deviations among young people	
Correlation coefficient	Paragraph number	Correlation coefficient	Paragraph number
**0.63	10	**0.60	10
**0.59	11	**0.51	11
**0.66	12	**0.59	12
**0.58	13	**0.68	13
**0.54	14	**0.77	14
-	-	**0.61	15

***Statistically significant at a significance level of ($\alpha=0.05$)**

The results in Table (2) showed that the values of the correlation coefficients between the scores of each paragraph of the first axis related to measuring the impact of unemployment on committing behavioral deviations among youth with the total score of the axis are statistically significant at a significance level of ($\alpha=0.05$), and for the second axis related to measuring the extent of the spread of deviant behaviors reflected by unemployment among youth from the study tool with the total score of the axis are statistically significant at a significance level of ($\alpha=0.05$).

Stability of the study tool: To verify the stability of the study tool, the study relied on calculating the stability coefficient values of the study tool paragraphs using the test-retest method, with a time difference of one week between the first and second applications. After conducting the test on the exploratory study sample, the value of the correlation coefficients was high, as the correlation coefficient for the paragraphs of the first and second axes of the tool as a whole reached (0.875), and the stability values for the study tool axes ranged between (0.884-0.846), and the stability coefficient was calculated using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. After applying this test to the exploratory study sample, the value of the stability coefficients for each axis of the study tool was high, as the values of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient ranged between (0.915 - 0.927), indicating that the study tool enjoys a high degree of stability.

Statistical processing methods

The study relied on the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) to analyze the data obtained by applying the study tool to the study sample and using descriptive and inferential statistics methods, which included descriptive statistical measures to describe the characteristics of the study sample, based on frequencies and percentages, and using arithmetic averages and standard deviations to determine the level of answers of the study sample members towards the paragraphs and axes of the study tool.

Study results

This part of the study provides an analysis of the study results by answering its questions, based on what the statistical processing of the data of the answers of the study sample members from young people in Iraqi society showed, as follows.

Results related to the first question: What is the effect of unemployment on committing deviant behaviors from the point of view of young people in Iraqi society?

The first question was answered by calculating the arithmetic means and standard deviations of the answers of the youth from the study sample toward the paragraphs of the first axis of the study tool. Table (3) shows these results:

Table (3)

Arithmetic means and standard deviations of the answers of the youth in the Iraqi society towards the impact of unemployment on committing deviant behaviors.

Level	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraphs	Paragraph number by importance
High	1.12	4.376	Unemployment has destabilized the family and weakened family ties, making me more vulnerable to committing crimes.	1
High	0.99	4.131	Unemployment has pushed me to accept any job opportunity, even if it is against the laws and regulations, due to the urgent need for income.	2
High	1.09	3.998	I felt disappointed and lost hope in the future as a result of unemployment, which made me indifferent to committing criminal behaviors.	3
High	0.98	3.927	The fact that I did not find a job despite my long search was one of the main reasons that led me to commit the crime.	4
High	0.96	3.917	Unemployment caused me to join groups that practice criminal activities, as I found in them economic and social support.	5
High	1.17	3.866	Unemployment caused my commitment to laws and legislation to weaken, as I no longer saw any benefit in adhering to them.	6
High	0.83	3.835	My delayed marriage due to unemployment made me feel frustrated, which sometimes led me to commit crimes. Unemployment contributed to my increased financial need to cover my family expenses, which forced me to commit crimes.	7
High	0.92	3.794	My delayed marriage due to unemployment made me feel frustrated, which sometimes led me to commit crimes. Unemployment contributed to my increased financial need to cover my family expenses, which forced me to commit crimes.	8
High	1.92	3.784	Unemployment has reinforced the spread of materialistic values in society, making the unemployed more likely to commit crimes for financial gain.	9
High	1.12	3.764	My inability to secure adequate housing due to unemployment has led me to resort to illegal means of earning money.	10
High	0.87	3.764	Unemployment has led me to seek money by any means to enhance my social status, even if it is through illegal means.	11
High	0.88	3.713	The deterioration of my family's economic situation due to unemployment forced my children to	12

Level	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraphs	Paragraph number by importance
			work at an early age, which led me to commit crimes. Unemployment played a role in the behavioral deviation of some of my family members, which led me to resort to violence to help or defend them.	
Medium	1.06	3.641	The deterioration of my family's economic situation due to unemployment forced my children to work at an early age, which led me to commit crimes. Unemployment played a role in the behavioral deviation of some of my family members, which led me to resort to violence to help or defend them.	13
low	0.84	2.320	I had to forge some official papers or resort to fraud to get a job opportunity due to unemployment. The void created by unemployment led me to resort to drug and alcohol addiction, which increased the possibility of my involvement in crime.	14
low	1.10	2.318	I had to forge some official papers or resort to fraud to get a job opportunity due to unemployment. The void created by unemployment led me to resort to drug and alcohol addiction, which increased the possibility of my involvement in crime.	15
High	0.74	3.701	The general arithmetic mean of the effect of unemployment on committing deviant behaviors	1-15

The results of Table (3) indicate that unemployment is one of the main factors that drive young people in Iraqi society to commit deviant behaviors, as most of the paragraphs showed high arithmetic averages, reflecting the sample members' belief in the existence of a direct relationship between unemployment and committing deviant behaviors. It was found that unemployment greatly affects family stability, as the paragraph related to undermining family ties came in first place with an arithmetic average of (4.376), indicating that the economic pressures resulting from unemployment lead to the disintegration of the family, which increases the likelihood of young people resorting to crime as a means of adapting to these difficult circumstances. The results also showed that unemployment drives young people to accept any job opportunity even if it is in violation of laws and legislation, as this paragraph obtained an arithmetic average of (4.131), which reflects the surrender of some unemployed to the harsh reality, and their entry into illegal activities due to the urgent need for income. In addition, the feeling of frustration and loss of hope for the future played a major role in enhancing individuals' indifference to committing criminal behavior, as the average of this paragraph was (3.998), indicating the profound negative psychological impact caused by unemployment, on the other hand, the results showed that unemployment contributes to some young people joining criminal groups, as they find economic and social support in it that helps them face life's difficulties, and the average of this paragraph was (3.917), reflecting the danger of unemployment turning into a motive for engaging in organized crime. The study also revealed that unemployment

leads to weak commitment to the laws, as the average of this paragraph was (3.866), which indicates that the unemployed may feel that there is no point in adhering to the legal system in light of the lack of legitimate opportunities. Delayed marriage was also one of the factors that prompted some young people to commit crimes, as this paragraph received an arithmetic average of (3.835), reflecting the impact of unemployment on the delay in forming families and the resulting psychological and social repercussions that lead to criminal behavior. Economically, the results showed that unemployment increases financial pressures on young people, as many of them were forced to commit crimes in order to meet their families' needs, with an average of this paragraph (3.794). The inability to provide adequate housing also pushed some individuals to resort to illegal means to obtain money, with an average of this paragraph (3.764). Unemployment reinforced the spread of materialistic values in society, making the unemployed more vulnerable to committing crimes in order to achieve financial gains, with an average of this paragraph (3.784). Although unemployment has a significant impact on criminal behavior, some paragraphs received average arithmetic averages, such as resorting to forging official documents or fraud to obtain a job with an average of (2.270), in addition to drug and alcohol abuse with an average of (2.183), indicating that the impact of unemployment on these aspects is relatively less compared to other aspects. In general, these results confirm that unemployment is a major factor in the spread of deviant behaviors among young people, as the general arithmetic mean of the impact of unemployment on committing deviant behaviors was (3.664), which reflects the significant impact of unemployment on the economic, social and psychological conditions of young people, and thus on their criminal behavior. Therefore, reducing this phenomenon requires effective government policies to create real job opportunities for young people, and enhance rehabilitation and vocational training programs, in addition to providing social and psychological support to the unemployed, with the aim of reducing the impact of unemployment on crime rates in Iraqi society.

Results related to the second question: What are the most prominent deviant behaviors reflected in the high unemployment rates from the point of view of young people in Iraqi society?

The second question was answered by calculating the arithmetic means and standard deviations of the answers of young people from the study sample members towards the paragraphs of the second axis of the study tool, and Table (4) shows these results:

Table (4)

Arithmetic means and standard deviations of the answers of young people in Iraqi society towards the deviant behaviors reflected in the high unemployment rates

Level	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraphs	Paragraph number by importance
High	1.11	3.963	Staying out late	1
High	1.31	3.884	Flirting on social media	2
High	1.05	3.842	Lying and not telling the truth	3
High	1.15	3.755	Participating in group fights	4
Medium	1.24	3.209	Messing around and vandalizing public property	5
Medium	1.24	3.168	Assaulting others for the slightest reason	6
Medium	1.58	2.987	Harassment of the opposite sex	7

Level	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraphs	Paragraph number by importance
Medium	1.05	2.947	Dealing with the elderly inappropriately	8
Medium	1.48	2.729	Forgery	9
Medium	1.11	2.674	Cheating in dealings with others	10
Medium	1.19	2.445	Paying bribes	11
low	1.38	2.084	Perverse testimony	12
low	1.36	1.776	Theft	13
low	108	1.584	Drug use or trafficking	14
Medium	0.68	2.932	General arithmetic mean Deviant behaviors reflected in high unemployment rates	1-14

The results of Table (4) indicate that unemployment directly affects the behavioral patterns of unemployed youth, as the results revealed varying levels of deviant behaviors in terms of their prevalence among sample members. The general arithmetic mean of deviant behaviors resulting from unemployment was (2.932), which indicates an average level of prevalence of these behaviors among the unemployed in Iraqi society. The results showed that staying out late is the most prevalent behavior among unemployed youth, as it obtained an arithmetic mean of (3.963), indicating that unemployment contributes to the lack of commitment to daily responsibilities and a low level of self-control, which may make youth more vulnerable to engaging in illegal activities. Harassment via social media came in second place with an average of (3.884), which reflects the exploitation of some unemployed people of their long free time in inappropriate behaviors, which may develop in some cases into more dangerous behaviors. On the other hand, the results showed that lying and not telling the truth came in third place with an average of (3.842), reflecting the use of dishonest methods by some to overcome the challenges imposed by poverty and unemployment, such as fraud to obtain job opportunities or financial assistance. Participation in group fights also came in at a high level (3.755), indicating that unemployment may contribute to an increase in community violence due to feelings of frustration and psychological pressure. As for the behaviors at a medium level, it was found that tampering with public property had an average of (3.209), indicating that some unemployed youth may resort to irresponsible behavior as a way to relieve social and economic pressures. Assaulting others for the most trivial reasons also came in at an average level of (3.168), reflecting that unemployment may increase tension and aggression among unemployed youth, leading to an escalation of verbal and physical violence in society. Sexual harassment also recorded an average of (2.987), indicating a relationship between unemployment and an increase in immoral behaviors as a result of emptiness and the lack of family and community supervision. As for the more serious behaviors, such as forgery, fraud, and bribery, they came in at medium to low levels, with forgery receiving an average of (2.729), fraud in transactions (2.674), and paying bribes (2.445), which may reflect that these behaviors are not widespread among unemployed youth, but they still represent a risk that must be addressed. As for the more serious behaviors from a legal perspective, such as false testimony (2.084), theft (1.776), and drug use or trafficking (1.584), they came in at low levels, indicating that unemployment, despite its significant impact on the daily behaviors of youth, does not push all unemployed people to directly engage in serious crimes.

4. Discussion

First: The results of the study indicated that unemployment plays a pivotal role in pushing young people towards deviant behaviors, which is consistent with what was presented by the theory of social pressures proposed by Agnew (2001). The results showed that unemployment leads to a feeling of frustration and despair as a result of the inability to achieve basic goals such as obtaining a job or securing living needs, which prompts individuals to seek illegal means to overcome these pressures, which is embodied in the high arithmetic mean of some items, such as the effect of unemployment on destabilizing family stability, joining criminal groups, and resorting to deviant behaviors as a result of feeling frustrated. This theory also supports the idea that social and economic pressures, such as poverty and unemployment, generate negative feelings that lead to adopting negative adaptations that may reach the point of committing a crime, which also explains the results of the study, which showed that young people may resort to theft or fraud to compensate for the frustration resulting from not achieving their professional and social goals. The results of the study are also in line with the theory of relative deprivation presented by Ted Gurr (1970), which explains the relationship between economic inequality and the feeling of being deprived of opportunities, which leads to an increase in crime rates. The current study revealed that the feeling of inequality and deprivation of job opportunities pushes young people to engage in criminal behavior, which was reflected in the paragraph that explains that unemployment pushed young people to accept any job opportunity even if it was against the laws, as well as the paragraph that indicates that the financial pressures resulting from unemployment pushed some to commit crimes to cover family expenses. According to this theory, young people who feel less fortunate than their peers economically are more likely to act violently or violate the laws, which explains the relationship between unemployment and the increase in crime rates among the unemployed, as the results of this study showed. As for the frustration-aggression theory, it provided a direct psychological explanation for the results of the study, as it believes that frustration resulting from not meeting basic needs generates aggressive feelings that may turn into criminal behavior. The results showed that unemployment leads to weak commitment to laws and legislation (average 3.866), in addition to the fact that some young people may resort to joining criminal groups to compensate for their feelings of failure. This is consistent with the argument presented by Bradshaw (2006) that frustrated individuals tend to direct their aggression toward society or the state, especially if they feel that opportunities are unequal, which leads some to theft, violence, or other criminal behaviors. Durkheim's anomie theory supports the results of the study by explaining the relationship between unemployment and the loss of social orientation. The results revealed that unemployment leads to a feeling of futility and non-compliance with laws, which increases the likelihood of individuals resorting to deviant behaviors as a means of adapting to difficult living conditions. This is consistent with the argument presented by Durkheim, who believes that the absence of clear social values due to economic crises, such as unemployment, leads to increased crime rates. From the perspective of Freudian psychoanalysis, the results confirm that unemployment does not only affect the individual's economic status but also extends to his psychological health and social behavior. The study showed that unemployment contributed to young people's feelings of disappointment, making them more likely to engage in illegal behaviors, and some of them resorted to drug and alcohol addiction as a result of emptiness and frustration, which supports Freud's idea that individuals who cannot achieve their basic desires suffer from psychological disorders that push them to deviant behaviors. When comparing the results of the study with previous studies, we find that there is a match with the study of Al-Shaloul (2020), which confirmed the existence of a close relationship between poverty, unemployment, and the commission of crimes among Jordanian youth, especially in crimes related to theft and assault. The results are also consistent with Al-Badri's study (2015), which focused on the impact of unemployment on increasing crime

rates in Iraq, as it confirmed that unemployment is one of the main factors that lead to a state of social and economic instability, which was clearly evident in the current study, especially with regard to the impact of unemployment on destabilizing family stability and delaying marriage. This study also reinforces the findings of Mansour's study (2014) on the impact of unemployment on social development, as it showed that unemployment leads to the unemployed feeling frustrated and unable to achieve themselves, which was reflected in the results of the current study, which indicated that unemployment pushes young people to resort to illegal means to compensate for failure to achieve legitimate goals. The results of the study are also consistent with Flores' study (2014), which confirmed that high youth unemployment rates are associated with increased levels of involvement in illegal activities, which was evident in this study through the high rates of joining criminal groups and carrying out illegal acts.

The study of Nilsson and Agile that addressed the relationship between unemployment and crime in Sweden confirmed that lower unemployment rates lead to lower rates of economic crimes such as theft and robbery, which is consistent with the results of the current study that showed that high unemployment rates push young people to search for money by any means, including illegal means. Second: The results related to the second question showed that unemployment does not only lead to economic crimes such as theft and forgery, but also extends to deviant behaviors of a social and moral nature such as staying out late, flirting via social media, lying quarrels, and aggressive behavior. This is consistent with what was presented by Agnew's social stress theory (2001), which confirms that the pressures resulting from not achieving personal and professional goals generate feelings of frustration that push individuals to negative behaviors in response to this failure. The study showed that staying out late was one of the most prevalent behaviors among the unemployed with an average of (3.963), reflecting young people's attempts to escape the difficult economic reality. Social media harassment was a direct result of emptiness and frustration, which are negative feelings that this theory talks about as factors that lead to behavioral deviation. The results of the study also support what was proposed by the theory of relative deprivation, which states that individuals who feel economic inequality and injustice are more likely to engage in deviant behaviors as an expression of anger or an attempt to adapt to the difficult economic situation. This theory confirms that individuals who see that others have better opportunities in life tend to behave aggressively or violate the rules, which was evident in the high rates of participation in group fights and assaults on others. As for the frustration-aggression theory, it provided a direct psychological explanation for the results, as it states that individuals who suffer from economic and psychological pressures due to unemployment may display aggressive behaviors towards society or even towards themselves. The study showed that violent behaviors such as assaulting others or vandalizing public property occurred at medium to high levels, indicating that unemployment leads to the accumulation of anger and frustration within unemployed youth, which increases the likelihood of aggressive behaviors towards others, which is in line with the psychological interpretations of this theory. Considering Durkheim's anomie theory, which explains that the absence of clear societal values in times of economic crises leads to individuals losing behavioral guidance, we find that the results of the study support this argument. The results showed that unemployment pushes some youth to engage in immoral behaviors such as lying or harassing the opposite sex, which reflects the impact of the absence of social controls and value guidance in times of economic crises, which is what Durkheim discussed in his interpretation of the anomie phenomenon. From a Freudian psychoanalytic perspective, the results showed that the emptiness and frustration resulting from unemployment may push some young people towards addiction or negative habits, as drug use and promotion were at a relatively low level compared to other behaviors, but it is still an indication that unemployment may lead to psychological disorders that push some towards drug addiction. Some other behaviors, such as forgery,

cheating, and bribery, were at low levels, which may indicate that the unemployed may resort to these means as alternative solutions to obtain money or job opportunities, which is supported by Freudian psychoanalysis on the impact of internal conflicts and deprivation on deviant behaviors.

5. Conclusion

The results of the current study are consistent with the findings of Al-Shaloul's study (2020), which confirmed that poverty and unemployment are linked to the spread of crimes and deviant behaviors, such as assaults and legal violations. It also agrees with Al-Badri's study (2015), which focused on the impact of unemployment on social stability, as it confirmed that unemployment may lead to an increase in the level of violence and aggression in society, which was reflected in the results that showed an increase in the rates of collective fights and assaults in Iraqi society. This study also supports the findings of Mansour's study (2014) on the impact of unemployment on social deviance, as it showed that unemployment pushes individuals to adopt negative behaviors as a result of frustration and inability to achieve goals, which appeared in the results of this study, which showed that unemployment leads to resorting to lying, cheating, and even some economic crimes such as forgery and bribery. On the other hand, the results of this study are in line with Nelson and Agil's study (2003), which confirmed that unemployment leads to an increase in the levels of non-violent crimes such as theft and fraud, which appeared in the results that showed that fraud in transactions and forgery were among the deviant behaviors resulting from unemployment.

Recommendations:

In light of the study's findings, the following recommendations can be made:

- 1) The Iraqi government must adopt youth employment programs through development projects in various sectors, ensuring the provision of real and sustainable job opportunities for unemployed youth.
- 2) Focus on establishing small and medium enterprises and providing financial facilities to enable youth to launch their own projects.
- 3) Develop rehabilitation and vocational training programs to enable youth to acquire skills that are compatible with labor market requirements.
- 4) Cooperate with the private sector to organize free training courses that help youth enter the labor market.
- 5) Implement awareness campaigns targeting youth and families about the social and moral risks resulting from unemployment, such as staying up late outside the home, flirting, and engaging in quarrels.
- 6) Involve the media in raising awareness of the value of work and the importance of adhering to laws to reduce deviant behavior.
- 7) Activate the role of community institutions and schools in following up on youth and providing them with psychological and social support.

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