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GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN IRAQI UNIVERSITIES, AN
ANALYTICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The study focuses on a basic issue, which is that the sociological knowledge output in Iraq suffers from a crisis and a shortage with regard to feminist research. This deficiency is not only limited to the number and percentage of studies on women in relation to the number of studies completed in the Department of Sociology, but also includes the inability to provide alternative knowledge that constitutes one of the well-established principles of feminist thought and research, which is based on reviewing the prevailing or dominant knowledge and an attempt to integrate women's knowledge as researchers and respondents In The Structure of Knowledge through Feminist Epistemology, which presents a vision and understanding of society through the eyes and voices of women, and using their experiences as a lens for understanding the entire Iraqi society. The study attempts to present a review of the research output of women at the Iraqi University and to reveal the general characteristics of the theses and theses that dealt with topics related to women, follow the stages of their development and identify their nature in terms of the approved curriculum and priority topics. The study uses bibliometric analysis, which has become a well-known method today and means the scientific study of the specialized knowledge product by adopting statistical and mathematical methods in data analysis. The study was limited to master's theses and doctoral dissertations produced by the Sociology Department in Baghdad since the beginning of the establishment of graduate studies in the year 1972 until 2019. For

which a full bibliography was provided by Dr. Khaled Hantoush, professor of sociology in the department.

INTRODUCTION

Overview

Studies on women began relatively late in Iraq, and over the 47-year history of postgraduate studies, this field of knowledge received only a small part of the interests of researchers and researchers, and often dealing with women's issues comes in the context of concern for general social problems and not out of interest in increasing knowledge and presenting Understanding of women's issues in Iraq. And the knowledge output continued to suffer from a great shortage in the number and quality of women's studies and revolves away from the reality of women, which for more than 40 years has also witnessed great transformations. And the contribution of women to the development of knowledge in this field also remained limited .

Women's issues were raised until 2003 in accordance with the directions of the state and the ruling party at the time, and it is clear that many of the issues that reveal the dramatic decline in the status of women as a result of wars and economic sanctions remained unspoken topics, which obscured the policies of discrimination and exclusion against women in Iraq that were formed during these Period. On the other hand, studies that are in line with the directions of the authority and that carry contents that sometimes conflict with women's rights and international covenants were encouraged. The cognitive and academic isolation that accompanied the economic sanctions, which lasted 12 years, contributed to isolating Iraqi researchers from the important developments in concepts, approaches and theories witnessed by gender studies during the last two decades of the last century.

This stage witnessed a set of policies, laws and social practices that reflect (male orientation) in the policy of the ruling regime towards women. The religious orientation of the state led to policies far from liberalism, and women's rights were curtailed in favor of the patriarchal system.

The stage that followed the collapse of the authority in Iraq in 2003 witnessed an unprecedented growth in the number of women's organizations that adopt international conventions on women as a reference framework, and their activities focus on issues of violence, amending legislation and laws, and enhancing the role of women in building peace. The kinetic activity was accompanied by a research interest in women's issues. Research in these areas became part of civil

society activities aimed at combating violence against women and supporting women. Although the knowledge output remained limited, it was able to promote new issues and concepts within the framework of gender, which were quickly translated into the titles of master's thesis and doctoral dissertations, such as trafficking in women and violence against women.

United Nations agencies and international organizations have also contributed to providing data and disseminating knowledge about women, including an evaluation of the data issued by the Central Statistical Organization to reveal the extent of its sensitivity to gender. Surveys that deal in detail with the situation of women in Iraq, regular monitoring of violations of women's rights in Iraq, and funding of extensive field studies on the reality of women.

However, the Iraqi experience in the field of women's studies is still in its early stages and needs more effort to develop knowledge of gender issues in Iraq. The current paper will attempt to shed light on the most important gaps and challenges facing the integration and development of a gender perspective in Iraqi universities.

First: Gender in The Curricula

The Iraqi University lacks a study program or a scientific specialization that grants a master's degree or a doctorate in the field of women's and gender studies, which has affected the small number of female specialists and specialists in this field. Until the year 2003, there was no course or item within more comprehensive courses and curricula related to feminist studies or women's sociology. The political transformations that Iraq witnessed after 2003 prompted the interest in human rights and democracy, and the Ministry of Higher Education adopted a human rights curriculum or course that studies in the first stage for all disciplines in universities dealing with various aspects of human rights, including women's rights, although the course included only one page is about women. However, some colleges have expanded the circle of interest, and singled out a semester dealing with women, law, and civil leaders . Some of the subject's teachers also tried to include other titles related to women such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence against Women in these curricula .

In the year 2015-2016, the project to develop and modernize sociology curricula in Iraqi universities, implemented by the Ministry of Higher Education in Iraq, approved the introduction of a women's sociology course as a curriculum taught at a rate of two hours per week in the third stage of sociology departments in Iraqi universities. The aim of creating this course, as defined by the project, is to introduce the most important

feminist theories, contemporary women's problems, and the transforming roles of women.

In the same year, for the master's degree, in the Sociology Department only, a new subject entitled Sociology of Gender was introduced. This is the first time that gender has been integrated into the curricula at the Iraqi University. However, this course remained limited and confined to the sociology department only, as the history departments did not witness, for example, a course or curriculum on women's history, and despite the fact that the sociology department in the College of Arts includes the two branches of social work and anthropology, this curriculum was limited to the sociology branch in the preliminary and graduate studies only.

Second: Research Centers

Until 2016, there was no research center specialized in women or gender issues, except for the Women's Research Unit, which was established at the end of the nineties of the twentieth century, affiliated to the College of Education for Girls. This unit did not undertake the production of research and its work was limited to the establishment of irregular activities

(Conferences, seminars and lectures) concerning women. There is no cadre of researchers and teachers assigned to this unit. There is only a director of this unit, usually one of the departments of the college and one employee. In an attempt to develop this unit by turning it into a research center, and in 2015 the Center for Women's Studies was established at the University of Baghdad, which includes 9 centers other research. The center was established in response to the recommendations of the first population conference held by the Higher Population Committee in 2013, in which it called for the need to establish a research center specialized in women's issues, and following a proposal from the dissolved Ministry of Women and the former Minister of State for Women's Affairs led the efforts to establish it with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) undp), which contributed to supporting the establishment of two other women's research centers in the same period at Karbala University, and another university in Sulaymaniyah. The goal of creating the center as stated in the request to establish it: Employing scientific research in addressing the problems and social issues that plague the reality of women in Iraq. Its main task is to produce field research and studies.

The center consists of three departments: Empowerment Research and Capacity Building Department, Policy and Legislation Research Department, and a third department whose nature has not been clear so

far under the name of International Community Research. The center's sections had not been approved at the time of preparing this report.

The center faced great difficulties due to the lack of conviction of the concerned authorities of the necessity of establishing a center for women's studies and the feasibility of proceeding with this project. The center also faced another challenge, which is the difficulty of having specialists in this field, and it was limited to a limited number of researchers, most of whom are males who are far from their interests and scientific preoccupation with women's issues and from different fields of knowledge.

There is no evaluation that adopts precise criteria for research centers at the Iraqi University. In terms of budget, the Center has not allocated any budget or funding that could contribute to the development of research in the field of women. The center has so far been unable to obtain funding or external grants, despite the increasing demand for research on women by international organizations and relevant institutions. There is a clear weakness in coordination and cooperation agreements with other research institutions, whether local, regional or global.

Although every researcher in the center, now numbering (10), is obliged to prepare three researches annually in the field of women, the total of what is produced is predominantly theoretical and related to topics that have been saturated with study, and often deals with the situation of women in general and overlooks the reality of women in Iraq. One of the reasons for moving towards theoretical studies and staying away from field studies, is the lack of a full-time system for researchers to complete field research rather completing them in free time in office.

Third: The knowledge achievement of women and gender in the Iraqi University

Papers and Dissertations in Sociology Department.

Researches and theses in the Sociology Department

1- Numbers and their significance.

Despite the quantitative growth in the number of theses and dissertations produced by the Sociology Department at the University of Baghdad since its establishment in 1972, the percentage of studies on women did not exceed 10% in one of the humanities most closely related to gender and women issues. Out of the 608 theses and theses produced by the department, the share of theses and theses related to women was 64 theses

Reading the data in Table (1) reveals that most studies dealing with women-related issues were produced after 2003. There is a dearth of this type of studies during the seventies of the last century and during the beginning of the establishment of higher studies in Iraq, as they were not discussed in the Sociology Department for the period from 1972 to 1979 only one master's thesis. This means that the problems and transformations in the world of women during the seventies and before were kept out of the reach of research and did not receive documentation and study.⁶

Reading the data on the number of theses and dissertations that dealt with women's issues also reveals that this topic is dealt with at the level of master's studies more than in doctoral dissertations. The number of women's master's theses reached 47, compared to 17 doctoral theses.

Since 1987, the year in which the doctoral study began, and until 2004, i.e., within 14 years since the beginning of the doctoral program in the Department of Sociology at the University of Baghdad, no doctoral thesis concerning women was completed, except for one thesis that was completed in 1998. It is an indication of a general trend of both Sociology professors and researchers say that women's issues are among the topics that do not rise to the level of doctoral studies. It does not constitute a cognitive challenge those researchers at the PhD stage.

Table 1. No. of Papers and Dissertations in Sociology department

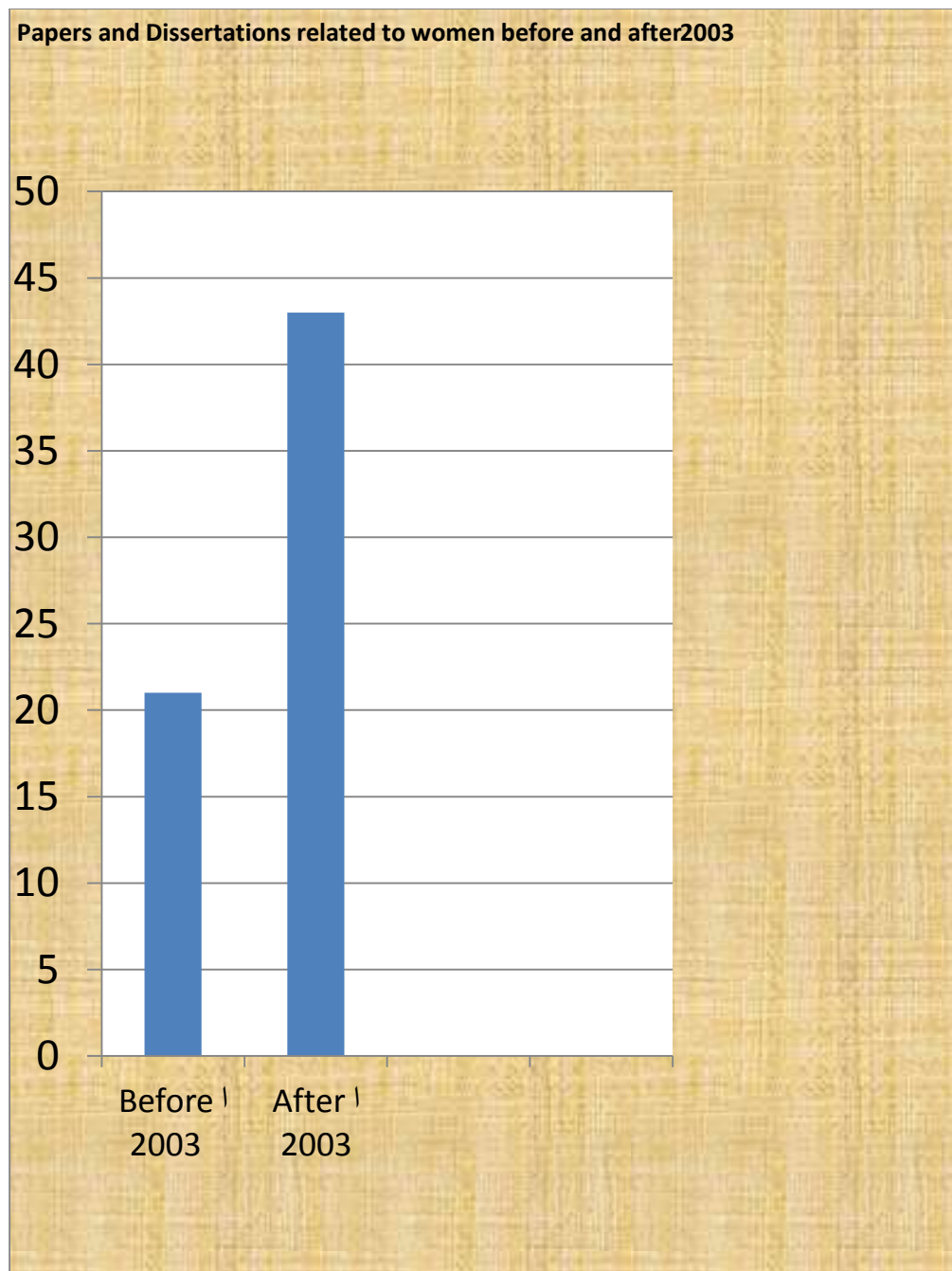
PHD	master	year
	1	1972- 1979
	3	1980- 1984
	5	1985- 1989
	4	1990- 1994
1	3	1995- 1999
	5	2000- 2004
7	4	2005- 2009
5	11	2010- 2014
4	11	2015- 2019
17	47	Total

Studies that deal with women's issues have increased clearly after the political and social transformations that followed the collapse of the authority in Iraq in 2003, as 66.6% of the academic studies that dealt with women were prepared after 2003 and during the last 15 years, as the number of theses and dissertations reached 42 studies, during the last fifteen years that followed the collapse of the authority, which is twice the number of theses and theses produced by the department during the 30

years from its establishment until the year 2004, which amounted to 21 master theses and one doctoral thesis.

This quantitative growth is related in part to the increase in knowledge production in the sociology department in general, which has grown remarkably during the last decade, and this increase is explained by the increase in the number of students accepted into graduate studies. This was accompanied by a noticeable increase in the number of accepted females after there was a large discrepancy in the rates of admission to graduate studies in the Sociology Department in favor of males. The increase in the number of females has led to an increase in the number of studies on women, as females often address these issues more than male researchers.

The growth in the number of studies related to women coincided with the women's activism expansion in Iraq and the increase in the number of women's associations and organizations. It was able to promote new unknown, topics and concepts that were circulated in the Iraqi academic community.



Papers and Dissertations related to women before and after 2003

2- Priority Topics in The Study of Women

Despite the diversity and plurality of topics that dealt with women's issues, there is a clear discrepancy in the number of studies in each specialization or field, as the focus has been on certain topics, on the other hand, other topics have been neglected, which reflects the absence of a clear plan or vision for the development of women's studies at the Iraqi University.⁹

Priority topics in the study of women In Sociology Department

Table 2. the Studies that Dealt With Women Issus

Total	PHD Studies		Maser's Studies		Subjects
	%	Number	%	Number	
		3		10	Woman & Work
		2		4	Woman & Social transformations
				2	Woman & Family
					women & development
				2	women and Demography
				5	women & Crime
				1	Gender
				2	Widows
				5	Violence Against Women

22% of the studies focused on women and work. The social transformations and their impact on women in Iraq have attracted the attention of a number of researchers, as the percentage of studies that dealt with the reality of women within this field reached 10%. However, this percentage remains small compared to the size of the transformations and changes that Iraq has undergone during the past forty years, which left their clear repercussions on women. In all aspects of life, crime was a vital area in which studies on women at the Iraqi University focused, as the percentage of studies that dealt with women within this framework reached 7.5% and by 5 master's theses, however, most of these studies dealt with criminal women, which may constitute in My appreciation is an orientation that is not in favor of the cause of women. Focusing on these issues is more of a condemnation of women than a support for their causes.

The interest in this subject is related to the specialization of female researchers, as the largest percentage of graduate students go to the department of social work, within the framework of sexual profiling of specializations in the department of sociology, as the largest percentage of female students are concentrated in the department of social work. The gender stereotyping of specializations in the Sociology Department was reflected in the number of studies that dealt with women in anthropology, as the number of studies that dealt with women from an anthropological perspective and approach did not exceed two master's thesis only. This scarcity has affected the provision of an understanding of the reality of

women in Iraq, as anthropological approaches allow access to topics and angles that can only be accessed through this field of knowledge.

The subject of violence against women entered for the first time in academic studies in Iraq in 1996. It is worth noting that the study dealt with violence against women in Palestine, as the researcher was from Palestine and taught at the University of Baghdad. In my estimation, the concept was not circulated or known in the Iraqi Academy until 2003 due to the cultural and cognitive isolation that Iraq experienced during the nineties due to the economic sanctions that lasted 12 years, which delayed the entry of many concepts and topics about which studies expanded in the Arab region during that period. A study dealing with violence against women in Iraq was conducted in 2008. ⁹ The number of studies that dealt with this topic amounted to four.

While the concept of gender appeared in the titles of studies produced by the Sociology Department for the first time in 2012, when the number of studies that carried this concept exceeded only two.¹⁰ In general, the studies on women were characterized by their general and comprehensive nature, which deals with the reality of women at the macro level, not the micro, and the problems of the bottom and the world of daily life remained absent from the concerns of researchers and researchers who dealt with women's issues.

The titles of these studies indicate that they concerned themselves with the conditions of educated women, workers, students and women in decision-making positions, and neglected rural women, housewives and illiterate women, and the problems of these groups and their worlds remained far from understanding and studying.

Studies on women also focused on the capital, Baghdad, as a spatial area for conducting the study, which left a large knowledge gap. The disparities between women in the capital and other governorates with traditional references, which are more rural than urban, remained unclear, and far from the study.¹¹

3- Methodological and Theoretical Considerations

All the studies that were produced about women in the sociology department are of a field nature. Despite the importance of field studies in revealing the facts, the neglect of theoretical studies has left a clear gap in the field of knowledge of modern approaches and theories developed by feminist studies, as well as leaving a gap in the field of sociology of science (sociology of gender).

All studies relied on the quantitative method, specifically the descriptive method, using the sample survey method, and it has become known today that it is not possible to reach important and valuable results in issues related to women by relying on quantitative methods, as they are unable to penetrate deep into the topics that require diving into the world. Internal experiences of others.

The studies did not provide important facts about the reality of women. The descriptive nature and the tendency to muzzle the phenomena related to women made them deal with the phenomenon from the outside and take care of what is general as shown by statistics and highlight it and work to obliterate everything that is private. Which made them attempts to consolidate ready-made scientific beliefs and sayings rather than attempts to provide added scientific knowledge. No study attempted to adopt the historical method in what could reveal the lives of women in the past and bring women back to history and document historical stages that were not studied at the time. All studies rely on women and not gender as the unit of analysis.

Until now, the gender analysis, based on analyzing and dismantling the relations existing in society between men and women. Analyzing the causes and forms of imbalance between males and females in the knowledge product of Iraqi women at the Iraqi University has not been used.

Studies on Women and the Crisis of Research Methods in Iraqi Universities

The permanent tendency of sociology in Iraq to muzzle social phenomena has led to an interest in what is general as shown and highlighted by statistics, and in turn obliterating everything that is private, which consequently led to the loss of sociological research in its accuracy and ability to reveal the dimensions of the social phenomenon. The absolute reliance on quantification led to emptying the studied phenomena of their content and internal components represented by semantics, meanings and motives, which resulted in social research characterized by superficiality and impressionism, unable to understand the social phenomenon. It also resulted in a limitation in sociological knowledge that was reflected in the absence of a scientific theory commensurate with the nature of Iraqi society. The entire sociological product depends on ready-made theories that arose in contexts that differ from what exists in our societies.

One of the prominent problems that sociological research suffers from in Iraq is its reliance in the quantification process on the:

- questionnaire as a main tool in data collection. On the other hand, the questionnaire is unable to reveal it.
- It misses many details that were not mentioned in the researcher's mind and that may have a direct relationship to understanding the phenomenon studied.
- It also depends on short and limited answers, as well as the inability to include many questions, either because of forgetfulness and omission, or because they are related to taboos or family specificities that the respondents avoid answering.

The questionnaire is also unable to extract honest and accurate information from the respondents due to the problem of social desirability that the studies suffer from. Thus, the questionnaire works to produce a reality that is different from the reality experienced by the respondents and becomes, as expressed by Nasr Al-Din Al-Ayadi, not as a means of measurement as much as it reproduces a reality shaped by the dominant discourse or expressing the behavior hoped or approved by the social group to which the respondents belong and an example of the failure of the questionnaire in extracting honest information: In a study on violence against women belonging to the minority, which was carried out by a research team, the University of Data went to one of the women who is known to be beaten on a daily basis by her husband. Before the husband, as an important study conducted by the Central Statistical Organization on a representative random sample selected according to undoubted scientific bases indicated that 17 % of the sample are exposed to violence and this figure does not reflect the lived reality in which the majority of women are exposed to at least one of the forms of violence is daily violence.

Another prominent problem facing social research in Iraq is; the inability of research to address many phenomena and topics related to the values, representations and perceptions of social groups, such as the phenomena related to religiosity and the representations of means of communication such as the Internet and satellite channels that have brought about major transformations within the social structure, which need to be studied to develop research tools that implement what they think and feel. It is used by the respondents and gives them sufficient opportunities to reveal and suit the peculiarities of social phenomena as spiritual facts that have their independence such as awareness, will and intentionality. Therefore, sociological knowledge in Iraq has been impoverished by not addressing many of the cultural manifestations that traditional tools are unable to reach.

The main problem that quantitative research suffers from remains its reliance on a sample that does not represent the community, which leads, to misleading results, which does not reflect the reality of the

phenomenon being studied. A research team conducted a study on the social and economic reality of widows in Iraq. The results of the questionnaire showed that widows in Al-Amarah Governorate, which is known to be the poorest region of Iraq, enjoy an economic and living situation that exceeds their counterparts in Baghdad and Ramadi Governorate. The researcher faced difficulty in explaining this discrepancy, but the reasons are clear. Namely, the data collector was directed to an intentional sample of widows, female employees working in the governorate's institutions, which led to misleading the results from the research, because the sample did not represent the research community.

CONCLUSION

Studies of women have not succeeded in accurately portraying the lives of Iraqi women and have failed to establish new models of knowledge or alternative knowledge. She did not succeed in using women's experiences as a lens for understanding Iraqi society as a whole. This failure is mainly related to the academic preparation of female researchers in the sociology department.

The academic preparation or academic upbringing in the Department of Sociology suffers from severe weakness resulting from:

The academic preparation or the academic upbringing in the Department of Sociology suffers from a severe weakness resulting from:

1- The weakness of the structural structure of the department and the regulations governing the work of the department, the lack of a research plan or policy directed to the research movement in sociology.

2- Weakness in scientific activity (seminars, seminars, conferences, conferences, scientific trips) (Nafisa Desouki, p. 615)

3- Criteria for selecting students: The department receives students with the lowest grades and those who failed the exams of other departments in the College of Arts, most of whom do not have the desire for this specialization and lack motivation. Weak curricula and reliance on the course or on the material that the professor summarizes in the (blinded papers) or course, which is unable to keep pace with modern changes in society and in the field of specialization.

4- What the Arab women's library suffers from in terms of poverty, weakness and scarcity in references and sources of feminist thought and research, and the few sources translated into Arabic, if available, are vague because of the problems associated with translation.

5- Postgraduate students did not receive practical training on the various stages of conducting field studies so that research papers would be the first field of training practiced by the new graduated students.

6- The reluctance of women writers and researchers to address women's issues.

- A survey of the National Biography revealed that the number of female researchers and writers during the ten years from 1996 to 2004 did not exceed 80 female writers and researchers compared to 1286 male researchers and writers. very. The total of what women produced and documented in the national biography amounted to 4,164 titles between a thesis, a thesis and a book. The share of women in women's writings was only 77 studies, some of which were not directly related to women.

- In the Department of Sociology, University of Baghdad, out of 147 female researchers in the Department of Sociology, only 38 researchers wrote about women. This confirms the reluctance of researchers to address women's issues, and this reluctance is the most important factor in the delay in women's studies in Iraq.

REFERENCES

The first specialized academic study dealing with women was discussed at the University of Baghdad in 1975, and three years after the establishment of graduate studies in 1972.

An example of this is a master's thesis entitled *The Role of Early Marriage in Achieving Population Security*, which was produced in the year 2004.

A human rights curriculum book, written by Dr. Riyad Aziz.

Among these colleges are the College of Science for Girls and the College of Education for Girls at the University of Baghdad.

An interview with the teacher, Sinan Saeed, a human rights and democracy teacher at the College of Education for Girls, University of Baghdad, conducted by the researcher in April 2019.

The number of doctoral theses that dealt with one of the issues related to women reached 17, while the number of master's theses until the year 2019 reached 48.

1st PHD was presented in 1998 by Muhsen Mahdy on Iraqi girls tendency towards Towards the nursing profession and the reasons for

abstaining from it, a social study under the supervision of Dr. Abdel Moneim Ali.

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