

Received: 28 November 2022 Accepted: 28 March, 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33182/rr.v8i4.217>

The impact of urban and civilized development on the educational and cognitive aspect of the city of Basra 1921-1958

Sanaa Karim Rahma(PhD Student)¹, Prof. Dr. Jafaar Abdul Daem Al-Mansour²

Abstract

Our research discusses this to study the most important problems that faced the educational and cognitive aspect in Iraq in general and Basra in particular, and the extent of developments that occurred in that aspect due to the urban development that the country witnessed in the first half of the twentieth century, as this aspect witnessed the construction of a number of primary and secondary schools in various school stages, which led to an increase in the number of pupils and students in the city of Basra, especially the female component, after female education was regressing at that time due to social customs and traditions that prevented parents from sending their daughters to have their education in schools, the research also discussed the most important factors that strengthened the educational aspect in Basra and helped to develop it, including the establishment of a number of libraries and printing presses that helped the development of science and knowledge in the city of Basra, especially after the number of learners increased there.

The research also deals with illiteracy eradication schools and adult education because of their importance in society. We conclude the research by studying the most important printing presses in Basra during the research period and their role in spreading culture and thought in society.

Keywords: Education, Schools, Students, Literacy, Libraries, Printing Presses.

Introduction

The study of contemporary local history in Iraq is one of the topics of optimal importance, because of its role in revealing the course of various events and their development in various fields, especially the civilized and urban field of the cities of Iraq.

Including the city of Basra, which undoubtedly constitutes an important and vital part of the study of the history of the contemporary Iraqi state, for the importance of this, we chose to study.

"The Impact of Civilized and Urban Development on the Educational and Knowledge Aspect of the City of Basra 1921-1958".

In order to identify the most prominent civilized and urban developments that the educational and cognitive side of the city of Basra achieved during the research period and its role in expanding the horizon of science and knowledge in that city.

¹ Department of History, College of Education for Human Sciences, Basra University – Email: Xxurslxoxo@gmail.com

² Department of History, College of Education for Human Sciences, Basra University Email: almansuorgafar@gmail.com

The impact of urban and civilized development on the educational and cognitive aspect of the city of Basra 1921-1958

The state of education in Iraq in general and Basra in particular was not better than other facilities, as it was not worse than them, the majority of Iraqi society lived during the days of Ottoman domination and the British occupation in the corridors of ignorance and illiteracy, for example, there were only five primary schools in the Basra district at the end of the British occupation in 1921, which were distributed between the center of Basra, Al-Ashar, Abu Al-Khasib, Al-Zubayr and Al-Qurna . This reflects the reality of education in Iraq in general and Basra in particular..

And due to the importance of education being the culture that supports the advancement and development of the country, in addition to the fact that the urbanization and advancement of societies depends on the amount of learners in them, so the new Iraqi government, after its formation on August 23, 1921, began to direct its attention towards building educational institutions , especially since King Faisal I (1883-1933) saw education as the basic basis for building the modern state in Iraq and the pillar on which the culture and urbanization of the individual and society in the country rest.

In order to show the civilized and urban developments that included the educational and cognitive aspect of the city of Basra during the study period, it is necessary to address:

First / Building Schools

The city of Basra witnessed, during the research period, civilized and urban movement represented in the establishment and foundation of a number of schools in its various educational stages, including:

A- Primary Schools

According to the new system of the Ministry of Education, the primary school was divided into two parts, the first is what is known as primary schools, in which the duration of study was four years, and the English language is not included in its curriculum, the other section is primary schools, in which the duration of study is six years, the first four years are a self-contained course, and the two supplementary years are taught in English, and the age of admission to schools is set for those who have completed the age of six year.

And within the first official report on the work of the Ministry of Education issued on 7th of August 1921 for the period (1920-1921), in which it was stated that the Ministry took the initiative to open new primary schools and work to reform and develop the old ones and for both sexes in the provinces of Iraq, including the Basra province.

Therefore, the city of Basra witnessed the establishment of a number of primary schools, including Al-Saif School, although the beginnings of establishing the school date back to the 1919, but some urban development took place in it, especially after Talib Mushtaq took charge of the

department of knowledge of Basra, as he was keen to follow up on matters of education and schools during his field trips to the schools, he saw several things, including the inappropriate building of Al-Saif primary school, as it was an old Khan in one of the old localities (Al-Simmer), so he decided in 1925 to move it to another building located on the coast of Al-Ashar River ,Its design was a large school during the Ottoman era, and when the British army seized it during the occupation days, they converted it into a military hospital, after that, it was abandoned by them until Talib Mushtaq addressing the Ministry of Education, to restore it and made it a new place for Al-Saif primary School.

In 1925, Al-Qibla School was established in the Al-Saif locality in Basra, and it consisted of four classes, then, another building was built for it in Al-Qibla locality in 1935, It seems that the first building was unable to accommodate the number of students, so it was moved to the new building that was built for it. Students from different religions and from different regions of Basra joined it, and the number of students who registered at the beginning of its establishment reached (20) students. It is worth noting that the school participated in a number of artistic and cultural activities outside the scope of the Basra District ⁽⁷⁾, and this reflects the vital and urban (cultural) activity that the school aspired to embody it .

Due to the importance of female education, the Encyclopedia of Basra was keen to establish a number of schools for female education, thus, during the period (1921-1932), Basra witnessed the establishment of approximately ten official schools, the most important of which was the primary school for girls in Basra, the number of its educational staff (11) teachers, and the Al-Ashar primary school for girls, the number of its teachers reached (8) teachers, while Al-Maqam primary school for girls, its educational staff reached (3) teachers, and Al-Ashar primary School was only two teachers.

Second / Secondary Schools

Secondary education is the complementary series to the primary education stage within the educational ladder in Iraq, so the Ministry of Education directed its attention towards it, especially after it witnessed neglect by the British occupation authorities when they occupied Iraq, as was mentioned previously.

Therefore, the Ministry of Education developed a clear educational curriculum for secondary education, in which the study period was four years, two years for middle school and another two years for preparatory study distributed over the scientific and literary branches, in its curriculum, which it published on 18th of November 1922, it emphasized “strengthening the patriotic and nationalist feeling and adopting effective means to educate the people in thought and morals”.

The Ministry of Education also allocated within its financial budget of 1925-1926 an amount of money of (130,000)one hundred and thirty thousand dinars to establish secondary schools in each district, and this reflects the interest of the royal government towards the need to support secondary education after it was neglected.

The interest of the Ministry of Education in secondary education was reflected in the city of Basra, especially since that city did not witness the establishment of independent secondary schools standing by itself, except for one secondary class that opened in 1920 in the primary school in the city of Basra , so the year 1925 can be considered the beginning of the establishment of secondary schools in the city Basra, and in the aforementioned year, Basra secondary school for boys was established as an independent school in Al-Ashar, and Hashim Al-Saadi was appointed to direct it..

During the academic year 1926-1927, Al Basra intermediate school for girls was established, which is one of the oldest schools for girls in the intermediate stage in the city of Basra, and the number of female students who registered in it at the beginning of its establishment was approximately (14) female students, while their numbers reached approximately (30) female students during the years 1931-1932.

Among the secondary schools established in 1935 is King Faisal II High School for Boys, after its land was donated by one of the notables of Basra, Mr. Mustafa Taha Al-Salman, and at the beginning of its establishment, was an intermediate school named “Prince Ghazi School for Boys” located across the Umm Al-Ghurban bridge in the locality of Nadran facing Al-Basha locality , but it later turned into a secondary school with the name of “King Faisal II” secondary school in 1954 and its location was transferred to a land donated by Sheikh Ibrahim Mazal Pasha Al-Saadoun near Gardagh Abdul Al-Salam al-Manasir, to be directed by Mr. Hassan Mohammed Hussein, and the school was known for its distinguished position in the scientific and cultural fields ⁽¹⁴⁾.

Third / vocational schools

They are technical and vocational schools that depend mainly on the ability, skill and competence inherent in the student, as they work to prepare the student in a vocational educational preparation by providing them with professional skills and knowledge, and they are carried out by educational institutions at the secondary school level, the aim of which is to prepare skilled manpower that serve the process of economic and social development in the country and in various industrial, agricultural, commercial and home arts disciplines, and in order to provide educated technical cadres capable of leading the process of developing the country, so ministry of education sought to pay attention to vocational education throughout Iraq through the establishment of schools specialized in that, including the school of industry in Basra.

The School of Industry was established in Basra during the academic year 1949-1950 in Al-Maqal area, in order to find an Iraqi labor force of Basra to replace the foreign workers who occupied many jobs in the Iraqi Oil Company and government institutions in Basra ⁽¹⁶⁾. The new school consisted of two separate buildings, one of which was in Al-Maqal and the other in Al-Ashar, and the distance between them is estimated at about 8 kilometers, and this is what made the school have to allocate cars to transport students between the two buildings ⁽¹⁷⁾, Among the subjects in which studied plumbing, sewing,, blacksmithing, commerce and electricity, in addition to the

curricula of the Arabic language, mathematics, physics, engineering and technology. Among the vocational schools for female education in the city of Basra is the establishment of trade school for girls in 1957, as the aim was to prepare female employees specialized in commercial, economic and financial sciences to meet the needs of governmental and private departments and institutions in the city of Basra. This indicates the degree of urban development of social customs and traditions that Basra community has reached after it had rejected female education

Fourth / Literacy Schools

Literacy projects are among the civilized projects that aim to move society from a state of backwardness to development and progress, therefore, these projects received great attention from the official authorities in the city of Basra, as they focused their efforts in order to get rid of the effects of that scourge that the Basra community suffered from, which is considered one of the biggest obstacles to the cognitive and urban development of society, so a committee was formed to combat illiteracy among a group of graduates of the Teachers' House and secondary schools. private schools were opened under the guidance of the director of education of Basra, whose number reached during 1931-1932 of eight schools in which (204) students were registered, It must be noted that the literacy schools were not limited to the elderly only, but also included young people who were unable to complete their educational career because of their economic conditions. It is worth noting that illiteracy eradication measures have extended to prisons, in 1936, a small school was opened in Basra central prison, which consisted of three teachers and three classes, in order to teach illiterate prisoners to read and write.

Illiteracy eradication centers increased in Basra until their number reached approximately (33) centers in 1957, while the number of students enrolled in them reached (303) students, and the number of teachers who undertook this task was (222) teachers distributed among the centers of villages and rural areas. Thus, it can be said that the literacy centers played a positive role in spreading education among illiterates and expanding the horizon of civilized and urban development for the educational aspect of the city of Basra.

It is clear from the foregoing that the educational and cognitive aspect of the city of Basra has witnessed civilized and urban development through the work on building a number of schools in its various educational stages, which contributed to expanding the horizon of science and knowledge by increasing the number of learners. It must be noted that the development of science and knowledge in the city of Basra was not limited to building schools, but there were other factors and developments that contributed to strengthening this, including the establishment of libraries and the establishment of printing presses.

Second / Establishing Libraries

The urban and civilized development of the educational and knowledge aspect in the city of Basra included the establishment and founding of a number of libraries, It is no secret that libraries are the only place for research, study and investigation , therefore, they are considered one of the

most important elements of culture in any society, and due to their importance, efforts have been made to establish libraries in the city of Basra of all kinds and types. private and public libraries. After the city of Basra witnessed the development of the educational and cognitive aspect with the increase in the number of learners in it, the need became necessary to establish libraries working to provide books and literature that represented the nucleus of science, knowledge, development and progress, so the city of Basra witnessed the establishment and founding of a number of libraries that were considered an important part of science through providing books and references to the readers, so the first of these libraries was Library of Knowledge (currently Central library), which was considered the first nucleus of public libraries since it was established in 1936.

The public library contained a number of books in various languages, as the total number of books for the year 1943-1944 was approximately (4409), a variety of books in Arabic, Turkish, Persian and English. In addition, al-Basra Directorate of Maarif was keen to provide the Maarif Library with the necessary books and magazines, so in 1947, it formed a committee for the purpose of purchasing books and magazines from the local and Arab markets, indeed, the committee was able to purchase a number of books, which amounted to (4757) books of various types and languages which was reflected in the increase in the number of intellectuals and readers who went to the library for the purpose of reading books in it, as their number in 1953 reached approximately (858, 24). As a result of the increasing importance of the library and its role as a cultural and urban interface for the city of Basra, so Mutasarrifate of Basra decided in 1955 to construct a new building befitting its location and the importance of the public library, so an amount of ten thousand and five hundred dinars was allocated from within the budget of the province of Basra for the year 1956-1957 to implement that project, which It was entrusted to the Trade and Construction Company, and the location of the new building was chosen in the center of the city of Basra on the main street that connects the city of Basra with Al-Ashar, near the building of the province council. Indeed, the new building of the public library was inaugurated on 4th of January 1957 and became known as the Central Library of the District.

It was equipped with the necessary furniture and supplies, and the total amount spent on it amounted to (15) thousand dinars. Another type of library was built in the city of Basra, which was dedicated to buying and selling books, which are no less important than the public and private libraries that were present in Basra, as it also had a role in the growth of awareness and cultural and urban development among the people of Basra through its circulation of books and literature that have become among readers, and among those libraries is Al-Jameea Library, which was founded in 1949 for its owner Elias Dorna in Al-Ashar, which had a role in supporting science and knowledge by providing scientific and literary books for readers.

Third / printing presses

The printing presses had a distinguished role in printing a lot of intellectual and cognitive

literature such as books, newspapers and magazines, which were supplied to libraries and made available to readers, so it can be said that these printing presses have been considered the main pillar of development for the cognitive and educational aspect of the city of Basra, and among the most important of these printing presses that were established in the city of Basra during the research period are:

1- Al-Amal Press: It was established in 1926 in Al-Ashar area by its owner, Yousif Kuki, and later became known Al Sherqyya Press in 1940, Its location was moved to Bab Al-Zubair area and it was managed by Pauls Kuki.

2- Shatt Al-Arab Press: It was established in 1949 in the Basra-Al-Mishraq region by its owner, Abdul Razzak Issa. Its work continued until 1968, when it stopped after this date.

3- Al-Khobar Press (currently Al-Abaiji): It was established in 1950 for its owner, Kamel Ibrahim Al-Abaiji, and it was known as Al-Khobar Press until 1970, after that, it was called the Al-Abaiji Press, and it remained for a short time working in the “Azizia” area in Basra, and it was interested in printing newspapers, books, pamphlets, and guides such as the directory of public libraries in Basra.

4- Al-Adeeb Press: It was established in 1954 in Basra, the Al-Saif locality in Al-Ashar, owned by Ahmed Jasim Dehrab, It is considered one of the active printing presses in Basra, as it contained modern printing methods, and among the books published were (Mjraa Al Awshal 1954, Qur’anic Etiquette 1955, Selections in Modern Basra Literature 1956, Business Administration and Organization 1957). Suffice it to say that the establishment of these printing presses has helped in supporting and developing the knowledge and educational aspect of the city of Basra through the provision of books, newspapers and magazines, thus, it can be said that the city of Basra has witnessed civilized and urban developments in the educational and cognitive aspect of the city of Basra represented in the establishment and founding of schools and a number of libraries and printing presses.

Conclusion

During the period of the royal era (1921-1958), the city of Basra witnessed a wide movement of civilized and urban development, which included the educational and cognitive aspects of it, and these developments had a major role in addressing many problems that hindered the progress of science and knowledge in general, among those civilized and urban developments witnessed by the educational and cognitive aspect of the city of Basra during the period of research is the establishment of a number of primary and secondary schools and in its various academic stages and for both sexes, as the establishment of these schools is considered an important urban projects because of its role in the progress of the educational aspect in them through the increase in the number of students and learners in general, and literacy school projects have also received great attention from the official authorities in Basra, as these projects were considered one of the most

important urban developments that were aimed at transferring Basra community from the state of backwardness to the state of development and progress.

It must be noted that the development of science and knowledge of city of Basra was not limited to building schools only, but there were other factors and developments that contributed to strengthening this, including the establishment of libraries and the establishment of printing presses, which undoubtedly contributed to the development of the knowledge and educational aspect of the city of Basra through the provision of books and newspapers and magazines, which was reflected in the expansion of the horizons of science and knowledge of the city of Basra during that period.

(1) Hamid Ahmed Hamdan Muhammad Al-Tamimi, *Basra under the British Occupation 1914-1921*, Al-Rashad Press, 1979, p. 37.

(2) Mamoun Amin Zaki, *The Prosperity of Iraq Under the Monarchy 1921-1958, A Historical, Political, and Social Comparative Study*, Baghdad, Dar Al-Hikma, 2011, p. 43.

(3) Khalil Ahmad Al-Alaq, *The Development of National Education in Iraq (1869-1932)*, Center for Arabian Gulf Studies, University of Basra, 1982, p. 95.

(4) D.K.W, *Files of the Ministry of Interior - Diwan, 2231/ 32050, Reports of Administrative Inspection in the Basra District for the year 1922, and 3, p. 6*

(5) Abdul Razzak Al-Hilali, *History of Education during the British Occupation 1914-1921*, Baghdad, Dar Al-Rafidain for Printing and Publishing, 2017, pp. 248-251.

(6) Talib Mushtaq, *The Papers of My Days, Part 1*, Baghdad, Dar Al-Tali'ah for Printing and Publishing, 1968, p. 142.

(7) *ibid*, pp. 82-83.

(8) D.K.W, *Files of the Ministry of Interior - Diwan, 6720/32050, Urban Projects / Basra 1957-1958, and 9, p. 16.*

(9) Ministry of Education, *annual report on the course of knowledge 1925-1926*, previous source, p. 14.

(10) *ibid*, p. 24.

(11) Abdul Razzak Al-Hilali, the previous source, p. 92.

(12) Basim Hamza Abbas, *History of Education in Basra 1921-1958*, unpublished master's thesis, College of Arts, University of Basra, 1992, p. 92.

(13) *ibid*, p. 95.

(14) Munther Abdul-Jabbar Jasim Al-Bakr, *Nafahat from the Memory of Basra, History and Contemporary*, Amman-Jordan, Copyright of the author, 2015, p. 714.

- (15) Nawal Kesheesh Mohammed Al-Zubaidi, *The Development of Education in Iraq 1958-1968*, Baghdad, Dar Al-Mortada, 2012, p. 46.
- (16) Basim Hamza Abbas, the previous source, p. 201.
- (17) Salih Abdullah Sariya, *The Development of Industrial Education in Iraq*, an unpublished master's thesis, College of Education, University of Baghdad, 1969, p.15.
- (18) *ibid*, p. 64
- (19) The Iraqi government, Ministry of Education, annual report of the course of knowledge for the year 1957-1958, Baghdad, Government Press, 1958, p. 59.
- (20) Al-Thaghar, Issue 100 on July 8, 1933.
- (21) D.K.W, files of the Ministry of Interior, 1398/ 32050, reports of administrative inspection in the Basra district for the year 1936-1937, and 2, p. 21.
- (22) Basim Hamza Abbas, the previous source, pg. 211.
- (23) Abd al-Basit Khalil Mohammad al-Darwish, *Education in Basra, Part 1*, Basra, Iraq Press, 2011., p. 313.
- (24) Ibrahim Finjan Al-Emara, Haider Shahid Jabr Al-Khafaji, *The Public Library in Basra 1936-1958, a historical study*, research published in the Basra Research Journal for Human Sciences, Vol. 44, Issue 4B, 2019, p. 318, pp. 318, 320.
- (25) The Iraqi government, Ministry of Education, annual report of the course of knowledge for the year 1943-1944, Baghdad, Government Press, 1945, p. 9.
- (26) Al-Thaghar, Issue 3758, October 12, 1947
- (27) The annual report of the course of knowledge for the year 1953-1954, previous source, p. 126.
- (28) Al Nas, Issue 2181 on September 19, 1955.
- (29) Ibrahim Finjan Al-Emara, Haider Shahid Jabr Al-Khafaji, previous source, p. 327.
- (30) University of Basra, *Central Library and Branch Libraries Directory*, Basra, Basra Press, 1989, p. 12.
- (31) *ibid*, p. 698
- (32) Shuja Muslim al-Ani, *The Literary Movement in Basra (1920-1980)*, *Encyclopedia of Basra Civilization (The Intellectual Encyclopedia)*, previous source, p. 699.
- (33) *ibid*, p. 701.

References

First: Unpublished documents

(A) The files of the Ministry of Interior

1- D.K.W, Files of the Ministry of Interior - Diwan, 2231/ 32050, Administrative Inspection Reports in the Basra District for the year 1922, and 3. .

2- D.K.W, Files of the Ministry of Interior - Diwan, 6720/32050, Urban Projects / Basra 1957-1958, and 9.

3- D.K.W, files of the Ministry of Interior, 1398/32050, reports of administrative inspection in the Basra District for the year 1936-1937, and 2.

Second: published documents

1- The Ministry of Education, the annual report on the progress of knowledge for the year 1925-1926, Baghdad, Al-Salam Press, 1927.

2- The Iraqi Government, Table of Senior State Officials for the year 1954, Baghdad, Government Press, 1955.

3- The Iraqi government, Ministry of Education, the annual report of the course of knowledge for the year 1957-1958, Baghdad, Government Press, 1958.

4- The Iraqi government, Ministry of Education, the annual report of the course of knowledge for the year 1954-1955, Baghdad, Government Press, 1955.

5- University of Basra, Central Library and Branch Libraries Directory, Basra, Basra Press, 1989.

Third: theses and university dissertations

1- Basim Hamza Abbas, History of Education in Basra 1921-1958, unpublished master's thesis, College of Arts, University of Basra, 1992.

2- Salih Abdullah Sariya, The Development of Industrial Education in Iraq, an unpublished master's thesis, College of Education, University of Baghdad, 1969

Fourth: Arabic and translated books

1- Amin Lutfi, Guide to Basra, Basra, Al-Khobar Newspaper Press, 1954.

2- Hamid Ahmed Hamdan Mohammed Al-Tamimi, Basra under the British Occupation 1914-1921, Al-Rashad Press, 1979.

3- Khalil Ahmad Al-Alaq, The Development of National Education in Iraq (1869-1932), Center for Arabian Gulf Studies, University of Basra, 1982.

4- Talib Mushtaq, The Papers of My Days, Part 1, Baghdad, Dar Al-Tali'ah for Printing and Publishing, 1968.

5- Abdul Razzak al-Hilali, History of Education during the British Occupation 1914-1921,

Baghdad, Dar Al-Rafidain for Printing and Publishing, 2017.

6- Abdul Basit Khalil Mohammed al-Darwish, Education in Basra, Part 1, Basra, Iraq Press, 2011.

7- Mamoun Amin Zaki, The Prosperity of Iraq Under the Monarchy 1921-1958, A Comparative Social, Political and Historical Study, Baghdad, Dar Al-Hikma, 2011.

8- Munther Abdul-Jabbar Jassem Al-Bakr, Nafahat from the Memory of Basra in History and Contemporary, Amman-Jordan, copyright of the author, 2015.

9- Nawal Kesheesh Mohammed Al-Zubaidi, The Development of Education in Iraq 1958-1968, Baghdad, Dar Al-Mortada, 2012.

Fifth: Periodicals

(A) Newspapers

1- Al Thagher newspaper

- Al-Thaghar, Issue 100 on July 8, 1933.
- Al-Thaghar, Issue 146 on August 29, 1933.
- Thaghar, Issue 860, October 11, 1937.
- Al-Thaghar, Issue 3648, May 31, 1947
- Thagar, Issue 6099, December 5, 1955.
- Al Nas, Issue 2181 on September 19, 1955

Sixth: Encyclopedias

1- Rahim Abboud Muhsin and Mohammed Odeh Aliwi, printing and publishing in Basra, past and present, Encyclopedia of Basra Civilization - Intellectual Encyclopedia, Basra, Dar Al-Hikma, 1989

2- Shuja Muslim Al-Ani, The Literary Movement in Basra (1920-1980), Encyclopedia of Basra Civilization (The Intellectual Encyclopedia), Basra, Dar Al-Hikma, 1989.

Seventh: published research

1- Ibrahim Finjan Al-Emara, Haider Shahid Jabr Al-Khafaji, the Public Library in Basra 1936-1958, a historical study, research published in the Basra Research Journal for Human Sciences, Volume 44, Issue 4B, 2019.