



Youth and sustainable development



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Introduction:

Youth have a great role in the development and construction of human societies. Societies that have a large proportion of young people are supposed to result in strong countries, which explains the support of Western countries for births and population growth, but young people in the end are a product of the situation of society, including its successes and failures and factors and influences. Therefore, the development and development of societies must begin with young people, who are half of the present and all of the future.

Thinking about the issue of youth participation in public affairs must take place within a general and integrated perspective that presents the beginning of the reform of society, and the creation of a sound environment for the practice of real political and civil work that gives the opportunity for young people to prove their worth in consolidating democracy and achieving sustainable development.

Young people represented about 60% of the population of Egypt, and the state relied on them in modern development plans and youth empowerment. A word that was like a dream in Egypt spoke shyly, until President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi came in 2014 and put youth on top of his priorities and holding them in executive positions. This was evident in the Egyptian state's adoption Several steps towards making room for young people at all levels.

As a result of mutual communication between the state and the youth, many successful youth models have emerged, which we clearly see in parliaments and in the state's administrative apparatus, an experience that allows the Egyptian state to have a second and third row leading the state in the future.

The youth group must be considered as part of this society and the basis of its future, and work to support their affiliation with political and civil



bodies, and to involve them in real and effective participation in decision-making centers. Youth media policies must also be supported, which would urge young people to engage and keep pace with political and local affairs, and to develop their sense of belonging to the social and political sphere in their countries.

Political and civic education must also become a priority of educational policies and be included in the curricula, whether in schools or colleges, and provide the opportunity for young people to express their views on the issues of their society and their vision of how to deal with society's problems without fear or accountability, and in a democratic and secure environment. It is also necessary for all political and civil bodies to include in their membership young groups, as it is not reasonable for those outside this group to express their issues.

Thus, it is not possible to talk about sustainable development without addressing the role of youth, because achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, because it targets young people largely in the context of its quest to eradicate poverty and create job opportunities for all young people, because young people are able to change the world for the better, and achieve development. However, it clarified that the vast majority of young people live in poorer countries that sometimes witness bloody conflicts, and said that the global goals aim at not marginalizing any party and moving young people out of poverty to benefit from opportunities.

In today's world, young people have become an important international actor that influences and is affected by, and has the ingredients that build or destroy countries and affect peace and stability in them, especially when young people are used as tools to destroy their countries, especially in developing countries, and Arab countries that have gone through revolutions in which young people were mobilized and used, especially. With young people making up more than 32% of the population in the Arab countries, which requires the involvement of young people in the



development process, in order to dry up the sources of terrorism and prevent the recruitment of young people by terrorist organizations, which depend on harsh conditions and the lack of job opportunities, as one of the most important pillars for the formation of The doctrine of terrorist thought, to attract young people, which is what Egypt is striving to confront and work to eliminate by all political, economic, military, cultural and intellectual means.

First: a comprehensive definition of the term youth

Despite the absence of a globally agreed international definition of the age group for youth, due to many reasons, the most important of which is the difference in the objectives sought from the definition and the disparity of general concepts and ideas on which the psychological and social analysis is based, which serves those goals, but the United Nations - for statistical purposes and without prejudice to any other definitions it sets Member States - define “youth” as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

This definition arose in the context of preparations for the International Year of Youth (1985), and was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/28 of 1981. All United Nations statistics on youth are based on this definition, as illustrates the annual yearbook of statistics published by the United Nations system on demography, education and work and health.

This is due to many reasons, the most important of which is the difference in the desired goals of setting the definition and the variation of the general concepts and ideas on which the psychological and social analysis that serves those goals are based.

This statistically oriented definition of youth, in turn, requires that persons under the age of fourteen be considered children. However, it should be noted that Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines persons up to the age of 18 as “children”. It was hoped that the Convention



would provide protection and rights to the largest age group as possible at the time, especially since there was no similar document on youth rights.

Many countries are also developing standards to define young people in relation to the age at which a person is treated on an equal basis with adults under the law - this is often referred to as the "age of majority". This age, usually 18, is considered significant in many countries; A person is not considered an adult until he realizes this age. However, the generally accepted definition and nuances of the term "youth" differ from one country to another, depending on the proportionality of certain social, cultural, institutional, economic and political factors for each society.

Young people can be a positive force to drive development when they are provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need. In particular, young people must acquire the education and skills necessary to contribute to a productive economy; They need access to a labor market that can absorb their capabilities into the labor force.

The characteristics and features that distinguish this age group from others are:

Youth is a human energy characterized by enthusiasm, sensitivity, boldness, independence, increased feelings of anxiety, idealism free from interests and ties, curiosity and curiosity.

Also, the emergence of features of personal independence, and the tendency towards self-affirmation. He is always a critic, because he stems from ideals, and his criticism is based on the fact that reality must match his ideal thinking. He does not accept pressure and oppression, no matter who presides over this pressure on him, whether it is an authority or a family. This behavior is part of the inner violence of youth, self-esteem and non-compliance with authority as a progressive trend.

A high degree of dynamism, vitality and flexibility, characterized by impulsiveness, emancipation, liberation and sacrifice, starting to think about life and future options, marriage, education, wealth, and the ability



to respond to the changes around it, and a speed in absorbing and accepting the new, adopting and defending it, and these features reflect the conviction of young people and their desire to change The reality in which he was found, although he did not participate in making it.

Second: Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals:

One of the basic principles of the 2030 Agenda is the assertion that “no one will be left behind in achieving the development goals,” and that these goals were set for all peoples in all countries, from all age groups, and for all societies. The universality of the 2030 Agenda requires taking into account the role of youth in all goals, youth are specifically mentioned in four areas: youth employment, the situation of adolescent girls, education and sports for peace. Moreover, youth are addressed as agents of change tasked with harnessing their potential to ensure a world commensurate with the aspirations of future generations.

In September 2018, Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez launched the Youth 2030 document, the United Nations Youth Strategy. “Youth 2030” is the first document of its kind at the United Nations. It envisions a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized, where young people are empowered to realize their full potential; It recognizes the strength, resilience and positive contributions of young people as agents of change and education is one of the main priorities of the "Youth 2030" document.

Because all the Sustainable Development Goals are of critical importance to youth development, achieving the goals in the areas of education and employment was also emphasized in the latest edition of the World Youth Report as an essential factor for the comprehensive development of youth.

a) Quality of education as one of the sustainable development goals:



Quality education provides girls and boys with the skills they need to take leadership roles at the local and national levels, enabling them to participate in decision-making on issues that affect their lives and communities. If this is not convincing enough, young people who have been educated in human rights can stand up for themselves and others; support the health and well-being of themselves and their communities; Contribute to building stronger families, communities, and nations, and ultimately, to the world.

b) Youth, decent work and economic growth as one of the Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal No. (8) of the Sustainable Development Goals takes into account the call to provide decent work for young people, as the spread of unemployment, lack of employment and poor quality of work have proven to be stressful issues for economies, and many young people are engaged in low-paid work, precarious jobs or informal professions, and challenges remain Securing decent and continuous work is more complex for vulnerable and marginalized youth, including young women, especially those living in precarious humanitarian conditions, youth with disabilities and migrants.

Egypt Vision 2030

The Egyptian state is keen on dialogue with young people and giving them the opportunity to present their views and opinions, aware of the importance of dialogue that generates a common understanding, and the importance of conducting various studies for dialogue with young people and all segments of society and achieving human and economic development.

The Youth Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh is a platform for dialogue, exchange of views and experiences, and rapprochement with decision-makers in Egypt and the world, especially with the international recognition of it by the



United Nations, and the adoption of its contributions as an international platform for youth issues is an affirmation of the success of this experiment as a dialogue mechanism that brings together the youth of the world.

This was evident in Egypt's Vision 2030, which was developed in a participatory manner for all segments of society, with keenness on youth participation, to form the general framework regulating work programs and interim development plans during the coming years on the basis that any negligence in caring for young people would have a negative impact not only on achieving goals of Vision 2030, but would also affect the economic and social situation.

Investment in human capital is also an integral part of Egypt's Vision 2030, where youth empowerment is at the forefront of the government's priorities, within the framework of the political leadership's interest in youth to ensure their participation in policy-making from an early age, and the important and vital role of youth in modernizing and promoting this strategy. Because of their constructive ideas that help the state implement this vision at all levels.

It also highlights the role of youth initiatives through civil society and research centers in the areas of sustainable development and future outlook, which aim to link self-efforts with state institutions, training and spreading awareness of sustainable development goals, rapid spread and raising awareness of all groups about Egypt's 2030 vision in order to circumvent this vision as a national goal. Especially since one of the goals of the strategy is to open its doors to young people as a real beginning for participation and exchange of ideas, for a life without terrorism.

Third: Involving young people in political life:

There is no doubt that the political leadership's interest in young people and their keenness on their participation in political life or assigning them leadership positions contributed greatly to renewing blood within various government agencies and helped a lot in the government's success in experimenting with digital transformation, keeping pace with modern



technology, using the latest systems in management and solving problems that They represent real obstacles to the citizen.

The Ministry of Housing was one of the first government agencies to adopt that experience and assign leadership work to a number of young people, whether by selecting a number of young people as assistants to the minister, or a number of young people taking over the presidency of the new cities' bodies, and the results were unexpected for the Ministry of Housing, so these young people achieved successes They were large in the cities they took over, and they were able to get closer to the citizen through successive and continuous field tours in the street, removing occupations, and insisting on addressing any violations that occur so that those cities do not turn into random.

Among the cities that witnessed real development at the hands of these young people, Al-Shorouk City, October City, Sphinx City, and New Minya are the most prominent cities that gained the satisfaction of the citizen first before the satisfaction of the Minister of Housing. WhatsApp to receive complaints and communicate with citizens, and another allowed to receive requests for legalization, reconciliation and licenses through e-mail, as well as to receive complaints about water bills through WhatsApp, and many examples these young people were able to provide to residents of new cities.

As for the level of the Ministry's office and the Communities Authority, these young people were able to change the ministry's thinking in dealing with some issues and bring about real change. For example, the planning and projects sector within the New Urban Communities Authority has witnessed a real change in thought and strategy since the selection of Dr. Walid Abbas, in The position of assistant minister for this sector, and he received great praise from businessmen first, who had a major role in allocating lands by direct order, especially small investors, and contributed to the issuance of a number of ministerial decisions for a large number of private projects in a short time that took years before that, The same applies to the real estate and commercial sector within the authority, as well as the National Authority for Drinking Water and Sanitation, and the



assistants of the heads of city agencies from young people who are not over thirty years old.

Activating the role of youth in political activity in its various aspects, whether general national activity, or activity through political organizations and parties, was and still is the concern of all political forces that have a political and social change project, considering youth a significant force for change and its balance in society.

What is remarkable is the youth's disengagement from political activity through parties, and this undoubtedly has its reasons related to the nature of these parties and their youth-oriented programs, which either do not give the required attention to young people, or that their political discourse does not constitute a factor that attracts them, due to its obsolescence and failure to keep pace with modern youth requirements. its current needs; This requires reviewing it in terms of studying how to activate the energies of youth and re-attract them to parties and public work.

Statistic

According to government and official data, the number of young people in the age group (18-29 years) reached 20.6 million, or 21% of the total population, and the contribution of young people (18-29 years) in the labor force was 39.5% (61.6%). Males, 16.0% females) of whom: 9.2% are illiterate, 39.0% have an average qualification, and 33.9% have a university degree or higher, and the percentage of young people employed in permanent work is 52.9% (49.1% males, 79.2% females), and the percentage of employed youth is 52.9% (49.1% males, 79.2% females). Workers with legal contract 21.0% (16.4% males, 53.1% females).

Fourth: Youth and decision-making in Egypt



The Egyptian state has given special protection and attention to its youth, especially with regard to their empowerment. Part III of the Egyptian Constitution on Public Rights, Freedoms and Duties stipulates in Article 82: “The state guarantees the care of young people and young people, and works to discover their talents and develop their cultural, scientific, psychological, physical and creative capabilities, encouraging them to work collectively and voluntarily, and enabling them to participate in public life. The Egyptian state sees great importance in involving young people in the decision-making process. So that they are empowered and integrated politically, economically and socially.

The stage of youth is one of the most important stages that the individual goes through, as his personality begins to take shape, and its features mature through the skills and knowledge that the individual acquires, as well as through physical and mental maturity, and social relations that the individual can formulate within his free choice.

Hence, we conclude that the process of involving young people in decision-making and leadership positions in various fields and institutions is not a luxury or a gift for the group that represents the largest percentage in society; Egypt's youth are able to integrate in all social, political, economic, sports, artistic, cultural, psychological and health fields.

Young people constitute nearly two-thirds of the population of Egypt, where the population in the age group (15-29), represents 26.8% of the total population - that is, they number about 25.4 million people, and we do not forget that these young people have a great responsibility to participate and represent the voices of their peers from the youth, and the confidence in themselves that they are capable of development and development.

Egypt is keen on targeting the youth personality, refining their skills, providing them with scientific and practical experiences, rehabilitating them to ensure their proper adaptation to developments, and training young leaders in various societal fields. What distinguishes youth specifically as a force for societal change?



Young people are the most ambitious in society, and this means that the process of change and progress for them is not subject to any limits. It constitutes a mighty energy towards progress and giving without limits.

The right to participation in all its forms and fields is one of the basic human rights. Political participation gives the individual the right to subject all issues that affect him to discussion, express his opinion and develop his national feeling through it. In order for one to express his convictions clearly and boldly, he presupposes the existence of democracy through which we can talk about the serious participation of all the forces of society, including the youth; To fulfill their desires and convictions, and to express a sense of belonging to the community in which they live.

This is what the Egyptian state seeks with every effort, as it tries to attract these young people to the arena of political action, to take into account their needs, desires and future aspirations, and to strengthen their citizenship by spreading the spirit of patriotism and deepening the spirit of belonging to the homeland's issues and needs, preserving its entity, and preparing to defend it in case Exposing him to danger, whether internal or external, targeting his independence and sovereignty.

Political participation" is one of the most important pillars on which " democracy is based, and the state is helping its youth to play an effective political role, especially after the success they made in moving the helm of political life after the January 25 and June 30 revolutions. In order to achieve the loftiest goals, thousands sacrificed their lives to this end, this prompted the youth to actively participate in political life.

There are many frameworks and mechanisms for participation in political life, enabling young people to participate through simulation models offered by public and private universities, which is a very good opportunity for training and qualification in political practice and participation in public life.

They were able to participate in decision-making through training in democratic dialogue methods and the values of tolerance and acceptance of the other, through the "Parliament of Pioneers and Youth", which is a platform in which young people in the prime of their lives freely express their views, are trained in the practice of democracy, and participate in



decision-making from During serious and effective discussions of the issues of their homeland in a scientific manner. This parliament contributes to preparing and qualifying young people to participate in public work upon reaching the legal age, for example, to run for membership in the local council, parties, parliament, and civil society organizations.

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi's appeals since his arrival as president of the country for the necessity of empowering young people and qualifying them to lead in a country in which young people constitute the largest share of the population, and on every occasion his demand is renewed for the need to inject new blood into the arteries of the state's administrative apparatus, and to provide the appropriate climate for the development of political life, stressing : "My belief in youth has always been increasing day by day. The more I reflect on how they shape their present and build their future, the more I believe that youth are the key to a more stable and peaceful world." Constitution for youth in parliamentary and local elections.

In March 2015, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi assigned the specialized councils to prepare the "Presidential Program for Qualifying Youth for Leadership", a qualifying program for youth aimed at qualifying young people for leadership, and learning new methods and tools to participate in building the state. The program is based on informing young people of the latest management theories Professional scientific and practical planning, and raising levels of political and cultural awareness, by giving a comprehensive picture of political, governmental and enterprise management systems, and providing a space for direct communication between the state and its institutions and hundreds of thousands of young people, directly and without intermediaries, as well as creating a database that includes qualified youth In all areas, it works under the supervision of the Presidency of the Republic.

The National Training Academy was established to be the institutional form for youth training and rehabilitation programs. It is the second mechanism for youth empowerment, which aims to achieve human development requirements for youth cadres in all sectors of the state, and improve their



abilities and skills. Its establishment came as one of the directives of the First National Youth Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, and is considered the national project for human building. Over the past years, three batches of the presidential program graduated, which included 1,500 young men and women in the age group between 20 and 30 years.

The Academy was not satisfied with this age group only, but it expanded to include four different categories through: The Presidential Program for Qualifying Outstanding Leadership and Targeting Outstanding Young Universities, and the Presidential Program for Qualifying Executives for Leadership targeting workers in the government sector, 30-45 years old, and the African Program for Young People aged 30-45.

- The “Coordination of Youth of Parties and Politicians” was launched in 2018, an initiative that brings together partisan and independent youth under a political coordination umbrella to present a model for dialogue based on common goals and visions for the development of political life and a national project that brings together all spectrums, and it includes 25 political parties in addition to a number of Independent political youth of different political orientations and ideologies.

The Coordination provides a new experience in practicing public work, opening direct channels of communication with the state and its institutions, and coordinating between the youth of parties, political leaders and bases, and independent youth interested in public work.

The coordination includes a large number of parties: Reform and Development, Freedom, Free Egyptians, Protectors of a Nation, Reform and Renaissance, Republican People, Congress, Future of a Nation, Al-Tajam, Al-Ghad, Nasserite, Modern Egypt, Generation, Conservatives, Al-Nour, Egypt My Country, and the Egyptian National Movement the Egyptian Social Democrat, Al-Wafd, Sadat The Democratic, Free Constitutional, Leadership, Union, Human Rights and Citizenship, and Al-Masry.

In 2021, the Coordination of Youth Parties and Politicians managed to win 32 seats in the House of Representatives and 16 seats in the Senate, in a clear indication that the political field is open to young people and pushes



towards positive participation, so that the state will complete the steps it started in the development process and move towards a better future.

As part of the activities of the first conference of the "Decent Life" initiative, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi launched the "Youth Union of the New Republic", an Egyptian youth gathering that includes various youth groups under one umbrella; With the aim of enhancing national, social, developmental and political awareness, in addition to unifying the efforts of community and development work within the framework of Egypt's Vision 2030, and the Egyptian state's policies to build the new republic.

The Union includes a number of youth entities, initiatives and movements concerned with public work, community and political development, and youth gatherings, foremost among which is a group of graduates of the National Training Academy, "Decent Life" volunteers, cadres of the Presidential Program for Qualifying Youth for Leadership, the World Youth Forum, and the National Youth Conference, Among the most important objectives of the "Youth Union of the New Republic":

- Involving the scientific expertise of the youth groups in the national work in the various disciplines at the level of the Republic.
- Developing youth capabilities by providing more opportunities to participate in community life and providing training opportunities and educational grants.
- Supporting the youth community movement through employing youth forces in an organized institutional work.
- Planning, implementing and coordinating national community activities to develop the capacities of youth at the governorate level and to make optimum use of their creative capabilities.
- Increasing youth awareness of national issues, supporting the policy of constructive community dialogue, and supporting the concept of political action on national issues.



Conclusion

It is not possible to talk about sustainable development without addressing the role of youth, because the plan of any country to progress in a particular field depends mainly on achieving the presence of cadres of young people who are the hope of tomorrow and the tool for progress and prosperity in societies, they are the most ambitious in society, and this means the process of change and progress for them is not subject to limits, because they are the most receptive to change and the most enthusiastic and lively, which constitutes a mighty energy towards progress and giving without limits, thus achieving sustainable development.