



## Scientific Research, Policy Development And Decision-Making

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### **Abstract:**

Development and progress depend fundamentally on basic pillars, including science and scientific research, and there is no better evidence of this than that the position of any country on the ladder of progress and civilization is measured by the extent of its development in this field.

Highlighting the role of scientific research in achieving integration is represented in the extent of the impact of the development of science and the economic feasibility of scientific research, especially that of public benefit, which contributes to achieving development and integration. The identified obstacles must be overcome to activate the scientific research movement and activate its role. The most prominent obstacles to scientific research and ways to overcome them. The study emphasized the importance and necessity of scientific research in the process of achieving integration. Interest is still below the required level and the low volume of spending on scientific research in general, which led to the lack of interest by researchers in this vital field that leads to the development of society in all fields. There is a clear absence in the connection of scientific research with strategic plans. The study identified the results that must be relied upon to formulate a set of recommendations that can contribute to the development and activation of scientific research. Official and private academic bodies and various institutions must show solidarity and support scientific research with all possibilities due to its medium and long-term future impact on society. The primary objectives are to ensure and support scientific research and technological development and to review plans and the foundations for their support based on institutions with a solid scientific base of qualified people who have experience in preparing theoretical and practical studies and benefiting from the experiences of leading countries in scientific research and serving it in developing the economic structure of society. Higher education institutions, civil society institutions, specialized teams from all ministries and businessmen who have national roots must have a fundamental and pivotal role in preparing and supporting the scientific aspect materially and morally. Encouraging and appreciating research results and their contribution to building society will inevitably lead to achieving the pre-planned goals in achieving real integration. Decision-making sources have a fundamental role in developing policies that contribute to accelerating the development process.

**Keywords:** *Scientific Research, Policy-Making Institutions, Obstacles, Recommendations.*

### **Introduction**

### **Scientific research:**

Research is a function of tracking and is primarily aimed at obtaining knowledge. The word was used as a term after the word science (scientific research) was added to indicate broader and more precise concepts to reach the intended goal. They may or may not agree in some aspects.

### **Objectives of scientific research:**

The most important objectives of scientific research can be summarized as follows:

- 1- Understanding the laws of nature and controlling them, and directing them to serve humanity.
- 2- Studying various phenomena (natural, industrial, human) and deducing general laws or theories that explain these phenomena and the relationships that govern them, and then the possibility of predicting them and controlling their behavior. Natural phenomena are interpreted deductively, while human and behavioral phenomena are interpreted probabilistically, which means that natural phenomena are closer to being controlled, while human behavioral phenomena are difficult to control and difficult to subject to experimentation. Therefore, the laws derived from them are probabilistic laws:
- 3- Finding solutions to the various problems that humans face in dealing with the environment in which they live.
- 4- Developing human knowledge of the surrounding environment in all its dimensions and natural, social, economic, technological, administrative, and other aspects. The diversity of scientific research depends on the type of research fields that researchers take as a subject for their research. Some of them are related to nature, such as studying natural phenomena in their various forms with the aim of identifying, understanding, controlling, and predicting them. Some of them are related to human nature, the states formed, and the secretions resulting from the positive or negative interaction of the components of different societies.

### **Society culture and its relationship to scientific research:**

#### **Teaching the structure of knowledge:**

When teaching the structure of knowledge, it is necessary to emphasize:

- A- The development of knowledge and the information explosion It is no longer possible or useful to focus on teaching important facts in every subject or science.
- B- Many researchers have seen the need to focus on teaching the basic structure of knowledge, which is:
  - 1- Key concepts.
  - 2- Basic principles or generalizations.
  - 3- Research methods.
  - 3- Focus on teaching scientific research skills along with teaching the structure of knowledge.
  - 4- Teaching thinking skills.
  - 5- Disseminating professional and technical knowledge.
  - 6- Focus on developing skills instead of memorization and retrieval.

### **The importance of social responsibility:**

Contributing to sustainable development that aims to eliminate poverty, provide health for all, social justice, and meet the needs of society by living within the environmental limits of the planet using current resources without compromising the needs of future generations. It is based on three aspects:

A- Supporting economic growth.

B- Achieving societal progress.

C- Contributing to environmental protection.

**First : The importance of scientific research and its role in social and economic development:**

There are many definitions that express "scientific research", and these definitions vary according to the goals, fields, tools and methods of "scientific research", but most of these definitions agree on emphasizing the study of a problem with the aim of solving it; according to precise scientific rules; and this gives a kind of unity between scientific research despite the difference in its neutrality and the multiplicity of its types. (1)

Many researchers have addressed the concept of scientific research, and their approaches have differed and their trends have varied regarding this concept, as each one of them has looked at it from his own angle and according to his inclinations or scientific convictions. (2)

Based on the following definition of scientific research, which is one of the most widespread and used definitions among researchers in their books and articles, namely "an organized intellectual process carried out by a person called (the researcher) in order to investigate the facts regarding a specific issue or problem called (the research topic) by following an organized scientific method called (the research method); in order to reach appropriate solutions for treatment or results that are valid for generalization to similar problems called (the research results). (3)

The close connection and supposed interaction between scientific research and its technological applications, national development and reconstruction is not hidden, and it seems that industrially advanced countries are adept at establishing this connection and benefiting from it to the maximum extent; where the improvement in the standard of living of their individuals is due by 60 to 80% to scientific and technical progress; while this improvement is attributed by 20 to 40% to the presence of capital. (4).

Achieving sustainable development as a strategic goal; is supposed to meet the needs of the present without compromising the capabilities and needs of future generations; requires invoking the element of scientific research and openness to the promising potential and achievements that modern technology offers in this regard.

This is confirmed by many global experiences in South Korea, China and Malaysia..; which invested during them the amazing potential offered by this field and the scientific progress associated with it; effectively for the benefit of the development, growth and welfare of society in various fields and areas, and what follows from that of urging and encouraging research and innovation and investing them in the best way.

Countries that know how to apply the outcomes of scientific research always occupy a leading position in many fields, such as manufacturing military machines and equipment, which makes them militarily superior; and their cultural and scientific contributions to human civilization are numerous, or in the field of providing various services to their citizens according to the latest methods, or in their economic growth, building factories, increasing production, and making good use of natural resources. (5)

The development of human capital, which is represented in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure that guarantees a country education and skills that enable it to keep pace with the rest of the world, represents a fundamental importance for the ability of developing countries; not only in the field of improving their situation; but also in order to contribute to the well-being of all people. (6)

The Arab Human Development Report for the year 2002 stated that it has become clear and generally accepted that knowledge is the main element in production, and the basic determinant of productivity and human capital. Accordingly, the report confirmed that the lack of knowledge and the stagnation of its development condemn the countries that suffer from it to weak productive capacity and diminished development opportunities. (7)

### **Second : The reality of social scientific research in Iraq**

Iraq must strive to develop its capabilities in the field of scientific research and technological development by structuring the scientific research system in order to make up for the recorded delay and face the various challenges resulting from the phenomenon of globalization.

The reasons for this delay are primarily due to the instability, which is a logical result of the many changes that have occurred in the devices that manage and implement the national policy in terms of powers and organization, which made the process of taking care of the scientific research and technological development system go through fluctuating stages and this negatively affected the material and moral conditions witnessed by this system. There is a clear and comprehensive absence of the importance of scientific research and technological development in order to build and establish the basic foundations necessary for a modern society. The dispersion of human competencies has caused the dismantling of the process of knowledge accumulation without which there is no place for any development or progress. In addition to the deterioration of the material conditions of research activities. (8)

### **Diagnosing the obstacles to scientific research:**

A clear strategic policy for scientific research and information industry, coordination centers between institutions and research centers, workshops and training to increase the efficiency of workers in educational institutions are of great importance in developing scientific research.

The information bank, specialized funds for financing research and development, and sufficient academic freedom enhance the speed of development of research sciences.

Bureaucracy, administrative and organizational problems, financial and administrative corruption in governmental, private and supportive scientific research institutions, in addition to the delay in the process of transferring technical information from developed countries, have greatly delayed scientific development.

The humanitarian and social fields in society can be summarized as suffering from the following:-

- \* Lack of qualified cadres in adopting the basic methods of scientific research.
- \* Lack of financial resources allocated to scientific research and systematic or spontaneous neglect of the developmental value of the life of the individual and society.
- \* Lack of social awareness of the importance of scientific research.
- \* Difficulty in communicating with most of the information containers officials, especially in government administration, and placing traditional obstacles in front of researchers or in sites that block some websites except with special approvals and in return for a fee paid to enable the researcher to access the information.

\* Basic difficulties in the information collection process, and hindering the researcher's entry into the places required by the research and specific study categories.

\* The great lack of access to scientific sources compared to developed countries and universities that the researcher needs to complete the solidity of the research.

\* Lack of conducting accurate examinations and measurements, which may force the researcher to send them to countries or travel to them to complete the research requirements.

\* Among the researches prepared by university professors, their primary goal is scientific advancement, as they are far from the economic and scientific feasibility that serves the community (9).

### **Third: The relationship between scientific research institutions and policy-making and decision-making circles.**

1- Policy-making institutions or decision-makers may assign researchers who go to specific research institutions or centers to conduct what is required of them without referring to research institutions that actually need them or that accomplish the pillars of scientific research in a way that serves the societal reality.

2. Assigning research and studies by many ministries and executive and legislative bodies. There is a demand for social research embodied in a number of studies assigned by executive and planning bodies.

3. Research proposed to be prepared in advance and which requires assigning special research bodies based on an official directive, a large percentage of the recommendations they put forward are taken into account. As a result of the official body's desire to learn about the opinions, perceptions and proposed solutions to the problem and the results that are drawn from those studies.

5. Not taking into account the results of scientific research steps even if they are assigned; and their recommendations may not be taken seriously and carefully for various or different reasons, personal or social.

6. The use of research results by official bodies and decision-makers has priority in adopting the initiative or the desire to activate and adopt the results extracted from approved research and those previously assigned to it, or vice versa.

### **Fourth: The results of social research and the extent of its study, impact and adoption by decision makers:**

Social and educational research is hindered by some obstacles that may not be of interest to or adopted by decision makers, planners and educational policy makers or those related to social aspects. They may not review the recommendations for various reasons. Most of the research is archived on office shelves and appears as a media facade and is not circulated to specialists to study and review it to use it as sources or for those working in the field of research to embody it practically in various aspects of life.

### **Suggested recommendations:**

1- Good selection of solid research that is relevant to the urgent issues of society that pose a real threat to its development and ways to address them according to the phased or long-term plans.

2- Optimal preparation of researchers who rely on the foundations and methods of scientific research with honesty and keenness, with roots in knowledge of integrity, keenness and patriotism.

3- Coordination and cooperation between scientific and social research centers, other centers, universities, ministries of common interest and investors.

4- Technology transfer requires the preparation of a fruitful scientific environment.

The most important conditions of the scientific environment can be summarized as follows:

A) Setting good budgets for scientific research compared to the developed countries that preceded this country. These budgets should not be less than 5% of the national income.

B) Focusing on applied research.

C) Establishing multidisciplinary and integrated research centers with advanced measuring and testing devices.

D) Emphasizing the need for the state to care for and provide the necessary attention to scientific research institutions.

E) Considering scientific research as an exceptional and national priority.

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