

Education and Conflict in Iraq

Prepared for the international
Final Shur Conference
Human Rights in Conflict the role of Civil Society
on 4-6 June 2009
organized within the framework
of the European FP6 SHUR
project by
the Center for Ethics and global politics
of Luiss University.

Zainab Mohammed Jawad Ali Alkhalil
IT Engineer

***University of Technology
Baghdad, Iraq
May- 2009***

ABSTRACT

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"
Mahatma Gandhi.

Education is essential tool in building human development. It is not just a basic right, but a foundation for progress in other areas, including health, nutrition and the development of institutions and democracy.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the most important international documents because it has influenced law-making, how organizations and institutions operate, personal and collective actions, values, attitudes and beliefs about human rights.

Education is one of the rights in this Declaration¹. Regarding to Article (26):

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children

Conflict undermines the foundation of education and contributes to the conditions that perpetuate hostility. Violent conflict destroys education infrastructure, reduces spending on schools and teachers and prevents children from attending classes. Schools are often a target for groups hostile to the government.

¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the conflict and post- conflict, new values occurs and affect in a way or another the whole society, generating new theories and new look to life. Those values are not necessarily correct, cause in many conditions the new values affect negatively on the society.

Iraq will be our case study and we will try to understand if the conflict is the reason of bad education, or if ignoring or abusing education would be the reason of the conflict!!!

Education might be considered as one of the main challenges in post – conflict countries.

If you educate peoples then you will make a new and better world where human rights are settled.

*If you do not want to bear the light of burden of education , you will have to
bear the heavy burden of ignorance*

Moses Ibn Ezra

Map of Iraq



Map No. 3835 Rev. 4 UNITED NATIONS
January 2004

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

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Introduction

The interest in the reconstruction of societies had been increased during the last decade. After the Cold War and Berlin Wall fall down, there was a great interest in rebuilding of societies.

In the societies who suffered from war, the reconstruction process needed to be start with the peoples who suffered from this conflict, in their heart and their minds, they always start to think of making the change in the community even during the war to avoid the possibilities of war again and promote peace.

International community, media, aid- participants, policymaker, academic, NGO's, national and international organization, they all participate in the reconstruction after the conflict, but their efforts are not efficient to build peace as the efforts of the citizen of the country. They will call for democracy and institutions building immediately after the end of conflict and will give help and support to make changes when the community is not ready enough for all those changes!

I am Iraqi, one of the almost 26 million civilian living in Iraq. The population consists of approximately 74% Arabs, 21% Kurds and the remaining 5% is made up of Assyrians, Iraqi Turkmen and other ethnic groups. These ethnic groups occupy mainly the north and the northeastern part of the country. The Persians, Armenians, Shabaks form a part of Iraqi population. The Muslims, consisting of 60% Shia Muslims and 40% Sunni Muslims, form the majority of the Iraq population.

For thirty years, we suffered from wars. We never know the meaning of peace, never know the meaning that you have rights, we were always having obligations and our rights were only to choice our names and sometimes even that was not possible. The education was based on war thoughts. The text books in school and media, they were calling for fight! The concept of war had been recorded in the brain of Iraqi's. We had generations that know nothing only fighting. But what is more dangerous now, is the latest generation, which saturated with the ethnic ideas. This generation really who needed to be the target of Iraqi government and international community. Previous generations, they were at least fighting outside

Iraq not inside Iraq. This new generation saw their families fight or kill their neighbors because they belong to different ethnic or sectarian group!

Reconstruction is not easy to be achieved, but also not impossible. In my opinion, peacebuilding and reconstruction should be started from education. This is the light in dark way, difficult way, but each way have a start point and end point, maybe it will be so long, but definitely it will have an end, which we hope it will help in rebuild Iraq.

1. Education and Conflict: Relationship

Education and conflict have a very strong relationship but not very clear, in fact they both affect on each other in positive and negative way. To know this relation we most start to look in our self to see what we did to improve or disprove the field of education and how the conflict critical conditions affected on the community.

Education may be the reason to achieve social cohesion or it can cause more complicated situations. This relation has two faces, negative and positive. Education may create conflict but it is also may consider as a key instrument to make reconstruction and find solutions to end conflict.

Education system had changed a lot and now can be a tool to produce all forms of violence, So, it is very important to understand that the world now have changed and there are social forces can effect the local nation such as International organization, NGO'S and civil society (Bush and Saltarelli 2000).

The conditions in Iraq is critical, how can we achieve peace in such a country in the middle of killing, kidnapping, bombing, losing Iraq's scientists, and losing the interest in education by majority of the people.

Is it possible to develop new structural education to achieve that! What were the sacrifices given by Iraq people to have education during the last six years since 2003.

Do we have to focus on youth to achieve that or concentrate on stop the scientists from leaving the area or we should do both. How can we build a bridge of trust between the people and the educational institutes!! How can we spread human right education and what is the role of civil society and International organizations.

What about Iraqi's refugees outside and even inside Iraq, how can they get education! Is the low level income affect the education as well!!!

We will discuss those issues in this simple documents and will try to find someway to enlighten the way for others.

"Men have to find truth, not because it is lost, but because they are lost"

Ivan N Panin

1.1 Positive Face of Education

The education can be used to stop conflict and promote peace. This can be achieved when the education become a right for all the groups in the community, without any distinguishing.

Positive face of education can be achieved when educational programs are organized to avoid ethnic problems and spread the policy of tolerance and non-ethnic with the respect to all the ethnic groups.

The textbooks should be neutral and free of ideological and political theories. The mother tongue languages of the minority should be respected.

Peacebuilding programs, civic and gender programs should be implemented to make the citizen know their rights and obligations.

When the citizens are educated well and they feel they are equal in their nation, then there will be no chance to conflict.

1.2 Negative Face of Education

Education can shape the understanding, attitudes and the behavior of individuals. It may have a socially destructive impact on people when it will be used to spread hostility in the conflict and can be a weapon causing more violent. Because of the conflict, ethnic or social groups can deny access to educational opportunity and will forbid specific groups from participation in economic and social life which led to long term impact on socio-economic status of the affected groups. This discrimination will make the state under the control of one ethnic group, the employment opportunity will be limited and this will increase the gap between the social and ethnic groups and in this case the civil society should act before it will be too late.

The dominant ethnic groups will benefit from educational and economical bad distribution and will use it to secure their rights and control the political process by which school systems are structured to ensure that the school will be attended by their children.

Controlling of majority ethnic group on the education and functioning the education system in political domain will make this system not neutral leading to

many problems such as imposing one common language to be used in school and denying the rights of minority ethnic groups to use their mother tongue language, manipulating the history when they write the past according to their interests, spreading the war concepts in textbooks, giving the fellowship and opportunity to the majority children or the children who have parents with political or ethnic power. Those problems may will be the reason of conflict because the minority can use arms to protect their culture, rights and identity.

2. Impact of Conflict on Education in Iraq

2.1 General Over View

In the conflict and post- conflict, new values occurs, those values affect in a way or another the whole society, generating new theories and new look to life. Those values are not necessarily correct, because in many conditions the new values affect negatively on the society.

Education might be considered as one of the main challenges within the new born values in post- conflict countries.

The state, institutions, civil societies and international agencies must participate and act together to build the education system specially in the countries who suffered from war.

If we look to Iraq, we will see that there are many reasons caused the deterioration of education in this country for long time, because Iraq was in a conflict condition for more than thirty years. Eight years war with Iran until 1988. In August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait, this invasion was met immediately with economic sanctions against Iraq by some members of the United Nation Security Council. The Gulf War prepared by thirty four nations in coalition forces commissioned to expelling Iraqi forces from Kuwait in January 1991.

United States led the operation of invasion of Iraq or the Third Gulf War (the Iraq war or the liberation of Iraq or the occupation of Iraq or the Third Gulf War). These are some of the many names used to describe military operations in Iraq in 20- March- 2003, which led to the military occupation of Iraq by the United States. War took another shape after May- 2003 and led to continuation of violence in the form of insurgency and sectarian conflicts.

This war caused the destruction of more than 75% of the educational facilities in Iraq and the collapse of the educational process after the occupation. In the name of this war, the local people of Iraq were given freedom and democracy while they do not know or understand the operative part of those rights. This cause complete chaos in the community, and led to the power control of the sectarian parties, policy makers and militias on the course of the educational process in Iraq, they start to build their own new theories in the society, establishing different opinions based on their point of view and benefits. They tried to create religious issues or secular issues in community to serve their interests.

The deteriorating security situation in Iraq has contributed significantly to the deterioration of the educational process in Iraq, this prevent the Iraqi citizens from sending their children for schools, colleges, especially after the kidnapping gangs demanding ransom from the parents if the boy was abducted or kidnapping and rape if the victim was female. In addition to that, he educational infrastructure and institutions become the targets to be bombing and destroyed by the rebels or by United states military forces when they were attacking city or region to punish the terrorists.

The increase of military operations and deterioration of the security system prevent many students from attending school and sometimes, the curfew also lead to the suspension of school attendance that could last for days, frequent curfews happen several times in the years.

Also another problem occurs, which is the refuges who were forced to leave everything behind to save their life. In Iraq many families flee to the neighbors countries, other citizens had to leave their homes and move to another region within the country, increasing the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to this it is impossible to those refuges and IDPs to get education, so many of the students left their study and stay in home, or start working to support their families. Some times those refuges can make the base for terrorist when they feel that they lost everything. They are not able to go to school, specially children and the young. This thing will cause a disaster within the new coming years because we will have lost generation who sometimes don't even know how to write or read their names!!!

There is also the Iraqi academic targeted by physical attacks, threats, kidnap, killing, or pressure them to change the political orientation and intellectual and leave their jobs or leave Iraq.

More than 380 university professors, medical doctors were assassinated since 2003.

More than 210 lawyers and judges were assassinated since 2003

More than 250 journalist were assassinated since 2003

Those numbers are continuing to increase daily.

The local people do not trust the education system when it deal with the history of Iraq, because the governments before and after 2003 were using education to manipulate the history. They re-make the nation past as they want and taking off events that they don't want the public to know and remember.

One of the main problem now in Iraq is the ethnic intolerance. There are diverse of ethnic and religious groups in Iraq, that made it very difficult to establish neutral education system because each ethnic group want to show their past as the Iraqi history and want to publish their perspectives in the community.

The war policy can be shown very clear in the textbooks and curricula in the education sectors. When the students get used to read those subjects, they will understand that the war was their history and it should be their present and future. Spread war concepts is very dangerous, it will only result in making more violence.

The education in Iraq is the victim of all the conflicts, children were out of schools, teachers are targeted, school buildings are looted and destroyed, the insurgent make the school as shelter for them, exploding are everywhere. All those reasons are preventing students from attending classes and deeply impact both a society's and an individual's future.

2.2 Gender and Conflict

Gender is considered to be an important dimension in the relationship between education and conflict. We will discuss the participation of the women and children and the role and experiment of each of them.

There are several factors that determine the way in which armed conflict affects on women. The human rights have become a central factor in international politics, the nature of conflicts, and women's roles in armed conflicts as well as post-conflict settlements.

Women find themselves exposed to additional risks that are specific to their gender. In addition to the deteriorating security situation, and being afraid from kidnap and rape and the fear of bringing the shame to the whole family if they got raped, they had to leave the study and stay in home because of religious issues. Many families in Iraq forced their girls to wear veils and the girls were forbidden from see any strangers. Their families kept them in home to wait the groom and get married and then make the husband take the responsibility of them. So in this case they forbid the girls from being educated. In another way, the families forbid half of the society to study and be active element. They took the simple rights of women to express their freedom and to choice their future.

At the same time, women also represent great resources in terms of restoring community robustness and foster processes of rehabilitation and peacebuilding, which are the main pathways out of a crisis. Implementing to women role in education starting by educated them till they will be useful to rebuild the community in post conflict situation in Iraq.

For the children, in conflict, they have been forced to leave the schools either to work in private sectors to support the family or they can be used to serve in armed military group despite of all the international protocols against children labor and the use of children as soldiers.

In the militia and rebel armies in Iraq, children with early age are being educated to accept the notion brutal violence is an acceptable means by which to achieve personal and group goals!!! The question is that why would a military group recruit children? And what drives kids to join a group?

To answer this question we must go deeply inside the society, reaching the ideas espoused by some families that learning children to use weapons and fight make more profits from sending the children to school and spend lots of money to educate them and wait long time till they will find job with low salary.

So, in the middle of conflict both women and children are victims, they had to pay a lot if they decided to get educated. And the problem is that both of them have no control on themselves and not free to make such a decision cause this decision can be take only from the families and men specifically those who gave themselves the right and legitimacy to take such decisions, as much as the power idea is the important idea in conflict, and they have this power.

2.3 The Standard of Living and The Economic Situation and Development

Conflict is not only affects civilians physically and psychologically, it also diverts necessary resources away from social sectors such as education.

Before the year 2003, Iraq spend most of state budget to build strong military base, which reduce the development in other fields. But Iraq lost his military forces and equipments after the war in 2003.

Now the increasing of bombing operation and internal problems and the need to achieve more security in the region was the reason to Iraq to start again in building strong army and buy new weapons.

With the heavy legacy left by the previous regime, and with the collapse of the security situation, it become more difficult to Iraq to make development in the country, cause expenditure of one field, make it hard to find the required resources to cover the costs to make the development in another field. Meaning spend large money from the state budget to develop military will leave only small budget to achieve the social development.

Reducing the expenditure on education, caused an extra burden on the citizens to cover the expenses of education. Lack of attention to the public schools caused low level of education, prompting families to put their children in private schools which normally cost a lot but the will be sure that they will get good education in advance because public schools are not good.

The deteriorating security situation and lack of attention to roads and transportation caused a new burden on families to deliver their children to schools and colleges, prompting some families to the rental of private cars in order to ensure safety and access for their children to school with knowing that high price of fuel and sometimes the lack of it will cause high cost for renting those cars.

Conflict forbid economic and human development causing poverty and destroy the whole education system. Destroying education system will destroy the whole community and take away any hope in future.

" Human rights are what reason requires and conscience demands. They are us and we are them. Human rights are rights that any person has as a human being. We are all human beings; we are all deserving of human rights. One cannot be true without the other". Kofi Annan, Secretary-general of the United Nations "

3. Organizations and Iraqis: Relationship

After America's invasion to Iraq in 2003, many international organization and non government organization (NGO'S) and civil society institutions tried to participate in peacebuilding processes but mostly they failed to do their work in the middle of conflict and policy makers.

Iraqis civilian have a bad idea about the United Nations and any organization related to. This idea started from long time when the United Nations has imposed a comprehensive embargo on Iraq after the gulf war. In addition, the negative attitude of the United Nations when the United States decided to invade Iraq in 2003. The United Nation authorized United States to impose their control in Iraq, prompting the Iraqis to be considered as neo-colonialism. That is make the Iraqis believe that the United State of America is using United Nation to achieve their obsession to control the world.

For those reason Iraqis considered United Nation and USA the two sides of same coin, and they started to attack the offices of the United Nation and the employers as well, either they were local or international.

During to report of both UN and UNDP, Iraq is currently one of the most dangerous areas of work of international organizations and their members can not

move freely in some parts of Iraq such as the western and central area with the exception of some northern and southern area.

There is increasing concern over violent conflict amongst the international development agencies, this make it hard to those agencies to work, for example the UNDP and UNESCO took from Amman- Jordan their headquarter and work from distance to implement the projects in Iraq. Some organization took offices in the Green Zone in Baghdad. But inspite of all the security protection, Green Zone was attacked several times and innocent employers were killed because of those attacks.

4. The Role of Civil Society in The Peacebuilding Processes

4.1 What is Civil Society

Civil society is an concept that it always require to be defined before it applied or discussed. There are many definitions for civil society such as:

- ❖ All of the organizations which are not public, It is the third sector which is different from government and private sectors.
- ❖ All organized forms apart from the government, for example trade unions, NGOs, charity organisations, religious organisations, community-based organisations, civic movements or advocacy groups.
- ❖ Include a wide and self-selected variety of interest groups, worldwide. It does not include for-profit businesses, government, and government organizations, whereas it does include most NGOs.
- ❖ All movements, associations or individual citizens, independent from the State, whose aim is to transform policies, standards or social structures through communal efforts at a national or international level.
- ❖ Voluntary civic and social organizations and institutions that form the basis of a functioning society as opposed to the force-backed structures of a state.

Civil society can be the third sector in community which is different from government and market, business or economy. This institution can effect in community generating strong power to achieve development in the society and

help associations, religious and ethnic groups, women's organization, social movement, to promote the civilian rights.

For long time there was only two important sector in the world, the government and the market or economy power. The third sector was almost totally ignored until the community take attention to the role of civil society institutions to make the balance and promote the developing in the world.

4.2 The Role of Civil Society in Iraq

The invasion of United States opened the door for all the splits in community. And inspite of all the ongoing political issues in the country, instability that has been caused by the insurgents, series of conflicts and confrontations between power-hungry politicians, collapse of security sector, in fact the collapse was in all the economic, social sectors, but still the civil society had a role in Iraq.

There are many major problems that needed to be resolved. The country was totally destroyed even before 2003 and the restructuring need to be done in the entire state, in the middle of unstable and violent environment!

Civil society is very important in the restructuring process. It is not necessarily to identify civil society in Iraq, as it is in west, as a series of non-governmental organizations or special-interest entities, not regionally- oriented or ethnic communitarian. Civil society in Iraq is re-establish the old structure that kept society as one union before all the sectarian and ethnic problems.

There are many problems in Iraq between different communities based on identity nature or religious and sectarian concepts. Problems between Arabs and Kurds, between Shiites and Sunnis, between various minorities and the majorities in community.

In Iraq the big challenge is to create common space where shared values of Sunnis and the Shiites, and between Arabs and Kurds, and between the main Islamic identity and other groups in the country. The space should be wide enough and big enough to accommodate all differences and variations.

The issue is not to create third identity that can be based on the common set of experiences that are commonly accepted by all the Iraqi's. The problem now there is no national expression for the Iraqi's, each one of the groups have their

own terms and expressions. There will not be one shared term between even two groups not between all the groups in the community!! Maybe they can say one old historical term but definitely they will never choose new one. That's why people have to be one union again and should share same ideas and thought as they were before 2003. The word "citizenship" have been lost in the middle of all that conflict between the groups who want to break the union of Iraq.

The big divide in Iraq now is between Arab and Kurd and the other great divide is between Shiites and Sunnis. The accommodation that has happened over a long period of time has to be re-woven so that society can function within a common characteristics to make limits and end the extremism. This is not easy to be achieved and will take long time. The society has been affected deeply by the discourse of the Islamists and the discourse of the Nationalists. All the groups suffered from the feeling of constant victimization and still feel the same.

There should be a way to create common ground that combines more tolerant, more accepting, more accommodating, more ecumenical history and the ecumenical discourse that we had in Iraq, we cannot avoid these problems.

Country development can not be achieved by only following and implementing security and economic policies. In fact, Iraqi Government worked shyly to achieve economic development through making balanced budgets, investor- friendly law. But the corruption was more than expectations, it start from low level to, sometimes, highly level in society. The ministries were divided between the religious and ethnic groups. Sometimes you go to one ministry and you will see that they all speak Kurdish language because they are Kurd, or they all wear kind of clothes because they are Sunnis or Shiites. In some ministry you can not get the job if you are belonging to different ethnic group or at least you can not get this job easily. All those factors increased the gap between civilian.

Iraqi problems are very difficult and impossible to be solved by the Government only or with the help of International community. It is so deep inside, the conflict did not affect the economic sector only, or the sovereignty of Iraq, it affected the people, changed their principles, their union, their feelings that they are all belonging to same country, that they don't need to be separated into groups in multi regions in Iraq and make federation or confederation to promote peace.

The trust and security between people in Iraq become a history story, no one trust in another specially if he/she belonging to different ethnic or religious group!

Rebuilding should be start by and with peoples, only they can succeed to re-weaving of society. We can not change the events that happened in the past, what happened should remain history, but we should work to make presents and future for the new generation. This is the duty and role of civil society in Iraq, to re-weave the bond between Iraqi's at all individual, neighborhood and families levels. It is not easy job to do, but very critical to in the unstable conditions.

Civil society should maintain and respect the traditions of country. Their duty is to work for instilling the feeling of belonging in all Iraqis. To achieve that, civil society engagement should be done with great sense of transparency, reliability, responsibility, sensitivity and with understanding for the society needs.

5. Peacebuilding and Education

Peacebuilding process in Iraq depend on people and civil society more than depending on external resources. It can take many years of reconciliation to achieve peace and build strong bonds.

Civil society should work on the negative face of education in an attempt to reduce and to end its bad impact of education, to promote the peacebuilding education and teach people what are the reason of violence and how to deal with them and finding solutions. This will lead to reach the goal for establishing social development in Iraq.

Civil society should deal with peace education with high level of neutrality, transparency, sensitiveness, skills and understanding to the nature of Iraqis and traditional life. They should know that there is possibility that the students might refuse attending any program or maybe they will attend but the program will fail to achieve it's goal to reduce the tension between groups specially in high sectarian area which is sometimes it is impossible to go to those areas and make the people listen.

That is why civil society should be local sometimes, especially in Iraq. They can know better the nature of Iraqis and it will be easier to make facilitation and negotiations to ensure large number of people to attend peace programmms.

There are many areas in Iraq where people are suffering from poverty, unemployment, bad public services. It is not easy to go to those people and tell them, "we want to teach you peace"! People will definitely refuse those programmes because they have more essential needs, by their own view, more important than attending courses to know what peace is!

This is challenge to civil society to deal with such people who represent the majority of Iraqis. Those people need to find jobs to live. That's why, by my point of view, that peace education programmes, should included some training courses to learn simple professional skills to people, and involve people in economic and development project. In this case, they give motivation to simple people to attend those courses, they can gain skills with addition to learn.

Civil society, by arranging such programmes, can achieve two goals. First goal is to make the people attend those programmes and make them understand the important of peace. Second goal, that by teaching skills to unemployed peoples, they will reduce the chances that those people, for economic reason, can join insurgent or can do terrorist operations.

We keep saying it is big challenge and everything possible, success or failing are two side for the same coin.

5.1 Education in Emergencies and Peace Education

The relationship between education in emergencies and peace education is really complicated, because the war is causing violent and the violent will effect peace which will automatically prevents the education.

It is important to engage the education in peacebuilding process because it will be like a common space that contain all the students from different ethnic and religious groups, and make them listen, understand and deal with each member of different group. This will make a starting point to students to share and exchange their experiences and ideas, and this will lead to better understanding of the fears and needs of each group in Iraq.

The peace education is not easy to be achieved, in fact it is a huge challenge for the civil society and need strong power and great understanding, it needs decades

to be achieved, because the brain of the majority of men and young in Iraq was totally damaged with the ideas of killing, revenge, and sectarian prejudices.

One of the main objective of peace education programmes is the demilitarization of the mind (Bush and Saltarelli 2000). If someone want to walk in any city of Iraq, let say Baghdad for example, you will be surprise for the number of armed people that you will see. Ofcourse the number of armed people is not many as it was before two years, but still, at least, you can see the armed soldiers in the check points for example. It is also very normal to each Iraqi family to have at least one weapon in home to defend themselves if they will be attacked. The problem is that the people get used to see those appearances and those views got deep inside their brain and mind.

The civil society efforts to implement peace education for people will be harder than expected. So that's why I think they need to implement this first on children from kindergarten maybe we will be able to stop the lose of generation in Iraq and save those children from lost.

The conflict effect children directly through the loss of relatives, or by physical violence, rape, relegating and so on. Those children is the future of Iraq and educated them will be used as a tool to prevent violence. Civil society can arrange programmes to spread the important meaning of life, peace, forgiveness and love. Civil society should work to increase the self-confidence for children. Those programmes can teach children how to be active members in community, how to act positively in conflict, what dangerous they will have if they become fighter in conflict, how the violent will only cause violent, how hurt it will be when they will forced to kill their neighbors because of sectarian issues! What dark zone they will put themselves in till their death if they choose to be insurgent. How the society will keep reject them if the become insurgent, even if they decide to go back to their normal life.

The government should cooperate with the civil society to revise and update the curricula and textbooks in use now and distribute books in adequate quantities, making curricula based on modern pedagogy leading to the development and progressive. Government should work on introduction of a new generation of textbooks and other teaching-learning materials so that they may gain acquaintance with international developments in this areas .

We should expect that civil society efforts in peacebuilding process will take long time to create new culture of peace, and can not success without the support of people and real intentions to change bad conditions.

5.2 The Role of Civil Society in Education in Iraq

The context of UNESCO included that education for all can be understood and implemented by the civil society institutions who are involve in national education in Iraq. Iraqi government have all the authority and responsibility on education, but they should engage civil society in this process, and promote their role in the formulation, implementation and monitoring for educational development.

Civil society institutions and organizations are organizing themselves to have good relationship with governments in one hand and with international agencies in other hand, in this case they can indirectly, be as a bridge between national and international levels to establish all the requirements for the success of the educational process, such as logistic, financial and moral support. Also they can receive the support of Government to make them move and act freely.

The role of civil society is very important. They can cooperate with media for planning and arranging national and international campaigns for free and compulsory quality education for all groups without distinguish according to ethnic or religious concepts. They can describe the conditions in Iraq in scientific and neutral way through publishing the reasons for deterioration of education and asking international community to give all possible support to rebuild this sector. Those campaigns can be a pressure on government to make all the efforts to be more involve in education development and get the support of international community.

Education programmes are very important, civil society institutions can organize programs provides workshops for teachers and students that offers professional- development training courses to train teachers how they can use scientific methods in teaching and how can they increase the students interest in attending schools. Students program aims is to impact positively on brain development through teaching students how they can make their individual influence on situations, how can they learn from the mistakes of the past and

bypass all the suffering and conflicts to concentrate on their future and know that the life does not mean only war, but it mean also love, peace and forgiveness.

It is important to target civilian from all ethnic groups without making any distinguishing or giving priority to one group on another. If the civil society preferred any ethnic group and gave it more attention and care, this will give negative influence for the role of civil society and will be as a new reason to increase the gap between those groups.

Education programs can involve different topics like human rights, institution building, election and democracy to make people know their rights and obligations. Targeting youth might be the essential key in peacebuilding, also women should be involved in those programs to improve their scientific, mental and professional skills that can lead them to be effective elements in the society.

With the effect of those programs, schools will succeed in different ways when the public become part of the training and cultural participation.

Social and education programmms can particularly be effective in areas such as community participation, empowerment, literacy, community schools, reproductive health.

Economic and development programmms can be organized to different levels of people, to give skills that can help them to find job opportunities.

Even though all the dangerous, we can notice that NGO's, UNDP and UNESCO developed a range of educational interventions to share knowledge and experience throw promoting donors to participate in rebuilding processes, supporting the fellowships, building schools, enhancement of teaching skills and learning through organizing training courses in and out Iraq for the teachers and lectures to improve their skills.

Summary

Education can influence situations of conflict either contributing to violence or working against it. That is why education is very dangerous tool, to deal with, and it can be a solution to end violent in Iraq if we took away all the political, religious, ethnicity issues and establish a new peace education system in Iraq with new open mind and hearts from all the Iraqi's.

But this need that the government find away to make the citizen trust them and their new education system because with sectarian government it will be impossible to achieve this trust.

Here we need the role of civil society, to be the third sector in the country. The sector who can deal directly with peoples through talking to them, listening to their fears and needs, arranging workshops for peace education, helping in the rebuilding process of the community by organizing development and economic projects.

Hand by hand with the government, civil society must take on concern the human rights, women and children rights in peace education system and with the help of civil society, they must rebuild the peace in Iraq. They should analyze the conditions in Iraq in scientific way to find the reasons of violent and find a solution.

Developing the security, society, economy, democracy, and even policy in Iraq, is very important. This is government job, and by achieving this development, it will be easy on civil society to implement economic projects to provide job opportunities so that the families will be able to send their children to school.

For the process of peacebuilding, Iraqi government must protect and cooperate with different social agencies, international and local NGO's, International Organizations and donors. They most work together to discuss and share different perspectives which will finally lead to the development of education.

With the contributing of the international community by providing the required recourses , we can reconstruct the education in Iraq to achieve peace, national unity and democracy.

Well, to be honest this small document can not cover the whole subject and it is very difficult to find solutions to re-woven the community and promote education and peace education in Iraq now, but with knowing our problems we can find the solutions.

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