

Youmna Mohamed
Female Unemployment in Egypt
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LEAD IN:

Unemployment is one of Egypt's toughest challenges. Its rates have been increasing tremendously and are now among the highest. Egyptian women tend to be the most affected by such problem. Youmna Mohamed reports for AUC radio

BACKGROUND MUSIC STARTS: "Cordiz" - Cordizoma

Female?
Egypt?
Unemployment?
Are these related?
I think they are.

As Egyptians desire to go through the road of democracy with the availability of bread, freedom and social justice, women are striving for their rights.

BACKGROUND MUSIC ENDS: "Cordiz" - Cordizoma

BACKGROUND MUSIC STARTS: "Everyone is fine" – Jediah

According to the World Bank, in 2012, the most recent unemployment rate valuation in Egypt, has reached 12.6%. This makes the unemployment rate one of the highest in the world as it exceeds the normal rate by more than 6%. However, Women tend to be the most affected by the inoccupation problem as they suffer from a rate that is 50% higher than men's.

BACKGROUND MUSIC ENDS: "Everyone is fine" – Jediah

Dr. Said Sadek, a sociology professor in AUC addressed how high is the female unemployment rate in Egypt

"Unemployment rate in general in Egypt is 13 % for women it is doubled that among young girls it is very high also how many are working women in Egypt? Maybe 30 to 35 percent but if you look at in advanced industrial society or your neighbor Israel for example it can reach 65 to 70 percent of women are workingwomen. If society is to develop men and women must work."

It is important to know the societal factors reducing and hindering women's active participation in the labor market and making unemployment a wide phenomenon among

women, which results in affecting the society and the economy in Egypt. Those were some public opinions about this issue

Vox pops starts:

ME: What factors do you think are the reasons for female unemployment?

Mona Bassel: Maybe due to the fact that are culture dictates the fact that women should stay home and become housewives rather than go out and get a job

Mohamed Swellam: stereotyping and social norms

Nadine El Azhary: our culture suppress women they do not give them opportunity to work

MUSIC FADES IN

“Grand Daddy” – Victoria Café

MUSIC FADES OUT

Dr Sadek explained that social norms is one of the top reasons why female unemployment rate is increasing. As, it highlights the great value of women’s presence at home and security.

Dr. Said Sadek: “they accept lower income jobs, and they are not encouraged to pursue a career or to get promoted there is a lot of job discrimination treatment or because your are a girl you cannot stay late at night so you finish early and also you know the streets in Cairo and Egypt are not safe for women, it is becoming a big phenomena that can affect economic activity of women, families are worried your husband is worried.”

Nat Sound Starts – traffic

The Egyptian street is making it harder for girls to work wherever they want. Nour El Daly, graduated two years ago with a mass communications degree, is facing this problem with her parents. They don’t let her stay outside home late at night, because of their restrictions on timings and curfew.

Nat Sound Ends - traffic

Nour El Daly: “I tried to find many jobs but the problem that most of them the salaries were very low and they had as advertising agencies most of them have very flexible working hours people can stay in the agency till 10 p.m. so it is not suitable for a girl and also most of them are very faraway from were I'm living since I live in Masr el-gedida so I started searching for a place in masr elgedida or madinet nasr so they are near by but I couldn't find any.”

Music Fades In and Out: “Everyone is fine” – Jediah

BACKGROUND MUSIC STARTS: “Cordiz” – Cordizoma

Economy?

What economy?

Are you telling me that women can rise up Egypt's economy??

Yes they can, and here is the proof!!

BACKGROUND MUSIC ENDS: "Cordiz" - Cordizoma

Women are a major work force and can be an engine stimulating growth in the economy. It would be inefficient to ignore their input, as they constitute third of the labor force. Nour Essam, an AUC alumna and an economist explained

Nour Essam: "also women not working would contribute to having lower economic activity in the market as a whole which would then contribute to pushing the GDP lower, the GDP is the gross domestic product which is a measurement for the market value of all the final goods and services produced within a market also it would affect the GDP per capita which is basically the GDP percapita is a measurement like the GDP how ever we get GDP and divide it by the population so it would give you an average of how much each person is earning."

Essam also said that a lot of unemployed people do not settle for any job they keep searching till they find what they want and sometimes what they want is not available so they basically prefer to be out of work for a long period of time rather than just having a job.

And this is what El Daly has faced because of her parents rules and their fear of her being late at night in work,

Start: Nat sound – typing

So she started her own online business on Facebook to sell handcrafts, until she finds a job.

End: Nat sound - typing

Nour El Daly: "it's helping me a lot in finding somehow of. I have my own money that I don't have to follow my parents giving me money at that age because it's not really nice feeling. so it's somehow helping and maybe I will do it in a more bigger scale or hopefully I will find a place to work in nearby that also suits my parents."

Music Fades In and Fades out: "Grand Daddy" – Victoria Cafe

Essam made several suggestions to help speed up solving such issue and support women to work, like encourage having employment fairs, and services that match unemployed people with available jobs in the market.

Nour Essam: "the government should have entrepreneurial approach through providing funds and easing the process of lending If you look at the Egyptian youth in general most of

them would prefer finding a job in the public sector private sector or whatever family business but they're not encouraged to go and take the risk and do a business of their own."

Finally, as Egypt is currently facing a phase of institution building after the 25th of January revolution, more associations can develop strongly to help encourage female active participation and also help defeat factors limiting and hindering their participation.

MUSIC Fades In: "Grand Daddy" – Victoria Café

This documentary was produced by Youmna Mohamed

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Music by:

Jediah

Victoria Café

Cordizoma

MUSIC Fades Out: "Grand Daddy" – Victoria Café