



Aldiyar Satellite
Broadcasting presents:

Economic Files

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Episode 7 Synopsis: The Financial Sector and Money Markets

Airdate: August 13, 2005

Featured Guests: Suwaiba Mahmoud (General Manager of Projects and Assistant to the Minister of Women's Rehabilitation), Jenan Mubarak (President of the Iraqi Center for Women Rehabilitation and Employment), Aziz Ibrahim Khalil (Director of Occupational Training at Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs), Osama Jabar Mesleh (Assistant Professor at Mustanseriyah University), Shorouk Al-Abayji (Iraqi Women's Network), and Dr. Hazem Abdelrahim Alnaeemey (Journalist and Academic Researcher).

The episode discussed women's role in the economy through addressing and defining the following:

- How has role of Iraqi women in the economy changed in response to alterations in the political situation?
- How do women's participation and non-participation affect the Iraqi economy?
- What factors are preventing women from entering the workforce?
- The CIPE-sponsored Zogby Poll results pertaining to women

Featured guest Ms. Mubarak highlighted the fact that Iraqi women have always been involved in the economy, both directly and indirectly. She also emphasized that women's experience as homemakers provides them with management skills, which is a very valuable contribution to the Iraqi workforce.

In discussing the **barriers to women's participation in the economy**, the featured guests and street interviews identified the following:

- Tradition views on the role of women in Iraqi society
- Lack of training and education for women
- Traditional interpretations of Islam
- Lack of laws enabling and encouraging women to participate in the economy
- Reluctance to hire women during periods of high unemployment when many men are without jobs
- Limited public transportation
- Lack of childcare facilities

Episode discussion also evaluated remedies to the current situation. Mr. Khalil discussed the occupational training programs offered by the Ministry of Labor in areas of computer literacy, English, and tailoring.