

Bekheet, H. (2021). International University Rankings and The Accessibility of University Websites: An Analysis of Arabic and Iraqi Universities. *Akkad Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 1(3), 211-229.

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS AND THE ACCESSIBILITY OF UNIVERSITY WEBSITES: AN ANALYSIS OF ARABIC AND IRAQI UNIVERSITIES

Heider Nima Bekheet

University of Kufa,

Najaf, Iraq

E-mail:

heider.nima@uokufa.edu.iq

ORCID: 0000-0002-4446-8970

Received: April 2021

1st Revision: June 2021

Accepted: August 2021

ABSTRACT. Prioritizing educational achievements, particularly higher education, is critical for economic and social growth in any country, developing or developed. Educational institutions in general, whether universities, institutes, or others, seek to apply their educational programs to their inputs through the use of the most advanced scientific methods in order to produce program-digesting outputs that are primarily prepared for entry into the labor market. As a result, educational institutions are often classified according to many worldwide classifications, which are ranked sequentially according to the classification in charge of this process and the criteria and indicators used. One of the most well-known classifications in this field is that of China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University, as well as the Times THES-QS ranking of world universities THES QS World University Rankings, and a third classification, no less significant than the previous two, is that of the Spanish Webometrics Webometrics website. Arab universities have generally been excluded from advanced positions in these three rankings, with the exception of one of Saudi Arabia's universities, which was ranked in the top 200 universities in the weibo metrics webometrics ranking, when King Saud University was ranked 99th after being ranked 100 in the second edition of 2010.

JEL Classification: I20, I23, I25

Keywords: education, research institutions, economic development

Introduction

The introduction should situate the study within a broader context and emphasize its significance. It should define the work's purpose and importance. The present condition of the research area should be thoroughly evaluated, and significant publications should be acknowledged. When appropriate, please emphasize contentious and divergent hypotheses. Finally, briefly summarize the work's primary objective and critical conclusions. Please make your introduction as understandable as possible to scientists who are not specialists in your field of research.

1. Literature review

According to several non-economic metrics, these three nations are small and underdeveloped in terms of geography and population, geopolitical significance, market size and aggregate demand, production, investment, export, and technical potential. Political stability, democracy, liberalization, the institutionalization of society, law, infrastructure development, safety, security, investment, adherence to environmental and social standards, legal system efficiency, and respect for human rights are such indicators. In contrast, economic variables such as buying power, economic growth rate, and current account balance are included.

2. Methodological approach

Materials and Methods should be given sufficient detail to enable others to reproduce and expand on previously published findings. Please keep in mind that posting your work implies that you must make available to readers any materials, data, computer code, and procedures involved with the publication. Would you please mention any limits on the availability of materials or information during the submission stage? While novel techniques and protocols should be presented in-depth, well-established methods can be described quickly and correctly cited.

3. Conducting research and results

The quantitative component of the research placed a premium on data collection, processing, and analysis. In a survey conducted during the research, a nine-level Likert scale was used to assess respondents' perceptions and assessments of the dependent variable (transitional crisis), as well as the independent variables (heritage of socialism, geopolitics, nomenclature authorities, deficit of institutional changes, and neoliberal ideology). The dependent variable (transitional crisis) was quantified using a scale ranging from lowest (1) to most significant (5). Concerning the independent factors, the negative influence on the dependent variable was quantified from a minimum of (1) to a maximum of (5). The study required respondents to complete 500 questions for each nation (Iraq, Syria, and Egypt), totaling 1,500 respondents. SPSS software was used to process the data collected for this investigation. For data analysis, correlation analysis, and multi-correlation, descriptive statistics were employed under the goal specified in the working hypothesis. Following that, a multiple linear regression model was used (using the least-squares approach) and a hierarchical multiple regression model.

3.1. Application of multiple linear regression analysis

Before the regression analysis, descriptive statistics were performed. From the obtained results, the relevant results were singled out in *Table 1*.

Table 1. Means end standard deviation

Variables	Iraq		Syria		Egypt		Total	
	Mean	Standard dev.	Mean	Standard dev	Mean	Standard dev.	Mean	Standard dev.
Crisis	2.7590	.73655	3.2590	.73655	3.7515	.72212	3.2560	.83582
Path depends.	2.8679	1.07412	3.8120	1.09666	3.8610	1.07260	3.5154	1.17298
Globalization	3.8940	.67652	4.3060	.52241	4.0560	.61776	4.0853	.63165
Politics	2.6320	1.28720	3.1120	1.25363	3.5431	1.15498	3.0953	1.28699
Institutions	3.5990	.78161	4.0870	.76229	4.5020	.49849	4.0613	.78485
Neoliberalideo.	3.3236	.88945	4.4260	.53861	3.9279	.53755	4.1278	.76309

Source: *own compilation*

For all three countries:

$$\bar{Y} = b_0 + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + b_4 X_4 + b_5 X_5$$

$$ZaX_1 = 3.51. X_2 = 4.08. X_3 = 3.09. X_4 = 4.08 X_5 = 4.12$$

$$\bar{Y} = 4.63 - 0.21X_1 - 0.23X_2 - 0.03X_3 - 0.31X_4 - 0.26X_5$$

$$\bar{Y} = 3.25$$

The level of transitional crisis is the largest in Egypt (mean is 3.75), then in Syria (mean is 3.25), and the lowest is in Iraq (2.75). A comparison of means by variables is shown in *Figure 1*.

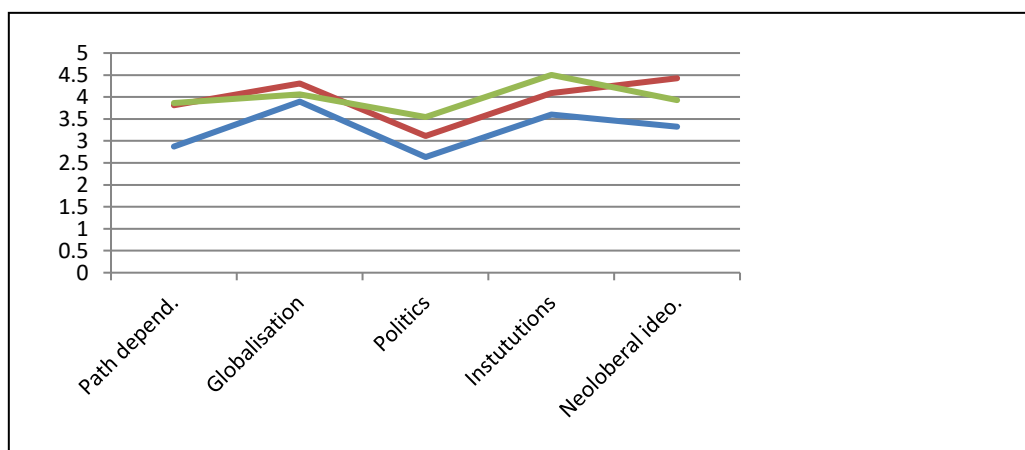


Figure 1. Comparative data by countries

Source: *own data*

Figure 1 illustrates the degree to which various countries see independent variables differently. Egypt, in terms of transition crisis severity, is in a worse condition than Syria and Iraq. Additionally, the negative effect of independent factors is most significant in Egypt, followed by Syria and Iraq. Iraq is in a better position than other countries in all of the areas

studied. Differences are expected as significant economic, political, institutional, and social developments occurred throughout the preceding transition period. Additionally, there are additional aspects that have been overlooked in this research. Nonetheless, the provided results demonstrate a significant resemblance between influence and functional dependence models based on common elements of influence research.

Conclusion

The theoretical section shows how the transitional crises are impacted by a variety of institutional, economic, political, and cultural elements, including tensions between formal and alternative institutions, global processes, economic liberalization, and political dominance. They had distinctive characteristics in that they exerted a multiplicity of effects via various independent factors that we examined in three transitional nations (Iraq, Syria, and Egypt). These nations have centrally planned economies, regional economic development, and spiral replication of crises during the communist era. They are, nevertheless, a representative sample of the broader condition in Eastern Europe. As a result, the findings of this study are likely to aid in the comprehension of the transitional crises afflicting the majority of Eastern European nations. Apart from some positive developments and improvements (in the business environment, tourism, liberalization, civil society, civil and political rights, democracy, media freedom, the result of a knowledge society, and the investment climate, for example), the observed countries have seen the social, political, and economic crisis intensify over the last 25 years. Empirical study has confirmed it. A variety of unfavorable causes precipitated the transitional crisis. The most critical of them (in my opinion) are recognized and examined in this research.

Acknowledgment

All sources of funding for the study should be disclosed. Please clearly indicate grants that you have received in support of your research work. In addition, clearly state if you received funds for covering the costs to publish in open access.

EXAMPLE: The authors are thankful to the Internal Grant Agency of University No.: "Title" for financial support to carry out this research.

References

- Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., Robinson, I., & Thaicharoen, Y. (2004). Institutional causes. Macroeconomic symptoms: Volatility, crises, and growth. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 50(1), 49-123.