

Analysis of the Social Impacts of the Egyptian Economic Reform Program

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Abstract: The research aims at analyzing and assessing the social impacts resulted from the economic reform program's implementation in Egypt through the study and analysis of the demographic variables' impact, the relationship between the economic growth and the population growth, the analysis of birth and death rates and the internal and external migration during the economic reform program's pre-period(1985-1995) as compared to the post-period(1995-2007) of its implementation. The research has reviewed the population structure's assessment in accordance with the governorates, towns, rural areas, gender and age. The research has handled the manpower, the employment structure's analysis, the clarification of unemployment rates resulted from implementing the program and the investment role in providing jobs in light of the comparison between the program's pre and post periods. Finally, the research has handled the most important dimensions and social impacts of the economic reform program such as in the fields of education, health, standards of living and others. The research problem statement dwells in clarifying the extent of the Egyptian economic reform program's efficiency and its subsequent social impacts in light of analyzing and assessing certain social indicators as compared to the situation prior to the program's implementation. The researcher used the descriptive and quantitative method. Data was manipulated using percentages and tabular comparisons. The present research is composed of five Parts in addition to the introduction and the results.

Key Words: Social Reform-Demographic growth- The migration growth-Demographic Structure -The labour resources- The unemployment- Investments -The living conditions

MATERIALS AND METHOD

To analyze and study the social impacts resulted from the economic reform program's implementation in Egypt; the researcher used the descriptive and quantitative method. Data was manipulated using percentages and tabular comparisons. The researcher made use the reports of the Central Bank of Egypt, the National Bank of Egypt and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. In addition, the researcher also made use of reference books and scientific periodicals relevant the topic of the present research.

Research Plan:

The present research is composed of five Parts in addition to the introduction and the results:

Part 1: The introductory elements regarding the reform social costs.

Part 2: The impact on demographic movements.

Part 3: The labour resources and their degree of utilization.

Part 4: The living conditions and social reform.

Part 5: The social dimension of economic reform.

Part 6: Research results and recommendations.

1- The Introductory Elements Regarding the Reform Social Costs:

The economy movement must take place - even with some oscillations - for the benefit of society's members. The absence of this kind of preoccupations and tendencies takes to a diminution till zero of the work motivations, in efficiency. But this fundamental and permanent objective usually needs the presence of this kind of mechanism into the economy, capable to create, in such a measure, a community of interests and efforts from all the society members, even if some belong to a managerial - leadership groups and others, most of them, constitute the mass of the led ones.

In consequence, the modifications induced in the economy by reform produced risks and advantages for both parties, with more or less effects of an economic order, but that in the last analysis behave as an effect of ecological and social order. And so do some actions of economic order. This represents a form of systemic manifestation of man's life environment, in a more and more complex society (Aplin D. , and Geroge L,1993).

These convergence reports, if they are well coordinated and put into value, can challenge the so called system's synergy that means the mutual potential of its components.

The analysis of this mechanism can be studied through correlations between the aggregate elements, or through correlations in detail, in case there is the necessary available information. In consequence, things can be very clear in theory, but in the absence of some data, the analysis has, indisputably, a limited character.

With all the peculiarities that exists in different countries, from this perspective, general exigencies are detached regarding the analysis of the degree of job resources, of the evolution of the living standard (and, on a larger plane, of quality of life), and also of the quality of the environment.

They are the social costs of big span that can not surpass a certain degree of bear ability without the risk of knowing the consequences of some serious discontents of the population, and even some social explosions. As a consequence, the reform social costs can not be analyzed and interpreted outside the general law of effort minimization and advantage maximization. The more so as the losses borne by the population from the reform measures are often manifested, in an extremely painful way by job reduction and the increase of inflation, the diminution of the real incomes (salaries, pensions and other incomes), the diminution of the expenses for services that condition the quality of some products, and services (to balance, as much as possible, the purchasing power), the taxation increase, especially on salaries (Mustafa, M.,2000).

It is true, that in the majority of cases different reparatory measures of social protection are applied, but they never succeed in compensating the integral losses of the population, and keeping such reform measures on long term generates a process of absolute poverty of the majority of the population.

For example, the salary indexation or compensatory payments do not succeed to cover the integral losses caused by the diminution of their real value. Moreover, they are applied periodically, the payments made until that moment remaining uncompensated; they are applied only in the next period, when a new decreasing of the real value of the salaries is taking place (situation valid for pensions and others incomes).

Moreover, inflation mainly strikes the employees not the employers. While the employer can immediately adapt the price to the inflation (often the predictable, anticipated one) assuring his profit, and also increasing it sometimes, the employee does not have the possibility to adapt his income to the inflation (Moran, C,1993). And also, the unemployment represents one of the most serious types of manifestation of social costs. This, first because the unemployment allowance is smaller than the salary and it also suffers by the erudition of the national coin, of the indexation mechanism, and also because it is granted, inevitably, for a limited period of time. So the unemployment generates social costs that are never covered by anybody.

Of course, sometimes the unemployment is caused by some technological changes and restructuring that brings a progress in the economy. In this case it has an objective and necessary character. It is no point to achieve products that generate losses on the external and internal market, that in one way or another are supported by the society in the end. Maintaining such a production generates costs of subjective origin, that become equally unbearable for the employers and for the employees.

But social costs imposed by unemployment, that are not tied to the production's re-technologisation, but to some other criteria of sustaining the maximum profit are often unjustified solutions, if judged in their complexity (with vertical and horizontal influences, in upstream and in downstream) (El-Naggar, S,1995):

- 1) The profit obtained by employers due to increased unemployment generates GDP losses, the gap could be created by the unemployed if they had jobs and made supplementary profit;
- 2) The unemployed are supported by unemployment benefits, values which might have been created by them if they had jobs;
- 3) The unemployment also generates other social costs (public health, education) which are borne by the society and have negative effects on long term;
- 4) The unemployment generates costs by demonstrations, strikes, and social disorders, borne by society;
- 5) The unemployment also causes a loss of a part of the human capital of the country, usually persons of high qualification.

High taxation seriously affects the employees. While the economic agents bear the taxes from their profit (surplus obtained per costs), the employees pay from the cost of their labour, on the detriment of their physical and spiritual condition.

Therefore, the social costs of reform constitute a problem which is equally complex and important for the well being of the economy and for ensuring corresponding living conditions.

2- The Impact on Demographic Movements:

2-1- Economic Growth and Demographic Growth:

The totality of processes that characterises the economic reform synthetically shows the ratios between the economic growth and the demographic growth.

The economic growth, often measured by the increase of the GDP (it represents the newly created value in the economy), has a clearer significance if it is represented by GDP per capita. (On average). It is clear that a big country obtains a higher GDP than a small country (for example China and Switzerland), but the potential of economic and social development (especially welfare and investment capacity) is more clearly expressed by GDP per capita (Collins, S.M. 1990).

From here we have the need of the correlative analysis of the dynamics of the newly created value and the population. The impact of economic growth on the demographic evolution has, therefore, a double direction: from the economy towards the demographic movement and from the demographic movement towards the economy.

The demographic movement is characterised by:

- A) Natural movement, under the influence of birth and death rate;
- B) Total movement, taking into consideration international migration (immigration and emigration).

The whole process of demographic movement from one year to the other can be represented by the following relation (McKinnom, R,1993):

$$P_{t+1} = P_t + B_t - D_t + I_t - E_t$$

where:

P = number of population;

B = live born number;

D = deceased number;

I = number of imigrants;

E = number of emigrants;

t and t+1 = years.

a)Natural growth of the population:

$$\Delta NP_{t+1} = B_t - D_t$$

b)migratory growth of the population:

$$\Delta MP_{t+1} = I_t - E_t$$

c)stotal growth of the population:

$$\Delta P_{t+1} = (B_t - D_t) + (I_t - E_t)$$

$$\text{or } \Delta P_{t+1} = \Delta NP_{t+1} + \Delta MP_{t+1} = P_{t+1} - P_t$$

The various components of calculating the demographic movement are expressed both in the number of people (or a multiple, e.g. million, thousand) and not in percentages, as the economic analyses operate. In this way we proceed to express the relative values of the following dempgraphic elements: B, D, I, E, and later for ΔNP , ΔMP and ΔP .

Analyzing the demographic movement in Egypt in the decades 1985 – 2007 compared to the reform decade we will observe the following evolutions (COMPAS,2007) :

a)Birth Rate:

Table 1: Birth rate between 1985-2007

I	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	37.0	36.2	36.8	38.6	39.8	38.6	37.4	36.6	32.1	30.9	30.1	29.7	28.4
II	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
	29.2	26.2	27.4	27.0	27.7	27.6	29.4	27.8	27.9	28.1			

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

The average annual birth rate was 36.3‰ in the first decade and in the reform decade 27.8‰, indicating a tendency for diminution.

b)Mortality Rate:

Table 2: Mortality rate between 1985-2007

I	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.1	8.1	7.7	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.4
II	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.7	7.0	6.2	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.7			

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

The annual average mortality rate decreased from 8.9‰ in the decade 1985 – 2007, to 6.6 ‰ in the decade 1991-2000.

It is important to see that the mortality rate is decreasing faster (with 34.9%) than the birth rate does (with 30.6%), which indicates the presence of resources of continuous growth among the population, through natural endogenous factors (that is, without the influence of international migration).

c)The Natural Growth:

Table 3: The natural growth between 1985-2007

I	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	27.0	26.2	27.1	29.1	30.4	29.4	28.3	28.5	24.4	23.8	23.4	24.3	24.7
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
	22.8	19.6	21.0	20.6	20.7	21.4	22.6	21.2	21.2	21.4			

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

The average annual natural growth was in the first decade 27.4 ‰, while in the reform decade was 21.2‰. This means a decrease in the last decade of 29.2% compared with the previous decade.

D)The migration growth calculated as the difference between entry (immigrations) and exits (emigrations), knew more twisted evolutions, with positives manifestations (when entries surpass exits) and also negative manifestations (when emigrations exceed immigration); the data is decisive:

Table 4: The migration growth between 1985-2007

I	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	-4.3	-14.4	12.9	0.9	-4.4	-4.0	-3.3	16.1	-20.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
II	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
	-0.3	2.0	0.0	-0.4	-1.1	-2.7	-4.4	-3.8	1.8	2.5			

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

We remark that the annual increase in the migration average was negative in the first decade (-2.0 ‰), as well as in the reform's decade (-0.6‰), which makes for a huge decrease (more than 3.3 times), which indicates a tendency to balance the immigrations and emigrations, hereby, a less sensible draining of national human capital toward other countries.

E)Total Growth:

Table 5: Total growth between 1985-2007

I	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	22.7	12.2	40.0	30.0	26.0	25.4	25.0	44.6	3.9	23.9	24.2	24.4	25.6
II	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
	22.5	21.6	21.0	20.2	19.6	18.7	18.2	17.4	23.0	23.9			

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

Also, the total growth, computed as an annual average, decreased from 25.4 ‰ in the decade 1985 – 2007 to 20.6‰, in the decade 1991 – 2000, therefore a 23.3% change.

If we compare the total demographic growth with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) we conclude:

In the decade 1985 – 2007, the GDP rose with an average annual rate of 5.5%, while the population rate was 2.54%, insuring the demographic growth to be half the economic growth.

In the decade 1991 – 2000, an economic increase with an annual average rate of 4.2%, corresponds to a demographic increase of 2.33%, 1.8 times less, which signifies the presence of an important social cost reflected in a decrease in the increase of GDP per capita, with obvious consequences in terms of the condition of life (Fisher, Stanly,1993).

Analyzing on a longer-term basis the essential demographic factors – birth rate and mortality rate – it appears that Egypt had an evolution more or less specific, which results in a significant trend for the present and future stage.

Thus, the rate of birth (the number of living birth in 1000 inhabitants) has evolved like this: 1920-1924=42.8; 1945-1949=42.4; 1950-1954=43.8; 1966-1970=44.1; 1985-2007=36.3; 1991-2000=27.8. Although it is still very high, it has sensibly diminished.

At the same time, morality (the number of death in 1000 inhabitants) has known the following values:1920-1924=25.7;1945-1949=23.0;1950-1954=18.7;1966-1970=16.5; 1985-2007=8.9;1991-2000=6.6. This way, Egypt has joined the countries with the most rapid diminution of mortality.

These processes have been strengthened in other countries too. So, on a long term, one can distinguish four demographic stages (National Bank of Egypt,2005):

1. The first phase, in the original phase of mankind, has been concretized by high values of birth rate and mortality, accompanied by low rates of population growth;
2. The second phase has registered a rapid growth of the birth rate while the index of mortality was (relatively) stationary, which was generating a rapid growth of the population;
3. The third phase, in which the index of the birth rate and mortality decrease drastically, but in such manner that the population growth decreases more and more;
4. in the fourth phase, there occurs the powerful decline of the index on birth rate and of mortality, the difference between them becoming minimal, so that the population growth becomes slow, and sometimes even decreases

Nowadays, there have been reached practically two fundamental types of reproduction of the population on a global scale: first of all, registered in the developed countries, where it is registered a low rate of birth rate, from where it results a low natural growth of the population and even tendency of stagnation or decrease (the main cause of death being continued here by the degenerative illnesses); in the second type, encountered in the developing countries, it is registered a higher mortality and birth rate(the main cause of death being, in these cases, the infectious illnesses).

In the case of Egypt, a developing country, it is situated in the third stage, in which the mortality and birth rate decrease and the population growth decreases more and more.

The supporting of the economic growth, with its corollary on the living conditions scheme, however necessitates the optimal capitalization of the conditions offered by the modern society (U.N.D.P,2000.):

1. the national resources (land, subsoil, climatic conditions);
2. the intensity with which man uses natural resources, by applying the accomplishments of the scientific and technical progress;
3. the nature of the political, economic and juridical regime; in other words, the institutional and organizational framework;
4. the type of international economic relations, in the context of the geopolitical structural evolution;
5. the resources that arise from the human activity and that can be available for the future development.

Depending on the policies applied at national, international and global scale, the economic growth and population welfare can be achieved, without discrepancies that erode any society which cannot turn to good account these conditions.

2-2- The Evolution of the Demographic Structure:

These correlations get a much larger consistence if analyzed not only globally, but also from the perspective of the evolution of the demographical structures (within the limits of the available data).

The distribution of the population on groups of governorates in the representative years for our analyses, in which there have been made censuses (as percentages in the total population of Egypt):

Table 6: The distribution of the population on groups of governorates1976-2007

Significant	1976	1986	1996	2007
Urban Governorates	21.4	20.2	18.6	19.4
Lower Egypt Governorates	43.3	43.2	43.5	44.5
Frontier Governorates	0.7	1.2	1.4	1.5

Source: Egypt – Statistical Yearbook ,different Issues.

One can surprisingly notice that a tendency of reducing of the population concentrated in the urban governorates takes place by shifting it more and more towards the governorates from superior Egypt and those from the frontier, while the population from the area of the governorates of the lower Egypt is maintained relatively constant.

This indicates the fact that the urban areas are on the verge of exhausting the resources of increasing of jobs, as well as the process of demographical growth in the cities comparing to the areas mostly rural.

Although those mutations occur as long-term processes, one cannot ignore the fact that, in the years of the reform, the economic governmental processes have not taken into consideration the correction of such tendencies, although the bigger concentration of the population towards the rural area does not favour the growth of the level of education (general and professional), on the contrary, with all the consequence that result from here for the evolution of the labour productivity, for the quality of production and services, for the civic behaviour. This is also a social cost of reform that has to be taken upon itself by the government, as well as the society, as a whole (U.N.O.,2003).

The analyses of the structure of the population on the urban and rural environments brings a plus of information (percentage from total);

Table 7: The structure of the population on the urban and rural environments(1976-2007)

Significant	1976	1986	1996	2007
- urban	43.8	44.0	43.0	44.2
- rural	56.2	56.0	57.0	55.8

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

Although there have not been signalled any important changes of weighting between urban and rural, there can be detached two major findings:

- a) the rural population has been maintained constant in the last decade, although the contribution of the agriculture in creating the GPD is the lowest, the three economic sectors, as well as the much lower level of labour productivity; this in the conditions in which a big part of the rural population has no jobs or is underemployed;
- b) the weighting of the rural population in the last decade has been growing against the urban one, emphasizing the reported consequences.

This, too, is a very important social cost, not only for the present, but also for the future, because the demographic processes act on a long and very long term. From that perspective, one can consider that part of the actual effects are not the actual consequence of the reform that our society is going through now, but it results from anterior causes, from before applying the reform.

The structure of the population on sexes also emphasizes certain conclusions:

Table 8: The structure of the population on sexes1976-2007

Significant	1976	1986	1996	2007
- male population	50.9	51.2	51.2	52.1
- female population	49.1	48.2	48.2	47.9

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

In general, in all countries, there is a relative numeric balance between the two sexes. Besides this finding, in most of the countries, the weight of the feminine population is higher than that of the masculine population (following the higher mortality of the masculine population of all ages, although usually, more boys are born). In Egypt's case, as well as in other countries (not many), the weight of the masculine population was and continues to be higher than the weight of the feminine population, the last one continuing to decrease in the last two decades (The World Bank,1996).

This phenomenon has (or can have) in Egypt, as the main causes, the birth of more children of feminine sex and the hard work that women are subjected to, especially in the rural area, which is being felt in the higher level of mortality in women.

It is also important the analysis of the structure of the population (in %) on sexes, on each group of sexes (M=masculine; F=feminine; M+F=100%);

Table 9: The structure of the population on Age group 1996-2007 .

Age groups Years	1996		2007	
	M	F	M	F
0 – 4	50.5	49.5	51.0	59.0
5 – 9	51.7	48.3	51.6	48.4
10 – 14	52.6	47.4	52.5	47.5
15 – 19	53.7	46.3	53.2	46.8
20 – 24	49.2	50.8	53.2	47.7
25 – 49	48.7	51.3	48.4	51.6
50 – 34	49.9	50.1	49.7	50.3
35 – 39	49.7	50.3	51.0	49.0
40 – 44	51.7	48.3	49.6	50.4
45 – 49	49.2	50.8	50.8	49.2
50 – 54	53.9	46.1	47.0	53.0
55 – 59	49.5	50.5	53.8	46.2
60 – 64	52.6	47.4	49.0	51.0
65 – 69	46.3	53.7	52.6	48.4
70 – 74	46.3	53.7	55.3	44.7
75 +	46.3	53.7	50.5	49.5

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

On the other hand, the structure of the population on age and sex groups can be analyzed as weightings in the total of the population M, F and M+F.

Table 10: The structure of the population on age and sex groups 1996-2007

Age groups – years	1996			2007		
	M	F	M+F	M	F	M+F
0 – 4	13.7	13.8	13.8	15.2	15.3	15.3
5 – 9	13.0	12.6	12.8	13.2	13.0	13.1
10 – 14	13.8	12.9	13.4	11.9	11.2	11.6
15 – 19	11.5	10.3	10.9	10.9	10.1	10.5
20 – 24	8.2	8.7	8.4	9.0	8.6	8.8
25 – 49	7.1	7.6	7.3	7.2	8.1	7.7
50 – 34	5.6	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.5	6.3
35 – 39	5.5	5.7	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.1
40 – 44	5.0	5.3	5.1	4.3	4.6	4.4
45 – 49	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.0
50 – 54	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.2	3.8	3.5
55 – 59	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.6
60 – 64	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.3
65 – 69	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
70 – 74	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1
75 +	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

At the last population census in 2007, the results have not yet been processed in detail, some global aspects still giving us the following structure (weightings of the age groups in the whole population, without division by sexes):

Table 11: weightings of the age groups in the whole population in 2007.

0 – 5 years	15.1
6 – 9 years	9.2
10 – 14 years	10.7
15 – 19 years	59.9
60 + years	5.1

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

From the presented data regarding the evolution of the population structure some

Significant Observation Can Be Underlined:

1. A certain movement of the population from urban governorates to the others, because of an overcrowding of the cities;
2. The remigration of the frontier areas, by placing more people in these territories, which was confronted with major worries provoked by the geopolitical situation in the area;

3. The massive and increasing population in the rural areas, as an expression of the industry's backwardness and of the superior quality of the services related to it, as well as the quality level of village inhabitants' education.
4. The backwardness of the female population (under 50%) and the continuation of this process, as a result of the hard work they have to do, most of it in agriculture, as well as other causes somehow traditional, which can also be felt in the women higher level of mortality;
5. The very young population from 0 to 15 years has decreased in the reform decade to 35% from 40% in the previous decade, foreseeing a tendency of diminution of the demographic increase rate; the young and mature population who ensures the work resources (meaning between 16 and 59 years) has increased in the reform decade to 59.9% from 53.9% in the previous decade; the third generation, 60 years and more, has decreased to 5.1% in the reform decade from 6.1% in the previous decade; this means that the dependent population (from the first and second generation) has decreased from 46.1% to 40.1%, and the population who ensures the labor has increased with 6%, which asks for a growth of the number of jobs; in perspective, as the young population is becoming mature and enters the work resources category, this one decreasing as weighting, will ask for fewer jobs, and in certain areas or activity sectors there might be felt a certain labor shortage (Plane, P,1997).

3- The Labour Resources and Their Degree of Utilization:

The labour resources are, as we all know, the main production factor, but at the same time they are influenced – from quality and quantity point of view – by the level of economic development, by its capacity of offering jobs in a more balanced proportion compared to the demand on the labour market.

But these balances which are essential for the society are more conditioned by demographic and social factors, too, as we are about to find Out.

3-1- The Labour Resources- Between Potential and Availability:

Labor force - between potential and availability, this is a real and controversial proportion in economic analyses.

The potential labor is generally represented by the number of people at the legal age of working plus the ones who work even after they pass over the retirement age, diminished with the ones who cannot work.

The potential labor is in balance with the occupied population plus the labor resources (unemployed, pupils and students at the legal age and able to work, the family people at the legal age and able to work, as well as militaries who do their military service).

So, speaking about labor in general, might create a certain ambiguity, being necessary a specification of the notion's concrete content. On the other hand, the use of the mentioned notions, as pragmatic elements in economic policies, needs information and complex calculation, which are not easily available (sometimes not even all the information is available).

In these circumstances, the demographic and economic analyses often use the next indicator categories (Kassem, M,1998):

1. total population (P)
2. the population at the legal age of working (V)
3. the employed population (E)
4. the unemployed (U)
5. the economic active population (A), meaning E+U

Using Them, Other Qualitative Indicators Can Be Determined:

1. unemployment rate (u), meaning U/A ;
2. the employed population rate (e), meaning E/P ;
3. the activity rate (a), meaning A/P ;
4. the dependence rate of the population (q), meaning $1-a$;
5. the rate of the population at the age of working in the total population (v), meaning V/P ;
6. the rate of the occupied population in the whole population at the age of working (e), meaning E/V
7. the rate of the active population in the total population at the age of working (a), meaning A/V .

That is why different national and international statistics use, with the necessary simplifications, the population at the age of working indicator, conventionally established as representing the number or people between 15 and 64 years old. This indicator can be interpreted, correlated both with the total population (showing in a simplified way the potential work resources), and with the occupied and economically active population.

Table 12: The evolution of the labour resources (1984-2007)

Years	Total population (P)	15-64 years old (V)	Employed (E)	unemployed (U)	Active A=E+U
1984	40 880	22 811	7 355	650	8 005
1985	41 800	23 408	7 627	681	8 308
1986	42 320	23 742	7 836	700	8 536
1987	44 010	24 778	8 037	727	8 764
1988	45 330	25 611	8 246	746	8 992
1989	46 510	26 371	8 446	774	9 220
1990	47 690	27 088	9 617	893	10 510
1991	48 880	27 862	10 452	958	11 410
1992	51 060	29 206	11 361	1 069	12 430
1993	51 260	29 372	12 645	1 205	13 850
1994	52 440	30 101	13 861	1 347	15 208
1995	53 620	30 832	13 827	1 463	15290
1996	54 780	31 718	13 742	1 416	15 815
1997	55 930	32 663	14 011	1 801	16 504
1998	57 060	33 551	14 436	1 877	17 118
1999	58 180	34 443	14 879	1 917	17 261
2000	59 270	35 621	15 340	1 956	17 316
2001	60 350	36 451	15 862	1 997	17 859
2002	61 400	37 270	16 310	2 038	18 348
2003	62 810	38 251	16 601	2 084	18 685
2004	64 310	39 358	16 850	2 134	18 984
2005	69925	40125	18230	3212	21442
2006	71321	41457	21985	4561	26546
2007	72645	42658	22475	4689	27164

SOURCE: Egypt, „Statistical Year Book”, 1998; The World Bank – „Development Indicators”, 1995, 2000, Washington D.C.; U.N.D.P. – „Human Development Report 2007”, N.Y., 2007; TheWorld Bank – „World Development Report” (various years); I.M.F. „International Financial Statistics Yearbook”, 1995, 2004,2007.

Table 13: Essential indicators regarding the labour resources (%) (1984-2007)

Years	\bar{U} (=U/A)	\bar{e} (=E/P)	\bar{a} (=A/P)	q (=1- \bar{a})	v (=V/P)	\bar{e} (=E/V)	\bar{a} (=A/V)
1984	8.1	18.0	19.6	80.4	55.8	32.3	35.1
1985	8.2	18.2	19.9	80.1	56.0	32.6	35.5
1986	8.2	18.5	20.2	79.8	56.1	33.0	36.0
1987	8.3	18.3	19.9	80.1	56.3	32.4	35.4
1988	8.3	18.2	19.8	80.2	56.5	32.2	35.1
1989	8.4	18.2	19.8	80.2	56.7	32.0	35.0
1990	8.5	20.2	22.0	78.0	56.8	35.5	38.8
1991	8.4	21.4	23.3	76.7	57.0	37.5	41.0
1992	8.6	22.3	24.3	75.7	57.2	38.9	42.6
1993	8.7	24.7	27.0	73.0	57.3	43.1	47.2
1994	8.9	26.4	29.0	71.0	57.4	46.0	50.5
1995	9.6	25.8	28.5	71.5	57.5	44.9	49.6
1996	9.0	25.1	28.9	71.1	57.9	43.3	49.9
1997	10.9	25.1	29.5	70.5	58.4	42.9	50.5
1998	11.0	25.3	30.0	70.0	58.8	43.3	51.0
1999	11.1	25.6	29.7	70.3	59.2	43.2	50.1
2000	11.3	25.9	29.2	70.8	60.1	43.1	48.6
2001	11.2	26.3	29.6	70.4	60.4	43.5	49.0
2002	11.1	26.6	29.9	70.1	60.7	43.8	49.2
2003	11.2	26.4	29.7	70.3	60.9	43.4	48.8
2004	11.2	26.2	29.5	70.5	61.2	42.8	48.2
2005	14.0	26.0	30.6	69.4	57.3	45.4	53.4
2006	17.0	30.8	37.2	62.8	58.1	53.0	64.0
2007	17.2	30.9	37.3	62.7	58.7	52.6	63.6

Source: calculated after: A.R. Egypt, „Statistical Year Book”, 1998; The World Bank – „Development Indicators”, 1995, 2000, Washington D.C.; U.N.D.P. – „Human Development Report 2007”, N.Y., 2007; TheWorld Bank – „World Development Report” (various years); I.M.F. „International Financial Statistics Yearbook”, 1995, 2004,2007.

As we can see in tables 12 and 13 the demographic and economic process that interests the labour resources and aim at the social costs of the reform know weightings and variations with many interpretations. The population able to work taken into account (between 15 and 64 years) knows a light tendency of growth not only as absolute number, but also as a weighting in total number of the population, due to the gradual reduction of the weighting of children and youth under 15 years and the maintenance relative stable of the weighting of inhabitants after age of 64 years (Economic Bulletin of the Central Bank of Egypt).

This growth of the weighting of the population able to work is very small in the decade 1985-2007, from 56.0% to 57.4% and in the reform decade is accentuated from 57.5 in 1991 to 61.2 in 2000.

The number and the weighting of the employed persons records, contrary, a more sustained dynamic in the first decade (from 18.2% in 1985 to 26.4% in 2004 and 30.9% in 2007 in total number of the population) and a little more diminished in the decade of the reform (from 25.8% in 1991 to 26.2% in 2000). This is explained especially by the measures of restructuring of some enterprises and by the growth of labour productivity which generated as we will see a little further the growth of number of unemployed and unemployment rate.

The unemployment records very accelerated dynamics: of 1.98 times in the first decade and of 1.58 times in the reform years.

The annual medium rate of growth was 7.0% in the first decade and 4.9% in the second decade but in the entire period of 20 years it was 5.9%. In what concerns the absolute efficiency this was 660 thousands persons in the first decade and 671 thousands in the reform decade (I.M.F,2004).

The economically active population composed of employed persons and unemployed includes the influences of both factors, recording an important dynamic. In the first decade (1985-2007) the increase of it's weighting in total number of the population rises from 19.9% to 29.0% and in the reform decade from 28.5% to 29.5%. It can be noticed that the unemployment grows stronger than the degree of occupation that makes the growth of the active population in the decade 1991-2000 to be slower than in the previous decade.

The economically and socially dependent population composed of children and youth under 15 years and the population able to work but who is inactive (not included in the category of employed people and neither in that of unemployed), and also the persons that surpass the age of 64 take up an extremely important weighting in Egypt (70-80% of the population). This is a heavy burden for the society, in the purpose of assuring the resources for these dependents and a strong brake in the sustainable growth of the incomes of the active population, and especially of those working (unemployed being also temporary sustained from social funds). From here also results the necessity for the society to assure the stronger growth of the number of jobs available, which impose the necessity of increasing the effort of saving and investing and also attracting bigger capital from outside (International Monetary Fund,1998). We must also notice the positive fact that in the reform years has been recorded an important diminution of the weighting of the dependents, compared with that from previous decade.

It is also important the weighting of the employed population in the population able to work, this showing in the most direct way the degree of underemployment of the most dynamic part of the inhabitants of the country. It is comprised between 32% and 46%, with some annual fluctuations and a slight continuous growing tendency. In these circumstances due to the still small number of the jobs available - the medium income for a family cannot grow substantially as the living standard of the majority of the population. For the same reason the taxation base stays also limited, breaking the possibilities of growing the incomes of the state budget for maintaining the social services fields.

Similar problems are also raised by the analysis of the dynamic of active persons weighting in total number of the population able to work. The difference consists in the fact that this weighting is accentuated, as a consequence of the growth of unemployment rate (the rate a/e was of 1089 in 1985, of 1094 in 1989, of 1098 in 2004, of 11254 in 2007, of 1160 in 1995 and of 1126 in 2000).

3-2- Employed Population, a Decisive Factor of Reform Success:

The employed population is a decisive factor of the reform success. With all difficulties that are overcome, we can see a steady and relatively sustained growth of the number of employed people, therefore, of jobs.

In the period 1985 – 2007 the number of employed recorded an increase of 1.8 times, and in the decade of the reform, of over 1.2 times. The absolute growth in 2007 as against 1985 was of over 6237 thousand people, while in 2000, as against 1991 it was only 3023 thousand people. We can say that – besides the advantages connected to labour productivity – in the reform years there was a reduction of job creation, while the unemployment rate increased and of the unemployed. This is one of the most important social costs of reform, especially in the conditions in Egypt with regard to the degree of economic and social dependency of people who have no income (State Council Report: Monetary and Credit Policy in Egypt 1992).

In these conditions we consider that it is necessary to adopt measures to stimulate the creation of new companies, especially small production ones, including the rural environment where the underemployment is chronic.

At the same time it is necessary to ensure, with government and employers' help, urgent professional training for simple jobs and refresher training for the unemployed.

Finally, it would be recommended to give priority to Egyptian citizens when filling the new jobs, for equal qualifications with the foreigners who apply for jobs in our country.

3-3- Investments and Job Creation:

Investments have an important role in job creation. The level of investments correlated with the number of new jobs illustrates in practice, the cost of these new jobs. In the following table you can see the evolution of average expenses for creating a new job in the analysed period. The table outlines three indicators: I – volume of investments (million USD, comparable prices 1995); II – number of new jobs created each year (thousand jobs); III – expenses for a new job (USD, comparable prices 1995). From the analysis of the data in the table we can outline the following (The World Bank,2001):

1. In the first decade (1985 – 2007) there were created 6506 thousand new jobs, while in the reform decade the number was only 3108 thousand, and 199 thousand disappeared, so that the net number of jobs increased in the 1991 – 2000 decade with only 2989 thousand; this indicates that the structural adjustments required by the reform generated this disappearance of almost 120 thousand jobs, adding to the increase of unemployment;
2. In the years 1991 and 1992 the investments volume, although important, did not lead to new job creation, but made some redundant;
3. The number of new jobs varied from one year to another in the two decades, which can be explained by the specific character of some branches and newly set up companies, or some refurbished sectors;

Table 14: Evolution of expenses for job creation1985-2007

years	I	II	III	Years	I	II	III
1985	8 603	272	31 629	1991	11 772	-34	-
1986	9 349	209	44 732	1992	10 131	-85	-
1987	10 525	201	52 363	1992	10 000	269	37 175
1988	10 140	209	48 522	1994	10 990	425	25 859
1989	10 675	200	53 375	1995	11 111	443	25 081
2000	11 771	1 171	10 052	1996	11 934	461	25 887
2001	10 870	835	13 018	1997	13 684	522	26 215
2002	13 524	909	14 878	1998	14 831	448	33 105
2003	13 373	1 284	10 415	1999	15 575	291	53 512
2004	12 855	1 216	10 572	2000	16 277	249	65 369
2005	13425	1318	10625				
2006	15212	1426	11214				
2007	16180	1490	12782				

Sources: Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

LEGEND:

I = Investment Volume (in million USD, comparable prices 1995);

II = Number of jobs created every year (thousand);

III = Expenses for one job (in USD, comparable prices 1995).

- The average cost of a new job varies considerably, depending on the volume of investments and the nature of the fixed capital goods used.

4- The Living Conditions and Social Reform:

Economic reforms realized or in course of realization in different countries in the world, based essentially on complex efficiency criterion, can be achieved in optimum conditions - from science and practical experience's point of view –only if they regard, in various forms, the improvement of living conditions of all society's members and not only of some enriched classes.

Only in these conditions the motivation for creative work, based on innovation and optimization, are realized and the risks of some large social outbursts which could unsettle the whole reform construction, no matter how gilded would it be, are reduced.

Therefore, any relevant analysis of the costs of reform and evolution cannot ignore the effort to reflect-even in a summary aggregate way - how the diverse objectives and realizations of this vast process are finished at social level, more exactly of the living conditions.

Not by chance, in different countries and at international level, for some years, Annual Human Development Reports (U.N.D.P,2000.)are written out with the support of and under methodological guidance of the United Nations Development Programme.(UNDP)

The countries, which write out such reports, dispose, however, of a very large variety of information, grouped into chronological series, which allow the calculation of a series of representative indicators which can thus become comparable at international level.

Among these, the most important are: GDP per inhabitant at purchasing power parity; Final consumption of population; Life expectancy at birth index; General and infant death rate; Degree of education inclusion; Education level; State of health; Genders disparity index; Work income index; and Human development index.

To the extent of our information, we will approach, in the following, some more important aspects of human development related to economic reform, except for those already discussed in the previous chapters (GDP per capita, the final consumption of population etc.), or those for which data are not available.

4-1- Life Expectancy at Birth:

Life expectancy at birth is an index which practically shows the probable lifetime in years, on average per inhabitant and separately per gender.

This index means, finally, the most concentrated expression of influence of all the factors which condition the time and quality of life (incomes, consumptions, working conditions, state of health, level of culture and civilization, ecological factors).

The available data for Egypt are still rather poor. We were able to constitute the following chronological series (for total population, of both genders):

Table 15: Life expectancy for total population 1980-2007

1980	1989	2000	2004	1991	1996	2000	2004	2007
55.2	57.0	61.0	62.0	64.0	64.0	64.6	67.0	67.5

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

We can notice the continuous increase in life expectancy at birth, on average per inhabitant, as a beneficial and lasting process.

If we observe that it reached 64 years at international level, 74 years at developed countries level, and 62 years at developing countries, Egypt slightly surpasses the developing countries average level and is far behind developed countries. Beside the average level of African countries where this time is only of 52 years, Egypt has held a better position (World Development Report).

It can be noticed that during the 10 years of reform the life expectancy increased by about 3 years while during the last decade it enhanced by about 7 years. This fact is explained, on the one hand, by the smaller calculation base of the first decade and by the inevitably slower growth when a higher certain reference level was reached (true thing for every economic and social dynamic, counting not only the relative movement but also the absolute value of every percentage at birth).

On the other hand, it is understood in itself, in the years of reform, that the living conditions of some people got worse through inflation and unemployment increase, which is also reflected in average lifetime; this represents another side, unchangeable for this time, of the social costs of the reform.

4-2- The State of Health:

The state of health can be characterized by a series of activities and allocated resources. Yet this time we are limited to only some aspects that pertain to our theme and the available data connected to this problem.

Among the most important evolution parameters of the health situation is the general mortality rate (for the general population) and the infant mortality rate (for children with ages ranging from 0 to 1 year old).

General mortality (calculated for 1000 inhabitants) had witnessed a significant positive evolution:

Table 16: The general mortality for 1000 inhabitants 1980-2007

1980	1989	1995	2000	2004	2007
12.3	10.0	9.0	7.6	7.4	7.1

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

This means that in the decade 1991 – 2000 the general mortality increased by 21.6% (meaning an annual average rate of about 2.0%) compared to 36.6% in the decades 1985 – 2007 (when the annual average rate was 3.2%).

We can appreciate that this decrease in general mortality is very encouraging especially if we also add the decade 1971 – 1980 when the mortality rate decreased by an annual average of 8.2 % (Ikram, K, 1990).

Regarding infancy mortality (of children younger than 1 year old), the major problem which confronts developing countries, recorded in Egypt the same important evolution (the number of deaths per 1000 inhabitants):

Table 17: The number of deaths per 1000 inhabitants 1980-2007

1980	1989	1995	2000	2004	2007
158	93	59	56	51	49

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

In the reform decade, the infant mortality rate decreased by 1.5%/year, while in previous decades the annual average decreased by 10.3%.

The decrease of existing differences is obvious, compared to the situation in developed countries, regarding the general mortality rate, but also the infancy mortality rate.

Number of inhabitants per one doctor decreased continuously because of an increase in the medical staff (like the others categories of personnel in the health care area):

Table 18: Number of inhabitants per one doctor 1980-2007

1980	1989	1995	2000	2004	2007
1610	11465	1320	1175	1050	1264

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

By an average of 2.0% per year in the decades 1985 – 2007 and by 2.3% in the reform decade. The number of hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants had an easy oscillating evolution, but with a small descending tendency:

Table 19: The number of hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants 1980-2007

1980	1989	1995	2000	2004	2007
1.97	1.93	1.98	1.97	2.05	2.31

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt.

Without having extensive data, the aggregate expenditure for health represents in the last years 2.6% of GDP (1% being the public costs and 1.6%, the private), while in the period before 2007 it was 1.9%.

4-3- The Development of the Educational System:

The development of the educational system is another essential part of improving the standard of living for the Egyptian people. This time too, we will analyse a series of important indicators (UNESCO Statistical Digest 2001):

Illiteracy, among the 10 year old and older population level it is still fairly high: it represents – in 2000 – about 38% from total, 28% for men and 48% for women. Also there is a big difference between urban and rural environment: while in urban environment the illiteracy is about 25%, in the rural environment it is more then 48%.

An important number, about 20% of the 10 year old and older people, know only to read and write.

All this adds up to the fact that only about 42% of the population 10 years old and older has training confirmed by a pre-university and university degree. Of those, 35.7% have a less than university training and 6.3% one at a university level, which means that from 42% it appears that 85% have a less than university study diploma and just 15% have one at a university level.

The public expenses for education, as a percentage of the GDP were 4.9% in 1988 and 4.8% in 1995, and as a percentage of the expenses of the national public budget these were 3.8% in 1980 and 4.8% in 1995 and 5.2% in 2007.

5- Final Considerations on the Social Dimension of Reform:

Besides the facts mentioned above, we should formulate some final considerations about the social dimension of reform. The social dimension of the reform and, generally, of sustainable development of Egyptian society, includes many more problems which need more analysis.

The numerous theoretical and practical approaches which have happend in the world – starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (Romer, P,1993:), and Economic and Social Rights, as well as other important documents of humankind – establish a complex and dynamic issue, in continuous improvement and adaptation to the concrete realities from different countries and regions of the Earth.

The social issue which should be analysed is supposed to include, on the whole, beside the problem of development, at least the following components (El-Gibaly, Abdel-F,2000):

1. Minimum employment age (which, generally, should not be under the age of 15);
2. Fair payment of the employees, eliminating any discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, race, etc.;
3. Protection of the employees that work abroad;
4. The improvement of work conditions based on internationally accepted standards;
5. Social security of the employees (medical assistance in case of need, protection of wounded people or people with disabilities, the insurance of unemployment and social assistance allowances);

6. Freedom of association and collective negotiations;
7. Protection of retired citizens and the underprivileged;
8. Activities concerning the type of job and the vacations granted to the employees;
9. Informing the employees, concerning upcoming changes in the firm's strategy, which can affect the work conditions;
10. Actions that promote equal opportunities and integration or reintegration, free of discrimination, of individuals excluded at one time, from the labour market;
11. Encouraging those with no working skills to enroll in alternative training courses;
12. Fiscal measures towards environmental protection, which should compensate for some social costs generated by pollution.

In connection with these social concerns of the governments, firms and every individual capable of work, there are not only converging positions, but also some divergent positions, generated by individual interests. In this case, some responsible factors, especially the ones representing the large capital, consider that accepting such 'social code' goes against the market principles. Others, on the contrary, appreciate that this kind of provisions do not go far enough, in the spirit of authentic democracy and the assurance of a long term efficiency (Ikram, K,1990). Trade unions are also for introducing compulsory measures to protect the employees. employers' associations are against some special international provisions, asking for provisions set according to the specific conditions in every country, as an expression of competition, which should govern the labour market.

Some conclusions of an institutional and judicial nature on social dimension of human existence have been gradually outlined (Lewis, R.1989):

1. The necessity to accept legal settlements, applicable on the national and international level, with proper oversight by specialized institutions;
2. Observing the principles of competition on the market, without threatening the economic and social issues, simultaneously with the observation of national diversities, depending on the natural, cultural and specific practices and conditions (even some traditions that cannot be ignored);
3. The legal frame for perfecting and completing the infrastructure, especially for transportation and telecommunications, the power grids and the environment;
4. Adequate measures for increasing the logistic and financial support for the developing countries in the field of information technology and communications;
5. Proper legislation for a modern and flexible social dialogue at the international level, aimed at resolving the complex issues of labour circulation.

Conclusion:

The unemployment represents one of the most serious types of manifestation of social costs.

The totality of processes that characterises the economic reform synthetically shows the ratios between the economic growth and the demographic growth. The impact of economic growth on the demographic evolution has, therefore, a double direction: from the economy towards the demographic movement and from the demographic movement towards the economy. Analyzing the demographic movement in Egypt in the decades 1985 – 2007 compared to the reform decade show that : The average annual birth rate was 36.3‰ in the first decade and in the reform decade 27.8‰, indicating a tendency for diminution. The annual average mortality rate decreased from 8.9‰ in the decade 1985 – 2007, to 6.6 ‰ in the decade 1991-2000.

It is important to see that the mortality rate is decreasing faster (with 34.9%) than the birth rate does (with 30.6%), which indicates the presence of resources of continuous growth among the population, through natural endogenous factors. The growth of the weighting of the population able to work is very small in the decade 1985-2007, from 56.0% to 57.4% and in the reform decade is accentuated from 57.5 in 1991 to 61.2 in 2000. Investments have an important role in job creation. The level of investments correlated with the number of new jobs illustrates in practice, the cost of these new jobs.

In the first decade (1985 – 2007) there were created 6506 thousand new jobs, while in the reform decade the number was only 3108 thousand, and 199 thousand disappeared, so that the net number of jobs increased in the 1991 – 2000 decade with only 2989 thousand; this indicates that the structural adjustments required by the reform generated this disappearance of almost 120 thousand jobs, adding to the increase of unemployment. In the years of reform, the living conditions of some people got worse through inflation and unemployment increase, which is also reflected in average lifetime; this represents another side, unchangeable for this time, of the social costs of the reform.

In the decade 1991 – 2000 the general mortality increased by 21.6% (meaning an annual average rate of about 2.0%) compared to 36.6% in the decades 1985 – 2007 (when the annual average rate was 3.2%). The aggregate expenditure for health represents in the last years 2.6% of GDP (1% being the public costs and 1.6%, the private), while in the period before 2007 it was 1.9%. The public expenses for education, as a percentage of the GDP were 4.9% in 1988 and 4.8% in 1995, compared to 5.2% in 2007. The social dimension of the reform and, generally, of sustainable development of Egyptian society, includes many more problems which need in future more another methodological analysis.

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