



doi <https://doi.org/10.58256/cfrs0347>

Research Article



Section: Culture, Media & Film

Published in Nairobi, Kenya by
Royallite Global

Volume 5, Issue 1, 2024

Article Information

Submitted: 6th December 2023

Accepted: 30th December 2023

Published: 10th January 2024

ISSN: 2708-5945 (Print)

ISSN: 2708-5953 (Online)

Additional information is available
at the end of the article:

To read the paper online, please scan
this QR code:



How to Cite:

Yas, N., Al-Bayati, Y., Sarhan, M. I., & Abdijabar, Z. G. (2024). Environmental pollution and its relationship to the media and the law: Awareness of the dialectics of the complementary relationship. *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.58256/cfrs0347>

Environmental pollution and its relationship to media and law: Awareness of the dialectics of the complementary relationship

Nadia Yas¹, Yas Al-Bayati², Mohammad Ibrahim Sarhan³ & Zeana Ghanim Abdijabar⁴

¹College of Law, Umm Al Quwain University, Umm Al Quawain, UAE

²Department of Digital Media, Al-Noor University College, Nineveh, Iraq

³Law School, Umm Al Quwain University, UAE

⁴College of Law, Ajman University, UAE

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5933-7669>

Abstract

The purpose of the study was to determine the level of public awareness regarding environmental pollution, its causes, and the role that the media—particularly environmental media—plays in informing the public about environmental culture and the dangers it poses to their social, health, and developmental well-being. The role that civil law plays in establishing the guilt of the offender, making him pay, and addressing the consequences of pollution within the context of environmental pollution damage civil liability, particularly in light of the challenges associated with establishing the legal foundation for this duty regarding error and damage. The research employed a stratified random sampling technique. Based on the study's findings, the population in Iraq is not well-informed about environmental culture or pollution by the country's media. Proposals and recommendations were made in light of the study's findings. These included the following: educating children about the risks posed by environmental pollution at home; creating environmental education curricula for all educational levels; disseminating environmental messages in the media; and streamlining these messages so that everyone in society can understand them.

Keywords: environmental media, environmental pollution, legal awareness, social awareness.



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Public interest statement

The importance of the study lies in understanding the nature of the role of environmental media in deepening social awareness among Iraqi families. The aim of the research was to ascertain the degree of public knowledge about environmental contamination, its origins, and the function of media, specifically environmental media, in educating the public about environmental culture and the risks it presents to their social, health, and developmental welfare.

Introduction

Environmental pollution, which includes soil salinity, air pollution, conflict pollution, low water quality, and industry, is one of the biggest problems Iraq is currently facing. Contributing factors like the nation's ongoing reliance on fossil fuels, bad leadership, oil spills, and pollution brought on by war have made the nation's environmental issues worse over time (Al-Kasser, 2014). Today, Iraq is considered the tenth most polluted country in the world with PM2.5 concentrations exceeding 39.6 mcg.m3 (Al-Aseel, 2022). The high levels of particulate matter in the atmosphere pose a threat to human health. Despite that Iraq ratified the Paris Climate Accord and has passed legislation to address pollution, the extent of pollution has continued to rise significantly. The inability of the country to effectively address pollution can be linked to the numerous sources of pollution, including the use of pollutive fossil fuel mining methods, lack of punitive measures to polluters, climate change, economic constraints, political imbalance, and lack of public awareness.

To address the problem of environmental pollution, one of the key players is the media, which can help put the problem in perspective, highlighting its effects, and strategies that can be implemented to minimize its threat. Environmental activism from the media in Iraq is a new phenomenon, which faces numerous challenges in its efforts to address the effects of environmental pollution. With the shrinking space for activism, the media's role becomes more significant, allowing for the increased public awareness and education on the impacts and strategies to address pollution (Yassin, 2023). The media plays a major role in shaping the opinions of the civil society, an approach that can be fundamental in the fight against environmental pollution and climate change. This paper will focus on discussing the causes and effects of environmental pollution on Iraqis, the role of media in creating public awareness on environmental pollution, the role of legislation in punishing polluters, and strategies that can be implemented to address environmental pollution problems.

Research Problem

The study sheds light on the social awareness of environmental pollution among the urban community in Baghdad, the position of civil law on it, and the role of environmental media in the awareness process. The research attempts to evaluate environmental media from the point of view of families and the extent of its contribution to deepening social awareness to confront environmental pollution, to identify the consequences of the role of this media in society to reach scientific and practical results through an objective and field study of the most important roles of environmental media and its impact on patterns of social behavior. In finding the position of civil law in determining pollution liability, the following sub-questions branch out from this central question:

- What are the causes of environmental pollution from the respondents' point of view?
- What is the rate at which respondents follow environmental topics related to environmental pollution in the media?
- To what degree do respondents rely on the media to shape their social and legal awareness regarding the culture of the environment and pollution?
- What is the position of civil law in determining the perpetrator, and what is the role of legal legislation in preserving the environment?

Literature review

Social awareness is a person's understanding and perception of themselves and their society. It includes standard concepts, perceptions, opinions, and beliefs among individuals in a specific social environment. It is a mixture of original things in common and influenced by the environment or itself (Dave, 2004; Ravikumar et al., 2023). Social awareness also includes how people perceive natural and ordinary ways of doing things, their habitual speech and behavior, and their intuitive understanding of the world (Halis, 2003). The term "environment" encompasses all aspects of a person's life, including homes, workplaces, air, water, and land. It is the field where excitement and interaction occur, influencing movement, activity, and striving. The interaction between the environment and individuals is continuous and successive (Al-Qaterji, 2006; Shwedeh et al., 2023). Environmental pollution is the introduction of materials or energy into the environment, causing health risks, harming life resources and ecosystems, and disrupting legitimate methods of benefiting from environmental resources (Al-Ansari, 2009). It results from human activity and affects all aspects of life, including plants, animals, humans, and non-living natural elements (Al-Rifai, 2009).

According to the nature of the study and its objectives, the previous scientific studies that were reviewed varied and were divided into two axes, Arabic and foreign, but they fall within the framework of the study. Since the research space does not allow covering all studies, a few examples of them can be addressed. A study (Al-Jahishi, 2004) entitled *The Social Effects of Environmental Pollution (A Field Study of the Effects of War on the Environment in Iraqi Society, 2004)* dealt with five colleges located in three areas of Baghdad Governorate, namely (the College of Engineering in Bab al-Muadham, the College of Science for Girls, the College of Science in the Jadriya area, and the College of Medicine Veterinary and College of Agriculture in the Abu Ghraib area). The study revealed the emergence of many cases of family disintegration, which led to many problems in the family atmosphere due to the death or illness of a family member through war events and subsequent pollution of all kinds, as well as the decline in environmental awareness and culture among most members of Iraqi society and the lack of school curricula. Knowledge of environmental issues and pollution. It showed that there needs to be more media in the field of environmental awareness (Khudhair, H. Y., 2020).

The study (Al-Shawani, 2009; Dahu et al., 2022), entitled *Cultural Values and Pollution of the Urban Environment (Field Study: Anthropology in the City of Kirkuk)*, considered the importance of the human relationship with the environment, which is one of the most essential fields studied by anthropology since its inception, and concluded with the most prominent recommendations, the most important of which are: The population density in cities is One of the critical factors causing pollution in the urban environment is that the average family size in the city of Kirkuk is approximately six people, which is a large percentage of the pollution in the urban environment. The lack of environmental awareness among members of the study population, as manifested in all fields related to environmental cleanliness, visual and noise, waste disposal, etc., in addition to the absence of environmental planning in general in almost all governmental and community practices and activities, As well as the randomness in choosing the locations of factories and production facilities in Kirkuk, the city's air is often polluted and noisy.

The study (Al-Anbari, 2011), an analytical study of the problems of the urban environment (the case study, the Nader area in the city of Hilla), indicated that the exacerbation of the problems of the urban environment in the Nader neighborhood area in the Babylon governorate led to the emergence of other problems interconnected with each other, such as unemployment, poverty, random housing, and poor housing (Yas, N., Dafri, W., & Rezaei Gashti, Z, 2022). Standard of living of individuals. This research studied the most critical environmental problems: solid waste, poverty, and informal housing. Among the most prominent results of the research is that the significant shortage of specialized machinery and the large shortage of permanent workers has greatly affected the efficiency of waste collection. In the study area, the low level of education and the spread of illiteracy among family owners of informal housing complexes and, thus, weak environmental awareness contributed to the expansion of these complexes without paying attention to the environmental situation and its adverse effects on the family.

The study (Al-Qahtani, 2005) of environmental pollution of gas stations in the city of Dammam (a field study in Saudi Arabia) revealed the condition of existing gas stations in the city of Dammam and an attempt to reveal the shortcomings and problems in these stations in terms of their pollution of the surrounding environment and identify the methods followed by station owners to dispose of accumulated solid and liquid waste, and identifying means of detecting the presence of fuel and oil leakage into ground tanks and the adverse effects of environmental pollution caused by gas stations. The results showed that most gas stations in Dammam (70%) are owned by individuals, while (30%) are owned by local companies. 34% of the stations did not have an environmental assessment before their establishment, and 62% of gas station owners believe that the Presidency of Meteorology and Environmental Protection is among the authorities. Declared. A study by Hawash and Abdullah entitled (Environmental Pollution in the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Impact on the National Economy) warned of the profound effects of the pollution problem on humans in Egypt. It addressed one of the most severe problems facing the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is the problem of environmental pollution, significantly since the pollution levels in industrial areas exceeded the permissible limit. The study concluded by developing a proposed strategy to confront environmental pollution in Egypt through both the media and scientific research And the state's legislative, executive, and supervisory bodies (Yas, H., Alnazawi, A. A., Alanazi, M. A., Alharbi, S. S., & Alghamdi, A., 2022).

Study (Al-Rifai, 2011; Shwedeh et al., 2020) of environmental media and environmental affairs in the Syrian press showed the problem of the volume of environmental issues published in Syrian newspapers as a result of the importance of the environmental topic, the diversity of environmental risks, and how the studied newspapers dealt with this topic. The study concluded with several results, the most important of which is that Syrian newspapers were interested in publishing environmental topics. The highest percentage is environmental news, which occupies more than half of the topics published in the newspapers studied. Syrian newspapers are also more interested in publishing environmental news than environmental issues, to some extent, and they need to pay more attention to sources of environmental information. These sources are represented in information banks, which is one of the main features of writing scientific stories. This is why it was recommended that the role of the press be reconsidered, especially the function of informing at the expense of other functions such as education, culture, analysis, and interpretation.

According to McKinney (2004), environmental pollution control measures (study of environmental pollution problems in Japan) aimed to identify the history of pollution problems and countermeasures in Japan, reveal the causes of Mina Mata disease and its health damage, and examine the difficulties facing officials in implementing their initiatives and the broad social role in finding solutions to this problem. Among the results of the study, The cause of Mina Mata disease is methylmercury poisoning, which gradually accumulates toxic levels of organic mercury due to eating fish and shellfish living in environments contaminated with industrial wastewater. The weak response to pollution can be attributed to a need for more consensus within the government on the relative priorities of public health and the value of life versus economic progress and corporate profits.

A study (Klstron, 2007) entitled "Health and Environmental Risks in Urban Areas: A Study at the New York Academy of Medicine" addressed the detection of health risks caused by the environment and how the living environment can affect health and clarified the interrelationship between the social and environmental determinants of health in urban areas and interventions aimed at improving health equity through the environment. Among the most prominent results of the study is that home energy supply is the biggest issue in the health environment due to the harmful effects of biomass, coal smoke, and alternative fuels for cooking and heating. The incidence of disease and death due to air pollution from car engines is 29%, and among children and young people, it is the most common cause of death. The problem is increasing in developing countries and contributes to health inequality. A study (Al-Rashidi, 2012) entitled "Civil Liability Arising from Environmental Pollution: A Comparative Study" indicated the possibility of searching for special rules for civil liability for environmental pollution to suit this danger. The study produced the

most prominent results, including Applying general rules for civil liability for pollution. Environmental damage is insufficient to cover all forms of pollution, and environmental damage does not occur all at once but gradually occurs (Yas, H., 2022). The inadequacy of the general rules of civil liability to apply to environmental pollution in the Arab world and the importance of amending the texts of the Jordanian Environmental Protection Law by adding a unique text on civil liability and compensation for it in the field of environmental damage, and giving the right to associations working in the field of environmental protection, given that they have the authority to file a liability lawsuit (Yas N, Hareb Alkuwaiti, 2021).

Another study (Shuaib, 2011; Shwedeh, 2024) found that the problems of civil liability for pollution damage lie in determining the legal basis for this liability and how to protect the environment from damage caused by pollution by implementing civil liability rules for those damages. The question is whether it is based on error or damage. Among the most prominent results of the study are the harm caused by environmental pollution, which is considered an essential condition for the polluter to assume responsibility for the environment. The damages that result from pollution are not limited to those that affect people or those that affect their private property; pollution also results in harm to the elements of the natural environment, such as water and air. Soil and living plant and animal organisms that surround the sources of pollution, and these types of damages must be compensated for, and responsibility must be determined for them. Ammar (2021) addressed how to protect the environment from damage caused by pollution through civil liability for those damages, ways to compensate those affected, and ways to repair the affected environment, as well as the preventive aspect based on the general environmental policy. The research aims to cover all the different aspects of the rules for civil liability for pollution damage in terms of the basis on which they are based and the necessary elements for establishing that liability. The study concluded that substantive legal liability rules are intertwined with traditional liability rules to grant compensation to those affected and that committing a mistake would lead to environmental liability (Yas, 2023).

Theoretical framework

The study is based on the uses and gratifications approach, which appeared in the early 1970s as a response to the power of the media to control the audience through mass communication. This theory focuses on the audience, identifying the trends and tastes of viewers and creating a media message compatible with the audience's desires and needs. Thus, the theory attempts to link the audience's needs and desires with the communicator's desires and capabilities. (Al-Abd, 2008). This theory seeks to achieve two main goals:

- Identify how individuals use the media by looking at the active audience that uses it and satisfies its needs and goals.
- I explained the motives for using a particular media means and the interaction resulting from this use.
- Emphasizing that understanding the mass communication process comes from using mass communication means (Ismail, 1998).

Methodological Framework

The current study is considered one of the descriptive studies that aim to obtain sufficient and accurate information about a specific social situation. Its importance appears in that it is the most widely used and most appropriate in the study of human and social phenomena, as it is difficult to subject some phenomena to experimentation and the laboratory, so descriptive studies remain the most appropriate method for studying many phenomena. Various human, educational, and social phenomena.

Study Methodology

The current study is considered one of the descriptive studies that aim to obtain sufficient and accurate information about a specific social situation. Its importance appears in that it is the most widely used and most appropriate in the study of human and social phenomena, as it is difficult to subject some phenomena to experimentation and the laboratory, so descriptive studies remain the most appropriate method for studying many phenomena. Various human, educational, and social phenomena. Study tool is a methodological term that means how the information necessary to answer the research questions is collected. A questionnaire was designed in light of the study problem, where each objective of the study was covered by a set of questions or statements that achieved the objectives and answered the questions.

Stability of the tool: The researcher verified the stability of the tool through the (repetition stability) coefficient, where the tool was applied to a survey sample of members of the study population; after two weeks, the application was repeated, and the (Pearson correlation) coefficient was calculated between the two applications, and its value reached 0.84. He also figured that the researcher made sure of the stability of the tool according to the parameters of internal consistency, and its value earned 0.81, which is considered sufficient for application purposes. **Validity of the tool:** The validity of the tool was confirmed by submitting it to specialized arbitrators and experts in its initial form to express their opinions on the appropriateness of the tool's paragraphs in terms of content and substance and their connection with the dimension that it measures, with the possibility of deletion, addition, or modification. The arbitrators' observations, which the researchers considered important, were taken into account. Thus, the tool took on its final form.

Table 1: shows how to withdraw the sample from the field.

Biology	Research population (number of families)	The study sample (number of families)
High-end revival	7803	156
Medium neighborhoods	9840	197
Popular revival	6408	128
Total sample		481

Findings

The results of the field study, asking the respondents about whether the Iraqi environment suffers from environmental pollution, indicated that (420) respondents, with a percentage of (87%), confirmed this. In comparison (38) respondents, with a percentage of (8%), did not guarantee this. They responded with a statement to some extent, as their number reached 23 respondents with a percentage of 5%. This means that the vast majority of respondents confirm that the Iraqi environment suffers from environmental pollution due to its apparent effects on all classes and groups of society, especially after the wars to which Iraq was exposed. In recent years, this has caused the emergence of chronic diseases and many deaths.

Table 2: shows the respondents' answers regarding whether the Iraqi environment suffers from environmental pollution.

Answers	The number	%
Yes	420	87
No	38	8
To some extent	23	5
the total	481	100

Table 3: An ordinal sequence showing the respondents' answers about the causes of pollution in the Iraqi environment, as answered by 420 respondents.

Causes of pollution of the Iraqi environment	Athletic weight	Hierarchical sequence	%
Wars	1	303	72
Deficiencies of relevant state institutions	2	230	55
Citizen	3	194	46
Family	4	178	42
Use of devices and equipment	5	119	28

The Iraqi environment suffers from environmental pollution, with wars being the most common cause (72%). State institutions' shortcomings were cited by 230 respondents (55%). Citizens (46%), families (42%), and devices and equipment (28%) were ranked third and fourth, respectively. The use of devices and equipment was the last rank (28%).

Table 4: shows the respondents' answers regarding whether there are effects of environmental pollution.

Answers	Number	%
Yes	418	87
No	36	7
To some extent	27	6
the total	481	100

The results of the field study, asking the respondents about the extent of the presence of traces of environmental pollution, indicated that 418 respondents, with a percentage of 87%, confirmed this. In comparison, 36 respondents, with a percentage of 7%, did not guarantee this. As for those who answered with the phrase to some extent, their number reached 27 respondents, with a percentage of 6%. It is clear from the respondents' answers that the effects of environmental pollution are clear and tangible through the ecological disasters it causes.

Table 5: shows the respondents' answers about the effects of environmental pollution in the urban environment.

The effects of environmental pollution in the urban environment	Hierarchical sequence	Athletic weight	%
Health effects	1	255	53
Social impacts	2	208	43
Psychological effects	3	167	34
Economic impacts	4	151	32

The results of the field study indicated that health effects occupied the first rank, where they were reported by 255 respondents with a percentage of 53%. As for the second rank, they were occupied by the social effects, which were indicated by 208 respondents, with a percentage of 43%. As for the psychological effects, they were ranked first. The third and worst position in the hierarchy was occupied by 167% of respondents, with a percentage of 34%. Economic effects occupied the fourth and last place in the hierarchy, and the worst place was occupied by 151 respondents, with a percentage of 32%. This means that the effects of environmental pollution are not limited to one aspect of life. It includes all the various aspects of life: health, social, psychological, and economic.

Table 6: shows the respondents' answers regarding whether wars cause environmental pollution and the emergence of problems

Answers	the number	%
Yes	400	83
No	4	1
To some extent	77	16
the total	481	100

The field study found that Iraqi society's wars are a major cause of environmental pollution and social problems, with 83% of respondents confirming this, 1% stating otherwise, and 16% stating "to some extent." This exposure leads to serious illnesses, economic losses, and social disruption.

Table 7: Effectiveness of traditional and digital media

Clause	Repetition	Percentage
Through traditional media	225	44.20%
Through social networking sites	180	37.80%
Through friends and acquaintances	86	18.00%
the total	481	100.00

Despite young people's preference for social networking sites and dealing with the Internet, the study showed that traditional media still have a clear impact on Iraqi families as well as young people, especially television. Traditional media ranked first with a percentage of 20 and 44% in terms of their effectiveness in increasing social awareness. Social media came in second with a rate of 80.37%, and friends and acquaintances came in third with a rate of 18.00%.

Table 8: The effect of the quality of media content on attitudes towards environmental phenomena and pollution

Clause	Repetition	Percentage
so far	102	20.40%
To some extent	286	58.40%
Does not affect	103	21.20%
the total	481	100.00%

By asking respondents about the impact of the quality of content on their attitudes towards the environment and the pollution of the content included in the Iraqi media, 58.40% of the respondents confirmed that they are affected (to some extent) by media content, which is the highest percentage. In comparison, 20.40% indicated that these contents completely influence them, and 21.20% indicated that they are not affected by these contents.

Table 9: Participation in the media regarding environment and environmental pollution topics

Clause	Repetition	Percentage
Yes	160	33.60%
sometimes	200	41.20%
No	121	25.20%
the total	481	100.00%

The results of the previous table indicate that the study sample has relative participation in environmental and pollution topics, as 33.60% stated that they participated in these topics. In contrast, the most significant number, 41.20%, said that they experienced (sometimes), while 25.20% indicated that they do not participate at all in these topics. However, the most significant number are interested in participating because of their follow-up on environmental and pollution issues.

Table 10: The impact of the media on social awareness regarding the environment and environmental pollution

Clause	Repetition	Percentage
Yes	347	71.20%
No	134	28.80%
the total	481	100.00%

By asking the respondents about the impact of the media on social awareness regarding the issue of the environment and environmental pollution, it was found that these media played an essential role in deepening social awareness regarding the topics of the environment and pollution at a significant rate of 71.20%. In comparison, these media did not affect some members of the sample at a rate of 28.80%. These results are very close to the results of the previous tables.

Table 11: The survey reveals respondents' opinions on the impact of insufficient media and legal legislation on environmental awareness on the severity of environmental pollution.

Answers	the number	%
Yes	334	69
No	69	15
To some extent	78	16
the total	481	100

The results of the field study indicated, through the respondents' answers, whether the lack of media and legal legislation in the field of environmental awareness constitutes a reason for the occurrence of environmental pollution, indicating that 334 respondents, with a percentage of 69%, confirmed this. In comparison, 69 respondents, with a percentage of 15%, did not guarantee this. The amount is 15%, while 78 respondents (16%) answered with the phrase "to some extent." This indicates that the lack of media in the field of environmental awareness inevitably leads to an increase in the severity of environmental pollution.

Table 12: The study reveals the opinions of respondents regarding the role of media and legal legislation in promoting environmental awareness and reducing pollution issues.

the answers	the number	%
Yes	297	62
No	119	25
To some extent	65	13
the total	481	100

The study found that media and legal legislation significantly contribute to raising public awareness of environmental issues, reducing pollution problems at a rate of 62%. However, only 25% of respondents answered “no” and 13% “to some extent.”

Table 13: The study gathered responses from 297 individuals on the efficacy of environmental media and legal legislation in addressing environmental issues and reducing pollution

The Role of the Media	Hierarchical sequence	Athletic weight	%
Creating environmental awareness among citizens	1	198	66
Acquiring and transferring knowledge	2	174	59
By influencing individuals, educating them, and connecting them to their community by making them aware of problems	3	161	54
Warning that increased pollution may lead to health, social, and economic disasters	4	153	51
Monitor and control environmental problems	5	144	48
Turning to scientists, thinkers, and intellectuals to preserve the balance of the environment	6	138	46
Instilling healthy concepts about the environment among individuals and industrial institutions	7	129	43
By transferring cultural and social heritage between generations	8	121	40
Qualifying the public itself to be a tool in spreading the values of environmental conservation	9	118	39
Evaluation of the environmental work as a whole	10	115	38
Through its role in e-learning, such as television and the Internet	11	102	34
Urging the public to be a pressing force to urge decision-makers to adopt a development policy that respects the environment	12	19	7
Alert politicians that their responsibility is not limited to a specific group of citizens or a specific period	13	17	6

The study ranked the media's role in raising public awareness of environmental issues and civil laws, with media creating awareness (66%), acquiring and transferring knowledge (59%), and influencing individuals (54%). Media is responsible for monitoring and controlling environmental problems (51%), influencing scientists, thinkers, and intellectuals (46%), and transmitting cultural and social heritage (40%). The media also urged the public to urge decision-makers for environmental-respecting development policies and highlighted politicians' responsibility (6%).

Discussion

The study sample is the stratified random sample that is usually used for a heterogeneous society that consists of several classes distinct from each other in an effort by the researcher to represent all segments and classes included in the research community, and applying to the sample requires the following: Dividing the population (its vocabulary) into homogeneous classes or groups, each group or class different from the other class or group in terms of its characteristics, and determining the sample size for each class or group so that it is proportional to the size of the class from which the sample is drawn. The units of each class in the sample are selected separately in a random manner. The sample size was determined by extracting a percentage (2%) of the size of the research population in three areas. The city of Baghdad, next to Rusafa, was divided to represent the upscale, middle, and popular area.

The results of the field study, asking the respondents about whether the Iraqi environment suffers from environmental pollution, indicated that (420) respondents, with a percentage of (87%), confirmed this. In comparison (38) respondents, with a percentage of (8%), did not guarantee this. They responded with a statement to some extent, as their number reached 23 respondents with a percentage of 5%. This means that the vast majority of respondents confirm that the Iraqi environment suffers from environmental pollution due to its apparent effects on all classes and groups of society, especially after the wars to which Iraq was exposed. In recent years, this has caused the emergence of chronic diseases and many deaths.

The respondents presented several proposed measures to reduce environmental pollution in urban society, where the measure represented by issuing appropriate legal legislation to protect the environment and monitoring their implementation ranked first in the rankings with a percentage of (43%), and in the rankings ranked second was encouraging citizens to participate in clean-up campaigns with a percentage of (43%). (35%), while the third hierarchy was occupied by serious monitoring of food and materials entering the country at a rate of (27%), while the fourth hierarchy was occupied by the interest of school curricula in education and environmental education at a rate of (25%), and the fifth hierarchy was occupied by the state assuming its responsibility regarding treating medical conditions resulting from pollution at a rate of (21%). The sixth rank in the hierarchy was the media's contribution to raising awareness about the dangers of environmental pollution at a rate of (19%). In comparison, the seventh rank in the hierarchy was the removal of slums and compensating their residents with suitable housing at a rate of (18%).

From the results on strategy adoption, promoting public awareness through the media was ranked 6th, indicating that there was a lack of media participation in civil education. Because of the declining performance of Iraq media in educating the public on environmental pollution, its causes, effects, and appropriate strategies to minimize these impacts, the country's public health continues to suffer, which in turn reduces productivity, economic ability, political stability, and the failure of a state. Implementation of effective strategies to monitor and address environmental pollution was ranked 1st, indicating the need for the Iraq government to implement laws that would include punitive measures for large polluters.

Conclusion

This study has illuminated the critical problem of environmental pollution in the urban environment of Baghdad, Iraq. The purpose of this research was to explore the extent to which people are aware of environmental pollution, why it exists, and how the media and legal systems can contribute to its solution. The results suggest that overall, respondents have a consensus on the existence of environmental pollution

made more severe by continuing wars, economic difficulties, and problems following hostilities. At the same time, they point to the strict health and social consequences of pollution -physical complaints and psychological ills. Among the issues examined is the influence of media, and environmental media in particular, in influencing public understanding and awareness. Although traditional media, especially television, exerts considerable influence, the effects of social media are also rising rapidly.

Nevertheless, according to the investigation, the Iraqi media needs to be more able to accurately and meaningfully inform people on environmental matters. Such recommendations include the need for media institutions to invest in specialized environmental coverage and to train their personnel to increase public awareness. In terms of a legal dimension, the study also examines civil liability for environmental damage. It stresses the need for legal solid structures to compel polluters and suggests collective ecological litigations. The study acknowledges the limits and difficulties in implementing legal measures but stresses their importance as a way to prevent or reduce environmental damage. In addition, the research points to relations between social consciousness, media pressure, and legal frameworks. It advocates that ecological education be included in school curricula and also emphasizes the critical role of families in encouraging children to develop sound environmental ethics. Fundamentally, the elimination of ecological pollution demands a comprehensive and integrated effort employing societal awareness, media advocacy, and a solid legal structure. The recommendations expressed in this piece are intended to provide ideas for developing effective strategies against environmental pollution in Baghdad and may be applied as a model elsewhere. When societies face the myriad problems brought about by environmental degradation, discerning the relationship between a complementary environment for awareness, media, and law is more crucial than ever as far as sustained and fair environmental management goes.

8. Recommendations

There is a necessity to direct the Ministry of Education to develop curricula related to environmental awareness and allocate awareness lessons delivered by the teaching staff to students to contribute to preserving the environment. Educational institutions are responsible for implementing this recommendation.

The family raises awareness of its children, instills positive values in them, and directs and advises them to follow correct and positive behavior through proper socialization.

There is a need for Iraqi media institutions to build media specialized in the environment and to train media staff in this field, with the importance of increasing media programs in the field of environmental pollution and deepening the environmental and legal culture of the public in a way that makes them able to challenge pollution problems in the natural and social environment.

The necessity of enacting strict Iraqi laws in the field of environmental conservation, especially about civil liability and compensation for it, and adopting the idea of a collective ecological lawsuit due to its practical benefit, as in France and America, as well as the creation of specialized courts to consider environmental disputes Given the specificity of the elements of civil liability arising from environmental pollution, especially the elements of fault and harm.

The Iraqi Environmental Protection and Improvement Law No. 27 of 2009 needs to be amended to include environmental elements, specify notification periods, and provide rewards for environmental protection projects. The law should adopt diverse penalties for deprivation of liberty, including ecological pollution crimes among criminal offenses, and specify competent authorities for control systems, decisions, and instructions to avoid judicial jurisprudence differences.

The importance of investing in social media in spreading environmental culture is that it is the most capable in this digital age of penetrating the public's perceptions and influencing them, especially among young people.

It is activating the role of the media to carry out its tasks through coordination between them and other social institutions to advance the environmental reality.

It enacts deterrent laws and legislation that limit the behavior of violators of the environment,

imposing financial fines on them and activating the law to protect the environment from pollution.

The necessity of improving the level of social and health services, such as paving streets, providing families with waste bags, providing clean and potable water, providing containers in every area, and paying attention to sewage channels, to reduce the seriousness of the problem. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Finance are responsible for implementing this recommendation.

The need for the state to pay attention to the problems of environmental pollution by allocating places for factories and laboratories away from residential homes, schools, and hospitals.

We are providing healthy and appropriate housing for all members of society, reducing slums, and limiting the migration of rural people to the city by providing support to farmers and providing services to rural people.

Coordination between civil society organizations concerned with environmental and pollution issues with other social institutions to reduce the increase in environmental pollution.

There is a necessity to prevent the throwing of garbage and industrial, health, or agricultural waste onto beaches and rivers, as well as preventing the burning of trash in the streets to preserve the air and water from environmental pollution. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for implementing this recommendation.

Please pay attention to city planning, widening and planting streets, and increasing green spaces because of their role in reducing environmental pollution. The Ministry of Planning is responsible for implementing this recommendation.

It is preventing the passage of large cars and trucks within the city and creating external roads for them away from the city center. The Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction is responsible for implementing this recommendation.

Activating the role of the health institution by monitoring spoiled foodstuffs entering from abroad, as well as treating disease cases resulting from environmental pollution. The Ministry of Health is responsible for implementing this recommendation.

They are activating the role of municipal departments to carry out hygiene campaigns, clean the streets on a daily and continuous basis, and not leave waste in place for several days and in all areas to prevent the damage of environmental pollution. The Ministry of Municipalities and Environment is responsible for implementing this recommendation.

All activities affecting and causing environmental pollution are subject to supervision, and a specific mechanism and controls are established for this.

They are providing requirements for measuring pollutants of all types and their extent of danger to humans and providing the Department of Environmental Protection and Improvement with their results.

The concerned departments distribute chemical pesticides and fertilizers to farmers to avoid the danger of soil and food contamination. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for implementing this recommendation.

The Ministry of Environment directed the monitoring of the work of environmental departments and municipal departments in all cities, holding negligent and negligent people accountable and taking necessary measures against them.

There is a need for the state and officials to pay attention to environmental and pollution issues and provide the necessary funds to improve the ecological situation.

We are emphasizing cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education to consolidate the principles of environmental education in the hearts of the people of society.

Funding

This study did not receive any external sources of funds.

Acknowledgments

I would like to convey my profound thanks to my institution, umm al quwain University, for their continued encouragement and support.

Conflicts of interest

There was no conflict of interest. This study did not receive any form of funding.

Disclaimer Statement

As the main author of this study, I declare to the best of my knowledge that this paper has been composed solely by myself and co-authors, also the work here has never been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification.

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