

Social Issues in Iraqi Newspapers Al-Sabah Newspaper as a Model: An Analytical Social Study

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Abstract

It is no longer hidden that the press plays a prominent role in political, economic, and sports fields, while it has taken a limited role in social aspects in some weekly and monthly magazines. Social journalism does not occupy enough space in our Iraqi society. However, it is considered one of the most major areas that should receive sufficient attention considering the developments and changes that Iraqi society is experiencing. Since social journalism concerns the community in general, both young and old, it is necessary to maintain this type of journalism as it is an important means of intellectual nourishment for human minds. It informs them about the most important daily issues in their lives and the social problems that members of the community face, aiming to find the best ways to address and resolve them. This research sought to identify the journalistic arts that Iraqi newspapers focused on in their treatment of social issues. This study is considered one of the descriptive-analytical social studies, starting with the content analysis methodology as the basis for the research, and the quantitative method as an auxiliary tool to count the frequencies and indications of the research data through content analysis, which focuses on the apparent and quantitative description of the content of social issues. In line with what has been mentioned, the research was divided into three sections: the first section (the methodological framework of the research), the second section (the theoretical framework of the research), and the third section (the practical framework of the research). The main findings of the research were: the category "Increase in cases of domestic violence, especially against women and children" had a percentage of 39%, the category "Increase in the number of drug users" had a percentage of 26%, the category "Spread of some unacceptable behaviors that conflict with societal values" had a percentage of 17%, and the category "Deterioration of the reality of many families due to lack of adequate healthcare" had a percentage of 14%. The research concluded with a set of results, the most important of which are: it was found that there are ten main categories of social issues, ranging from cases of domestic violence against women and children to the increase in the number of drug users, etc. As for the recommendations, the most important one is to pay attention to investigative journalism for its role in monitoring and analyzing various journalistic topics.

Keywords: Journalism, Social Issues, Social Problems.

1. Introduction

Various media outlets strive to excel in reporting and following up on events around the world according to the media policy of the institution, aiming to provide the audience with objective and credible coverage, free from any form of bias, framing, or manipulation imposed by the nature of journalistic institutions. Thus, a distinction can be made between journalistic treatment and its various forms and the processing of journalistic content, its coloring, and its exposure to framing according to the whims of those responsible for the journalistic handling of information. Balanced journalistic or news coverage of events and conveying them to the audience can shape the features of the institution and cement its neutrality, especially when significant social events occur that influence public opinion and arouse its curiosity to monitor and follow them through multiple sources to investigate accurate information about the events' proceedings and monitor their implications and outcomes on the local or international stage. This provides these media outlets with the opportunity to compete in offering news services that attract audience satisfaction and rise to the level of the event, particularly in dealing with social events that are of significant interest to many members of the community in the Iraqi street .

The researchers were interested in knowing the difference between journalistic treatment and investigation of social issues, as the content of the news has five known questions: who, what, when, where, and how? Investigation of social issues in the press is related to only one question: "why?" The news presents the material or incident, the circumstances surrounding it, the place where it occurred, and the people who participated. Investigation of social issues, however, is an attempt to explain, comment, and interpret.

2. Conceptual and theoretical framework of the research:

The research problem is the basic pillar upon which the research structure and stages of its theoretical and field completion are built. The topic that we are about to shed light on is based on analytical interpretations of a problem that has drawn the attention of many researchers and specialists in sociology in the media.

The media, in its various forms, is a monitoring platform that plays an important role in various aspects of life. Therefore, it is called the fourth authority. On this basis, the problem of the study crystallized to identify the types of journalistic treatment of social issues in the Iraqi press. A set of sub-questions branch out from it, as follows:

1. What are the journalistic arts that Iraqi newspapers were interested in in dealing with social issues?
2. What are the sources that the (Sabah) website relied on to know social issues?
3. What are the most important types of social issues that attracted the newspaper's attention?
4. What are the social journalistic issues that the newspaper raises?

The importance of the research lies in knowing the issues with social, cultural and human dimensions, and how the Iraqi press follows up on social topics in particular, which can yield useful and purposeful scientific results, in addition to being a scientific addition to the sociological library, to know the interest of the newspaper, the research sample, in social issues and their treatment .

The research aims to reach convincing answers to the questions posed by the research. Accordingly, the research seeks to achieve the following:

1. Identifying the journalistic arts that Iraqi newspapers were interested in in dealing with social issues.
2. Discovering the sources that the (Sabah) website relied on in knowing social issues.
3. Discovering the most important types of social issues that attracted the newspaper's attention.
4. Discovering the description of journalistic issues in the form of social issues raised by the newspaper.

3. Methodology

The determination of the research methodology depends on the goal pursued by the researchers. Content analysis was employed, which "is based on a systematic and accurate description of the content of written or spoken texts by identifying the subject and objective of the study and the study population through selecting specific cases to study and analyze their content." Nadia and others (2017) add that "this type of analysis is characterized by relying on reports, media, and official records to understand the true trends reflecting a specific reality" (Nadia et al., 2017: 222).

Content analysis is considered a means of data collection (a descriptive method) using content analysis tools for the material presented by mass communication media. Additionally, content analysis is conducted without direct contact; the researcher selects a number of documents related to the research topic, such as records, laws, regulations, newspapers, magazines, television programs, books, and other materials containing the information sought by the researcher (Raja, 2000: 215).

The limits of the research are:

1. Spatial scope: Based on the research topic and its problem, the spatial scope was determined by the Iraqi daily press represented by the newspaper (Al-Sabah as a model) in Baghdad.
2. Temporal scope: The period from 6/1/2023 to 12/31/2023 to be the temporal scope of the research.
3. Subject scope: The researchers identified the journalistic issues specialized in addressing the various social issues included in the newspaper through study and analysis as a subject scope for their research.

Research community and sample:

The research community is represented by the Iraqi press (an analytical study of the Al-Sabah newspaper as a model) and the most important social issues that captured its attention. A sample was chosen (using the social week method, as it gives equal opportunities to all publication days to be represented in the sample) from the Al-Sabah website's issues on social topics from June 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

The analysis tool was presented to a group of (experts in sociology and media at Iraqi universities) to provide comments on it and evaluate it. The researchers considered the comments and modified the form in accordance with those comments.

Extracting frequencies and percentages to identify the journalistic treatment of social issues in Al Sabah newspaper as a model.

Previous studies

The researchers were interested in presenting some of the previous studies, local and Arab, close to the research, to identify the similarities and differences between them and the current research. These studies include:

1. Munir Tabi Study (2019): This study aimed to understand how the media covers issues of domestic violence through cinema and drama, to monitor the media's treatment of violent scenes that contribute to the spread of violence and extremism among viewers.
2. Hakim Huwaidi Study (2021): This study aimed to identify the main content of the programs "In Detail with Natiq on UTV" and "With Rafif Al-Hafiz on News Channel." The study used the survey method and content analysis technique. It found that economic factors affect the phenomenon of measuring domestic violence, while physical violence was the most prevalent type of domestic violence in Iraqi society.
3. Shifa Abdul Zahra Study (2022): This study aimed to understand how Iraqi newspapers manage issues of domestic violence in Iraq after 2003, identifying the main types of domestic violence and investigating its causes as diagnosed by the newspapers. It also monitored the forms and effects of domestic violence. The research used the descriptive analytical survey method with content analysis. The sample consisted of issues from Iraqi newspapers (Al-Sabah, Al-Zaman, Al-Mada, and Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed), totaling 1,114 issues. The study's main findings were that Al-Sabah and Al-Zaman newspapers primarily focused on psychological violence, while Al-Mada and Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed newspapers concentrated on physical violence. The newspapers also focused on domestic violence against women.

Through the researchers' review of previous studies, it is evident that there is some similarity with the current research. Previous studies have indeed focused on social topics and issues; however, the current research uniquely highlights the sociological aspect. Unlike previous studies and research, which varied according to their approaches and specializations, this gives our research the distinct advantage of uniquely addressing the phenomena and problems that Al-Sabah newspaper covered from a social perspective.

A complete overview of the main differences between the current research and existing studies can be provided as follows: Munir Tabi's study (2019) focused on the media's treatment of domestic violence issues through cinema and television drama, while our current research highlights Iraqi newspapers, specifically using Al-Sabah as a model. Hakim Huwaidi's study (2021) examined the social responsibility of cultural programs on Iraqi satellite channels concerning domestic violence issues. Although our research aligns with this study in using content analysis and seeks to understand the causes of domestic violence in Iraqi society, it differs in that it covers phenomena and issues through newspapers rather than television programs. Shifa Abdul Zahra's study (2022) addressed how Iraqi newspapers handled domestic violence issues in Iraq after 2003, identifying key types of domestic violence and investigating their causes according to the newspapers in the sample. It focused on domestic violence against women. In contrast, our current research, as previously mentioned, deals with broader social phenomena and issues covered by Iraqi newspapers during the study period.

Press treatment (concept and importance):

First: The concept of journalistic treatment :It is an attempt to know the media's motives for a particular event or its framing of an issue. The motives may lead to adding or distorting information in a way that reflects the institution's policy in presenting the event and reflects the communicator's tendencies in collecting facts and ignoring others (Farouk, 1981: 200) .

Treatment can be viewed as: a media framing process imposed by the institution's policy in dealing with events and issues in transmitting news and presenting facts and events. This process involves interpretive additions or the practice of monitoring and analysis, manipulating words, or intervening to evaluate information in a subjective manner, and even expressing an opinion and presenting proposals and solutions, in addition to biased narration and information flow or the practice of media criticism and presenting facts in a biased manner, in other words, excessive interest or distortion and editorial additions in journalistic ways that provoke the recipient towards the institution for striking interest or bias (Herbert Stearns, 1988: 22).

Second: Features of journalistic processing

The treatment has characteristics that distinguish it from journalistic coverage, which are as follows: (Bushra, 2012: 12)

1. Accuracy: Journalistic coverage requires ensuring the accuracy of the news to achieve a scoop for the institution. However, journalists and media institutions manage accuracy in terms of how the news is presented according to their policies. While accuracy is a shared requirement, media institutions often overlook many accurate details related to the event if they do not align with the institution's policy.

2. Media Policy: Even if the news meets all or most of its elements, it may not be published or broadcasted by every media outlet due to conflicts with the institution's policy. Thus, the conditions for coverage involve aligning the event with the publisher's stance, whether it is a political party, a company, or a public organization. Here, coverage requires the event's narrative to match the media institutions' policies. Selective reporting of events helps journalists maintain the necessary and accurate perspective for their work.

3. Precision: This means that the news should convey the full truth of the event or incident as long as it aligns with the media outlet's policy. Omissions should not alter the context, give a misleading meaning, or impact contrary to the truth. In coverage, precision is relative, contrasting with what would be conveyed if the news were published fully and accurately, meeting all journalistic coverage standards.

4. Framing: A key feature of journalistic coverage is that the journalist operates under the influence of the media institution's policy frameworks (Bushra, 2012: 13-14).

Third: Treatment methods:

A set of methods adopted in dealing with the event can be established in a manner consistent with the media outlet's policy, namely: (Karam, 1989: 292):

1. The method of processing by narrating information: It requires the media outlet to describe the incident or event or to cover all its aspects and the circumstances of its occurrence, and to provide evidence of eyewitnesses and officials in a manner consistent with the media outlet's policy.

2. The complex treatment method: The method describes the incident in detail, selects facts that do not give the event a dimension that conflicts with the media outlet's policy, and makes a complex connection between the facts to reach a selective news treatment with a single framework that includes more than one fact and leads to a comprehensive treatment of the event.

3. Treatment based on presenting statistics: This is based on presenting statistics and figures related to the facts. Here, all figures are chosen in a way that presents the event in a manner that is consistent with the media outlet's policy (Fakhri, 1977: 96-97).

4. Fact-based treatment: It is a method of relying on evidence, proof, evidence, and data in conveying information about a specific incident, whether from a responsible source or from a controversial figure, so that it constitutes important media material.

5. Critical treatment method: This is a method of presenting media material in the form of criticism directed at a specific policy, party, or ideology that does not conform to the media outlet's policy, with the aim of correcting that.

6. Method of presenting opinions and suggestions: Presenting the media material in the form of data, information, and facts to create certain trends among the audience by providing them with opinions revolving around the topic being addressed and discussed.

7. The method of analysis and interpretation: presenting the topic to the recipient and raising the issue for media interpretation with the aim of presenting an analysis that is in line with the media outlet's policy, or achieves the objectives sought by the outlet (Nuzhat, 2006: 178).

8. Method of presenting solutions: In continuation of the institution's interest in the subject, it works to present solutions that are consistent with the institution's policy in the context of presenting the media material presented for discussion.

9. The method of raising discussion: The process of selecting an issue for discussion rather than others stems from the media outlet's policy and its distinguished interest in the issue, as ignoring and paying attention to the treatment stems from the institution's preferences.

10. Research and investigation method: Media institutions choose to address an issue in an investigative manner based on an interest and preference that is consistent with the media outlet's policy. For example, the Iraqi reality is full of corruption files, but a media institution's focus on a specific sector rather than another is considered a treatment subject to the media outlet's policy.

11. The method of influence and awareness: It is the treatment that uses all the arts of communication to transfer knowledge, build awareness and achieve influence through the various materials it provides and its use of different journalistic types that address the minds, emotions, and feelings of its recipients.

12. The method of confirming facts from multiple reliable sources: This is a treatment that appears neutral, since research and delving into confirming facts about the subject carry's suspicions of bias in the method (Adeeb, 2000: 61).

Fourth: Elements of journalistic treatment

There are a set of elements that form the dimensions of the treatment process, including: (Margaret, 2006: 62).

1. Accuracy: i.e., ensuring the veracity of the information and news covered by the media.
2. Paying attention to the linguistic structure of the content: because language is a tool for communication and influence, and more than one formula or method can be followed to convey the idea to the recipient within the framework of treatment.
3. Commitment to the standards of social responsibility: and avoiding slander and defamation and adopting constructive dialogue between the media and the public.
4. Supporting credibility: and allowing the public's reactions to the messages they receive.
5. Diagnosing the functions of the media and the nature of the role it plays in serving society, as it performs the function of education for society and individuals in a way that nourishes the intellectual, emotional, value-based and social dimensions and enriches his personality in life; and this occurs within the social framework of the individual, whether it is spontaneous and incidental or in a deliberate and planned manner (Hamdan and Rawaa, 2013: 18).
6. Supporting freedom of the press by ensuring justice, improving the performance of the media, and protecting it from government censorship.

Fifth: Conditions for good journalistic treatment

Journalistic processing requires a set of conditions that must be met, which are as follows: (Sayed, 2006: 82)

1. Understanding the social, economic, political, and cultural context in which the event takes place, or the information is produced.

2. The subjective, objective power of the event being treated, meaning the importance and magnitude of the event, the effects and consequences arising from it, and the breadth of the social segments concerned with it.

3. The media outlet's prior position on the event, as each media institution is affected in its treatment of the event by the principles, foundations and strategies of its project, which were determined by the forces that issue, own and direct this medium, and this is the right of the media outlet, and it is a legitimate right.

4. The personality and quality of the media outlet and the journalistic philosophy in which it believes.

5. Creativity in treatment is represented by the intellectual, ideological, professional and craftsmanship ability of the media team (Farouk, 1981: 256).

6. Sixth: Types of journalistic treatment and their sources

1- Direct documentary processing: It interacts with the event spontaneously, so it is concerned with collecting details and information about the event, and documentary programs are a model for this (Ibrahim, 2021: 2).

2- Initiative-taking or preliminary processing: It is concerned with obtaining details and information related to an expected event, i.e., an event that has not yet occurred, but there are indicators that indicate the possibility of its occurrence.

3- Support and endorsement processing: The event that supports the government's role, and although some do not accept this role, this processing supports the theory of social responsibility, by presenting the perceptions of journalists in the face of crises or social problems, and even the role of the media in confronting external aggression or hostile psychological warfare, in a way that gives a positive role to the media.

4- Processing the impact and awareness: The media contributes to forming knowledge, awareness and understanding of the culture of the future, through the various materials it provides and its use of different journalistic types that address the mind, emotions, and feelings of its recipients (Debra Potter, 2006: 9).

5- Comprehensive reporting: It presents the event and supports it by reviewing opinions and viewpoints, and presenting proposed solutions presented by specialists by including an in-depth journalistic report that includes data and details about the issue of interest and treatment.

6- Electronic news processing: Internet journalism services are employed to process the event in a deep and comprehensive manner by linking the event to information available on the Internet, and multimedia supported by audio and video, as the Internet has eliminated distances and crossed borders, mixing sound, image and word in a digital format (Al-Zahra, 2018: 137).

7. Photojournalistic treatment: Based on the importance of the image and its ability to clarify in a way that words cannot describe, or that it provides a description that reinforces the credibility of the news, therefore any image can be searched for to support the treatment (Hassan, 2000: 321).

Seventh: Sources of journalistic treatment:

The source is one of the basics of media work, regardless of the nature of its treatment. Every media work, whether it is editorial, treatment, or coverage, must be based on reliable sources (Shukri, 2013: 40). Choosing reliable sources helps in providing treatment that enhances the commitment and responsibility of the media towards society. It is assumed that journalists choose specific sources based on their relevance to the content of the news, and then to the audience that receives this news. It is important to realize that the higher the percentage of sources in a particular newspaper, the greater its chance of providing effective treatment that attracts the attention of the audience and responds to the requirements of achieving media policy. It does not go beyond the well-known newspaper sources, whether the sources are internal or external (Mohsen, 2023: 3).

Eighth: Social issues in the press

Today, the press is a window for nations to each other and a platform for discussing social, economic and political issues that contribute to educating and raising awareness in society due to the expansion of the media and the diversity of its means, in addition to the influential role played by the media in changing ideas, beliefs and customs, as it is one of the basic factors that contributed to changing many societies, starting with the family, passing through institutions of all kinds and ending with society as a whole. Therefore, the role of the media has developed in the past few years and acquired new dimensions that made it a force to be reckoned with in influence, in addition to many people considering it a social institution that carries within it political, economic and global implications (Saad, 2014: 155). Social journalism plays an educational role based on educating society by presenting different ideas and opinions to discuss them logically and scientifically, far from vulgarity and belittling minds. Accordingly, it can be said that it is the most important educational tributary that provides diverse and accurate information, and what social journalism includes in terms of information and ideas is a reflection of what is happening within society, expressing the intellectual and cultural level of society (Hussam, 2003: 58).

We notice the expansion of journalism in most political, economic and sports fields, while the social aspect of journalism is very limited to some weekly and monthly magazines, as social journalism does not occupy enough space for it in Arab societies, which is considered one of the most important aspects that must be represented by sufficient news, especially in light of the current Iraqi and Arab circumstances, and since social journalism concerns society in general, it is necessary to preserve this type of journalism, which is complementary to society as an important means of intellectual nourishment for human minds by guiding them with the most important issues in their daily lives and the problems that some face to find the best types of ways to solve these social problems.

The press also aims to attract the general public by presenting the daily issues and problems of society through various visual, audio, or written means that direct society in planned directions. The extent of this direction is proportional to the amount of culture and knowledge that members of society possess regarding many societal issues, problems, ideas, information, and trends. It is

like the great mirror of society in which everyone looks to see each other, and in which the citizen looks to see and hear others in the daily life of society (Ali, 2014: 9).

The press that is concerned with social issues can be called social journalism because it includes societal issues and problems through various means, tools, and legitimate and helpful methods within the state to work on conveying facts, ideas, opinions, and various trends related to a particular issue, so that it is supported by information, data, and statistics, with the aim of conveying the facts to the recipient so that he has the ability to form positive positions and trends toward the issues of his society and achieve benefit for themselves and their societies (Ali Abdel Fattah, 2014: 144).

Social journalism plays an important and essential role in society. The individual receives information, facts, opinions and ideas through various means and tools, whether visual, audible, or written.

All these means help the individual to form a comprehensive and clear picture of all developments and a general idea about societal events and phenomena for all issues that concern the individual, regardless of their priority (Hanan, 2013: 97). It works to attract the public and directs it in certain directions, and this direction is only to the extent that the members of society possess awareness and knowledge of social issues and problems.

The impact of social journalism on the cultural level of individuals is very great, and it also contributes to shaping social values and directing them in the right way if they are used and directed in the right way, and it connects individuals to each other, contributing to strengthening the connection and social ties between them (Ali Kanaan, 2014: 5-10).

The social life that social journalism studies has its own specialized individuals in terms of experience and knowledge, who work primarily and whose main mission is to investigate the problems of individuals in all aspects of knowledge and its motives, and to search for ways to respond to needs and establish the rules for achieving a decent literary life, as the social journalist is an intermediary element in social life, as he informs about the sources of goodness, and arouses motivation in people in order to look forward to achieving its goals to achieve happiness, ambition and knowledge for them, in order to judge the secrets of social life, to accomplish the requirements of a decent life, therefore the social journalist relies in his research on several aspects of the different and varied social lives of individuals, armed with theoretical foundations in accurately depicting social problems and events and analyzing them deeply, by relying on conducting scientific research, conducting experiments and knowing the standards in order to identify the elements that cause social events and ways to divide and standardize them into general foundations derived from them (Yasser, 1986: 97) .

There is no doubt that the current society, represented by the technical and information society that responds to several data and trends of patterns, is a comprehensive experimental school from which social studies take, on the one hand, and on the other hand, it needs from the social journalist, like the rest of the social specialists, a penetrating view that enables the members of Iraqi society to see social life as it really is, and at the same time see society in a constant dynamic movement .

4. Discussions and Results

First: An introductory overview of the research sample, Al-Sabah newspaper as a model.

Al-Sabah newspaper is a daily general political newspaper issued by the Iraqi Media Network, which was established in April 2003. The first issue of Al-Sabah newspaper was published on 5/17/2003, and since then the newspaper has not stopped publishing. It began publishing in Baghdad, and its distribution at that time was modest, ranging between 10-20 thousand copies. The franchise owner and editor-in-chief was Ismail Zayer. Al-Sabah newspaper has gone through three stages since its publication, which are: (Published data, 2023, on the Al-Sabah newspaper website <http://www.alsabaah.iq/>)

Stage one: Since its issue (zero) on 5/17/2003, it was semi-weekly on Saturdays and Tuesdays, in half-size with (8) pages. Then it was issued on Thursday 5/31/2003, and then issued on Sundays and Wednesdays. Its page count became (12) pages, starting with issue (11) on June 25, 2003, and it contains four colored pages.

Stage Two :Since 3/7/2003, it has been published in half-size format three times a week (Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday), and then it began to be published in large format on 27/7/2003.

Stage three: This stage began on 2/8/2003, when the newspaper began to be published daily, and its header stated (A daily government political newspaper issued by the Iraqi Media Network), and the number of its pages increased after that to 24 pages.

The newspaper relies on obtaining news from multiple sources, which are:

1. Correspondents Network: The newspaper has a wide network of correspondents and delegates who are the most important source in the process of obtaining and producing news. This newspaper has offices in all governorates and also has offices in other Arab capitals such as (Tehran - Amman - Damascus - Cairo - and Kuwait).

2. The second source is the news agencies.

3. There is a group of editors who are directly linked to the editor-in-chief, and they have their own contacts and open telephones with senior officials and politicians in the government. The newspaper also has delegates in most government institutions who are employees in those institutions and are linked by contracts with Al-Sabah newspaper.

4. The Internet is the fourth source of news for the newspaper .

1. The newspaper is financed from the following sources:

- 1- State support, as Al Sabah newspaper, is financed from public money.

- 2- Revenues from advertisements published in its pages are an important source of the newspaper's financial resources. The newspaper currently allocates entire pages for advertisements.

- 3- Sales revenues.

Al-Sabah has a large network of journalistic informants, including delegates and correspondents. The newspaper’s staff is (390) employees, who are competent in the process of obtaining and formulating news, in addition to an exceptional group of editors who are linked to the editor-in-chief and have their own communications via open telephones with senior officials and politicians in the government. The newspaper has special delegates in most government institutions, who are employees in those institutions and are linked to Al-Sabah newspaper. It also has correspondents in some international capitals such as Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Kuwait, and Washington (Raghad, 2011: 128).

Second: Results of the analytical study on social issues in Al-Sabah newspaper for the period from 6/1/2023 to 12/31/2023.

This section presents detailed tables for each main category to analyze and interpret its results, supported by numbers and statistics.

Table (1) The number of news and reports on social issues in Al Sabah newspaper.

Percentage	Iteration	Al Sabah Newspaper
%57	240	News
%53	180	Reports
%100	420	Total

Reading the data in the table above, it is clear that the category (news) ranked first, with a slight difference from the category (reports). We can conclude from this that news is the backbone of all journalistic arts, from reports, interviews, investigations, and other news arts.

Table (2) The size of news headlines and reports on social issues.

Color	Percentage	Iteration	Volume of Arts
Black	%45	190	large
Black	%38	160	Medium
Black	%17	70	small
	%90	420	Total

From reading the data in the table above, Al Sabah newspaper paid attention to the size category (large headlines) as one of the display elements in presenting news and reports, while being keen to use the color black in all the issues that were analyzed.

Table (3) The location of news and reports according to the sequence of pages.

	News				Reports				Total
	Top of Page	Middle of Page	Bottom of Page	Total	Top of Page	Middle of Page	Bottom of Page	Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq		
First page	10	55%	40	%47	5	%47	10	%31	80
Second page	40	28%	20	%32	5	%28	15	%47	60
Third page	25	17%	10	%21	3	%25	7	%22	40
Total	145	100%	70	%100	3	%100	32	%100	180

From reading the data of the table above, it is clear that the news and reports website occupied the first place on the front page of Al-Sabah newspaper, and that the news and reports website

occupied (the top of the page) to a large extent. We can conclude from this that the editorial policy of Al-Sabah newspaper took social issues within its priority order and in a manner consistent with the editorial line of the cities of the newspaper, especially since social issues have their importance in public opinion, which contributed to Al-Sabah newspaper circulating them widely due to their importance in one way or another, as the (news) category occupied (130) repetitions on page (240) repetitions, while the reports category occupied (80) repetitions out of a total of (180) repetitions.

Table (4) shows the time for covering social issues.

Area Type	Area square	Percentage
Area with image	25500	%67
Area without image	12320	%33
Total	37820	%100

By reading the data in the table above, it becomes clear that Al Sabah newspaper has paid attention to the image element in highlighting social issues when covering and dealing with phenomena and problems. The news and reports accompanied by the image have excelled as a visual element that adds a sense of realism and beauty and creates a state of emotion in the reader, especially in the age of the image, which has become an integrated communication process. The image accompanying the news and reports has varied between a fixed personal image, a fixed objective image, and an image with statistical significance through the presentation of tables, numbers, and data related to it in social issues.

Table (5) The main categories of the most important social issues in Al Sabah newspaper.

No.	Social Issues	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Increase in domestic violence against women and children	164	39%	First
2	Increase in the number of drug users	108	26%	Second
3	Spread of behaviors that conflict with societal values	74	17%	Third
4	Deterioration of many families' situations due to lack of adequate healthcare	58	14%	Fourth
5	Increase in unemployment rates among youth, especially graduates	8	2%	Fifth
6	Increase in divorce rates	8	2%	Sixth
7	Spread of child begging in streets and intersections	12	7.64%	Seventh
8	Widening phenomenon of children's disobedience to parents	9	5.73%	Eighth
9	High marriage costs increase male and female spinsterhood	8	5.09%	Ninth
10	Increase in violence cases	6	3.82%	Tenth
Total	455	100%		

From reading the data in the table above, it becomes clear that ten main categories of social issues have emerged through the journalistic treatment of Al-Sabah newspaper. We will suffice with these issues due to the lack of time, and we are limited to the number of pages for the current research. However, we mention for the sake of scientific integrity that each of the main categories has a group of sub-categories. The current research seeks to raise such phenomena and study them sociologically and analyze them.

Accordingly, we state the following:

The category of "increasing cases of domestic violence, especially against women and children" came in first place, with (164) repetitions and a percentage of (39%), which is the result of

economic, cultural and social changes, a misunderstanding of religion, the spread of unemployment and an inept openness to social networking sites that encouraged the increase in illegitimate relationships outside the marriage system, which led to an increase in cases of marital infidelity, in addition to an increase in cases of violence in our beloved country. The category of "increasing number of drug users" came in second place with (108) repetitions and a percentage of (26%). Drugs in Iraq are a dangerous scourge that is ravaging the body of society, especially among the youth. Drug trafficking and abuse in the country have reached unprecedented levels that are gnawing at the body of society, which prompted Parliament to take action to limit the phenomenon by tightening penalties.

Drugs are spreading, being sold, and distributed in poor and deprived areas in Baghdad, the capital, and other governorates, especially the southern ones. There are no official statistics published on the number of drug users in the country, while the category of "the spread of some unacceptable behaviors that intersect with the values of society" came in third place with (74) repetitions and a percentage of (17%), the most important of which were bullying, violation of personal freedom, sexual promiscuity (low content), excessive smoking and drinking alcohol, conflict with parents, children and mothers, and the homelessness of girls, while "the deterioration of the reality of many families due to the lack of adequate health care for them" came in fourth place with (58) repetitions and a percentage of (14%), as improving the health system in Iraq is fundamentally linked to increasing efficiency and combating corruption, the lack of workers in the medical field in general, and the nature of the unsuitable working conditions for many doctors, which caused them to travel outside Iraq, in addition to the lack of health awareness among members of Iraqi society, which led to the exacerbation of health care.

While the category of increasing unemployment rates among young people, especially graduates, ranked fifth among them with (8) recurrences and a percentage of (2%). According to statistics from the World Bank in 2022, the unemployment rate in Iraq is at its highest level in 30 years, and the World Bank indicates that the greatest damage from the decline in the Iraqi economy falls on young people, as the unemployment rate among them reached 36%, especially among graduates.

As for the category of increasing divorce rates, the category ranked sixth with (8) recurrences and a percentage of (2%), as the Council's data (published on the official website of the Iraqi Judicial Council) indicated that in January 2023, Iraq recorded 6335 divorce cases, while in February it recorded 6147 cases, in March 6491 cases, in April 4643 cases were recorded, and in May 6723 cases. In June 5880 divorce cases were recorded, while in July 5808 cases were recorded, in August 6973 cases, while in September 5462 cases, and these are high indicators of the increase in divorce cases, and the reasons for the increase in divorce cases are social media, social and economic problems, lack of societal awareness of the dangers of divorce on the family, lack of religious restraint, the housing crisis, and the unwillingness of many young people to complete the marriage process, in addition to the marriage of minors.

While the category of the spread of the phenomenon of child begging in the streets and intersections ranked seventh with (12) recurrences and a percentage of (7.64%), it is a dangerous social and economic phenomenon that has become widespread and common in Iraqi society, and

its causes are several, such as poverty, unemployment, wars, displacement, and security and economic crises.

As for the category of increasing prevalence of disobedient children towards their parents, the category ranked eighth with (9) repetitions and a percentage of (5.73%). This is what sociologists call the generational conflict, as it is one of the most important thorny issues that has become famous recently, especially after the transformations that have occurred in society, as conflict or tension can be generated as a result of perceptions of differences between generations (parents and children/youth) in values and social behaviors, even before any interactions occur. By classifying the types of tensions, a new scheme is presented for the generational conflict that stems from values, behaviors and identity, i.e. each era has its own customs, traditions and ideas, which differ completely and partially from any other era, thus narrowing the space for intellectual, cultural and linguistic convergence, and this is a matter of utmost importance in social change, and a social gap may occur between generations and the emergence of social conflict .

While the category of high marriage costs increasing the celibacy of men and women ranked ninth with (8) repetitions and a percentage of (5.09%), this category is also linked to the category that preceded it above (increasing divorce rates) of fear of marriage and then separation from the life partner.

Finally, the category of increased cases of violence came with (6) repetitions and a percentage of (3.82%), as shown and illustrated in Table.(5)

5. Conclusions and recommendations

First: Conclusions

1. Journalistic treatment does not present the subject in a normal manner, but rather is based on interpreting and analyzing it, giving its causes, and contributing to its treatment and ending its harmful effects.
2. News accompanied by the second personal image and the second objective image in the first order take up the most time to cover social issues.
3. Journalistic treatment is one of the most important journalistic arts, as it combines a number of editorial arts at once, as it combines news, talk and opinion, and it is one of the most difficult editorial arts.
4. Journalistic treatment is based on news, an idea, a problem, or an issue that the journalist picks up from the society in which he lives.
5. It was found that the news coverage of Iraqi social issues in Al-Sabah newspaper preceded all journalistic arts and is the backbone of the rest of the arts that follow the news with explanation, interpretation, and analysis.

6. It was found that Al-Sabah newspaper relied on displaying the headlines in large size primarily in a clear manner, with its reliance on dark black color for the ease of reading the newspaper pages for recipients.

7. It was found that there are (10) main categories of social issues, between cases of domestic violence against women and children and the increasing numbers of drug addicts, etc.

Second: Recommendations

Based on the results of the research, the researchers recommend the following:

1. Paying attention to investigative journalism for its role in following up and analyzing various journalistic topics.

2. Giving importance to journalistic treatment by expanding the base of journalistic studies that concern our society, including social (violence - divorce - begging), economic (unemployment and poverty) and even cultural.

3. Trying to start implementing journalistic treatment to identify sources of live information that are available to the people around whom the topic of collecting social material revolves and affects them from near and far.

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