

Problems of Small Industries in Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab Districts for the Year 2023

Ebtihal Jassim¹, Dr. Fares Mahdi Mohammed²

¹Postgraduate/Masters Student, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Basra, Iraq

²Professor, Department of Geograph, College of Education for Humanities, University of Basra, Iraq

Abstracts

This research aims to study and analyze the most important problems and challenges facing small industries in the districts of Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab, as these problems stand as an obstacle to the development, growth and progress of this type of industry, so these problems cast their shadows on their ability to move forward, compete in the markets and the ability to satisfy consumers' desires for products, as these problems and obstacles require those in charge of these industries to find solutions and treatments for them, by preparing new and advanced plans to overcome and treat them , and then increase the role of small industries that becomes capable of achieving the desired industrial development, as there are many problems that small industries suffer from in the two districts that became clear through the field study, which is the problem of (raw material , labor, capital, market, infrastructure problems, industrial fraud), and other problems, and each problem will be addressed by study and research . The research results also showed that the total number of small industrial establishments in Al-Hartha and Shatt al-Arab districts reached (743) establishments and the total number of workers reached (2300) workers, including (314) establishments with (994) workers in Al-Hartha district , while the total number in Shatt al-Arab district reached (429) establishments with (1306) workers .

Keywords: capital, industrial fraud, small industries, power outages.

1. Introduction

and social development in the areas where they are concentrated and have a close relationship with the population and their standard of living. The greater the purchasing power, the greater the demand for small industry products, which are considered essential industries for the population, including luxury industries and others related to food and drink. They also contribute to absorbing large numbers of workers and thus alleviating the unemployment problem. They also play an important role in acquiring technical and technological skills.

Research problem:

1 -Does small industries have a specific definition in Iraq?

2- Are there any problems that hinder the development and growth of small industries in Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab districts?

Research hypothesis:

1-There is a specific definition of small industries in Iraq.

2- Small industries in Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab districts face several problems that prevent their development and growth.

Research objective:

The research aims to shed light on the problems of small industries in the districts of Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab, which play a role in obstructing the development and growth of small industries.

Research methodology:

Several approaches were chosen in the research, including the regional approach, where a specific topic was chosen for the study, which is the problems of small industries in the districts of Al-Hartha and Shatt al-Arab, and the inductive approach, which relied on field and office work on small industries in the districts of Al-Hartha and Shatt al-Arab for the year 2023.

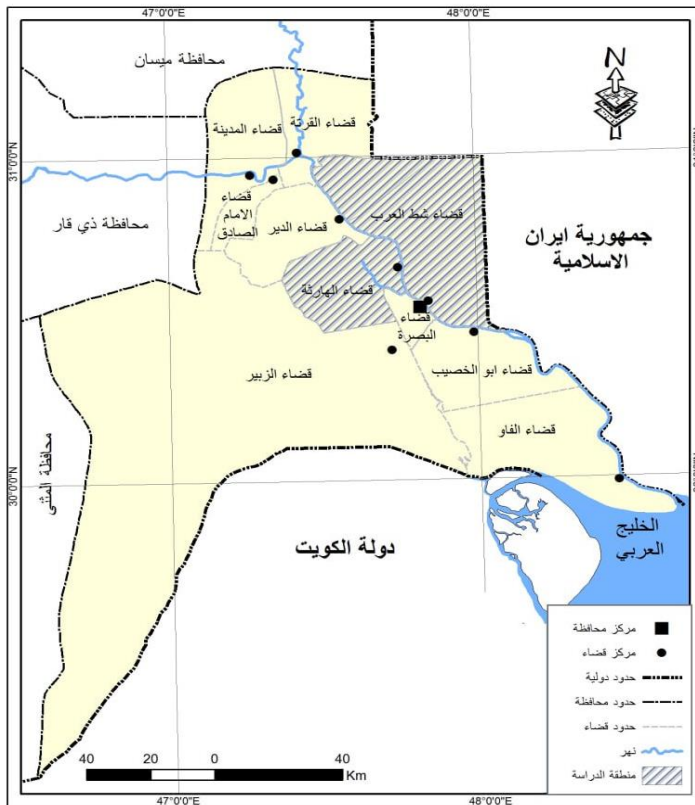
Research limits:

The search is limited by Al-Hartha District , which occupies the central part of Basra Governorate , and Shatt al-Arab District, which occupies the southeastern part of the governorate, see Map (1), as Al-Hartha District extends between latitudes (30.29°-30.41°) north, and longitudes (47.25°-47.46°) east, bordered to the north by Al -Dair District and to the south by Basra District, while the Shatt al-Arab River represents its eastern border , and Al-Zubair District to the southwest , and the area of Al-Hartha District is (699.5) km² .

As for Shatt al-Arab District, it is located between latitudes (30.25°-31°) north, and longitudes (47.30°-48.30°) east. It is bordered to the northwest by Al-Qurna District , to the south by Abu Al-Khasib District, and to the east by its international borders with Iran. The Shatt al-Arab River represents its western borders . The district's area is (2055) km² .

First - The concept of small industries

The concept of small industries in Iraq varies with the stages of development. In the fifties of the last century, Iraq sought the help of the International Labor Organization to identify small industries and put forward its concept by this organization, which defines small industries as handicraft industries and at the level of industrial workshops for primary industries. There is a second definition by the United Nations as handicrafts and light industries (1) , while the Central Statistical Organization defined the concept of small-scale industries as the central body in issuing and following up on industrial statistics indicators for industrial establishments in general and for industrial establishments in particular, as it defined small-scale industries as (those establishments or projects that are owned by the private sector and employ less than (10) workers and the value of the machines and equipment in them is less than (100) thousand dinars (and the Central Statistical Organization has neglected the last condition recently) (2) .



Map (1) Location of the study area in Basra Governorate

Source - Ministry of Water Resources, General Directorate of Survey, Map Production Department, Digital Unit, Administrative Map of Basra Governorate, at a scale of 1:500,000, 2023.

Second - Problems of small industries in Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab districts

1- Raw materials problem

One of the main problems that small industries suffer from is the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, as no industrial activity can be carried out if raw materials are not available for it, as raw materials are the basic component of any industrial activity, and when they are available, industries can produce and continue. It became clear through the field study that most of the raw materials used in small industries are imported from outside the country, and this leads to many problems. The most important of which is the high prices of imported raw materials, in addition to the high taxes and customs duties on imported raw materials, which in turn is reflected on products and consumers, in addition to the absence of the role of the quality control agency responsible for supervising the import of raw materials, which prompted traders to buy

poor quality raw materials at cheap prices, in addition to the difficulty of transportation and its high costs and delays in receiving imported raw materials , which in turn affects the high prices of raw materials, and then is reflected in the high prices of the local product, as the prices of raw materials vary according to the type of each industry , for example, the raw materials used in food industries, including the bakery, oven and pastry industries, most of them use Turkish flour, the prices of which range between (35-37) thousand Iraqi dinars per bag , while the price of a bag of Iraqi flour is (32) thousand Iraqi dinars, and the price of a bag of Iraqi barley flour reaches (18) thousand Iraqi dinars The price of one kilogram of yeast ranges from (12,000-18,000) one thousand Iraqi dinars at 2023 prices . As for the raw materials on which the sewing industry depends, we note that most fabrics are imported from countries (China, Indonesia, India , Thailand, Iran) and its prices vary according to each type , as the price of the length reaches The Indonesian fabric for men is (155) thousand Iraqi dinars , and the Thai length is (110) thousand Iraqi dinars, while the Vietnamese length reaches (145) thousand Iraqi dinars, as for the length of the women's fabric, the price of the Thai cashmere length reaches (105) thousand Iraqi dinars, and the Italian cashmere (130) thousand Iraqi dinars at 2023 prices . As for the manufacture of the towel, due to the high price of cotton, which reaches (7) thousand Iraqi dinars per kilo, it contributed to the rise in the price of the Mandouf dushk to more than (200) thousand Iraqi dinars, and the imported is much less than that at 2023 prices . As for the materials used in the manufacture of moisturizers, the price of a bag of sugar ranges from (45-50) thousand Iraqi dinars, and a bag of vanilla weighing (500) The price of a gram is (3) thousand Iraqi dinars, and the price of alopecia is (9) thousand Iraqi dinars per kilo, and the price of a kilo of dried milk ranges between (5-7) thousand Iraqi dinars, and the flavors of a bottle containing two liters are priced at (24) thousand Iraqi dinars, and a two-and-a-half-liter caramel bottle is priced at (26) thousand Iraqi dinars at the prices of 2023 , while the materials used in the manufacture of rashi, sesame, reach a kilo price of (5) thousand Iraqi dinars. As for water purification and desalination stations, they also suffer from high prices of imported raw materials used in them, as they suffer from damage to filters , which requires repurchasing them. The price of a marine filter reaches (85) thousand Iraqi dinars and is replaced every (15) days . The same applies to the men's abaya industry, the metal products industry, the woodworking industry , and the block industry, as they suffer from high prices of raw materials used in them. In general, most types of small industries in the districts depend on importing raw materials from outside the country, as shown in Table (1), and the failure to guarantee obtaining them in turn leads to a lack of production. They also suffer from The rise in the cost of raw materials, and thus the rise in the cost of raw materials is reflected in the final result on the consumer with the reduction or absence of the productivity of these industries (3) .

Table 1 Imported raw materials, their prices and origins on which small industries depend In Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab districts for the year 2023

Its origins	Its price (one thousand Iraqi dinars)	Unit of measure	imported raw materials	Industry type	T
China	20000	I missed	Chinese wood	Carpentry	1
Malaysia	29000	I missed	Malaysian wood		
Malaysia - India	10000 – 8000	kg	Damlock material		
Iran	1500	kg	Glue material		
Iran	125,000	Ton	cement	The block	2

Iran Türkiye	850000 950,000	Ton Ton	Iranian iron Turkish iron	Blacksmithing	3
Indonesia Thailand Italy Vietnam	155000 110000 – 105000 130000 145000	Length (meter)	Indonesian fabric Thai cloth Italian fabric Vietnamese fabric	Sewing	4
Egypt	7000	kg	Cotton	The freshness	5
Russia	4000	meter	Teak wood	Water transport	6
Türkiye Turkey-Australia	37,000 - 35,000 18,000 - 12,000	Bag(kg) kg	white flour Yeast	Bakeries, ovens and pastries	7
The UAE	7000	kg	Dried milk	Soft drinks and ice cream	8
India	5000000	Ton	Sesame	The briber	9
Iran China Türkiye	20000 40000 – 25000 85000 – 30000	Square meter	Iranian Chinese Turkish	Aluminum	10

Source: Based on the questionnaire and field study for the period from (8/16 - 12/10/2023).

The problem of manpower and technical expertise

The field study showed that small industries in the two districts face many problems with regard to the workforce, including the lack of training or development courses for workers in these industries, which train workers on skills and production efficiency, and transform them into skilled workers, and then the weakness of the technical capacity of workers, especially since some industries need them, including the engineering products industry (aluminum), the metal products industry, and the wood products industry, in addition to the low wages of workers in small industry facilities that do not meet the minimum standard of living, which prompts them to leave work and look for another job with higher wages. This makes the owners of the establishments constantly search for new workers, in addition to the movement of workers from one sector to another, and the worker not continuing in the industrial establishment for a long period, which leads to the disappearance of his accumulated experience in work, in addition to the worker bearing the costs of transportation between his residence and the workplace and food wages that are during the break period after work, as a result of the long working hours that reach (8) hours a day, which leads to the worker's exhaustion, and then reflects on his productive capacity in return for what He receives low wages, and the competition between skilled and unskilled workers within the same facility has led many of them to refrain from working, as wages are the first and main motive, and it is one of the factors that contribute to the continuity and stability of the workforce in some industrial facilities. Small industrial facilities also suffer from the lack of comfort requirements for most workers, and health conditions in the event of any health emergency, as a result of their work being linked to the machine during work, including the blacksmithing, aluminum and carpentry industries. In addition to the health problems that workers in such industries are exposed to, including eye allergies and asthma, due to dyes and chemicals. The loud noise of machines, equipment and machinery used in the manufacture of wood and metal construction products, and the work hazards resulting from welding operations, when the iron emits a flash of light that directly affects the eye, leading to poor vision and damage to the retina, see Figure (1), in addition to

respiratory diseases, and diseases of the spine , as a result of lifting heavy loads of raw materials for construction and metal industry products , which causes back pain . And paragraphs, and their exposure to eye allergies as a result of the flying cotton in the cleaning industry, and some industries suffer from the aversion of workers to them, such as the bakery, oven and pastry industry. Because of the high temperature during the summer, there is also Problems related to the seasonality of work and production in some industries, such as the soft drink industry, which is in high demand during the summer and low demand during the winter, and the bribe industry, which is active during the winter and vice versa in the summer, which creates a kind of seasonal unemployment, which prompts the worker to leave work and look for another job opportunity during the shutdown of these industries. Some small industrial establishments also suffer from fluctuations in demand for their products, such as the water transport industry. In addition , most workers in small industrial establishments are characterized by a low educational level that does not exceed middle school, which in turn leads to a decrease in the level of wages for workers in this private industrial sector, unlike the public and mixed government industrial sector, in which wages are high. Also, most employers do not have a legal basis that forces the worker to remain in the job, and then the worker has the freedom to stay or leave the job, if he does not like the work. There is also no law or legislation for social security that protects workers when they reach the legal retirement age, as in the law in force in all government departments, in addition to the lack of legal legislation that determines wages for workers in the private sector (4).



The image (1) Risks Work resulting from the blacksmithing industry in the large piston facility in Shatt al-Arab district for the year 2023

Source - Photo taken on 10/21/2023.

3- The problem of capital

The lack of capital or its scarcity is an obstacle to the growth and development of small industries in the two districts, because capital is necessary in the production process, especially for the purpose of purchasing raw materials, modern machines and equipment, purchasing fuel,

paying workers' wages and means of transportation, and paying the value of the land used by the factory . These industries are also characterized by limited financial capabilities, which in turn are reflected in their development and the development of their production processes, the nature of workers' wages, the relationship between the employer and the workers, or even the establishment of other new industrial facilities. In addition, there is little government support for them, and if it exists, it is little, because the loans that small industries obtain from banks dedicated to industrial financing, such as the Industrial Bank, are not sufficient to meet the requests and needs of financing small industry projects, due to the weak capabilities of this bank, in addition to the stringency of the loan conditions. The Industrial Bank provides the guarantees it requests, which exceed the industrial investor's ability to meet them, in addition to the interest that the bank obtains, which reaches (8%), and the loan repayment period is within (5) years. (5) In addition to the fact that the process of receiving the loan is in the form of installments, the borrower suffers from the mechanism of the industrial bank, which has prompted many factory owners to refrain from obtaining loans and rely on their personal savings, i.e. relying on the economic condition of the individual who owns the industrial project.

4- Marketing problem and foreign competition

The market problem in developing countries constitutes a strong obstacle to expansion through the establishment of modern industrial projects with high production capacity (6) . The problem of flooding the market with imported foreign goods from various sources is not... Especially from the neighboring Arab markets and the regional countries surrounding Iraq, including (Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia) , as well as China, are among the problems that affect the growth and development of small industries in the study area. The market is also of great importance in the development process, through the mutual relations between the volume of industrial products on the one hand, and the market system on the other hand. Through the field study, it became clear that small industries in the study area suffer from the problem of weak markets , as a result of the flooding of markets with industrial products imported from outside Iraq, due to the openness that the country witnessed after 2003 AD, as foreign goods began to compete with the products of local industries that are at low prices compared to the prices of local products. Foreign countries found a market in Iraq to sell their products, and the absence of any measures to protect national industries by the government, in addition to the lack or weakness of advertising and promotion of local products, which in turn contributes to increasing demand for them, whether in markets inside the country or even outside it, and the best way to advertise and promote local products is The element of quality and high quality, the better the specifications, the more attractive it becomes to consumers, as it is a general problem facing all industrial activities in the study area, which is the fierce competition from similar industries in the governorate, in addition to the absence of supervision and quality control over products imported from outside the country, and the failure to activate laws to protect the national product from external competition, made the country a market for the disposal of products imported from different countries, in addition to the presence of factors The consumer's psychology is represented by his belief in the superiority and quality of imported products from outside the country at the expense of locally manufactured products, which are characterized by their cheap prices in the markets compared to the prices of local products, which contributed to the policy of flooding the market with imported foreign products, and then this matter

contributed to creating clear competition between the owners of small industrial establishments within the governorate with products coming from abroad and from other governorates. It became clear through the field study that the price of Turkish and Chinese ready-made bedrooms ranges between (1,200,000 - 4,000,000) dinars. Iraqi, as its prices vary according to the size, the difference in decor and its accessories. As for the Iraqi-made bedrooms with six doors and one floor, their price ranges between (1,500,000-2,000,000) dinars. Iraqi, as for the two-storey ones, their price ranges between (2,500,000-4,000,000) Iraqi dinars, and there are rooms according to the consumer's request, the price of which may reach (5,000,000) Iraqi dinars or more, and despite the distinction of Iraqi products in terms of size and durability, yet We notice that citizens are keen to buy imported products. , due to the great publicity for the foreign product compared to the national product . As for the competing products of the cleaning industry, which are represented by the entry of sponges and brocade pillows, the price of the Turkish bedroom mandrel reached between (200-250) thousand Iraqi dinars , and the Chinese between (150-180) thousand Iraqi dinars, while the Iraqi one is priced at (200) thousand Iraqi dinars at the prices of 2023, so prices vary according to the country of origin and the size and height of the mandrel . As for the locally made cleaning products, the price reaches The price of a bedroom pillow made of first-class cotton is (200) thousand Iraqi dinars, while the price of a pillow made of first-class cotton is (10) thousand Iraqi dinars , and second-class cotton is (5) thousand Iraqi dinars at 2023 prices. As for the quarries placed on the stairs of houses, the price per square meter ranges according to the decor between (85 - 150) thousand Iraqi dinars. As for the price per square meter of Turkish quarries, it ranges between (80 - 130) thousand Iraqi dinars, according to the decor and accessories used, whether ordinary or first-class. Among the other internal and external problems of the marketing aspect of small industries is the lack of interest of the owners of these industrial projects in studying the expected market conditions to sell their products, in addition to the lack of knowledge of the tastes of consumers from outside the country, due to the lack of marketing outlets and advertising means to know their consumer tastes (7) .

5- The problem of power outages and fuel shortages

Electricity is one of the forms of energy that has become widely used and has increased at the present time , due to its great ability to feed various devices , and the ease of converting it into light, thermal or kinetic energy (8) , so it is one of the most prominent problems that the study area in particular and Iraq in general suffers from as a result of the frequent interruption of the national electricity grid, for long hours, especially during the summer , as a result of the increase in electrical energy loads, as shown in Table (2) , which reaches the peak production during the month of September to reach (282.14) megawatts in Al-Hartha District , while Shatt al-Arab District (296.88) megawatts for fixed electrical stations , and it is shown in Table (3) that the peak production for the month of September in Al-Hartha District reaches (15) megawatts , while Shatt al-Arab District (104.24) megawatts for mobile electrical stations , and it became clear through the field study that most small industries in the study area use electrical energy to perform their production operations, in addition to what they need to illuminate industrial sites and buildings of these industries, Also to operate the cooling and heating means inside these facilities, so the frequent and sudden interruption of the electricity network, for long hours during work, leads to

Table 2 Electricity production in Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab districts for the month of September 2023 for fixed power stations

Monthly production (M.W)	Station name	Judiciary
21.18	Dates	The Hartha
23,41	Korean vine	
35.41	Abu Halwa	
3195	The Majestic	
22,14	Water Project	
16.38	The pull	
25,59	The bear	
24,61	The role	
96,21	Old Hartha	
296,88		the total
Monthly production (MW)	Station name	Judiciary
37,73	Validity	Shatt al-Arab
42,36	Shatt al-Arab	
40,71	Korean Sleep	
14,11	Science	
38,72	The piston	
9,78	The Island	
10	The Feiha	
13,53	The Thamriya	
12,28	Two booklets	
21,28	The Zariji	
23	Ecstasy	
18,63	crazy	
282,14		the total

Source: Researcher's work based on the General Company for Electricity Distribution in the South, North Branch, Planning Department, Software Division, unpublished data, for the year 2023.

Table 3 Electricity production in Al-Hartha and Shatt Al-Arab districts for the month of September 2023 for mobile power stations

Monthly production (MW)	Station name	Judiciary
7,73	Spectrum Mobile	The Hartha
7,27	Mobile vine	
15	the total	
Monthly production (MW)	Station name	Judiciary
20,03	Mobile Aquatics	Shatt al-Arab
16,29	Mobile Corniche	
16,63	Mobile Abu Khamsin /1	
13,81	Mobile Abu Khamsin /2	
18,44	Mobile Bab Al Hawa	
14,92	Turquoise mobile	

4,12	Mobile sand	
104,24		the total

Source: The researcher’s work, based on the General Company for Electricity Distribution in the South, North Branch, Planning Department, Software Division, unpublished data, for the year 2023.

To stop machines, equipment and machinery , and then obstruct the production process, in addition to disrupting electrical devices , due to the difference in generating capacity, which prompts the owners of industrial facilities to buy electricity from private generators or use private generators in order to compensate for the shortage in electrical current, with different capacities ranging between (25-50) kv , and according to the type and number of machines inside the facility, and according to the need of each machine for electrical current, and the more the number of machines inside the facility increases, the more it needs generators with high capacities, especially since most of the machines used inside the facilities are three-line (Three phase) , which depends on kerosene to operate. Oil), which is mostly obtained commercially from the black market, as the price of a barrel of kerosene oil (220) liters reached (96) thousand Iraqi dinars from the state, while its price on the black market reached (140) thousand Iraqi dinars at 2023 prices . As for industries that depend on petroleum derivatives such as white oil, gas and gas oil from bakeries and ovens, which face difficulty in obtaining their share allocated to them by the state, due to the difficulty of obtaining fuel as a result of the tiring procedures and routine of state departments and institutions, which prompts their owners to buy it commercially from the black market and at prices much higher than the prices at which it is sold by the state, as the price of a barrel of white oil (220) liters reached (33) thousand Iraqi dinars from the state, while its price on the black market ranges between (46-51) thousand Iraqi dinars at 2023 prices. 2023, and that such procedures constitute a burden on the cost of production, and thus give negative results on the production capacities of small industrial establishments in the study area, represented by raising the prices of products , in addition to the costs borne by the owners of industrial establishments to purchase fuel and transport it, while there are industries that depend on water primarily in their production processes, especially food industries, including bakeries, ovens, pastries and soft drinks facilities, which require obtaining pure water, which Some facilities pay to obtain it by purchasing it from water purification and desalination stations, as the price of one ton is (4) thousand Iraqi dinars (9) .

6 - The problem of industrial fraud

Industrial fraud is defined as any act that leads to the production and marketing of a material that violates the rules of its manufacture, and this is likely to reduce its quality and benefits . Thus, industrial fraud is achieved by the violator by making any change in the nature of the commodity that is not customary. Or a deficiency in the origins of the industry, provided that the commodity is prepared for sale or for dealing, in order to change its reality or hide it in an incorrect physical appearance, and this is done by any means that leads to a physical change in the commodity by mixing the commodity, Or removing some of its beneficial elements and natural properties, which leads to harm or infringement of the rights and interests of consumers. (10) Through the field study, it became clear that there are many cases of fraud in small

industries in the two districts , including some people establishing small factories without any official approvals from the Iraqi Industries Federation, Basra branch, including the manufacture of vinegar that is done in homes or illegal factories, as it is diluted with water or artificial materials are added to it, then sold in the markets, with well-known trademarks. Another form of industrial fraud is mixing bribes with vegetable oil, and the honey produced is not natural (100%), but is fraudulently produced by using additives such as water, sugar, or adulterated materials, which harms the consumer. Another form of industrial fraud that has a major impact on the production of industrial facilities is the use of old wood with new wood and manufacturing it, or the use of poor quality dyes that do not tolerate moisture , and then deceiving the consumer about the reality of the product, or reducing the amount of some raw materials used in production processes in construction industries, such as reducing the percentage of Gypsum and cement in the manufacture of blocks, and then affecting the shape of the product in terms of size, strength, durability, and duration of its resistance to weather conditions. As for fraud in metal industries, it is the use of old iron in the production of metal products after reproducing it in iron manufacturing facilities or using foreign brands other than the original brand of the product, and then deceiving the consumer about the reality of the trademark (11). .

7 - The problem of the small size of industrial facilities

Small industries suffer from limited space allocated for industrial facilities, as is the case The case for some Sewing, carpentry and bakery establishments And ovens, pastries, blacksmithing and aluminum workshops, as the small area leads to a decrease in their production in proportion to the size of the machines and equipment used and the number of their workers, and the decrease in their production means a decrease in their importance and impact on the economic side of the state, and this reduces the state's interest in them because they It does not have the capacity to absorb large numbers of workers, in addition to its lack of importance in absorbing unemployment and providing opportunities for workers, so Each facility can accommodate only (1-9) workers, and the small area does not allow the facility owner to expand, which leads to leaving raw materials without storage, and the lack of regular stores for them, but rather they are left in the open, which exposes them either to spoilage or to a change in their specifications and characteristics. In addition to that, one of the reasons for the small area of the facilities is that they are a place for manufacturing and selling at the same time, and it also gave the opportunity for their owners to establish them near their homes, which led to environmental and noise pollution and its impact on residential areas (12) .

8 - Climate problem

The climate problem is one of the problems facing most small industries in the study area, as most of them are in open areas and do not There is something to protect workers and machines. Raw materials from climatic conditions, for example in the summer high temperatures have a negative impact on the carpentry industry , by exposing the wood to dryness , which leads to its damage and exposure to weakness and fragility , and then the weakness of the outer surface of the wood and its cracking, which This in turn affects the quality of the product, and the high temperature affects the comfort and physical ability of the worker, as his ability to work and produce decreases , and thus the working hours decrease. As for the water transport industry,

the high temperature negatively affects that industry if bitumen is used , as the high temperature leads to the melting of bitumen and it becomes incoherent. Also, the high temperatures and the continuous power outages lead to the cessation of work in some industries or the delay in opening their factories and stopping their industrial activity, such as the manufacture of pastries and sweets. Rain also has an impact on industrial activity , as Rain during the winter, especially when accompanied by high relative humidity, affects metals and causes rust formation . In addition to the accumulation of salts, it also leads to swelling and cracking of the wood , and The effect of rain is limited to the raw material, even the finished products, as their exposure to rain leads to the decomposition of the glue , and then the disintegration of the connected parts, in addition to its effect on the owners of industrial workshops , especially the open ones , as the owner of the facility bears an additional cost to provide warehouses, and it also hinders and disrupts the work of the block industry , as rainfall causes damage to the raw materials in the warehouses, such as cement, which loses its specifications when exposed to moisture. High relative humidity also affects the cessation of the wood dyeing process on high days , because it stains the wood, and it is preferable to work on it during dry days. Winds also have an effect on the raw materials for the block industry, as exposure of sand and gravel to it leads to the mixing of dust with it , which affects the quality of the final product. Winds also have an effect on the blacksmithing and carpentry industries through their effect on the dyeing process , as it loses its specifications and luster and makes it dull . (13)

9 - The problem of government support

Small industries in the study area are private industrial sectors, whose owners rely on self-financing, and the success of any industrial project depends primarily on the extent of support provided by the state to these projects. The role of the government in supporting the small industries sector in general is weak, which is an obstacle to its industrial development. The problem of weak government support is represented by the lack of a real government policy to support and protect the national product from foreign competition, as it resulted in the process of flooding the Iraqi market with products similar to the local product, which led to the cessation or decrease of local production, due to its inability to compete with the foreign product, as it has higher specifications than the local product, in addition to cheap prices compared to the local product, which suffers from poor quality and high prices, resulting from the lack of raw materials for the industry due to the lack of government support, in addition to imposing high taxes and fees on small industrial establishments, including the work permit tax, fees on imported raw materials, and the profession tax, because these establishments belong to the private sector, which does not match the capabilities available to these industries, which leads to an increase in the cost of production , and then the inability of these industries to compete with the prices of imported products, in addition to the complexity of granting health permits by the Health Directorate and the Municipality Directorate. , which forces the owners of the establishments to establish factories that do not comply with the health conditions, or some of them pay a bribe in order to obtain them, in addition to the fact that most of the small industries in the study area do not join the bodies or the Federation of Industries in the governorate, which work to manage their interests, which made them work individually, and this led to a reduction in their chances of competing in the market with the foreign product, in addition to the decrease in the amount of loans versus the high interest rate for them, and the complex administrative

procedures required during the promotion of transactions in the bank to obtain the loan, and the absence of a law that protects and regulates this sector, the importance of this law lies in providing accurate information and statistics that help in establishing small and advanced industrial establishments that depend on sound planning and modern management, as well as the lack of data provided by the owners of establishments to the oversight agencies in the state, including the Industrial Statistics Authority and the Federation of Industries, Basra branch, in order to establish a database that includes the number of establishments and the number of workers and to know the obstacles and difficulties facing the owners of the establishments and work to find appropriate solutions for them, due to the fear of the owners of the establishments of increasing taxes (14)

10 - Environmental pollution problem

Pollution is defined as the change in the chemical and physical properties of air, water and soil, which results in harm to human life in the field of daily activity, industrial and agricultural activity, causing harm and damage to the natural environment's resources. (15) , it has Environmental and climate scientists differed in reaching an accurate and specific definition of the scientific concept of environmental pollution. Whatever the definition, the accurate concept of pollution is primarily linked to the ecosystem (ecology), as the efficiency of this system decreases significantly and becomes imbalanced when a change occurs in the harmonic movement between the various elements. Thus, pollution is the quantitative or qualitative change that occurs in the composition of the elements of the ecosystem (ecology), and leads to imbalance. Hence, we find that environmental pollution works to add an element that is not present in the ecosystem, or that it increases or decreases the presence of one of its elements in a way that leads to the inability of this system to absorb it, without any imbalance occurring in it (16) . Pollution is not basically a problem facing industry and its production, but rather a result of it and a reflection of it. Industrial pollution is defined as the amount of polluting material, or a group of industries in the environment (water, air, soil) and its characteristics and duration of its existence, which are likely to cause harm . Small industries are among the industries that contribute in one way or another to environmental pollution through their production processes. ...and the waste it produces. Pollution resulting from small industries in the study area varies between air pollution and noise pollution according to the nature of the industry. Air pollution means introducing harmful substances that make the air unclean, which affects the lives of humans, animals and plants (17) .

Air pollution occurs from smoke resulting from the burning of fuel (black oil) used in bakeries, pastries and ovens . The burning of fuel is accompanied by many gases that pollute the environment, in addition to the pollutants emitted by electric generators, whether smoke resulting from the process of burning fuel to compensate for the shortage in electricity, as these generators use gas oil and release toxic and harmful waste such as carbon dioxide, sulfur and burnt carbon particles. These gases play a major role in the process of environmental pollution, which in turn affects human health if they exceed the permissible limit. Air pollution also occurs due to the spread of sand and cement in the air in the block industry, and the volatilization of sawdust, dust, and dye powder during the process of cutting and dissecting wood, see Figure (2) , which It causes workers to suffer from diseases such as allergies and asthma, as well as the

resin used in the manufacture of water transport vehicles, which has a very unpleasant smell that workers and residents living near these facilities suffer from, as well as air pollution with toxic materials found in inks, and plastic flex paper when used in printing production in the printing and advertising industry, and some chemicals added to inks when they freeze , as a result of low temperatures such as sulfate , and foam that contains a percentage of benzene. As for air pollution resulting from the manufacture of metal products, it is represented by vapors and gases resulting from the painting process resulting from mixing materials such as benzene and thinner with paint , as these materials, when mixed together, form an unpleasant smell for workers and residents living near these facilities, in addition to aluminum pieces and leaving iron filings flying in the air. As for the second type of environmental pollution, noise pollution, which is defined as any unwanted sound heard by the human ear, emanating from various daily human activities, and is at a level that has a harmful effect on the environment, causing a state of danger to public health and Human prosperity in general (18) .

The noise intensity standard varies from one country to another, according to the environmental laws of each country. In Iraq, Iraqi legislation has determined the permissible noise level to not exceed (85) decibels for a period of (8) hours per day, while British legislation has determined it to be (68) decibels. Noise intensity is measured



The image (2) Environmental pollution resulting from the woodworking industry in Al-Mustafa facility in Shatt al-Arab district for the year 2023

Source - Photo taken on 10/23/2023.

In decibels, which start from zero and end with (140) decibels. (19) Noise pollution results from the sounds of machines, equipment and machinery used in various production processes, and the intensity of noise pollution varies according to their use, and Its effect is limited to workers only, but also extends to residents. It is known that such industries are always established near or between neighborhoods and residential buildings and on public roads, which causes them inconveniences according to the rate of sound energy emitted , as a result of the collision of machines and friction processes between them. Among the most prominent small industrial facilities that cause noise or noise in the study area are wood and metal industries , due to the use of machines and machines in cutting wood, iron and aluminum, as well as

construction industries, especially in the manufacture of electric blocks as a result of the use of large-sized machines and machines, especially mobile and fixed central mixers that emit annoying sounds, resulting in damage to human physiological, nervous, mental and psychological health. Moreover, continuous exposure to noise weakens hearing and may lead to deafness (20).

2. Results

1 - The number of small industrial establishments in Al-Hartha and Shatt al-Arab districts reached (743) establishments, while the number of workers in them reached (2300) workers, including (314) establishments with (994) workers in Al-Hartha district, while for Shatt al-Arab district, the number of small industrial establishments reached (429) establishments with (1306) workers, and these industries included several main branches represented by the food industries branch, metal industries, wood products industries, construction industries, textile industries, and other industries such as car bodywork and painting, printing and light advertising.

2 - Inaccuracy in statistics. There is a lack of information available about small industries in the official departments in the two districts and the governorate, with regard to the size of these industries in terms of the number of establishments and the number of workers in them. This is due to the fear of establishment owners of giving the real number of workers and the size of establishments for fear of imposing taxes on them.

3 - The study showed that most of the small industry facilities in the two districts are mostly distributed within residential areas, which led to the spread of facilities in the two districts in a random manner, and the lack of planning for them, which caused them to overlap with other land uses, and thus the difficulty of expanding these industries and the small size of their facilities.

4 - Seasonality of production in some industries such as soft drinks, and thus its negative impact on workers, work stoppages and the emergence of unemployment.

5 - Many small industry establishments are not registered with official departments, and then established according to the required controls and environmental safety, due to their fear of the fees and taxes imposed on registered establishments.

6 - The problems that small industries suffer from in the districts of Al-Hartha and Shatt al-Arab are varied, the most prominent of which is the problem of imported raw materials and their high prices, weak government support represented by limited financial loans and high interest rates, in addition to the low level of advertising and promotion of local industrial products, or even their absence in many cases, but rather they are limited Sometimes on billboards and advertisements located in the same industrial site, in addition to the problem of flooding the market with imported goods, are among the problems suffered by small industries in Iraq in general and the study area in particular, as foreign goods began to compete with local products, as a result of the lack of protection of national industries and local products from competition with their imported counterparts, due to their low prices compared to locally manufactured products, as a result of opening the door to imports wide open for imported goods,

in addition to the absence of the real role of laws and legislation in regulating the import process in the country and the absence of the role of the Central Agency for Standardization and Quality Control.

7- Some small industries contribute to the process of environmental pollution . Especially the problem of noise pollution, which leads to negative consequences for workers and residents of areas close to industrial facilities due to its health damage and causing some hearing diseases, and air pollution, which causes suffocation, eye allergies and asthma.

3. Recommendations

The researcher reached a set of recommendations that would contribute to the development and growth of small industries in the study area, including:

1- Holding local exhibitions for industrial products, to promote and introduce local products and advertise them in various audio and visual media through advertising on display screens designated for this purpose located at traffic intersections and public roads to display the industrial product with the aim of attracting other consumers to these products and finding new markets to sell them.

2 - Working to provide banking facilities, grant financial loans, and reduce the interest rate to (2%) on industrial loans from the Industrial Bank and other financial financing departments, in order for facility owners to accept them and work to develop and improve their facilities or establish new facilities.

3 - Working on providing customs facilities and reducing taxes imposed on imported raw materials and production goods, as this would work to complete industrial processes and thus reduce the cost of production requirements, and thus achieve profits from industrial products , and provide government support to small industries by reducing or canceling taxes imposed on them, and providing fuel at appropriate prices, especially for industries that use it in large quantities.

4- Work to find special sites for these industries away from the population centers where these industries are located, because most small industry facilities are not planned.

5 - Work on building warehouses according to scientific foundations to store raw materials and products and protect them from external influences.

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