



**Faculty of Commerce  
Economics Department**

**Equality of Opportunities for Children in Egypt and its  
Impact on Human Development “Comparative Study”**

**المساواة في الفرص للأطفال في مصر و تأثيرها على التنمية البشرية  
" دراسة مقارنة "**

A Thesis Submitted to Ain Shams University in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master's Degree in  
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"فَتَعَالَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ  
أَنْ يُقْضَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا"

(طه: ١١٤)

## **Dedication**

*I dedicate this thesis to my dear  
father & my beloved mother.*

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# Abstract

The research mentions certain indicators and measurements which help policy makers in knowing useful methods to equalize human development opportunities among Egyptian children and youth. To measure equitable access to opportunities, the researcher uses the human opportunity index to examine basic opportunities grouped in four areas, basic housing services, early childhood development, education and nutrition and hunger. The main findings show that most opportunities improved during the period from 2000 to 2009 for education and basic housing services and a slight improvement for the other two sectors. There are clear opportunity gaps among children in favorable and unfavorable circumstances. Parent's education, income per capita, number of siblings, urban-rural location and regional location are the most important factors affecting equality of opportunities

**Key words:** Human Development, Human Opportunity Index, The Chilean Experience

# **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

|         |                                                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| BHS     | Basic Housing Service                                     |
| CAP MAS | The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics |
| CRC     | The Convention on the Rights of the Child                 |
| ECD     | Early Childhood Development                               |
| ECLAC   | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean   |
| EDHS    | Egypt Demographic and Health Survey                       |
| EFA     | Education for All                                         |
| GDP     | Gross Domestic Product                                    |
| GNI     | Gross National Income                                     |
| GNP     | Growth National Product                                   |
| HDI     | Human Development Index                                   |
| HDRs    | Human Development Reports                                 |
| HIECS   | Household Income Expenditure and Consumption Survey       |
| HOI     | Human Opportunity Index                                   |
| ILO     | International Labor Organization                          |
| IPEC    | International Programme on Elimination Of Chile labor     |
| MDGs    | Millennium Development Goals                              |

|        |                                                            |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| MOE    | Ministry Of Education                                      |
| NAQAA  | National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation |
| NCCM   | National Council for Childhood and Motherhood              |
| NCHS   | National Center Health Statistic                           |
| NGO's  | Non-Governmental Organizations                             |
| OECD   | Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development     |
| PPA    | Purchased Power Adjustment                                 |
| PPP    | Purchasing Power Parity                                    |
| UNDP   | United National Development Programme                      |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund                             |
| USD    | United States Dollar                                       |
| WEIs   | World Education Indicators                                 |
| WHO    | World Health Organization                                  |
| YCSD   | Young Child Survival and Development                       |

# List of Contents

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Acknowledgment.....                   | 4  |
| Abstract.....                         | 5  |
| List of Acronyms & abbreviations..... | 6  |
| List of contents.....                 | 8  |
| List of tables.....                   | 12 |
| Introduction.....                     | 16 |
| Research problem.....                 | 17 |
| Research hypothesis.....              | 18 |
| Research limitations.....             | 19 |
| Research methodology.....             | 19 |
| Research objectives.....              | 19 |
| Research plan.....                    | 20 |

## **Chapter One: Definitions & Indicators Of Human Development**

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Introduction..... | 24 |
|-------------------|----|

**First Section:** The History of Human Development Concept...27

**Second Section:** The Definition of Human Development that  
was put forward in the Human Development  
Reports from 1990 till 2013.....29

**Third Section:** Measuring Human Development.....36



|                                                                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Fourth Section:</b> The Social Determinants of Early Child Development.....                      | 37 |
| <b>Fifth Section:</b> Measuring Children Opportunities by Human Opportunity Index for Children..... | 39 |
| Summary of Chapter one.....                                                                         | 43 |

## **Chapter Two: Equality of Opportunities for Children in Chile**

|                                                                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction.....                                                                                                             | 47 |
| <b>First Section:</b> Poverty, Inequality & Deprivation of Chilean Children.....                                              | 49 |
| • (First): Poverty as Lacking Income or Inadequate Consumption.....                                                           | 49 |
| • (Second): Poverty and Child Labor in Chile.....                                                                             | 51 |
| • (Third): Dimensions of Deprivation.....                                                                                     | 52 |
| <b>Second Section:</b> Chile's HDI Value & Rank.....                                                                          | 57 |
| <b>Third Section:</b> Evolution of Opportunities for Children in Chile, Time Trends and Regional Comparisons of the HOIs..... | 58 |
| Summary of Chapter two.....                                                                                                   | 63 |

## **Chapter Three: Equality of Opportunities for Children in Egypt**

|                                                                                    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction.....                                                                  | 67 |
| <b>First Section:</b> Poverty, Inequality & Deprivation of Egyptian Children ..... | 67 |

|                                                                                                                               |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| • (First): Demographic Developments and Challenges.....                                                                       | 67  |
| • (Second): Poverty as lacking Income or Inadequate Consumption.....                                                          | 69  |
| • (Third):Dimensions of Deprivation.....                                                                                      | 73  |
| <b>Second Section:</b> Egypt's HDI Value & Rank.....                                                                          | 81  |
| <b>Third Section:</b> Evolution of Opportunities for Children in Egypt, Time Trends and Regional Comparisons of the HOIs..... | 82  |
| • First: Improvements in Opportunities for Children.....                                                                      | 82  |
| • Second: Urban-Rural Differences.....                                                                                        | 84  |
| <b>Fourth Section:</b> How Egypt Can Benefit From the Chilean Experience .....                                                | 88  |
| • (First): Education.....                                                                                                     | 89  |
| • (Second): Nutrition.....                                                                                                    | 90  |
| • (Third): Health.....                                                                                                        | 91  |
| • (Fourth): Housing.....                                                                                                      | 91  |
| • (Fifth): Child Labor.....                                                                                                   | 91  |
| Summary of Chapter three.....                                                                                                 | 92  |
| Conclusion.....                                                                                                               | 96  |
| Recommendations.....                                                                                                          | 97  |
| Thesis English summary.....                                                                                                   | 98  |
| References.....                                                                                                               | 108 |
| Thesis Arabic summary.....                                                                                                    | 115 |

## **List of Tables**

| <b>Table number</b> | <b>Title</b>                                                          | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.1                 | Human development opportunity indicators                              | 42          |
| 2.1                 | Chile's Education Situation                                           | 55          |
| 2.2                 | HOI for Different Basic Opportunities                                 | 59          |
| 2.3                 | HOI for early childhood development indicators ( year 2009)           | 60          |
| 2.4                 | HOI for education enrollment , completion on time & adequate learning | 61          |
| 2.5                 | HOI for youth development (year 2009)                                 | 62          |

| <b>Table number</b> | <b>Title</b>                                                                         | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2.6                 | HOI for housing (year 2009)                                                          | 62          |
| 2.7                 | Change in HOI from 1996 to 2009                                                      | 63          |
| 3.1                 | Percentage of Poverty in Households<br>(2008/2009 & 2012/2013)                       | 68          |
| 3.2                 | Average Per Capita Food & Total<br>Poverty Line (LE per year) by Region<br>2012/2013 | 70          |
| 3.3                 | Income Poverty Rates of Households<br>with Children, by Household Size<br>2008-09    | 71          |

| <b>Table number</b> | <b>Title</b>                                                                                          | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 3.4                 | Income Poverty Rates among Households with Children, by Age, 2008-09                                  | 71          |
| 3.5                 | Income Poverty Rates for all Households & for Households with Children by Region 2008-09              | 72          |
| 3.6                 | Number & Percentage of all Children who Experience Deprivations, by Type and Number 2008              | 74          |
| 3.7                 | Enrollment in Primary Education                                                                       | 77          |
| 3.8                 | Egypt's HDI Trends Based on Consistent Time Series Data, New Component Indicators and New Methodology | 81          |

| <b>Table number</b> | <b>Title</b>                                           | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 3.9                 | Human Opportunity Index for Egypt, 2000 and 2009       | 83          |
| 3.10                | Human Opportunity Index for Egypt Urban, 2000 and 2009 | 85          |
| 3.11                | Human Opportunity Index for Egypt Rural, 2000 and 2009 | 86          |

## **Introduction:**

People are the most important wealth a nation can have therefore development objective is to develop people in different and creative ways through human development which concentrate on increasing the scope of choices among people through development of people, by people and for people.

Distributing human development opportunities equally among children today will determine their human development future path. Income poverty among Egyptian children exceeds those among the entire population since the 90's, this poverty has its impact among children which make them suffer from lacking the access for their basic needs such as education, health and nutrition, which will affect their health, productivity and increase the chance of being poor.

The human opportunity index helps to estimate how equally basic opportunities are distributed among children.

Chile has one of the lowest poverty rates in Latin America due to the effort it makes to decrease poverty since 1990, reducing poverty helps Chile in solving social problems, also investing in human capital through education, social and labor market policies which increases Chile's productivity and helps Chile in achieving high growth rates.