

## The Political Participation of Women in Algeria within the Requirement of Comprehensive Community Development.

### - Between Intellectual Paradigms and Actual Practices -

المشاركة السياسية للمرأة في الجزائر ضمن متطلبات التنمية المجتمعية الشاملة

- بين البراديغمات الفكرية والممارسات الفعلية -

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Received 10/11/2023 Accepted 06/01/2024 Published online 15/03/2024

تاريخ الوصول 2023/11/10 القبول 2024/01/06 النشر على الخط 2024/03/15

#### Abstract:

The scientific and academic literature has interested in the issue of women as a supporting power in advancing social development, which is controlled by a group of elements, such as the political participation as an important indicator of the political and cultural maturity of the society, and the involvement of the individual in the activities of public life by exercising his civil rights guaranteed by the constitution and the law regulating political action, which reinforces the values of popular political participation. Thus, this scientific paper investigates the role of women in the process of the comprehensive and sustainable social development.

**Keywords:** Political Participation, Women, Community Development, Gender, Political Empowerment.

#### ملخص:

اهتمت الأدبيات العلمية والأكاديمية بموضوع المرأة كونها قوة داعمة في الارتقاء بالتنمية الاجتماعية التي تتحكم بها مجموعة من العناصر كالمشاركة السياسية التي هي مؤشر مهم يدل على نضج المجتمع ووعيه سياسيا وثقافيا، بالإضافة إلى كونها تعني انخراط الفرد سواء رجلا أو امرأة في نشاطات الحياة العامة، وممارسة حقوقه المدنية المكفولة بالدستور والقانون المنظم للعمل السياسي، والتي تعزز قيم المشاركة الشعبية السياسية. لذا جاءت هذه الورقة العلمية لتقصي الدور الذي تلعبه المرأة في دواليب عملية التنمية الاجتماعية المستدامة والشاملة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** المشاركة السياسية، المرأة، التنمية المجتمعية، النوع الاجتماعي (الجنس)، التمكين السياسي.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The political participation and empowerment of women in Algeria are among the most significant issues that have gained extensive attention in the fields of social, political, and even legal research. As an active, influential, and dynamic element in society, women hold a considerable position and represent a substantial percentage in the community, contributing to its economic, political, social, and cultural development. It is essential to address all issues related to women, providing them with greater opportunities and broader participation, especially in the political and economic spheres, so they can contribute more, and society can benefit from their skills and innovations. There is a need to move beyond traditional biological and service roles, aiming for comprehensive and sustainable societal development. Therefore, it is crucial to focus on these elements, discuss them, and explore studies that seek to overcome the difficulties and challenges faced by women in fulfilling their roles as citizens and decision-makers in the political, economic, and social domains.

### 1. Keywords:

**1.1. Woman:** There are several definitions pertaining to women, including the following:

- **Linguistically:** Singular: woman, plural: women, is used when defining it to mean a man's female. (Ahmed, 2008, p. 2082)

- **Technically:** A woman is an adult female human. (Mosby, 2009, p. 1453) Usually, the word "woman" is used for an adult, and "girl" for non-adults. (Venes, 2017, p. 2539)

In many cases, it is used as a term to define the female identity, regardless of her age, as is the case in the expressions of women's rights. (Andrée, 1977, p. 173)

The term (woman) is mentioned in jurisprudence in many places, such that Islam fought against the arbitrary view of women, gave them justice and their rights. It kept them away from sedition and immorality, and made them the sister of men, Allah, the Almighty, says: «And one of his signs is that He created for you mates from yourselves that you may find tranquility in; and He placed between your affection and mercy. Indeed, there are signs for men of understanding.» (The Holy Qur'an: Surat Al-Rum: Verse 21)

Talking about the concept of women differs according to the researcher's intellectual or sectarian current.

There are those who see it as society as a whole, and those who see it as half of society.

- And there are those who see it as the first building block in building society and the main factor and the first component in it. (Daham, 2021)

All of these concepts do not differ from the importance and effective role of women in society, despite the difference about the concept from one researcher to another.

There have been many definitions of the concept of "gender" since it was widely spread in the mid-nineties of the last century, when it evolved from a concept and a linguistic term to a theory and ideology of an annual movement with clear features in most civilized societies.

**1.2. The concept of gender:** (Refai, 2017) The term "gender" appeared in the nineties of the last century and (GENDER) is an English word that is of Latin origin, and means in the linguistic framework "gens" (Genus) any gender in terms of masculinity and femininity.

Ann Oakley, who introduced the term to the science of sex, explains that the word "sex" refers to the biological division between male and female, while "gender" refers to the parallel and socially unequal divisions into masculinity and femininity. (Information News Network, 2007)

Here, this concept differentiates between men and women according to their social role and function as a result of a set of conditions that govern them.

As for the concept of gender as it is understood now, which was presented by the Social Sciences in general, and Sociology in particular through the study of the social and political reality is an attempt to analyze the roles, responsibilities and obstacles for both men and women. (Sondous, 2012)

This concept is matched by the concept of sex, as in the previous definition, which is linked to specific biological characteristics that distinguish both men and women. (Looti, 2020)

As for one of the movements, it says that it is an "organizer of life", and that gender cannot be defined through the terms "woman and man," because gender in all its meanings constitutes an object, and therefore it can be reconfigured. (Refai, 2017)

Accordingly, we can say that the concept of gender goes beyond the linguistic concept related to biological differences and representations of functions and social and political roles...etc., which constitute the individual socially so that it is subject to development and change.

**1.3. Definition of Social Gender:** It is the study of the intertwined relationship between men and women, and this relationship is called the "gender relationship" which is determined and governed by various factors. (El-Assi & all, 2006, p. 09)

Thus, it can be said that gender or (social gender) is attributed to biological factors, while others refer to social factors and physiological differences, or in the interrelationship, function, and social role that both men and women play within the societal structure.

#### **1.4. Different concepts of political participation:**

Concepts of political participation have differed according to different intellectual minds and sources, so we find those who know it.

"It is a process "practiced by individuals with the aim of influencing the decisions of those in charge of political power. Also, it is a process of supporting or opposing certain political values". (Qazadri, 2015, p. 239)

Here, it is based on influencing the decision-makers, by approving it, canceling it, or retracting it in the event of its rejection by members of Parliament in the sense of official political participation.

Samuel Huntington defined it as: "the activity undertaken by concerned citizens with the intent of influencing the government decision-making process." (Huntingto & Joan M., 1976) which shares, with the previous definition, the point of influence in decision-making.

Others define it as: "It is a process that includes all forms of participation or contribution of citizens in directing the work of government agencies or local government agencies, or to undertake the tasks required by society, whether of an advisory, executive or oversight nature, and whether the contribution is direct or indirect". (Mawlood, 2007, p. 86)

This definition includes the concept of political participation and all the images that are manifested in reality. As for what we can conclude as a concept of political participation from the foregoing, it is: "an activity carried out by the citizen to influence the decision-making process, i.e.

political participation seeks to transform the outputs of the political system into outputs that meet the needs of the citizen who participate in politics” (Mawlood, 2007, p. 86)

### 1.5. Definition of "Empowerment":

#### Linguistically:

Almaany Dictionary defines it as:

- Empowerment is: “seeking to empower someone for success, making him proficient in achieving success”.
- Empowering something is making it possible”. (Almaany)

#### Technically:

It is the common translation of the United Nations on this concept to form the cornerstone of its development system, with the aim of integrating women and marginalized groups into the development process. (Hafed, 2011)

It can be considered a kind of education that aims to raise awareness of the importance of individual experience in solving societal problems and changing society.

#### - Political Empowerment:

To define political empowerment, a number of innovations must be mentioned that contributed to the crystallization of the concept of empowerment and defining its meanings and significance, foremost of which is its relationship to the concept of “power” that can impose change, and the second is its association with the issue of “personal control”, which is the ability of the individual to control the course of his life to change and amend, and the third: looking at empowerment as a process with different dimensions and manifestations.

We mention them as follows:

- **Social Process:** Multi-dimensional (political, economic, social, etc.) It moves between all of them without being limited to a specific dimension, as it is a process that combines the individual and social levels.
- **Changeable Process:** Its goal is to gain the individuals’ strength by acquiring information about them and the environment around in which they live.
- **Interactive Process:** It is the product of the interaction between the experiences of individuals with each other that lead to social change.
- **Development Process:** It aims to increase individuals' awareness of their capabilities and urge them to develop them to catch up with the development process.

Accordingly, based on these characteristics, empowerment was defined as "a social act that targets individuals, institutions, and societies to increase individual and collective control, achieve political effectiveness, improve the quality of life, and achieve social justice. (Wassim, 2016, p. 16)

It is also known as: "a multidimensional social process that helps people control their own lives, and it is the process of enhancing the power that people use in their private lives and in their societies." (Wassim, 2016, p. 16)

Also it is defined as: “the process of challenging our assumptions about how reality is and should be.” (Farida, 2005)

The United Nations Development Fund for Women also defines it as: "Empowerment is a collective action in oppressed groups to overcome or confront obstacles and aspects of discrimination that reduce their conditions or rob them of their rights." (Farida, 2005)

Accordingly, from the previous definitions of political empowerment, it can be said that: Empowerment means the process of providing all social, cultural, educational and material conditions, which enables the individual to take and make decisions, participate and control resources.

In the sense that empowerment in itself is a challenge undertaken by individuals to bring about change and decision-making on the individual and social levels.

#### **1.6. Community Development:**

The concepts of development have multiplied in the modern era, which has greatly concerned it, in view of the positive effects in all fields, and therefore we can define it:

##### **Linguistically:**

The term "development" in the Arabic language is derived from the word "نمى" (nama), meaning increase and spread. It is taken from "نما" (nama), which means growth or increase in something. For example, it can be said that wealth has grown (نما) meaning it has increased (Abjad, 1997). According to these connotations of the concept of development, it does not necessarily align with the English term "Development," which implies a radical change in the existing system, replacing it with another system that is more efficient and capable of achieving goals. (Nasser A. , 2001).

##### **Technically:**

It is differed according to different people. Some define it as "a ministerial change that takes place in society, whether socially, economically, or politically, through which the exploitation of all available resources and energies is transferred so that they are exploited in their proper place, and this change depends mainly on the participation of members of society itself". (Al Dwaikat, 2016)

"Social development is defined as a series of pre-planned administrative operations that seek to achieve a set of goals that lead energies and capabilities to optimal interaction and utilization, stimulating the efforts of the state and its public sectors, and creating social ties between them, the private sector and citizens". (Al-Hiyari, 2018)

The concept of development always remains linked to the scientific background and theoretical strategies. Economists, for example, define it as the rapid increase in the level of economic production and the raising of the gross domestic product.

Sociologists define it as a social change that mainly targets practices and attitudes.

In the political field, it symbolizes the achievement of independence or describes it, for example, as an urbanization process that includes the establishment of social and political institutions. In the economy, it is equated with economic growth. (Harrison, 1984, p. 89)

Accordingly, it can be said from the previous concepts of development that it is an integrated and intertwined whole, and it is effective and successful when it interacts with societal questions, actions and behaviors that express the human being and society, in all fields, economic, political, educational, cultural and environmental. Therefore, development is an attempt to improve the conditions of life of the citizen and change them to ensure well-being community development for all.

## 2. Women in the Context of Gender Discourse:

The importance of studying gender:

Recent studies have emphasized the inclusion of the concept of “gender” to achieve similarity between men and women as follows: (according to the United Nations Development Fund for Women) 2001:

- Increasing women's participation in society and working on equality with men.
- Removing parental control and making the family equal, with justice and respect prevailing.
- Changing laws and administrative practices that discriminate against women, hinder their development, and undermine their rights.
- Changing parenting methods during childhood to mainstream gender equality.
- Increasing women's participation in political action.
- Accelerate the advancement of women's role in development and social and economic development.
- Expanding opportunities for women to increase its ability to control the available resources. (United Nations, 2001)

## 3. Gender Theories:

### 3.1. Biological Theory:

This theory states the basic idea that the biological formation is responsible for the innate differences in the behavior of men and women, such as hormones, chromosomes, brain size, and genetic influences. We add that these differences can be observed in all cultures (Al-Baghdadi, 2014, p. 89). Which means that there are natural physiological differences that lead to inequality between the sexes, so the superiority of the male body over the fragile structure of the woman makes it incapable of resistance in various fields, especially in the field of hard work. Therefore, this biological theory attributes the origin of the differences between the sexes to a purely biological nature.

### 3.2. The Social Role Theory:

The social role theory scholars sought to modify the proposition of the biological theory and consider it a product of social upbringing. They saw that sex and gender are a social reproduced and refigured product which has no relation with the social or cultural aspect or with the body itself as it is affected by social and cultural modifying powers, so that the individual can modify and rebuild his physical structure, through sports or diet, and even surgeries to change the sex...etc. (Oujamaa, 2001, p. 86)

In this theory, it focuses on the role that the individual plays within society, which was imposed on him by a group of societal conditions, in contrast to the previous proposition.

### 3.3. Functional Theory:

The proponents of this theory view society as a system of interconnected parts that operate as a system and as a system of successive parties and components to generate solidarity, balance, stability of the general system and the achievement of social integration.

- The owners of this trend believe that the division of work between the sexes is based on a biological basis, and both men and women do the job that suits him/ her biologically.



- "George Murdoch" believes that: domestic work is for women, and outside work is for men, and the division of work between them is a logical consequence of organizing society.
- And Talcott Parsons believes that the stable family is one in which the work is divided between the sexes in a clear way.

The integrative division of work leads to "micro sociological" stability as a sub-modality, which is the basis of macro sociological stability or the general system (Oujamaa, 2001, p. 87). In other words, the basis of stability is societal integration, which is the tight division and the fulfillment of each individual's job, which creates an interdependent pattern dominated by solidarity, interdependence, social solidarity, stability and individual balance that leads to general social balance.

### 3.4. Socialization Theory:

#### A) Family and Gender:

In this proposition, scholars adopted an attempt to understand how children learn to be boys or girls, and then men or women, as well as how masculine and feminine behavior are determined, in addition to how they are taught to practice activities appropriate to each sex separately, and how communication between them, and accordingly, the child learns his social type at an early age, and they learn the rules of behavior from society, as well as they imbibe the rules and standards for controlling behavior that encourage them to behave in a masculine or feminine manner through their roles in the game, and this varies according to the different age stages.

#### B) School and Gender:

The theory of gender socialization says that the educational system in general, and the school in particular, is the one that would achieve more than gender justice, by increasing the number of qualified people with multiple skills, and thus the school becomes a tool for naming the colleges as a whole.

This theory is based on the institutions of the family and the school and their effective role in building the composition of the child (male, female), and how the external societal factors interfere in controlling these behaviors and what suits the private and public interests alike.

### 4. Gender Roles:

What is meant by gender roles is the functions performed by both men and women, which are shaped and changed according to the social, economic, cultural, religious and political conditions and variables of a country or society, and we can mention four of them: familial, social, political, and cultural roles, which change according to time, place, and the previously mentioned factors.

**A– The Family Role:** It has two parts: it is fixed like the gender that does not change (man, woman) represented in procreation and reproduction, and the second common variable between them is mainly related to education.

**B– Productive Role:** This role is related to the work that men and women do, and the valuable community services they provide.

**C– The Societal Role:** It is an extension of the reproductive role. It is based on preserving human society, but it extends from family interest to societal concern, so that the performance of this community role is represented in doing unpaid voluntary work which helps human society to survive

and develop. This role has a great discrepancy in the distribution between the sexes, which depends mainly on the prevailing cultural and societal concepts in society.

**D– Political role:** It is summarized in the power of political decision-making, and is associated with the exercise of political activities at the level of the local, national and international community, in which there is a great difference in roles between men and women, whose role is usually linked to work in women's organizations that are concerned with developing women's affairs through political representation (people's and local councils, and committees...), as for the man, his roles are organizational and essential in decision-making or at the level of political parties and pressure groups. (Al-Tayeb, 2011, p. 65)

### **5. Women's Political Participation in Algeria (Chronological Reading):**

Until the year 1989, Algeria was run by one party, the National Liberation Front Party, which is the only legitimate political party in the Algerian Republic, so that it rose during independence (1962) and exercised totalitarian authority over the country, and supported both centralization and nationalization of the private sector, and after the constitutional amendments in " February 1989", the process of approving the formation of political organizations was completed.

In "November 1996" the right to establish political parties was constitutionally guaranteed under a set of controls and conditions, including the absence of any religious, linguistic, ethnic, national or even regional roots, and in June 1997, 39 political parties tried to win parliamentary seats in the legislative elections. (Buizri, 2022)

This stage of "political pluralism" is considered an important and significant historical turning point in Algerian politics, as it includes the scope of freedoms in terms of forming associations and parties.

After the events of October 1988, new frameworks began to appear that could absorb all political tendencies, and thus revolutionary parties, Islamic parties, and Secular parties emerged. Everything that was previously monopolized became permissible in this period. Hence, women began to organize within these structures, and female personalities emerged as activists in the field of women's rights. As well as those who declared their independence from belonging to any political orientation and joining political parties, and here women began to get out of the darkness of one party, and enter the arena of politics. In this way, the political struggle of women took many forms whose goals and importance changed according to the nature of the political organizations within which they operate and their ideologies.

Then, these freedoms witnessed a noticeable setback, according to the electoral process in January 1992, due to the enormous pressure exerted by terrorism at the time and the declaration of the state of emergency, and the decline in the presence of women in political institutions, until the societal conditions and state institutions began to stabilize, and they graduated from the transitional stage and the return of security, and the return of women to the social and political field to work again.

#### **5.1. Women and Collective Work:**

After this transitional period, more than 30 feminist organizations were formed to defend women's rights. It appeared in various associations, including the following:



**A- Women's charitable societies:**

They are the most widespread societies, as they are mixed (men, women) and may be purely annual. These societies work to take care of the remnants of the economic transformation such as poverty, low standard of living, distribution of subsidies to the needy, or for medical needs...etc., and here the pattern of activity is to try to alleviate social problems without looking for solutions or eliminating pests in the first place. (Al-Dsouky, 2000, pp. 63-64)

**B- Associations or Bodies Affiliated to Parties:**

This type of party-affiliated bodies or associations seeks to infiltrate society, attract citizens and co-opt them as supporters of the party, in which there are those who work with the support of the party, and others who work and move outside the political framework.

**C- Women's bodies affiliated with professional or free organizations:**

Such as the Women's Committee in the Lawyers or Doctors Syndicate, the Women's Committee in the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights...etc.

**D- Annual Clubs:**

There are organizations that do not fall under any of the previous classifications, but rather are independent from the government, trade unions, and parties such as the Association for Equality between Men and Women, the Women's Health Association, and the Algerian Rally for Democratic Women. The first organization was formed in 1985, the Association for Equality between Men and Women, on the occasion of organizing the women's opposition for family law that does not allow equality between women and men and violates the rights of women, and it is the first independent secular feminist organization. (Al-Dsouky, 2000, p. 65)

**5.2. Women's Police and Partisan Work:**

The political parties are important structures and platforms that some women accepted for political work. From the beginning, the parties' goal was to attract the annual component in their favour, due to the numerical weight in society, while making sure to employ this women's electoral force in their favor, and to elevate their standing in their literature. Due to this, the degree of attention and dealing with women's issues differ from one party to the other.

**6. Algerian Women and Representative Institutions:**

The idea of equality between women and men has passed through national charters and constitutions that can be linked to the fields of education, health care and work, and the latter is in the range of salaries and not holding positions, so that it annihilates itself with regard to decision-making or taking it (The Founding Conference, 1999, p. 85). This is what appears if we follow the greater presence of women in representative assemblies (parliamentary, people's state or municipal assemblies) since the first elections in Algeria, for example the first Algerian Constitutional Council in 1962, included 10 elected women out of 197 men, i.e. a 5.07 %.

**Table n°1: The Annual Representation in the Algerian Parliament: (Gharbi, 2000)**

Years	Women	Men	Percentage
1962	10	197	5.07 %
1963	2	136	1.47 %
1964	2	127	1.57 %
1980	10	77	12.9 %
1985	7	87	8.04 %
1987	7	295	2.37 %
1990	12	94	12.7 %
1994	12	178	6.7 %
1997	14	380	3.68 %
2002	25	380	10

The positions held by women, primarily as members of parliament without assuming any other roles, indicate that the process of integrating women into political and governmental bodies is often symbolic, filling gaps without substantial responsibilities. Elevating women to these positions alone, without entrusting them with meaningful responsibilities, can be seen as a mere proclamation of the country's liberation, creating a positive impression and expressing gender equality. This practice can be viewed through two indicators. The first reflects the mindset of society and its perception of women, suggesting that women are assigned these roles to showcase progress, liberation, and the application of freedom and democracy. This indicator is governed by the society's mentality and its perception of women as weak. The second indicator represents the level of education and awareness of the women candidates, highlighting their cultural competence and understanding of their status as active contributors or affected individuals. It also emphasizes their work towards establishing their position in society and achieving their goals.

### **7.The Percentage of Women's Political Participation:**

The increase in the percentage of women's presence in political and social work in general is explained by a set of indicators as follows:

- National Assembly: 10.
- National People's Assembly: 146 deputies, with a rate of 31.60 %.
- State People's Assembly: 592 elected women, with a rate of 29.54 %.
- Municipal People's Assembly: 4105 elected, with a rate of 16.49 %.

In this regard, many international organizations have praised the impressive results achieved by Algerian women. This is what the European Parliamentary Union called in its 2012 report, a remarkable achievement (annual representation) (Akrouf & Beghza, 2018, p. 364). This refers to the positive relationship between women's work and the comprehensive development process, i.e., the higher the percentage of women in the labor force, the higher the economic and social capabilities, which is what Algeria is pursuing for comprehensive and sustainable development. (Al-Ardi, 2012, p. 03)

## 8. Women and Development:

Talking about women's participation in development acquires a dual importance between participation and development. There can be no real development without the participation of women as an important and effective element in society. The social differences between men and women in terms of capabilities, opportunities, choices and living conditions make "the gender" an essential element of the concept of human development and a basic need for investment and empowerment of annual human resources, which is considered by all reports in the field of development and the extent of women's participation in the development process.(Hannoun, 2010, p. 02)

Accordingly, it can be said that development is a development produced by the adopted international policies and depends on variables and indicators that need to be constantly monitored and reviewed.

Among these indicators are the following:

- Changes in intellectual, cultural and social concepts.
- Changes in economic growth accompanied by human and social development.
- Changes that make growth viable and sustainable.
- Political development, human rights, and democracy.

### 8.1. Elements of Successful Development:

- Productivity: Citizen involvement in increasing production.
- Equity and social justice (Social Equity).
- Sustainability: (institutionalization of development).
- Empowerment: so that development stems from individuals, not for them. (United Nations Division for Women, 2008)

### 8.2. Women and Community Development (Prospects and Challenges):

Talking about women and their role in the development of society confirms the desire of women and what they do in the family and society and give them opportunities, skills and resources that support them in development work. And that is by expanding her ability to enjoy more economic, social and political freedom, i.e. opening the way for women and enabling them to participate politically, make decisions and reach positions of power, which is essential for achieving equality, development and peace.

The issue of women and community development is related to different dimensions, some of which are quantitative, some are qualitative, and even institutional. Women are affected by all the social services provided to them and their quality. International action programs have sought to develop multiple strategies with the aim of removing these obstacles that prevent the achievement of justice and equality.

However, despite all the efforts that sought to integrate women into society and activate their roles as an active element, women still suffer from many challenges in our society that stand as a barrier between them and effective participation in development processes, including:

- Women's right to work despite the availability of several statutory and constitutional rules and texts in favor of women's work.

- Arab societies, including Algeria, are characterized by masculinity, in which the image of men as earners of livelihood and women as housewives dominates.
- Women's submission to the authority of the father, the brother, and then the husband in decisions pertaining to education, choosing its type and duration, as well as choosing a profession. (National Council for Women, 2014, p. 44)
- The most difficult thing facing the issue of women in our society is the continuation of dealing with this issue and considering it a women's movement as a call for liberation, rather than an issue that has methodologies to achieve the idea of integrating women into comprehensive development.
- Low self-esteem of women with the influence of social upbringing.
- The belief that education and then work deprive women of the opportunity to marry early (customs, traditions and the inherent societal heritage).
- The role of the divisional and cultural pattern in determining the problem of women's participation in women's work in the development process, and that it stands as an obstacle to it. (African Labor Research Network, 2011)

By mentioning all the obstacles that stand in the way of women and their developmental path in society and the manifestations of discrimination and reaction that embody in our society, there are many of them who are constantly increasing towards broader participation and stronger challenges, through which women have proven their ability in equality and equivalence with men with the aim of contributing to community development and a better life.

Thus, it is possible to include some horizons that would create an integrated and interdependent society in which all capabilities are integrated to achieve hopeful development, by:

- The necessity of integrating women's development and the elements of their empowerment within the national development priorities.
- Institutional intellectual awareness of the true concept of legislation and religious text on the status of women in religions and the importance of their work and participation in the development of the country.
- Upgrading social services with the current requirements and demonstrating the importance of their role in removing obstacles to women's work.
- Empowering women to deal consciously with the phenomenon of globalization and expanding the establishment of vocational and technical training centers for women. (Kechroud & Merzougui, 2019, p. 510)

\* Statistics on the participation of Algerian women in community development:

The exit of women to work is a social phenomenon, especially after the social and economic changes that Algerian society has known:

**Table n°2: The Evolution of the Active Population by Gender:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1966(ONS, 2015, p. 01)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>1987(ONS, 2008, p. 15)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008(ONS, 2005, p. 56)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2015(State Plan Secretary, 1975, p. 76)</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Males</b>	2682209	96	4,848,660	90.8	8,999,000	83.2	961500	81.6
<b>Females</b>	111474	4	492442	9.2	1,811,000	16.8	2,317,000	19.4
<b>Total</b>	2,793,683	100	5341102	100	10,810,000	100	11932000	100

This table illustrates the increasing percentage of women from 1966 to 2015 compared to men, where the number of women multiplied by 20 times compared to 3.5 times for men (from 2,682,209 to 9,615,000).

This historical trend reflects women's achievements and their leaps from one field to another, striving for success, working, defending their counterparts, voicing their opinions in positions of power, and participating in various economic, social, and even political domains.

The notable evolution is evident in the current job market, with the growing presence and participation of women across all fields, contributing to comprehensive development. This transformation underscores women's efforts to succeed and make a difference, both in terms of their individual achievements and their collective impact on societal progress.

**Table n°3: Population Distribution by Gender and Sector 2015:**

	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Farming</b>	866	10	52	2.7	917	8.7
<b>Industry</b>	1028	11.9	349	18.1	1377	13,0
<b>Building and public works</b>	1741	20.1	35	1.8	1776	16.8
<b>Trade and services</b>	5026	58.0	1498	77.5	6524	61.6
<b>Total</b>	8660	100	1934	100	10594	100

Through this table, it is evident that the trade, services, and industry sectors dominate other sectors, accounting for 77.8% of women's participation in the services sector. This dominance can be attributed to the nature of these activities, as they do not require significant physical effort, making them suitable for the biological nature, patience, and proficiency of women in such work. Additionally, these activities accommodate women's social conditions and family commitments, unlike other sectors where men outnumber women, often requiring more time and effort. All these individual differences and gender-specific advantages for both men and women should not overlook the societal aspect and the environment in which these activities take place. The social context and

the power dynamics within the environment play a crucial role in either facilitating or inhibiting women's presence and participation in these sectors, contributing to the development or hindrance of the economy.

**Table n°4: Distribution of Population and Activity Rate by sex and Age for the Year**

	Active Population in Thousands			Rate of Economic Activity		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<b>15-19 yearsold</b>	308	44	352	19.2	2.8	11.1
<b>20-24 yearsold</b>	1129	254	1384	59.4	14.0	37.2
<b>25-29 yearsold</b>	1560	554	2114	85.8	32.9	60.4
<b>30-34 yearsold</b>	1541	463	2003	91.7	27.4	59.5
<b>35 -39 yearsold</b>	1300	349	1649	91.1	23.0	56.0
<b>40-44 yearsold</b>	1128	256	1384	91.2	19.7	54.7
<b>45-49 yearsold</b>	1010	192	1202	91.4	16.8	53.4
<b>50-54 yearsold</b>	865	124	989	83.8	12.8	49.4
<b>55-59 yearsold</b>	490	46	536	60.2	6.4	35.0
<b>60 years and over</b>	283	37	319	16.0	2.1	9.0
<b>Total</b>	9614	2317	11923	66.3	16.4	41.8

2015:(National Bureau of Statistics, p. 05)

Through this table, it becomes apparent that the percentage of men, based on age, is higher than that of women, starting from the age of 20 to 54. Men's participation in the workforce begins at an early age, driven by societal, social, and cultural conditions imposed by reality on both genders. This leads to disparities in participation rates based on gender (women/men) and age. As illustrated in the subsequent table, the increasing percentage of economic activity is linked to the rising proportion of the active population, represented by a certain percentage of women. Therefore, the contribution of active women in the economic field is evident, and their representation constitutes significant proportions that increase over time with growing societal awareness and openness regarding the issue of women's contribution and involvement in the economic and developmental processes.

## 9. CONCLUSION:

Through the presented scientific paper, we observe that the issue of women and their role in sustainable and comprehensive development is of utmost importance, as women are active and effective members of society. As a crucial human resource, women elevate the level of resilience and confrontation in the face of global progress, development, and rapid economic growth. A significant example of this is their effectiveness, active participation, and prominent role in parliament as decision-makers, contributing to governmental management. Their significance goes beyond mere numerical representation within societal organizations and political institutions, varying across different communities. Women are considered active and influential members, provided with opportunities to work and participate in decision-making, exercising full authority. Societies that



harness and succeed in utilizing this strength have surpassed superficialities, transitioning to political work that propels sustainable and comprehensive development.

Our study highlights that the role of women, throughout history and across different regions, consistently faces social and societal constraints that often work hard to inhibit women's work and emergence at the forefront of societal development. Even though international laws and constitutions protect women from various restrictions or obstacles under different names (such as religion, ethics, customs, and traditions), it is essential to recognize women's accomplishments and their diverse contributions throughout human history. Their tremendous ability to achieve success, growth, and development in all fields through active and powerful participation, decision-making, and the elevation of sustainable and comprehensive societal development is undeniable.

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