

Participatory democracy and political capital of local elected officials

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Abstract:

This study aims to address the mechanisms of the work of municipal delegates through sociological awareness of the informal considerations that control the crystallization of the representations of participatory democracy in the municipal delegate as responsible for the administrative district.

Through its outputs, it was found that the legislator's adoption of social capital violates the institutional nature of the citizen's participation in the municipal delegate in managing public affairs within the framework of the principles of participatory democracy.

Keywords: participatory democracy ; representative commitment; political capital; social capital .

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1. Introduction:

The development of the state has resulted in urgent needs centered in general on the duality of the citizen and official institutions, especially with regard to reviewing the frameworks of interaction between them, so that the public action industry does not remain exclusively in the hands of the modern state agencies, which exclusively and constitutionally control what is known as traditional tasks, the sovereign missions (Ousmane, 2012, p 25) of the state is justice, sovereignty and security, Therefore, the organizational need emerged to include the citizen as an informal actor in the circle of public policy-making through participatory democracy within the framework of what is termed in the field of administrative sciences in the Quartet of decentralization (Jean-Luc, 2012, p 26) which places the citizen within four legal centers, in which he intersects with the institutions of the regional community as a citizen, taxpayer, voter, and taxpayer, user, voter, citizen, and taxis for the establishment and improvement of local public utilities, as for its easement, it means freedom of access to public institutions and benefiting from their services. With these three characteristics, his citizenship is complete as a right and a duty.

Returning to the model of regional groups in Algeria within the framework of the principle of participatory democracy, we find that this trend reflects a young democratic experience, whose features were manifested with the political openness that resulted from the social movement at the end of the eighties to change the unilateral, guiding system that has prevailed since independence and is based on the unity of leadership between the party and the state (Belaouar, 2006, p 97) the regional community, which is the name of the 1963 constitution, was structured in the municipality as a colonial inheritance, and the exclusive structure remained in the conduct of public affairs without the involvement of the citizen, until the activation of the reform

policies of the regional communities in 2010, which was established by a legal text. It is concerned with the concept of the conservatorship of political representation represented in Executive Decree (Decree, 2016), where the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Urban Development adopted a vision requiring citizens to be involved in the management of delegations, in return for choosing delegates belonging to these provinces as a priority in their appointment, which calls for an analysis of the sociological discourses (Le Bart, 1980, p. 91) of the implications of this perception on the outcomes of participatory democracy in light of the presence of a social capital for the municipal delegate that may dilute the citizen's participatory action and deviate from the purpose for which it was established, the importance of the study revolves around the attempt to dive into the philosophy of local representation to understand the pillars upon which the municipal delegates rely in their participation of the residents of their districts in the conduct of public affairs within the framework of the participatory democracy approach by highlighting the model of delegates in the municipality of Ain Temouchent as a sample of local groups in western Algeria.

The scarcity of previous studies on the relationship of the participatory democracy variable with the social capital variable of the elected in the Algerian local groups model Olivier De Sardan, entitled *les huit modes de gouvernances locale en Afrique de l'Ouest*, and relating to the patterns of local governance of some African countries with a French orientation in the management of local communities, the researcher adopted a socio-anthropological approach in studying the various elements of development governance (De Sardan, 2009, p. 05) focused on the variables of participatory democracy, the organizational and behavioral culture of the various actors of the local community and the patterns of interaction among them.



Theoretically, criticism of this literature lies in not focusing on reading the regulatory texts a political reading, which would have increased the value of the research, as for procedurally, the researcher relied on social surveys conducted by the LASDEL Laboratory for Studies and Research on Social Dynamics and Local Development, as he dropped the explanatory and contextual variables that are involved in the formation of developmental local action on the eight patterns of local governance, and he compared them with the results of field investigations, which contributed to updating and scrutinizing the results of the study.

With regard to the sociological preoccupation, it crystallized from a paradox that I stood by by virtue of my functional examination of the activity of municipal delegates, which raised a question to me about the purpose of linking the legislator of participatory democracy with the social capital factor of one of its actors represented in the municipal representative, the research concern was as follows :

Does the municipal representative's social capital affect the citizens' participation in managing their public affairs?

And from this branched the questions:

Why did the trusteeship employ social capital as a criterion in the process of appointing the municipal representative?

How do municipal delegates with social capital involve citizens in the management of their administrative districts?

In light of this, the hypothesis was formulated as follows:

Why did the trusteeship employ social capital as a criterion in the process of appointing the municipal representative?

How do municipal delegates with social capital involve citizens in the management of their administrative districts?

In light of this, the hypothesis was formulated as follows:

The more social capital is employed for the municipal delegate, the more it violates participatory democracy.

2. Philosophy of local political representation

Raising the issue of political representation as the mandate of un Mandat came after the following problem:

Is political representation (national/local) a representational mandate?

Here, the French jurist Raymond Carré de Malberg intervened through his contribution to the general theory of the state la théorie générale de l'Etat, completely denying that political representation is a representative mandate that the elected derives its legitimacy from the citizens "who do not delegate authority to him, but rather create He has a legal position from which he derives his authority and legitimacy through their election to him", he says in this regard " Citizens do not delegate power to him, but confer on him a status and it is from this status that he draws his power."

The matter, according to de Mellberg, is not and is not related to a representative trust un Mandat, but rather it is related to what he called "un acte de confiance" because its source is citizens and not decision-making institutions, based on the philosophy of the statesman Sieyès as the special advisor to the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, which differentiates between trust and trust in the issue of political representation through hierarchy, where it is considered that trust comes from below, while power comes from the top and therefore as long as the hierarchy of political representation (local / central) comes from below, the matter is nothing more than a the trust contract is not a representation mandate that citizens delegate to their political representatives, but on the other hand, critics of this proposition point to a loophole in the philosophy of political

representation in Carrie de Malbargo Specifically in the issue of citizens establishing a legal center for the elected within the decision-making system, these critics believe that this legal center, which will allow the people's representative to access the decision-making system, is the same as making the trust granted by the citizens turn into an authority granted to him by the system to which he belongs, which is what can be dropped on the example of the President of the Municipal People's Assembly, le président de l'assemblée populaire communale in our representative system, who enjoys the status of la double casquette, as a representative of the people on the one hand, i.e. the holder of a contract of confidence and a representative of the state (regional community) on the other hand, a holder of On the authority contract / guardianship and therefore "the philosophy of local political representation is based on the duality of the trust contract and the authority contract."

3. participatory democracy

To understand the sociology of participatory democracy, it is necessary to use the historical approach of the French historian Alexis de Tocqueville, author of one of the most important pillars of knowledge in understanding the historical course of regional administration entitled "l'ancien régime et la révolution Française", in which he referred to the historical rupture of the French administration with her legacy before 1789, he expressed:

"It is in the commune that the strength of free peoples resides, communal institutions are to freedom what primary schools are to science, they give a taste of peaceful use and accustom them to using it.

Without communal institutions a nation can give itself a free government but it does not have the spirit of freedom."

He stated that the strength and freedom of individuals lies in

the local administrative organization represented in the municipality, the government as an executive body and a decision-making center does not depend in essence on the local public administration in the image of the municipality, as it is an organization that lacks the spirit of freedom that is one of the three pillars of the French Revolution (fraternity, equality, freedom), here Toqueville refers us to the roots of the participatory approach to regional administration and the conduct of public affairs, which have roots that were already embodied before the French Revolution, where he was entrusted with the management of the local affairs of the inhabitants of the villages to what he termed the general population *le général des habitants* or what was called at that time the *commune jurée* general assembly of the municipality, but according to the chronological presentation of Toqueville, the signs of participatory democracy date back to the establishment of the Third Republic starting in 1795 And the transition from a given traditional representativeness shackled by the tutelage of the monarchy to the participatory given that was revived by democracy, whose first fruits began to be evident with the Second Republic.

This later contributed to the establishment of one of the pillars of partnership in the regional groups, what is known as the referendum local *le*, which is framed by elected local councils according to the text of Article 72 of the Constitution of the Fourth Republic.

4. sociological reading of the organizational framework of participatory democracy in municipal delegates - a procedural study of a sample of delegates of the administrative districts at the level of the municipality headquarters of Ain Temouchent - Algeria –

With regard to the procedural framework of this study, the descriptive approach was relied on in presenting the structure of the municipal delegation, which consists of a deliberative structure represented in the Municipal People's Council, a political structure represented by the political party to which this delegate belongs, in addition to the structure of the local community represented in the neighborhoods of the administrative district. As for procedural research techniques, the direct interview was employed in its semi-directed type, while working on not allocating questions that restrict the respondent in his answers and leaving a margin of freedom, which may help in obtaining additional data that are not directly related to the research problem but serve the subject of the research.

As for the study variables and research samples, the independent variable was limited to the social capital that the municipal team possessed in its district before being appointed as its delegate, and the dependent variable is represented in participatory democracy between the delegate and the citizens.

Ain Temouchent, of which 02 males and 02 females were appointed by virtue of a decision issued by the President of the Municipal People's Council of the municipality of Ain Temouchent on 16/01/2022 at the level of each of the districts of the new city, Sidi Said, Al-Jawhara and the neighborhood of love ex saint Rock within the framework of the electoral mandate of the Municipal People's Council 2022/2027.

Presentation and analysis of data related to the research hypothesis "The more social capital is employed for the municipal delegate, the more it violates participatory democracy."

Table 1. Relationship of the social capital of the municipal delegate to the participatory action of the citizen

Relation	Citizen participation in the management of the municipal delegation		Total
	There is no	There Is	
Residence of the delegate within the province's denial before appointment	03	01	04
The delegate exercising a free activity within the same province	03	01	04
The delegate practicing a public administrative activity within the same district	02	02	04
Total	08	04	12

Source: done by the researcher on 01/25/2022 at the municipality of Ain Temouchent.

4.1 The comment

Table No. 01 shows the procedurally obtained data regarding the relationship of the delegate’s social capital variable with the participatory democracy variable, the focus was on measuring the degree of correlation between them by calculating the coefficient de contingence in order to capture the degree of compatibility between

them, as long as that Both variables are qualitative, not quantitative, and therefore this coefficient was calculated using the following law:

Compatibility coefficient = $c-1/c$, where c is the sum of the square of the cell / the sum of the row of the cell (the sum of the column and $c = (3)^2/6(4 + (1)^2/6(4 + (2)^2/6(4 + (1)^2/6(4 + (3)^2/6(4 + 2) (2 / 6(4)$. Therefore, $c = 0.37 + 0.04 + 0.16 + 0.04 + 0.37 + 0.16 = 1.14$.

Thus, the coefficient of compatibility: $0.60 = rc = 1.14 - 11.06$.

Therefore, the obtained value was 0.60 between the values of 0 and 1 on the correlation scale, and from it we conclude that the relationship between social capital and participatory democracy in this situation represents a strong positive direct relationship.

The extent of the impact of the social capital of the municipal representative on the degree of participation of the citizens of his district in the management of their representative, where the procedural research referred us to the presence of 03 delegates out of 04 with a percentage of 75 (of the total sample have tribal social ties (before they were appointed as delegates) with the residents of the district by virtue of neighborhood.

Therefore, they own social capital at the level of their delegates, which precedes the representative capital when they are appointed as delegates, and this inevitably reflects on the quality of the relationship between the municipal delegate and the citizens in the matter of their contribution within the framework of participatory democracy in the conduct of public affairs, which was confirmed by the surveyed sample as being more open to the citizens of their districts with regard to by managing public hygiene files, preparing public spaces, organizing the neighborhood market, as well as proposals for urban development projects, and this is compared to their counterparts from the representatives of the rest of the municipalities who do not have tribal social capital in the province.

5. Sociological reading of the results of the research hypothesis

“The more social capital is employed for the municipal delegate, the more it violates participatory democracy.”

The reading of the content of the results came from a sociological perspective as follows:

a. A transformation process has been observed that affected the nature of participatory democracy in its local dimension, due to the change that occurred in the local representative space, in view of the legislator's interest in the social capital variable of the local team in embodying the participatory approach of local groups, as the creation of municipal commissions came in presenting the reasons Municipal Law 11/10, which is devoted to the principle of lack of focus in the activity of administrative interests, especially those related to the utility service directed to the citizen and urban management, Whereas Article 133 of Law No. 10/11 relating to the municipality, dated Rajab 20/ 1432 corresponding to June 22, 2011, stipulates that the municipality can create delegates and administrative annexes by organizing according to the interests of the public utility, the objective of which is to effectively manage cities with large human concentrations, under the supervision of the Municipal People's Council, which undertakes, according to a deliberation, to provide the material and human means for the activities of these delegates, which are headed by a local elect who is proposed and appointed by the President of the Municipal People's Council and authorizes him to sign it in the control of civil status and the conduct of public affairs. For an administrative balance based on the duality of representation and appointment,

Six years after the implementation of the new municipal law, Executive Decree No. 16-258 came to strengthen the role of delegates as a space for citizen participation, especially after recording shortcomings in representative democracy that failed to involve citizens in the conduct of their public affairs, so the transition from



representative democracy to democracy Participation that makes the citizen an active participant in the public policy-making and decision-making process (Qerqah, 2011, p. 188), since a large part of the daily social demands may not be addressed, which reflects the fragility of The link between the citizen and the local team.

The hypothesis that “the appointment of the municipal representative at the level of an administrative district in which he has social capital violates participatory democracy” requires a sociological reading of Executive Decree 16-258 in Article 11 of Chapter Two, which determined the legal position of the delegate in activating the municipal delegation through two tasks:

Providing public service to the beneficiaries, as well as designing programs to improve the standard of living and economic development within the borders of this province, therefore, the appointment of a municipal representative at the head of an administrative district is originally one of its residents, or in a sociological sense, in which he owns an un capital social, based on the Municipal Law 10/11 in Article 138, which we find states:

“It is taken into account, as far as possible, in appointing the municipal representative, that he is a resident of that part of the municipality.”, then it is not in the obligatory form, but the legislator left the discretionary power to the head of the Municipal People’s Assembly in this, which was revealed to us by the field study by adopting the Aïn Temouchent Municipal People’s Council as a social capital that the elected gained either through le voisinage or residence la résidence as a tool to facilitate the implementation of The participatory approach, and here the sample surveyed sees that the municipality law 10/11, which referred to taking into account the appointment of a municipal representative belonging to the province, without obligating that with an explicit article, reflects, according to them, a pragmatic trend that the guardianship seeks to establish in the

field, through its adoption of the approach of the new public management NMP focused on the communicative approach between Formal and informal actors in the administrative district, the indicator of pragmatism for them lies in their appointment, as they have an accurate perception of the specificities of the province, as they were part of its population and are familiar with its formal and informal interactions and idiosyncrasies, which will make it easier for them, according to the legislator, to deal with daily public affairs without neglecting any social part that may cause the deterioration of their relationship as delegates with In addition, the research sample supported the pragmatic proposition on which the legislator relies on the adoption of social capital as a tool for participatory democracy, given that the time factor is important in evaluating the quality of citizen participation, as appointing him, for example, in a province where he does not have sufficient data, will take a large amount of time from his representative custody In his knowledge of the human structure of the boycott and its specificity, which negatively reflects on the speed of their involvement in activating public action. However, we felt from the delegates' answers in recognition of the other unauthorized dimension of pragmatism, as we noticed that the research sample repeated the terms they used us, as 3 members of the sample repeated saying, "If it wasn't for my relationship with the citizens of the province, I would not have been appointed at the head of its delegate," and the employment of social capital in the Participatory democracy on the relational balance.

However, the field research referred us to an un paradoxe that all members of the sample confirmed to us that they want to run municipal delegations other than those in which they have social capital, as this puts them in front of the so-called double obligation that hinders opening the way for citizens in the framework of

participatory democracy this is due to the dominance of the non-institutional aspect in the relationship of the municipal representative with the citizens, given the social link prior to his presidency of the delegation, which leaves traditional traces in his relationship with them, citizens and even the municipal representative remain subconsciously represented, which may deviate his interaction with them in the framework of participatory democracy from its institutional context and prejudice the purpose for which it was set especially since the municipal delegate is authorized by the President of the Municipal People's Council with the status of double cap (Bernard, 2001, p. 33) As a representative of the regional community as well as a representative of the state, and therefore he is governed by a representative obligation towards the citizens of his administrative district in everything related to the conduct of their public affairs, and at the same time he is also governed by a functional obligation coupled with an organizational text towards the Council The Municipal People's Authority delegated them to run the public affairs of their administrative district, and here the effect of the common social balance is evident as a decisive factor in analyzing the relationship of the delegate with the citizen.

As long as it leads to a dilution of the institutional nature in their relationship, which is also reflected in the delegate's obligations towards his guardianship, as some delegates indicated that they sometimes resorted to illegal behaviors in organizing a local development issue, as a result of pressure from their citizens, and considered this a diligence from them in the face of these daily demands, without recourse to the guardianship that obstructs the proposals that they raise in the name of the citizens of their districts, on the pretext that they cannot be embodied or that they do not reflect a development priority, which often leads to the transformation of participatory into a clash between the delegate and the elected council.

to facilitate its integration with the social peculiarities of the district that it represents, in order to increase the efficiency of communication between it and the citizens as partners in local development, but it has produced in parallel pathological phenomena such as the tyranny of the traditional pattern over the institutional pattern in the interaction of the delegate with his citizens, which violates the limits of participatory democracy and makes Including a factor of chaos, not a factor of coordination, and here we are based on the study of the French researcher Guillaume Petit entitled "The Sociology of Participatory Commitment" Sociology of participatory engagement - production and reception of institutional offers of participation at the municipal level (Petit, 2017, p. 341)".

Where he touched on the problem of diluting the social capital of the municipal representative for participatory democracy, where the researcher proceeded from the following problem:

Is participatory commitment determined by social capital? here, he referred to the impact of the social capital of the various actors of this system (delegates, citizens, civil society) on their interactions and the outcomes of this system, especially if it is misused or not controlled, which will lead to the delegation losing its institutional advantage, so traditional/informal interaction patterns dominate among the various actors. Its actors, therefore, he referred to another criterion by which the recruitment of the social capital element is moderate, which is the criterion of social selectivity, as the researcher considered it an effective mechanism to isolate what he called in his thesis the effect of the employment of social capital.

Social selectivity is an instrument for isolating the compensating effect of the social capital of the municipal delegate (Petit, 2017, p. 342).



By dropping this criterion on our sociological preoccupation, we find that addressing the imbalance between social capital and participatory democracy for the municipal delegate requires a corrective action, based on the selection of the quality of social capital by presenting elected representatives who constituted social capital with an institutional background through their practice of activities. An annex at the level of these provinces compared to other elected representatives who formed social capital with a traditional background, through le voisinage, as the first sample had previously interacted with its citizens in an institutional framework and thus controls the employment of its social capital in its institutional context represented in participatory democracy.

The second sample, the pattern of its interaction with its citizens, was traditional, as the municipal representative will find it very difficult to participate with the citizens of his district in the conduct of public affairs, due to the predominance of non-institutional considerations in their relationship.

6. CONCLUSION

The movement witnessed by the local communities has called for the trend towards a new management style that removes the citizen from the circle of the demands/recipient, to being an active and participant within the local decision-making system by adopting the foundations of participatory democracy based on the foundation of what the researchers Dominique and L. Blondiaux have termed Et C. Dominique with the mechanisms of participation (Dominique and L. Blondiaux, 2006, p. 45) that work to bring the disengaged citizen (Fromentin, 2008, p. 39) into discussions of public interest. As it represents a field for political upbringing in the local dimension and the establishment of what is termed as the experience of citizens as one of the pillars through which the local public action crystallizes, especially if we drop this on the working mechanisms of local groups in the Algerian model, which has become dependent on the

employment of social capital For the local team, as a criterion in activating the performance of the participation devices, as this social balance produced representations that affected the imagination of both the municipal delegate as well as the citizens of his administrative district about the concept of participatory democracy, which led to the dominance of the pattern of interactions with a traditional/informal dimension over the pattern of institutional/official interactions.

The municipal delegate was unable to institutionalize the social capital shared by his citizens, which made the participatory democracy pursued by the municipal delegation governed by unofficial considerations, in conflict with the legal framework that regulates its work, which reflects the cases of contradictions in which the municipal delegate falls as a result of his breach of his organizational commitment towards the People's Assembly the municipality delegated by the conduct of public affairs, which requires a reconsideration of the issue of employing social capital as a criterion in the participatory approach of municipalities, as the success of this approach in certain countries and its failure in others remains linked to the factor of institutional maturity la maturité institutionnelle for local groups, which is what specialists work through To move beyond the general conception of participatory democracy to a more accurate conception, which is the proximité la démocratie.

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Residence of the delegate within the province's denial before appointment	03	0
The delegate exercising a free activity within the same province	03	0
The delegate practicing a public administrative activity within the same district	02	0
Total	08	0



