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Communication skills as a mechanism to enhance international cooperation to achieve sustainable development programs during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to reveal the communication skills used by the communicator in Algerian environmental associations to achieve sustainable development programs, during the Corona pandemic, and the extent of their contribution to the impl-ementation of the WHO protocol, raising the degree of awareness of the citizen, and the delivery of international aid. The study reached the following results: The communicator involved diversified communication skills by using the help of role modals and influencers on the one hand, and relying on social networking sites on the other. Live broadcast videos are the best way to enhance the activity of associations to confront the pandemic. Relying on intimidation rather than persuasion in educating citizens. live broadcasting technology enhances success of aid delivery and fundraising operations.

Keywords: communicationskills, Covid19, environment, international cooperation, sustainable development.

لملخص:

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية إلى الكشف عن المهارات الاتصالية المستخدمة من طرف القائم بالاتصال في الجمعيات البيية المزائرية لتحقيق برامج التنمية المستدامة، في ظل جائجة كورونا، ومدى مساهمتها في تطبيق بروتوكول منظمة الصحة العالمية، ورفع درجة الوعي لدى المواطن، ومدى مساهمتها في إيصال المساعدات الدولية. حيث توصلت الدراسة إلى النتائج التالية:

- اعتمد القائم بالاتصال على التنويع في استخدام المهارات الاتصالية بين الاستعانة بقادة الرأي و المؤثرين من جهة، و الاعتماد على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي من جهة أخرى.
 - فيديو هات البث المباشر هي الوسيلة الأفضل لتفعيل النشاط الجمعوى لمواجهة الجائحة.
 - الاعتماد على أسلوب (التخويف)، أكثر من (الإقناع)في توعية المواطنين.
- تقنية البث المباشر لها دور أساسي في إنجاح عمليات ايصال المساعدات وجمع التبرعات أثناء تطبيق الحجر الصحي. الكلمات المقتاحية: البيئة، التنمية المستدامة، التعاون الدولي ، المهارات الاتصالية ، كوفيد19.

I. INTRODUCTION

Today, the entire world is still floundering in finding a way out of the real predicament of the Coronavirus pandemic, despite attempts to coexist with it and follow preventive measures that are merely palliative and not real treatments. Panic has subsided but everyone still remembers when the media reported scenes of chaos and altercations across the world between consumers attempting to acquire goods, protective supplies, and oxygen bottles, as well as scenes of overcrowded hospitals unable to accommodate additional patients.

These tense conditions were problematic even for powerful countries that shuffled administration members and peoples in an attempt to raise the degree of maximum preparedness. Civil societies also had a significant role in structuring and organizing initiatives and carrying out campaigns to confront this pandemic. As communication specialists, we wanted to know how to employ communication activities by such associations to achieve the established goals of the World Health Organization, as part of the international community's commitments within the framework of sustainable development programs. Within this framework, we posed the following question:

What is the role of communication activities of local and national associations in Algeria during the Coronavirus pandemic as a mechanism to enhance cooperation on environmental and sustainable development issues?

- we also raised a number of additional questions:
- -What are the activities, means, and communication methods employed by local and national associations in Algeria in order to confront the Covid-19 pandemic?
- -What are the obstacles to collective communication that local and national associations in Algeria encountered while confronting the Covid 19 pandemic?
- -To what extent have local and national associations been able to cooperate with each other and with various actors in raising awareness of the programs of the World Health Organization and implementing a protocol for prevention?

1- Hypotheses:

- -The activities, means, and communication methods used varied according to the nature of the local or national association.
- -Quarantine procedures, comprehensive closures, and the suspension of transportation activity were among the most substantial obstacles encountered by those employing community communication activities during the pandemic.
- -Algerian local and national associations were able to participate in bilateral cooperation programs by contributing to international aid shipments, as well as receiving vaccine doses from abroad.

3- Concepts of the study:

3-1- Communication skills:

The word communication is derived from the Latin origin of the verb communicate, which means to share.communication skills: A variety of aspects are important in the context of these skills, such as listening, (Jaber Mohamed, 1983:11)

Communication: (Hoveland) defines the term as the process in which an individual from an organization sends a signal in some way to another individual with the aim of influencing his behavior and actions. (Hoveland, Carl 1980:130)

3-2-Associative Communication:

Idiomatically: It is the process through which opinions, ideas, meanings and experiences are transferred from the members of the association who are entrusted with conveying these, according to their budget and audience, to the broad community and various groups, target audience (Eric Dacheux, 2001:03)

3-3 Environment:

Idiomatically: In the French language, the word "environnement" means the natural and artificial elements that surround a person(MereilleMaurin,1996:43)

In the English language, the word "environment" is used to denote the surrounding conditions that affect development and also include elements of nature.

The technical meaning of the word environment is: the natural and biological conditions and factors, and the economic, social and cultural factors, which form the natural environment for

human life and other organisms and are governed by the so-called ecosystem. (Ahmed Abdel Karim, 1992:33)

3-4- Sustainable development: A philosophy with a new vision to search for social structures, economic activities, production and consumption patterns, and technologies that work on the sustainability of the environment, empowering the current generation, improving its life, and ensuring a suitable life for future generations. To achieve this, it is necessary to reformulate the current activities or invent new ones and then work on integrating them into the existing environment to create sustainable development that is culturally acceptable, economically feasible, environmentally appropriate, politically applicable, and socially just.(Abdullah bin Jamaan Al-Ghamdi, 2001:32)

Idiomatically: The definition of the World Commission on Sustainable Development in the report entitled "Our Common Future and Sustainable Development," as defined by this commission in 1987, is "meeting the needs of the present without destroying the ability of future generations to meet their own needs(BouzianeRahmaniHajar, Bakdi F,2005:02)

3-5- COVID-19: idiomatically it is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus (Corona). The English name for the disease is derived as follows: "CO" are the first two letters of the word Corona (CORONA) and "VI" are the first two letters of the word virusAnd "D" is the first letter of the word DISEASE. This disease was previously called NOVEL 2019 and it is a new virus related to the same family of viruses that cause severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and some types of common colds. (Hassan Bousarsoub, Omar Bin Aishoush,2020:293)

4- Objectives of the study:

- -Articulate the methods for employing local and national associations for communication in their daily activities at various levels.
- -Identify the extent of the contribution of local and national associations in confronting the Coronavirus pandemic.
- -Uncover obstacles to associative communication and their impact on the contribution of local and national associations while confronting the Coronavirus pandemic.

5- Previous studies:

5-1 Study of Wajdi Abdel Rahman Sheikh Bawazeer (2006): The role of communication activities of environmental associations in the Republic of Yemen in developing environmental awareness - a field study and analytics"

This study started with the problematic role of communication activities practiced by communicators in Yemeni environmental associations while attempting to develop environmental awareness. It also delved into how the choice communication methods depends on the degree of awareness development.

5-1-1- Study Approach:

The study falls within descriptive research and includes an attempt to provide character analysis—that is, with the aim of moving from understanding the method of choice of the means and communication methods adopted by the communicator to knowing the reasons behind such choices in lieu of other options in Yemeni communication associations activities geared toward developing environmental awareness.

5-1-2-Research community:

The research community consisted of those in contact with environmental associations in the Republic of Yemen, in addition to the public involved in such environmental associations.

5-1-3-The study sample:

In his study, the researcher relied on a random sample of (340) individuals of both sexes, ranging in age from 18 to 50 years, distributed across several regions in the Republic of Yemen and comprised of associative activists, affiliates of associations, and those in charge of them.

5-1-4-Research tools: the study aimed to identify the role of communication activities in environmental associations through field and analytical research of a sample of associations concerned with environmental issues in the Republic of Yemen through the following:

Studying members of the public who frequent environmental associations by applying a survey form to find out their opinions about what such associations do, taking into account demographic variables.

Studying the content of publications issued by environmental associations to find out what they have achieved in developing environmental awareness.

5-1-6-The most important results of the study:

- -The study provided indicators that future studies can address, and they can be summarized as follows: Monitoring and analyzing the role of the media in spreading the concept of volunteer work and popular participation.
- -Studying the role of personal communication in achieving the goals of NGOs and developing awareness of their importance.
- -Studying how NGOs can benefit from mass communication means to achieve goals.
- -Studying the social responsibility of environmental associations.
- **5-2- Study of Inas Abdel Hamid (2003):** On the communicative function of the local community development associations.

The study was conducted on a sample of (30) associations from the governorates of Cairo and Giza

Relied upon a survey method that depended on a form, and was directed to the public frequenting the association, as well as those in charge of implementing the association's programs. In addition, interviews were conducted with some workers in the field of social work and those interested in it; direct observation of what is happening inside the associations was also employed.

5-2-1-The most important results of the study:

- -Members of the local community participate positively in defining the activities of the associations.
- -Associations used multiple means for publicity and promoting its activities among members of the local community in order to achieve its goals.
- -Weak financial capabilities, individuals' lack of interest in content, lack of available technical expertise, and complex language used in dialogue were the most significant difficulties encountered in the communicative activities of associations.

5-3- Study of Halima Habhoub (2015): The Role of Television Media Campaigns in Health Awareness

The researcher started from a problem about the endeavors of institutions, charities and organizations.

Health awareness aims to promote both awareness and education about health, which is of paramount importance in the lives of individuals and societies, as well as conveying the real reason for such television media campaigns are conducted to the public, based on the following question:

What is the role of television media campaigns in health awareness?

5-3-1-Objectives:

- -Identify the role played by television media campaigns in health awareness for the Algerian public.
- -Identify the habits and television viewing patterns of residents of the city O.Bouaghi for television media campaigns for health awareness aimed at the Algerian public.
- -Identify the most important cognitive and behavioral benefits of health media campaigns for their viewers.

5-3-2-The importance of the study:

The importance of this study lies in examining health awareness and understanding the extent to which individuals are interested in awareness media campaigns, in addition to recruiting various media organizations and urging them to address this phenomenon, planning media campaigns to develop health awareness, and studying the role played by health awareness campaigns in comparison to other campaigns in society, and, to understand the extent to which can benefit from media campaigns.

5-3-3-Study population and sample:

The research community in this study was formed of residents of the city of Oum El Bouaghi, which was limited to a sample of the population that included 100 individuals from the population exposed to television.

5-3-4-Results

The most important results of this study are:

- 51% of the respondents sometimes watched awareness campaigns, 44% rarely watched them, and 5% of the respondents always watched them.
- -A campaign for early detection of cancer came in first place, followed by a blood donation campaign at second place, a healthy nutrition campaign in third place, an AIDS protection campaign in fourth place, a seasonal vaccination campaign in fifth place, and, finally, a diet campaign in sixth place.
- -The majority of respondents were affected by these campaigns, but a small percentage were not.
- -The majority of the sample members considered such campaigns as an alternative to direct health discourse, and a few of them considered it the opposite. The majority of the respondents thought these awareness campaigns focused on healthy activities, while the rest of them thought otherwise.

6- Study Methodology:

To reach sound and objective results that enable the answer to the questions and inquiries sought by the researcher, he must employ a specific approach during the various stages of his study.

Curriculum: An organized set of processes that seek to achieve a goal. (Maurice Angres, 2006:92) The manner to reveal the truth in the sciences by means of a set of general rules that dominate the mind, and determine its operations, until it reaches known results. (Abd al-Rahman Badawi, 1997:08) It is also defined as the method the scientist adopts in his research or study of his problem to reach solutions or results, whatever its importance and manner. (al-Rahman Muhammad al-Issawy, Abd al-Fattah Muhammad al-Issawy, 1997:13)

In this study, we relied on the descriptive approach, as it is the most efficient in revealing the reality of phenomenon and highlighting characteristics. Descriptive studies depend on describing phenomenon, including elements and their relationships in the current situation through collecting information and data, extracting its significance, and generalizing it to studied phenomenon. The descriptive approach studies phenomenon as it exists in reality and describes it accurately and expresses it qualitatively and quantitatively.(Bouhoush, Muhammad Mahmoud Al-Thneibat,2011:129)

7- Research community and study sample:

Determining the research community is an important step of the research, as it requires the researcher to identify the community in which to conduct the study; this choice determines the spatial-temporal scope of the research.

The research community is represented in the communicators, the reluctant public, and those involved in local and national associations in the state of Jijel. Given the difficulty of carrying out a comprehensive survey of all the research vocabulary, a sample must be taken that represents this complex research: the sample is a subset of the study community that is selected in a certain way, and the study is conducted on it, Then, using those results, the researcher generalizes them in relation to the entire original study population (Obeidat 1999:74)

8- Study sample:

The sample is not just a part of the community as agreed, but is also a choice in which rules and scientific considerations are taken into account so that its results are generalizable to the original community. (Muhammad MunirHegab,2003:31)

The choice of the intentional sample is also on the basis that it responds to a measurement set by the researcher, or he can consider it as a model for his research community, so he determines its size and chooses its units in the manner and method that achieves the objectives to be researched. An intentional sample of 86 individuals who are active and actually exposed to the activities of associations in the state of Jijel was selected, applying the approach to them. The survey and the survey method in data collection, included a component for a sample of the public who frequents the association, and another for communicators at the association level, in addition to an interview with some workers in the field of social work and those interested in it in light of the outbreak of the pandemic. The direct observation method was also adopted as a research tool to monitor what was being done and activities within the association.

9- Data collection tools:

There are many methods of data collection that are used in scientific research, such as questionnaires, interviews, observations, and content analysis. Given the nature of the subject and methodology used in the study, we relied on a questionnaire tool directed at the research vocabulary, and content analysis to analyze the communication outputs of associations such as brochures, advertisements, instructional clips, and others. We also used notes to monitor some of the communication methods of the associations targeted in the study.

10- Field study:

Table01 (Distribution of respondents' answers about the means through which they follow the activities of associations)

alternatives	Repetition	Percentage
local radio	07	%08.1
SocialMedia	64	% 74.4
Stickers	04	% 04.7
Local newspaper	01	% 1.2
Brochures	10	%11.6
Total	86	%100

Reference: The table was elaborated by the researcher.

-The data of the previous table indicates that: 74.4% of the respondents followthe communication and awareness activities of associations through social networking sites, in order to facilitate access to all new and available content everywhere and at any time. This was followed by leaflets by 11.6%, and this shows the ability of associations to reach their audience through leaflets despite pandemic conditions in which electronic means are preferred over paper to ensure distancing and avoid contact. This was followed by 1.2% of respondents who followed communicative activities via the local newspaper. This is due to an age variable, as such respondents were between the ages of 40-55 years, as shown in the tables of demographic variables.

Table 02: (Research sample member answers about the knowledge needs that the local associations convey to raise awareness of the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Cognitive needs	Repetition	Percentage
virus emergence	13	%15.1
Ways of spreading the virus	09	% 10.5
daily stats	18	% 20.9
proliferation foci	21	% 24.4
Prevention measures according to the protocol of the World Health Organization	25	%29.1
Total	86	%100

Reference: The table was elaborated by the researcher.

-The data of the previous table indicates that: the prevention measures according to the protocol of the World Health Organization are the first knowledge need association audiences seek to obtain, with a percentage of 29.15%, given the state of great interest anxiety as peoplemonitor the developments of the virus on the one hand, and on the other hand, the credibility that associations have with their audience. These are indicated by tables about the respondents' answers regarding their confidence in the information provided by associations compared to

other parties, followed by the foci of spread by 24.4%, followed by daily statistics 20.9%, then the emergence of the virus by 15.1%, and finally by the ways the virus spreads by 10.5%

Table03: (Responses of the research sample members on the extent to which local associations organize joint activities with other national and international parties in order to raise awareness of the danger of the COVID-19 pandemic)

alternatives	Repetition	Percentage
local associations	24	%27.9
National Societies	19	% 22.1
Hospitals	16	% 18.6
Government agencies	19	% 22.1
international organizations	08	%09.3
Total	86	%100

Reference: The table was elaborated by the researcher.

-The data of the previous table indicates that: the coordination of activities with local associations was substantial at 27.9% compared to the percentage of coordination with national societies and government agencies, which were both at 22.1%. This is due to the fact that local societies, due to geographic considerations, are forced to coordinate with each other more than with national societies. In addition, government agencies often leave discretionary power in the hands of local administrations about how to act during the pandemic; in fact, the coordination rate with hospitals reached 18.6%, which is close to the rest of the previous ratios, which means that efforts were equally divided in all directions. This may be due to the associations' keenness to cover all aspects of the needs imposed by the pandemic at all levels, while coordination with international organizations, such as with the World Health Organization and the Red Crescent, was at a rate of 09.3%.

Table 04: (The answers of the research sample members about the preferred language in their communication with associations during the awareness activities they carry out to develop awareness of the danger of Covid 19)

alternatives	Repetition	Percentage	
Arabic language	60	%69.76	
French language	10	% 11.62	
local dialect	16	% 18.60	
Total	86	%100	

Reference : The table was elaborated by the researcher.

-The data of the previous table indicates: the preferred language of associations' audiences in their communication with them is Arabic first, with a percentage of 69.9%, followed by local dialects in second place with a rate of 23.3%, and then the French language inlast place with a rate of 07%. This is due to the fact the current generation is "Arabised." Also, the local dialect brings the recipient closer to the association and provides him a sense of belonging to the association; it immerses him in daily life and thus is directed to him and understands his daily needs and helps to satisfy such needs. The fact that the French language was in the last place, and formed a very small percentage, reflects thesegment of society who over age 50 who are also trained in the French language, or had a combination of predominantly French education.

Table 05: Represents an analysis of the content of environmental programs carried out by associations in order to raise awareness of the risks of the Covid 19 pandemic in order to enhance cooperation to confront Covid 19.

Illustrations in programs	Charts	% 30		
	Realistic photos	% 40	1	
	video and audio		1000/	
	commentary	% 21	100%	
		Music	% 05	
		motion graphics	% 04	
the		mentality (persuasion)	% 10	
shape allures	allures	emotional (intimidation)	% 58	100%
		Mix	% 32	
	.1	Arabic	% 78	
	the	French	% 06	100%
	language	local dialect	% 16	
		Printed	% 14	
		Audiovisual	% 12	
	Program type	Interactive (through social media)	% 74	100%
Target Content Values	Awareness of the danger of covid 19	% 55		
	Explanation of the association's program in the face of the pandemic	% 11		
	Sharpening determination and persuasion of the need for concerted efforts and sacrifice in order to confront the pandemic Evaluate the results of	% 28	100%	
		campaigns on the ground	% 06	
	X7 1	Social	% 11	1
	values	Healthy	% 46	100%
		Educational	% 03	
		Environmental	% 40	

Reference: The table was elaborated by the researcher.

The data in the previous table indicates:that associations adopted outputs

- 1- In terms of shape:
- 1-1- Illustrations: The associations relied on realistic images in 40% of cases, followed by graphics for 30%, then audio and video commentary for 21%, followed by music by 50%, then motion graphics by 4%, and this is due to the ability of real images to Persuading the viewer, especially as he is in a constant and eager search for information, as well as for the accompanying effects such as voice commentary and music, but it is faulted by the slight neglect of the use of motion graphics, even though it is the language of the era in advertising and marketing.
- 1-2- Persuading: In their persuasions to the public through their outputs, the associations relied on emotional persuasion (intimidation method) by 58 percent, followed by the combination of the two methods by 32 percent, then relying on mental solicitations (persuasion method) by 10 percent, due to the scarcity of information Confirmed about this virus, because every time a new mutant appears and needs to convince the recipient of the need to take a second dose because

the first dose (which was convincing him of its effectiveness in the previous days), he resorted to the method of intimidation.

- 1-3- Language: In terms of the language adopted in the outputs, the associations relied on the Arabic language for 78%, followed by local dialect for 16%, and finally the French language for 06%. This is in complete accordance with the preferences of the public of associations, in terms of their language of communication.
- 1-4- Type of programs: In terms of the type of programs, the associations relied on interactive programs on social networking sites 74% of output. Facebook is the best means according to the results of the analysis of other tables, followed by other outputs such as publications, brochures and clippings14%, then audiovisual programs, such as appearing in radio and television programs, at 12%.
- 2- In terms of content:
- 2-1- Objective: An analysis of the content of the associations' outputs showed that 55% of its content aims to raise awareness of the danger of Covid 19, followed by galvanizing and convincing the target audience of the need for concerted efforts and sacrifice in order to confront the pandemic at 28%. This was followed by explaining the association's programs during the pandemic at 11% This is due to the fact that the first days witnessed recklessness and lack of commitment on the part of the citizens and the failure to take the matter seriously, so it was necessary that all activities and campaigns be in the framework of awareness of the dangers
- 2-2- Values: health values by 46%, followed by environmental values by 40%, then social values by 11%, followed by educational values by 33%.

Conclusion: The lockdowns in Algeria and the world due to the pandemic have made the role of associations very crucial but also difficult, as the pandemic led to feelings of helplessness, and agencies struggled to control the principles and mechanisms of communication with people

The study confirmed that the ability of associations to provide community services during the pandemic was much less than anticipated, with a significant difference in ability among them. The study also revealed that the activities, means, and communication methods used, differed according to the nature of the local or national association.

Recklessness and indifference were among the most significant obstacles encountered while associations conducted collective communication activities during the pandemic.

- Algerian local and national associations were able to participate in bilateral cooperation programs through simple activities such as contributing to international aid shipments and receiving vaccine doses from abroad.

Study recommendations and proposals: To overcome the obstacles of the role of communicative activities with environmental associations in achieving cooperation programs regarding environmental and sustainable development issues, which are:

- 1- Providing financial support from the state and the private sector to help associations.
- 2- Matching personal communication with mass and collective communication so that one does not hinder the other's goal.
- 3- Ensuring the provision of training courses to raise the level of competency of those who are in charge of communication at the environmental associations.
- 4- Using advertising in marketing for local associations and linking them to development programs. including women in associations to benefit from their ability to persuade their counterparts in conservative societies.
- 5- Relying on the ability of opinion to quickly influence the various segments of society. Rrlying on influencers role models to quickly influence the various segments of society

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