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Conclusion and recommendations

In conclusion, the experiences and research in some developed countries prove that quality care for young children, in addition to fostering the development of intellectual abilities and physical strengths, leads it to a greater chance of success in life. The child is the citizen of tomorrow. The gains made for his education should not to be considered from the standpoint of profits, but rather from the standpoint of benefits that society will derive later.

Thus, as we have seen throughout this case study, the issue of childcare is a multidimensional concept. Its impact on women's employment is not without results. Its positive impact on the future of the child is supported by research and experience in different countries. Government must address everything that implies policy and strategies to achieve it. Algeria has invested heavily in the education sector since the independence, and progress is evident at all levels of education based on the infrastructure, including at the primary or university level and in the number of pupils and students.

However, many devices have been developed in recent years to promote and encourage women to work and invest in income-generating activities. Investment in early childhood, in particular, has an important relationship to the employment of women.

We know also that the level of education among Algerian women, including those living in rural areas, has improved considerably, as many women increasingly aspire to undertake a professional career or launch a project in order to experience individual success and also to improve their individual and familial situation and living conditions. This goal can only be achieved if we address concerns about the care of their children. Childcare is already a huge constraint for Algerian women living in urban areas. The study was conducted in 10 rural municipalities and was designed to provide clarification about the experiences of women in these regions, as well as the perceptions and attitudes of these women and the general population of these regions toward childcare in order to promote value creation. Some recommendations can be issued to help practitioners and policy makers solving this issue (Bryceson and Howe, 1993; Grimm, 2011; Henn, 1983; Okech, 2013; Shaw and De Bruin, 2013; Situmoranga and Mirzantia, 2012).

in both municipalities is very positive because all think it assures education and learning that enables future success in their schooling. The analysis of data from this study on the participants' attitudes toward taking care of their region and the periods and durations for childcare that would be best suited and appropriate to these regions showed two positions, but a preponderance of groups of beneficiaries, especially those of the wilaya of Tipasa, favored non-regular care:

- Half of the group advocates forming all-day care throughout the year;
- The other half of the groups supporting the formation of irregular care, preferably during the mornings and not necessarily during the whole year.

These justify choices made by specific populations and women in these areas. Indeed, in their rural areas, woman engaged an agricultural or craft activity will send these children in the morning for all the day and during periods when she is busy. However, group attitudes are generally still favorable toward childcare.

On the type of care, a preponderance favored daycare. Indeed, for the 20 surveyed groups, all 16 groups' members said unanimously that they prefer daycare. On the elements they consider most important when choosing a daycare, two primary concerns emerged from the participants' responses:

- First, the cost of care;
- Second, the quality of services.

In all focus groups, participants emphasized the need for government to subsidize the cost of care if it wants to encourage people in these areas to send their children to daycare. Furthermore, the lack of funds for municipalities to purchase lands or develop existing nurseries was identified as the main burden hindering the launch of this type of crucial project and the revision of the regulations governing the award of these structures.

In terms of income-generating activities for women, analysis of results and focus groups, opinion leaders expected many benefits from daycare for rural women; they consider that establishing daily childcare may give a clear picture of the needs of the region for the installation of childcare and therefore, the creation of income-generating activities through the promotion of work of rural women.

Knowledge of childcare and income-generating activities

For the first question relating to the provision of childcare in these municipalities within the region, all members of the Focus Group, opinion leaders and beneficiaries, seem to know exactly the situation in their communities concerning the availability of childcare or daycare. Participants' knowledge about governance of these structures was less accurate with regard to those belonging to local communities. Indeed, many participants, even those groups including leaders of opinion, were unaware that the centers were built and still belong legally to the Ministry of the Interior and not to municipalities.

This was also the case with regard to the two questions relating to the creation of these structures and the number of children attending those nurseries. Indeed, 8 (out of 10) groups of opinion leaders from Tipasa and Djelfa municipalities gave us the creation date (or rather construction) of childcare center in their municipalities and were able to provide information on the number of children attending their local child centers daily.

The responses provided by participants in both wilayas who have childcare services mentioned the importance of the parents' social class for children who attend these structures, which seems to be the same for both participants.

Perceptions and attitudes

Participants' responses to certain groups sometimes seemed paradoxical. We believe that these paradoxes are due mainly to the following two factors:

- The first factor is, in our view, was the novelty of this type of study for these participants, despite the real need in many of these towns for such services;
- The second factor relates to participants' perceptions and attitudes about municipalities' work.

All beneficiaries of both wilayas and seven groups of opinion leaders (3 from Tipasa and 4 from Djelfa) said they were favorable toward the creation or development of these structures in their municipality, which constitutes a majority relative to the number of surveyed groups. The remaining three groups said yes, but only for working women, which in itself is not a totally negative attitude to this issue. The third group said no, and they argued that "there was no need to create a nursery for their region because population is rural. Therefore, they refuse to send their child in a nursery". Regarding the question of whether the daycare attendance is beneficial to the child, the perception of all group members

reality of this issue and subsequently to gain their support to achieve the study's objectives.

Sample

The qualitative study conducted in the framework of the implementation of an appropriate system of childcare in rural areas targeted five municipalities from every province (called in Algeria: Wilaya). Two criteria were the basis for this choice; the first is character of the rural municipality, and the second is the existence of local expertise. Meetings using Focus Group Discussion with a panel of people representing the first group of beneficiaries (women) and the second group of opinion leaders (members of the executive leaders, managers and representative of the local population) were held successively from 20th to 24th May 2012 in the five municipalities of Tipasa and from 27th to 31st May 2012 in the five municipalities Djelfa. Municipalities selected for each wilaya are as follows:

- Tipasa: Beni Mileuk, Ménaceur, Bourkika, Chaiba and Htatba
- Djelfa: Had Shary, Dar Chioukh, Hassi Bahbah, Messad and Ain Oussera

Basically members of both groups should be heterogeneous in order to ensure better socio-cultural representation of the population in these towns and encourage discussion as follows:

- *The 1st Focus Group should consist of 12 women from different backgrounds: housewives, employees, professionals (e.g., farmer);*
- *The 2nd Focus Group should also consist of 12 persons in the following categories:*
 - Government representative;
 - Journalists;
 - University (researchers/teachers);
 - Men of religion (Imams);
 - Local Elected officials;
 - Associations.

Number of participants

The total number of participants for both wilaya was 211 Beneficiaries and Opinion Leaders. Globally, 109 for the wilaya of Tipasa and 102 for the wilaya of Djelfa. The sample was composed of 127 women and 84 men.

Results and discussion

Analysis of the data collected during these 20 sessions indicates that the general trends on the issue of childcare can be organized as follows:

their desire for a child and maternity to maintain employment. As noted by Voisin (2009): *“It appears more and more that in western societies, the exercise of a stable professional activity is one of the conditions for the realization of the desire for a child Only the development of childcare can make compatible family and professional life and afford to maintain a total fertility rate.*

Regarding Algeria, we are not yet in this position, but it is clear that Algerian women increasingly want engage in business or income-generating activity for their individual achievement and secondly to ensure their financial independence or income to improve their situation and that of their families.

The achievement of this equation, which is still very restrictive for many women, especially those living in rural areas, can only be accomplished through the creation of childcare and the development of methods for caring of young children. Structures and childcare centers are needed that participate in the physical, emotional and cognitive development of the child. These institutions are necessary in order for mothers, or in some cases couples or families, to feel reassured about the safety and well-being of their children (Kennedy and Peters, 1992; Rijkers and Costa, 2012).

This process, in addition to involving parents, also requires a commitment from other social actors with responsibility for education and the future of child support. Moreover, prior research has shown that the reception of the young child is a societal choice that requires concerted government policy to mobilize all stakeholders at both national and local levels and implement the right prerequisites for childcare (Begum, 1989).

Methodology

In terms of methodology, the approach adopted for this study is mainly based on focus group technique, better suited for this kind of qualitative study, completed and supported by research to identify programs and devices designed for rural areas by various national institutions. Thus, the study considers five rural areas in each of the provinces in Algeria: Tipasa and Djelfa were selected as pilot region, and the study includes, in addition to women *as beneficiaries* and target population, some local and international institutions acting in the field, UN agencies and the Algerian government institutions, male population, members of the local executive and elected municipalities *as opinion leaders* to better understand the

Generally, the real needs and aspirations of people regarding childcare, supply and types of existing structure as well as devices and mechanisms governing these types of activities remain unknown (Kim and Kang, 2013).

From a social entrepreneurship point of view, if childcare is problematic for women in urban areas, the problem is assumed to be even greater for women living in rural areas. Education as well as promoting the status of women and the fight against all forms of discrimination are part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in which Algeria is engaged through twelve (12) national institutions and seven (7) United Nations agencies.

In fact, this study was established to strengthen and support efforts made by the authorities by in terms of gender equality, empowerment of women and improving their access to employment. The final objective is to allow women to create their own activities, jobs and values (Poon *et al.*, 2012). The present qualitative study aims to survey opinions and practices related the feasibility of an appropriate system of childcare in rural areas in two pilot regions, Djelfa (south) and Tipasa (north).

Access to employment for women is conditioned by release of their concerns about their children's safety and well-being. This study seeks to identify practices and household representations of the childcare, especially on services offered to young children, to better meet their expectations.

General purpose

Adapting childcare organization and identifying needs and practices of women in rural and agro-pastoral areas in Tipasa and Djelfa regions, respectively.

Specific objectives

- Know the present childcare system (practical and organizational mode) used by women living in rural and agro-pastoral context.
- Identify socio-cultural factors that influence the practices and decisions of rural women in their practices and decision making.

Overview

Women's work (in the sense of a remunerated activity with or without career plans) has become a worldwide reality. However, the burden of reconciling work and family life still lies primarily with single mothers, and the development of methods to care their children can ensure this balance (Meek *et al.*, 2010).

Indeed, in many Western countries, women have preferred to sacrifice

Qualitative study for designing and implementing an appropriate system of childcare in rural areas: a case from Algeria

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الملخص :

تعالج هذه الدراسة دور رعاية الأطفال في النهوض الأنشطة المدرة للدخل الخاصة بالمرأة. تم تطبيق الدراسة على المناطق الريفية في ولايتين في الجزائر. استخدمنا أسلوب Focus Group بغرض تحديد خصائص نظام رعاية الأطفال الحالية والفرص المتاحة للنساء لإطلاق الأنشطة المدرة للدخل والدعم المقدم من قبل الحكومة والسلطات المحلية من أجل مساعدة النساء على خلق القيمة ومكافحة الفقر. الكلمات الرئيسية: نظام رعاية الأطفال، والأنشطة المدرة للدخل، وتنظيم المشاريع الاجتماعية، والسياسة العامة الطفولة

Abstract : This case study analyzes the role of childcare in promoting women's income-generating activities. The study was conducted on the rural areas in two provinces in Algeria. We used a focus group technique to identify present childcare system characteristics, opportunities for women to launch income-generating activities and the support given by the government and local authorities to help women create value and fight against poverty.

Key words: childcare system, income-generating activities, social entrepreneurship, infancy public policy

Introduction

Like women in many countries, Algerian women experience problems with childcare. If each of us has not experienced this problem personally, he or she may encounter women every day who face constraints generated by the lack of childcare. For many Algerian women, it constitutes a serious problem because of a lack of structures dedicated to childcare or a lack of financial resources due to the high costs charged by centers, nurseries or private persons when those are available. We emphasize that the issue of childcare in Algeria suffers from a lack of visibility combined with the absence of research and studies, except for some newspaper articles on this issue.