Illegal Immigration in Algeria
Between Media Coverage and the Challenges of the Security Dimension

الهجرة غير الشرعية في الجزائر

بين التغطية الإعلامية وتحديات البعد الأمني

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Abstract:

   Illegal immigration is currently one of the main issues being discussed by experts in Algeria. The present paper aims at investigating the major causes and consequenses of this phenomenon as well as suggesting adequate solutions to reduce It. Adopting a statistical analysis method, the current study attempts to evaluate a number of undertaken actions by various Algerian govermnental bodies in cooperation.

   Similarly, this study attempts to highlight the security dimension of illegal immigration.This later is strongly associated with security issues and human trafficking organizations

Keywords: illegal immigration; security; challenges of media perspective.

ملخص :

تعد ظاهرة الهجرة غير الشرعية من أهم المواضيع التي شغلت المهتمين والدارسين، الأمر الذي استوجب البحث والتشخيص في سياقها بهدف الكشف عن الأسباب الرئيسة و اقتراح حلول لمعالجتها، من خلال عملية الرصد والتحليل والتفسير ومناقشة هذه الظاهرة وفقا لإحصائيات الهيئات الرسمية وتلك التي تنشرها التقارير الإعلامية، قصد الوصول إلى نظرة شاملة عن الظاهرة، من خلال التطرق إلى أبعادها وجوانبها والإجراءات المتخذة من طرف السلطات للحد منها، مع تقييم المبادرات التي قامت بها مختلف القطاعات الحكومية في الجزائر بالتعاون مع شركائها في إطار محاولة الحد من أسبابها.

كما تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى إبراز البعد الأمني للهجرة غير الشرعية بسبب ارتباطها بقضايا أمنية ومنظمات الإتجار بالبشر ما يؤثر على الأمن القومي الوطني في كل الأحوال.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الهجرة غير الشرعية، البعد الأمني، تحديات الطرح الإعلامي.

1. INTRODUCTION

   Immigration is one of the oldest phenomena known in various societies. It depends on the human element and has contributed to the development of many countries and societies. Human displacement from one space to another can be viewed as a natural behavior, in terms of searching for a life full of stability and security. The economic factor is among the motives behind human

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immigration. Most immigrants, legally or illegally, strive to settle in rich and more developed countries in order to obtain job opportunities, and guarantee public rights.

Algeria has witnessed this phenomenon, which has known widespread and remarkable growth in recent years, which made it the main concern of international public opinion. As it led to the opening of discussion by official and non-official authorities, especially in the light of media reports including scenes and pictures of the bodies of the illegal immigrants who have perished in the sea, especially young people, in order to reach the northern bank of the Mediterranean. The phenomenon of illegal entry of people from African countries into Algeria has also become an issue for the public authorities, which have taken some measures to address it, including the deportation of such people to their homeland.

In this context, this phenomenon has been linked to security issues such as terrorism and human trafficking organizations, by exploiting the conditions of young people as a result of weak awareness, which facilitated the process of cultural impregnation to entrap them and implicate them and often the result of which is death in the Mediterranean.

At the national level, the young category is a significant and irreplaceable human resource as it is the basis of nation development and unity. This requires an engineering vision as Malik BEN NABI says, and a serious search for effective solutions by embracing this category, listening to them, opening dialogue channels and adopting a media speech that reflects their concerns in all cases.

In light of what has been mentioned, the research question is formulated as follows:

What are the challenges facing Algeria in addressing illegal immigration?

In the same line of thought, different questions can be provided:

What are the security dimensions of the illegal immigration in Algeria?

What are the solutions and alternatives to discuss illegal immigration?

What are the constraints faced by the concerned authorities to deal with illegal immigration?

This paper addresses the issue through the following axes:

1- The security dimension of illegal immigration in Algeria.
2- Suggested solutions for illegal immigration in Algeria.
3- Challenges in addressing illegal immigration in Algeria

2. The security dimension of illegal immigration in Algeria:

The paper tackles in this section, the concept of illegal immigration, its various causes, its reality in Algeria, solutions offered by media and its relation to the security aspect in Algeria.

2.1.The concept of illegal immigration:

Different definition can be provided to illegal immigration:

1- Immigration is a social phenomenon known to man since ancient times, and it is defined as a the departure of a person from the territory of his country or the country in which he resides to the territory of another country with the intention of residing in this country permanently or temporarily. According to the United Nations, the concept of immigration means the displacement of a population from one geographical area to another, and it is usually accompanied by a change of residence, even for a limited period (بوهالي، 2018).

2- Illegal immigration refers to the departure of people from the territory of the country through illegal exits and their entry to the territory of another country in the same way, that is to say the displacement of individuals from one place to another in a secret manner in violation of the immigration law as is internationally recognized in search of a privileged social, economic, religious or political situation(الغيض، 2012) .. Illegal immigration is viewed as a global issue, as it is demonstrated through the statistics and numbers published by international organizations in charge of in immigrant affairs. It is found in the countries of the European Union, the United States of America, developing countries in Asia such as the Gulf countries and the Arab Mashreq

countries, and in Latin America. However, it has acquired great importance in the Mediterranean basin due to the interest of the mass media in it, as it has become a major bet in the relations between the two banks, since the Mediterranean center is one of the main lines of the political, economic and demographic division in the world. Many illegal immigrants risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean to access to the Canary Islands, Gibraltar, Malta… (Saadi, 2018).

3- The concept of illegal immigration is also related to clandestine immigration and to the term "harga" which refers to burning all documents wherea secret immigrant becomes undocumented, linked to the term escape in the sense of hiding and taking an irreversible position. The word "harga" is a common term among the speech of Algerian youth which is referred to when young people decide to travel by sea or sneak into another country along with burning their papers and documents linking them to their homland (الدهيمي، 08أفريل 2010) . In the same context, Saed Rasheed states: "The term harraga is a designation given to illegal immigrants from Maghreb and African regions, which is also used for illegal immigrants from Asian countries."(ساعد، 2012) .

4- The International Organization for Migration addresses the phenomenon as the displacement of individuals violating the rules of source and transit countries. From the view of the countries of destination, illegal entry means residence or employment in a country where the immigrant does not have the legal documents required to enter this country, while the European Union considers that the concept of illegal immigration refers to the illegal entry and stay in the member states where entry is by land, sea or air, including airports transit areas, usually with forged documents or with the help of organized crime networks of smugglers and traders(بخوش، 2018) ..Illegal immigration is a result of the restrictions imposed on legal immigration towards developed countries and those with better conditions. The policies pursued by developed countries, especially European ones, have adverse effects, as they have contributed to the growth of the phenomenon through people who trade in human beings in order to achieve beneficial gains . (الشيشيني، 2010)

In addition to the above, illegal immigration reflects the movement of people from different countries and regions to other countries (especially from poor countries to rich countries in general from politically and securely unstable countries towards securely, politically and economically stable ones) in an illegal way, without official documents or with false identities and visas, by crossing seawater on board ships and fishing boats, or by entering across land borders through illegal ports.

2.2.Factors of the emergence of illegal immigration:

The factors which drive illegal immigration are:

- Economic factors:
Many studies in the field of immigration confirm that the scale of immigration in society varies or is affected by the fluctuations of the economic system. The search for livelihood to provide a better life is one of the most important motives that lead immigrants to leave their homelands and immigrate to any country where they find job opportunities to earn a living, especially young people who suffer from unemployment. Economic and social crises also cause a decrease in the standard of living, and thus immigration for work becomes necessary.

- Demographic factors:
These factors are related to the state's inability to deal with the social and economic problems resulting from demographic growth such as unemployment, housing, health, education, etc., especially when the increase in the population is disproportionate with the available economic resources, which makes it difficult for the state to create job opportunities for citizens. Therefore, the increase in the population becomes one of the most important factors for immigration in order to search for work, especially for young people (شنيوي، 2014) .

- Social factors:

Social factors are mainly related to the serious consequences of the demographic explosion and the emergence of the problem of unemployment, which is affecting individuals at all scientific and professional levels and even those holders of higher degrees, in light of the inability of the local labor market to provide job applications, which leads individuals to seek it abroad, even in difficult working conditions (Ibid).

Moreover, Arab societies live through a number of social contradictions, and conflicts related to the societal project of the region, especially at the level of reconciliation between authenticity and modernity, specifically young people who live in conflict with the prevailing social values, which leads many of the desperate ones to feel alienated within society and seek to immigrate legally or illegally (قمر، 2008). Many cases of illegal immigration are not related to inappropriate social conditions, but rather to search for a social status and achieve quick earning. جانفي 20-19 ،بدوي) (2019.

- Political factors:

The end of the twentieth century was marked by the growth of the movement of refugees, individually or collectively, as a result of wars and civil conflicts in many regions of the world. The decline in political freedoms and the restriction on freedom of expression in countries, and the resulting effects, are among the most prominent political factors for illegal immigration (صورية، . (2014The same approach has been adopted by Muhammad Gharbi, who considers political instability and wars in the Middle East as one of the main factors for the increase of illegal immigration, especially after the events of September 11, 2001, where the opportunities for Arabs to immigrate to the United States of America were narrowed and reduced for security reasons . (غربي، 2014)

- Psychological factors:

Psychological factors are one of the most important factors affecting immigration in general and illegal immigration in particular. The deeper the emotional connection to the homeland and the family, the more difficult it is to make the decision to immigrate, as the psychological motives appear in the individual's feeling of frustration in trying to have better life conditions. Iman Sharif, enumerates the psychological factors for illegal immigration as follows:

- The feeling of internal alienation, which may result from the inability to adapt to the surrounding society, such as his family or friends.

- Feelings of frustration, social isolation, daydreaming illusion, irrational thinking, and a love of adventure.

- Poor family and societal affiliation as a result of inadequate socialization programs and weak institutions, most notably the family and school(2017 ،الماضي و ناطر) .

In addition to the above, the influence of citizens by successful people in developed countries is considered among the psychological factors why they consider immigration in order to achieve their dreams and ambitions, even by using illegal methods.

2.3.The reality of illegal immigration in Algeria:

-Illegal immigration from Algeria to European countries.

Illegal immigration rates from poor countries to rich countries have increased in search of stability, job opportunities, and improving living conditions, especially after 2011, which witnessed the outbreak of the events of the so-called Arab Spring.

In Algeria, according to the statistics of the Coast Guard Command of the Algerian Naval Forces published on its official website, it was recorded that 3,983 illegal immigrants have been thwarted during 2018, including 287 women and 1,126 minors (Ministry of National Defence of ALGERIA).These numbers are considered high compared to those recorded in 2017. At the level of

the Algerian justice, during the same period, nearly 200 cases were opened related to the phenomenon of Elharga, as a result of which 344 people were brought to justice, 24 of them were convicted of imprisonment for several years, along with tracking 51 pages on social media that promote and lure young people into illegal immigration(2019 جانفي 20-19 ،بدوي) . .In addition to more than 3,000 illegal immigrants who attempted to reach Europe through the Mediterranean were either killed or missing since 2009 until the end of 2019. The number of Algerians arrested across the borders of the European continent exceeded 14,000 in 2017 and 12,700 in 2018. Deportations to Algeria included half of the number of detainees. The activity of illegal immigration of Algerians towards Europe increased during the second half of 2019, knowing that European countries annually deport more than five thousand Algerian illegal immigrants to Algeria (Salah-Eddine, 2019).

In the period from January to September of 2021, 8,425 Algerian illegal immigrants arrived in Spain across the western side of the Mediterranean. (the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex, 2021) According to a report by the European Border Control Agency, 10,160 people illegally entered European countries via the western Mediterranean during 2021, an increase of 16% compared to 2020. Most of the immigrants on this path are from Algeria, Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa. (the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex, 2021).

These published numbers may not reflect the real number of illegal immigrants, since statistics from international law organizations indicate that thousands of people each year succeed to reach Spanish and Italian shores and are distributed to various European countries.
It is difficult to provide exact statistics on the real number of Algerian illegal immigrants arrested in immigrants' detention centers in the European Union countries, since most of them do not declare their identities to the security authorities.

The International Organization for Migration also recorded nearly 12,000 illegal immigrants during 2018 and more than 186,000 illegal immigrants who arrived in Europe in 2017, including Algerians (International Organisation for Migration, 2018).Algeria was ranked fifth in the ranking of nationalities most popular with illegal immigration to Europe. A United Nations study showed that 93% of Africans of different nationalities, who travel to European countries via irregular routes, will do it again, despite the risks threatening their lives they often face (United Nations, 2019).

These statistics provided by the departments of the Algerian Coast Guard Command and National and Foreign Law Organizations reflect the seriousness of illegal immigration and its effects on Algerian society and pose a major challenge for the public authorities to address.

-Illegal immigration from African countries to Algeria.

Algeria is currently facing the problem of illegal immigration of Africans who have taken refuge because of the war in Mali and Libya and the unstable conditions in some countries of the African continent. Algeria has gone from a transit point to a place of settlement for African illegal immigrants, given several factors, including(2021 ،طيبي بلهاشمي محمد و برناوي) :
-The geographical location of Algeria, its sharing of borders with several African countries in the Sahel region and its proximity to Europe. Immigrants take advantage of the Mediterranean to cross to the European continent.
- Improvement of the economic conditions in Algeria with the beginning of the third millennium and the launch of the economic recovery program by authorities, which contributed to the creation of jobs, with some employers resorting to employing illegal African immigrants for low salaries, especially in the sectors of agriculture, construction and public works.
- European countries adopt a strategy of closing borders to immigration.

The Algerian Ministry of the Interior has counted more than 37,000 Nigerians who entered Algeria illegally and were deported in agreement with the government of their country in the period from December 2014 to November 2018. Algerian borders receive 3,500 immigrants from 24 African countries weekly, while the Algerian security services at the southern border annually prevent about 40,000 illegal immigrants from moving to Europe. A large number of immigrants

who were previously deported returned to Algeria more than once and were brought to justice. In a related context, the transportation, accommodation and health care of illegal immigrants costs the state treasury huge sums of money, given that the budget allocated for 2019 to transport and feed African immigrants who entered Algeria illegally amounted to 100 billion centimes. (2018 ،قاسيمي)

African immigrants enter Algeria illegally through land routes and through the points where security guards and control are absent by forging documents, obtaining official documents illegally or by using official documents owned by others and impersonating the identity of the other, especially with resemblance of facial features of people. In addition to crossing through means of transportation and in cooperation with the people of the region who provide them with assistance, Africans also enter Algeria illegally through human smuggling networks(2015 ،نذير) .

2.4. The security aspect of illegal immigration in Algeria:

Illegal immigration is no longer based on a group of individuals moving from one country to another illegally, but has taken on security dimensions after organized crime networks started exploiting it in human trafficking, as the Algerian security services managed to dismantle dozens of dangerous networks specialized in smuggling humans secretly to Europe. Illegal immigration has become exploited by several parties, including entire countries and global mafia networks that traffic in human beings and achieve financial profits of more than 12 billion Euros annually. و لعقاب) أخرون، 2018)

In Algeria, about 11,000 illegal African immigrants, including women and children, were registered begging in Algeria for the benefit of Nigerian criminal networks, which were exploiting these funds for criminal purposes such as purchasing weapons. In this context, human rights organizations warn of the growing of human trafficking, which has become generating funds comparable to drug trade according to the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, as smugglers earn about 6 billion and 800 million dollars annually and about 60 thousand dollars per week across the Mediterranean. Illegal immigration ticket is estimated at a price between 1000 to 10 thousand US dollars, and the numbers vary according to the sending country of immigrants (Salah-Eddine, 2019).

Since this issue became related to terrorist groups that threaten regional and global security and in Algeria, in-depth investigations have been opened regarding the networks of organizing and smuggling illegal immigrants across the Mediterranean. Furthermore, the effects of illegal immigration continue to create what is known as organized crime, which threatens national security and even the national and global economy through the growing of money laundering used by human smuggling groups (2006 ،كامل).

Illegal immigration hasalso led to the spread of recruitment offices abroad, which lure those wishing to travel, where temporary offices are established for the purpose of collecting sums of money from the victims. Immigrants intend to create problems for the purpose of adjusting their living conditions. Which makes it difficult for security services, in many times, to detect crimes committed by illegal immigrants who join criminal gangs that use modern methods to carry out their operations (2019 ، إسماعيل و جاب الله) .

On the background of this reality, Algeria called for the inclusion of the security and development dimensions to face immigration in the Mediterranean region, given that the region faces a phenomenon that is essentially a humanitarian issue and requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the inclusion of security dimensions to address criminal networks linked to human trafficking (echoroukonline, 2018).On the other hand, some specialists in the pursuit of the phenomenon are of the view that awareness-raising work must be carried out in order to eliminate dreams sellers for youth by terrorist gangs for profit and benefit only(2018 ،قاسيمي).

Thus, illegal immigration remains one of the most significant issues in the world as it represents an intractable threat and a security challenge for both sending and receiving countries of illegal immigrants.

2.5. Media perspective of illegal immigration in Algeria:

The media coverage of illegal immigration in Algeria differs from the media treatment of traditional media, such as written newspapers, television and radio, to social media networks, which have contributed to the creation of a new type of media, called citizen journalism, which is now practiced by immigrants themselves. The treatment angle is usually inclined to the media's security perspective for different considerations.

-The media's treatment of illegal immigration in Algeria:

The role of the media is not only limited to the transmission of news, but has become one of the tools of social change as well, as media treatment can draw the attention of the public towards the issues, phenomena and fundamental problems affecting society. Given the multiplicity, diversity and complexity of crises in societies, including illegal immigration, the importance of the various media is highlighted in terms of their role and contribution to aggravating or solving them, especially in the face of the increasing problems and phenomena that society suffers from. The media plays an important educational role in creating awareness about illegal immigration through news, explanation, interpretation and analysis. (الضلاعين و ماهر ، 2014) .

Illegal immigration receives attention from the media, which is demonstrated by the size of the space reserved by written newspapers, radio and television programs that discuss the phenomenon from different sides, in terms of causes, motives, effects and implications, while highlighting its different dimensions.

The media use various journalistic arts in addressing Illegal immigration, including investigative news, reportage, commentary, and opinion articles, as well as television programs and radio broadcasts based on audio and video material in covering the phenomenon. Furthermore, the media treatment of illegal immigration is not limited to an awareness-raising role only, but goes beyond playing a security role in the case and it is often addressed through the side of illegality. Abdel Wahab Al-Rami states "there is confusion in the media discourse about illegal immigration as it is not based on evident references. The discourse focuses on illegality" (الرامي، 2005)..

The security perspective prevails in the media treatment of the issue of illegal immigration in Algeria due to relying on security sources, statements of official authorities in Algeria and records of judicial authorities such as courts etc., especially in terms of surveillance and raiding operations carried out by the coast guards services of the Ministry of National Defense. This latter constantly publishes data about the outcome of its activities, including countering illegal immigration. In many cases, media helps the security services to arrest candidates for illegal immigration or to thwart the attempt to immigrate offshore, when it spreads news about illegal immigration by groups of people based on information provided by their families to journalists or eyewitnesses, although most of them refuse to reveal their identities (AZOUAOU, 2020) , this news is thus a source for security services to take actions. Therefore, the role of the media is highlighted as an informant in the process of combating illegal immigration by security authorities.

The media often use the discourse of tragedy, which enshrines a negative public sense of the aggravation of illegal immigration in society, such as "harragas", "death boats" and "youth's journey towards the unknown" and other vocabulary included in the discourses of the Algerian media towards illegal immigration. While the Western media uses illegal immigrant as a pretext to perpetuate the idea of human invasion from the south, linking illegal immigration with terrorism (الرامي, 2005).

The media's treatment of illegal immigration and prioritizing the security perspective has drawn a range of critics from researchers and scholars of the phenomenon. Especially since many points related to illegal immigration such as motives and factors for immigration, must be made public, are they related to leaving because of poverty or for the sake of quick enrichment? Or with the aim of searching for an atmosphere of freedom and democracy?, this is one of the manifestations of the imbalance in the media's dealing with illegal immigration, where Salah Ghazi Ismail Haji refers in his study to the absence of comprehensiveness, the limitation of press coverage to the security point of view, and sustainment with what is reported by news agencies and data

without conducting journalistic works on the phenomenon. Moreover, the media coverage is dominated by the dramatic dimensions of the adventures of immigrants and their drowning at sea, without addressing the hidden dimensions, such as the role of human trafficking networks that exploit the dreams and illusions of young people about life in Europe. The media coverage of illegal immigration must include the following:

- Highlighting the reasons and motives along with their refutation.
- Reviewing the risks faced by immigrants, which young people often underestimate.
- Presenting alternatives and the opportunity available to improve the living standards and enhance the spirit of national belonging among young people.
- Presenting successful experiences of young people who have been able to achieve success inside and outside the country in legitimate ways (حاجي، 2018).

Thus, it is concluded that the media perspective of media in Algeria on illegal immigration from a security point of view remains inadequate as it is tackled as an issue and dealt with only from the side of illegality. while the media treatment of illegal immigration requires a well-developed balanced discourse characterized by comprehensiveness, openness and diversity that seeks an explanation of the ambiguity surrounding the phenomenon in Algeria, especially what should be done towards immigrants, and their involvement in the media debate about the phenomenon and the policies of addressing it by the competent authorities.

-Social media networks and illegal immigration in Algeria:

Social media is currently an important source of information for many people, especially those who want to immigrate legally or illegally. There are many websites and social media pages that incite immigration and attract young people to do it. Facebook pages are created where images and videos are posted showing immigrants on the Mediterranean, or near the European coasts, and photos of young people who have immigrated illegally and went missing.

According to the trackers of this matter, there are hundreds of pages on the internet, especially Facebook, publicly inciting illegal immigration, with prices up to 10,000 euros, but the lowest price is the most dangerous. Europol data estimated that 90 percent of immigrants passed through a criminal network to achieve their goal, facilitated by social media networks. A study by the European Centre for Combating the Smuggling of Immigrants published in September 2016 proved that social media networks have become increasingly used in recent years for illegal immigration, helping immigrants to gather, create a strong dynamism at the borders, and increase the ability of smugglers to diversify their immigration routes in order to face the security measures taken. Mohamed Laagab believes that social networks play a dangerous role in encouraging illegal immigration in Algeria, as they are characterized by a set of characteristics, including:

-The number of its users exceeds the number of traditional media users. More than half of the world's population has an account on Facebook , more than 20 million in Algeria and more than 22 million Internet users however, the best newspaper prints 100,000 copies and the best channel is followed by a few thousand viewers.

-Social media networks have strengthened citizens' freedom where the dissemination of information has become easier, in unlimited space, various languages and in fixed and animated images, as it has become easier and faster to receive, at a minimum cost. This means that content in these sites is generated and created by users.

-The social media network has strengthened global communication, as users of these networks are able to communicate globally at low cost.

-These networks have enhanced the interaction feature: In other words, providing immediate direct or indirect interaction between millions of users, which is not provided by any traditional media.

-Enhanced adaptation: that is, modifying information and data in social media networks upon demand, desires, or latest news, which is not available for traditional media.

-Some applications have enabled visual, written and audio communication on a global level for free, such as WhatsApp and Viber applications.

-Social networks facilitate the reproduction and dissemination of content on a wide scale, as many users do not have the qualifications to evaluate the content: is it true, false, propaganda, incitement, rumor, etc...

-Monitoring cyberspace has become difficult for governments, as every surveillance exposes governments to the pressure of global civil society. (لعقاب، دور شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي في تنامي ظاهرة الهجررة غير الشرعية، 19-20 جانفي 2019)

A study published by the Institute for Security Studies on the role of social media in Africa in facilitating illegal immigration, in terms of providing information about the immigration process, showed an increase in the number of Moroccan, Algerian, Tunisian and Libyan illegal immigrants more than ever since 2011. Officials on both sides of the Mediterranean usually analyze this phenomenon by looking into the internal factors that drive these individuals to make immigration decisions or the factors that help and facilitate the process. This approach lacks an essential element in analyzing and addressing the phenomenon: that illegal immigration by Maghrebians is a widespread phenomenon where the whole region is involved, driven by a social media system that drives and encourages dreams of immigration and provides detailed instructions on how to achieve them.

New social media networks have replaced traditional media as the primary source of information for many in the region, especially young people. These posts also cover strategies on how to regulate a person's legal status or at least how to avoid deportation upon arrival in a European country. In the comment sections on the videos, information becomes more specific: as we find the phone numbers of smugglers and the exact dates, times and locations of groups planning to cross. This information is generally unfiltered, uncensored, and is constantly updated and corrected. The content initially targets specific national audiences, with titles indicating the speaker's nationality. However, the conversation in the comments section confirms that the viewers of the videos are from all over the Maghreb region. (HERBERT & GHOULIDI, 2019) .

Thus, social media maintains integrated networks, which arrange, promote, incite and invest in illegal immigration, relying on its high incomes and consistent demand(2012 ،الكفارنة) .

Social media provide immigrants with the opportunity to meet new people and establish new relationships that facilitate the development of the concept, methods and stages of immigration and create awareness among Algerian immigrant youth about the rights of immigrants and refugees in Europe. Social media platforms have become a propaganda platform for illegal immigration. Immigrants have also become involved in citizen journalism through Facebook by disseminating various journalistic content, which conveys news and diaries of illegal immigrants in European countries or the receiving country in general in addition to announcements of illegal immigration. These publications also document their boat trip and their moments of arrival on the European coast. Hence, the role of social media networks in promoting immigration among young people is highlighted.

Despite the role of social media networks in legal immigration, it cannot be considered as the main cause for illegal immigration, but rather a helpful and facilitating element. Despite the government control over cyberspace, it will not eliminate illegal immigration, but may contribute to reducing it. Social media networks can be exploited to combat the illegal immigration through (لعقاب، دور شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي في تنامي ظاهرة الهجررة غير الشرعية، 19-20 جانفي 2019):

-Reaching out to people who intend or wish to immigrate by the same means that smugglers use, namely social media networks.

-combating smuggling network sites: by targeting their accounts, or reporting their accounts to companies such as Facebook or YouTube as unwanted accounts, such as terrorist sites.

-Employing an army of distinguished users in networking to limit the use of these networks in smuggling. Even if necessary, employ electronic flies.

-Spreading social awareness through these networks by targeting young people, parents and others, through seminars, photo exhibitions, mosques, media, universities, schools, and even the streets.

-Emphasis on spreading bad news - which is the truth - related to illegal immigrants (the tragic end: death, imprisonment, job servitude, homelessness in the receiving countries, exploitation by other terrorist groups.

- Exposing the truth about smugglers: deceit, fraud, worn-out boats, and unsuitable life jackets.

Thus, social media sites remain closely related to illegal immigration, especially Facebook, which is widely exploited in the case. After complaints were submitted to the administration of this site, many pages and accounts that incite and encourage illegal immigration were closed, however smugglers open new pages. The same is applied for other sites, as the censorship process that may be imposed on these sites may conflict with the principles of freedom of expression and publication in this space, which makes the matter more difficult, especially since illegal immigration is a profitable business, as it generates exorbitant amounts of money annually estimated at billions of dollars.

3. Suggested solutions for illegal immigration in Algeria.

The effects of illegal immigration have led Algeria to take a series of approaches to address the phenomenon, primarily the security and economic approach.

3.1. Security solutions:

In view of the vastness of the area of Algeria and the length of the land and sea borders, Algeria has strengthened the security control of its borders through various security services and forces, including the following(كركوش، 2010) :

-Coastguards forces:

An affiliated department to the Ministry of National Defense that is mainly responsible for guarding and protecting the Algerian beaches from all attempts of maritime smuggling. Where it intervenes and thwarts all attempts to smuggle people and goods and ensures the guarding of foreign ships, as it has thwarted several illegal immigration attempts and contributed to saving many people and recovering many bodies from the sea.

-Border police services:

It plays an important role in monitoring the Algerian land, sea and air borders. It ensures the application of administrative and legal procedures regulating the entry and exit of people and property across the border. It is charged with monitoring the movement of people and goods across the border and combating social ills such as illegal immigration, drugs and smuggling, in addition to ensuring the guarding of ports, airports and railways.

3.2. Legal solutions:

Algeria has adopted legislation and laws criminalizing illegal immigration and tightening penalties for perpetrators, mainly (Law No. 09-01) on the amendment of the Penal Code dated on February 25th, 2009 through the text of Article 175 bis 01, under the title of crimes committed against laws and regulations related to leaving the national territory. This article stipulates a penalty of imprisonment from two to six months and a fine of twenty thousand Algerian dinars to sixty thousand Algerian dinars, or one of these two penalties, every Algerian or foreign resident who leaves the national territory illegally, while passing a land, sea or air border center, by impersonating another identity or by using forged documents or any other fraudulent means to evade the submission of the necessary official documents or from carrying out the procedures required by the laws and regulations in force. This penalty shall be applied to every person who leaves the national territory through ports or places other than border posts (2009 ،الجريدة الرسمية) . .

The issuance of this law is considered by some legal specialists as the beginning of a legal treatment of illegal immigration in Algeria, as the Algerian legislator has criminalized the illegal departure from the national territory, regardless of the method used whether by land, sea or air, and whatever fraudulent means used ,falsification of official documents or non-compliance with the procedures required by laws and regulations. In this context, the Algerian legislator has placed the act of illegal immigration in the ranks of misdemeanors (2011 ،صايش) .

However, this legal treatment may contradict with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates the freedom of the individual to leave any country, including his own.

3.3. Economic solutions:

Algeria has taken a number of measures to combat illegal immigration several years ago, in an attempt to address the concerns of young people by creating several mechanisms for the integration of young people, including **employment agencies**: (National Youth Employment Support Agency - National unemployment Insurance Fund - National Micro-Credit Management Agency - National Employment Agency, Assisted Employment Contracts): which are mechanisms specifically developed to help young people enter the world of work and thus improve their social and economic status so that they do not resort to illegal immigration. However, despite the progress achieved by these agencies since their establishment, they still suffer from many deficiencies and can occasionally provide permanent jobs(2019 جانفي 20-19 ،مسدور و أخرون) .

Since these agencies are funded by the state, they lack an economic dimension. There are also young people who have benefited from employment agencies on the list of illegal immigrants and other young people who have benefited from bank loans to establish their institutions, but failed in the field of business, and therefore were unable to pay their bank debts, so they sold everything and took the path of illegal immigration. Therefore, some experts and observers of this issue believe that the various mechanisms of youth employment should be integrated into one mechanism, with the necessity to activate them properly(2019 جانفي 20-19 ،بدوي) .

3.4. Awareness-raising and sensitization:

Given the recorded numbers related to the victims of illegal immigration, the Algerian government has resorted to mosques to warn about it, raise awareness of its dangers, and prohibit it due to its risks. While sensitization work remains minimal through the Algerian media and is limited to occasions or when successive cases of immigration attempts by young people are recorded. Which is dominated by official authorities and absent from other parties that are considered active in society such as representatives of civil society, political and associative activists, and this is due to the absence of a clear communication strategy on the part of the state towards illegal immigration. (Marwane, 2019).

4. Challenges in addressing illegal immigration in Algeria:

Many experts and scholars of the phenomenon unanimously agree that addressing illegal immigration is through achieving real social and economic integration for young people, which is associated with a good listening to their concerns using a realistic discourse in line with their aspirations. However, there are several challenges facing Algeria to address illegal immigration, including:

4.1. The challenge of the media's treatment of illegal immigration by social media networks

The media's treatment of illegal immigration, which highlights the dangers of the phenomenon and the importance of addressing it through State agencies, is one of the greatest challenges facing the Algerian State. This is the approach adopted by Mohamed Laakab, who considered that illegal immigration, which has existed for years in Algeria, has been exacerbated by the use of technology such as smartphones and social media.

He emphasized that social media networks used by smugglers have contributed to the widespread of this phenomenon in Algeria, especially through the (Viber) and (Messenger) applications(2019 جانفي 20-19 ،لعقاب، دور شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي في تنامي ظاهرة الهجررة غير الشرعية)

In the context, the Algerian Ministry of the Interior stated that the complexity of illegal immigration is due to its widespread circulation by social media networks and its inappropriate handling by the media in some cases, to such an extent that its discourse on the phenomenon became synonymous with despair(2019 ،وزارة الداخلية الجزائرية) .

The challenge is to offer a suggestion on how to produce an appropriate media speech to discuss and address the phenomenon and to be able to confront what the Western media is spreading about illegal immigration.

4.2. The security challenge:

Illegal immigration affects security in Algeria at various levels. It affects the security of individuals and economic security, and also affects the security of society due to the spread of crime and drugs along with the association of this phenomenon to immigrants smuggling networks and organized crimes. These effects form security challenges to the Algerian public authorities, which seeks to use various mechanisms and means to prevent them, since various international and regional organizations agree on the relationship of illegal immigration to terrorism and human trafficking organizations, which constitutes a security challenge in addressing them(بوزيد، 2016) .

4.3. The challenge of the decentralization of economic decisions to local communities.

The ability to decentralize economic decisions in order to allow local communities to adequately respond to the aspirations of young people is among the challenges in addressing illegal immigration in Algeria. Especially since there are people among the harragas who work and with a good financial and professional situation, given that social and economic problems are not the only motive for illegal immigration. This requires the ability of officials at the local level to take the necessary decisions and measures to take care of the youth and provide them with all the conditions for the realization of their projects.

4.4. Geographical challenge:

Algeria faces several problems that impede the achievement of the objectives set for addressing illegal immigration, including the extension of the 1200 km coastline and the difficulty of its features, which requires the recruitment of massive means of security coverage, in addition to land borders.

4.5.The Challenge of Civil Society Participation:

The real success in combating illegal immigration can only be achieved through concerted efforts of all official actors (the state and its institutions) and non-official actors (civil society and political parties) of various orientations (طايبي و ماموني، 12فيفري2019) .

The challenge is manifested in the extent of the ability to prevent and raise societal awareness of the dangers of illegal immigration.

5. CONCLUSIN:

In conclusion, given the statistics and figures on the number of illegal immigrants in Algeria, illegal immigration has two forms in Algeria: immigration from Algeria to Europe and from Africa to Algeria. Base on the analytical study, several types of immigrants and different reasons for immigration are observed.

Many people immigrate based on illusions marketed through the media and social media networks, which calls for psychologists and sociologists to develop a well-defined strategy to uncover the real causes of illegal immigration while listening to young people, knowing their living and family conditions and the main problems they face in order to see what these young people think and how they view illegal immigration, with the aim of developing realistic and concrete solutions that will convince them to retreat and refrain from illegal immigration.

Algeria's public authorities must review their adopted policies and approaches to combating illegal immigration, especially those that have proved ineffective; in particular the legal treatment since those who risk their lives in the course of illegal immigration cannot be deterred by imprisonment and a penalty. In addition to involving all actors in the field in order to draw a comprehensive strategy to reduce illegal immigration, which has become an international issue with negative implications at various levels and with security dimensions that necessitate addressing through the use of approaches which enables the overcome of the existing challenges in reality.

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