

## **The Impact of Administrative empowerment on participatory local development**

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### **Abstract:**

The study aims to identify the effect of administrative empowerment through the participatory approach local development which is based on a voluntary approach of actors coming together in a territory on a human scale to envisage the future of their territory. This in perspective with other levels of administration and other political levels of the Nation. It is a vision of the local in the global, which sees the territory as a system of relationships with other systems and other actors. For this author, the actors work to improve the living conditions of their populations, which involves, in particular, the development of production activities, health, education and the deepening of democracy and governance. local.

### **Keywords :**

Local development, participatory approach, democracy, Administration, system, populations

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Résumé :

L'étude vise à identifier l'effet de l'autonomisation administrative à travers l'approche participative du développement local qui repose sur une démarche volontaire d'acteurs se réunissant sur un territoire à échelle humaine pour envisager l'avenir de leur territoire. Ceci en perspective avec les autres niveaux d'administration et les autres niveaux politiques de la Nation. C'est une vision du local dans le global, qui envisage le territoire comme un système de relations avec d'autres systèmes et d'autres acteurs. Pour cet auteur, les acteurs œuvrent à l'amélioration des conditions de vie de leurs populations, ce qui passe notamment par le développement des activités de production, de santé, d'éducation et l'approfondissement de la démocratie et de la gouvernance Locale.

**Mots clés :** Développement local, approche participative, démocratie, Administration, système, populations

## **Introduction:**

The various administrative institutions are experiencing major and changes in their strategies and plans as a result of the major changes in economic activity. It was towards the end of the 1950s that the theory of endogenous development took shape, by researchers John Friedman and Walter Stöhr. A proactive approach, which sees development as a bottom-up approach, favoring endogenous resources. It draws on local industrial traditions and places particular emphasis on taking into account cultural values and the use of cooperative modalities.

The participatory approach to local development emphasizes the importance of participation and empowerment of populations in all development actions. The concept of participation is at the origin of current concerns about taking the “local” into account.

**Problematic: What IS The Impact of Administrative empowerment on participatory local development?**

**Methodology used: Descriptive method**

## **Summary:**

**CHAPTER I: Empowerment and Local development**

**CHAPTER II: Theoretical approaches to participatory development**

**CHAPTER III: Difficulties in applying the theories of the participatory approach:**

## **CHAPTER I: Empowerment and Local development:**

Empowerment is also known as “liberating a person from restrictions, encouraging and motivating the individual, and rewarding him for exercising the spirit of initiative and creativity” (Melhem, 2006: p. 6). The concept of local development appeared in a context where the centralized vision of the State was criticized by certain local actors. The latter considered that the development of a territory must take into account the needs and aspirations of the inhabitants. A new logic of autonomy is then claimed vis-à-vis decision-making, political or economic centers. Local development thus relates to partnership actions

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between actors interested in improving living conditions in their immediate environment.

(<http://www.senegaldeveloppement.org>, 2023)

The systematic reference to “participation” goes hand in hand with weak sociological theorizing. Participation remains largely a portmanteau word, rarely defined, which is undoubtedly one of the reasons for its success. In fact, the DP is based on a quasi-oxymoron: wanting to “participate” populations, communities or States “in their own development”.

Since its origins, the “voluntarist participatory intervention” of development has been in a permanent tension between injunction and listening, between animation know-how and more or less normative methodologies. Participatory approaches cover a set of very heterogeneous tools, in a gradient between “imposed participation” and “self-promotion”. In addition, they are part of projects and programs whose capacity to integrate local points of view varies greatly depending on their degree of bureaucratization. To these tensions inherent to the operational register of Participatory Development

, is added the tension between the operational component and the performative component of Participatory Development, envisaged as a vector of broader social change. As a result, the objectives and means of DP or ownership regularly replace each other in discourse and in practice. An abundant critical literature, both academic and from NGOs or aid institutions (MANSURI G & ., RAO V, 2004) thus notes the various weaknesses, approximations and naiveties that have resulted. As a doctrine, the DP covers a nebula of conceptions (RAHNEMA, 2010), in continuum and in tension between opposite poles, along several overlapping axes:

- a managerial pole aiming to make development programs more effective or efficient, and a political pole promoting structural societal transformations (of various orientations, liberal or community).

- a bureaucratic and miserabilist pole, highlights the shortcomings of local actors and the role of external agents in promoting changes, and a populist pole, promoting local societies, their local knowledge, their capacities, and calling into question the external intervention - a center considering the individualization of societies and the extension of the market as a condition for development and a center seeking, on the

contrary, to protect local “communities” from the destructive effects of the market.

The consensus on the participatory principle thus covers tensions Between very heterogeneous political visions and practical approaches. We also observe numerous disjunctions between discourse and practices (MOSSE, 2004). Participatory display by the State, international institutions and some NGOs often firstly expresses the search for legitimation and support for their projects.

## **CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT:**

Based on criticisms of the effectiveness of traditional country aid, defenders of the participatory approach to development highlight several advantages specific to the inclusion of targeted populations in the management of projects and financing. A first supposed advantage is the higher viability of the projects due to their appropriation by the Beneficiaries, who are more concerned with the permanence of the infrastructures built and their maintenance when they took part in their creation.

Consequently, the quality of infrastructure and performance in terms of services offered would be higher than that of goods provided by the State. Another advantage is that local authorities and communities, through their better knowledge of the field, would have a greater capacity to target the poorest households and the most disadvantaged categories. This informational advantage would make it possible to improve the impact of development projects in terms of poverty reduction. In addition, involving communities in project management and giving them decision-making powers would improve the governance capacities and social capital of these communities. These participatory projects would therefore lay the basis for an endogenous development process, by strengthening the skills of local populations, while obtaining better performance in terms of improving living conditions.

The analysis of concepts linked to participatory development, the notion of “participation” refers to the action of taking part in the life of a group or society. Community participation is therefore understood as the concerted action of its members with a view to achieving common objectives. Participatory processes encouraged by CBD projects Community Based Development / Community Driven Development

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CDD would therefore theoretically make it possible to avoid passivity among populations in relation to the arrival of external funds by relying on group dynamics, in order to optimize the impact of aid on the living conditions of communities.

The idealization of participation processes must, however, be moderate. For the poorest members of these communities, participation in collective decision-making processes can be costly, because it involves the use of time that will not be available to carry out certain work essential to their survival. (Lebovics, 2007)

Due to different theorists on the most important ways to achieve local development, several theories have emerged, each of which has tried to find an explanation of the methods

- **The theory of growth poles**: from its theorists (François Perroux, Herschman... and others), the ideas of this theory appeared at the beginning of the 1960s, based on the principle of dividing a space into a group of large heterogeneous poles, While trying to understand the privacy and development of each pole, and eliminate the differences between the city and the countryside.

- **Economic base theory**: it focuses on the importance of exports in local development, where the latter is achieved whenever each region has the ingredients that qualify them for export and increase base and internal activities. According to Claude Lacour, "Urban growth is determined by the creation of jobs, which create income. These incomes come from distinguished activities, and these activities lead to exports, which ensure income from abroad. These incomes allow the provision (satisfaction) of various local needs as well as the expansion of growth (Claude Lacour, Joseph Lajugie, & Pierre Delfaud, 1979).

- **The theory of development from below**: appeared at the beginning of the 70s and focuses on the idea of organizing the economy of the transformations which affected societies and their interest more in social and environmental aspects, and to require local communities for greater input into decisions that affect their lives.

- **Theory of the industrial district**: it is the gathering of institutions operating in an area and a region, and the idea of industrial boycott was developed by the Italian **picatinny** who mentioned the advantages of collecting small and medium businesses in the region in which it is gathered.

**-Innovative Middle Theory:** The owners of this theory (a group of European researchers) believe that local development takes place in the center, which is a region that contains elements and factors capable of absorbing various knowledge and adapting to various changes through the historical accumulations that exist within the center. (Khanfri, 2010)

### **CHAPTER III: Difficulties in applying the theories of the participatory approach:**

It is difficult to establish a partnership between local and external initiatives, public policies by supporting local actors in their efforts must be granted a certain legitimacy, and therefore a certain effectiveness, and that more decisions are taken at the geographical level, and use them to develop “local” charters that will help develop work in this region.

However, community participation in achieving local development still faces many challenges, including:

- The problem of activating consultation in the first stage of project development, which begins with a study of the desirability of activities, and which remains a discretionary authority for local elected officials who formulate the needs and requests of residents from the community.
- Underestimate the importance and role of open discussion between the administration and citizens by not organizing meetings and gatherings to exchange opinions.
- The spread of indifference due to the lack of social and political awareness of local citizens.
- Lack of communication between local managers and citizens, which leads to a loss of confidence in the development programs proposed by local authorities.
- The concentration of the private sector and civil organizations in northern Algeria is far from the level required to contribute to the achievement of local development, particularly in cities in the interior and the desert.
- The absence of the role of family education and educational and religious institutions) (Amina, 2022)

### **Conclusion:**

The researcher extracts the role and the clear effect of administrative empowerment on the participatory development, According to the World Bank, participatory development is both an end and a means of development. By putting forward the idea that participatory development is an end, she intends to refer to a sort of ideal objective according to which sustainable development would result from the responsible action of politically mature citizens who would act through elective institutions, associations or organizations, within the framework of a democratic and free society. However, such an objective should be understood as a continuous and long-term process, which would tend to constantly improve the capacity of communities to self-manage.

### **Recommendations:**

However, some remarks from an operational point of view seem important for the further development of this approach by aid agencies: First of all, it is necessary for donors to systematically study the possibility of using participatory development projects when studying aid and financing opportunities by country and sectors. CBD/CDD type projects may be appropriate in certain contexts, while they will not produce satisfactory results in others. There is therefore a need to carry out a case-by-case study of each area of action, by first carrying out a study of the economic and social context, as well as an anthropological analysis, in order to see if the structures of Traditional power and the social environment are compatible with a participatory approach.

As far as possible, it is preferable to start from existing institutional structures to strengthen them and offer them technical and administrative support, rather than multiplying decision-making bodies at the local level. However, certain situations involve the formation of new decision-making bodies with strong legitimacy among the local population. Choosing a field operator with expertise in social engineering is crucial to the success of the project. The involvement of communities in the maintenance and



maintenance of infrastructure resulting from CBD/CDD projects makes it possible to obtain better results than in the case of a classic project, but experience shows that this is only the case if these communities receive adequate training and long-term logistical and financial support. It is at this level that the involvement of the central State is necessary in order to allow a continuum between construction and operation of infrastructure, and to take over from aid agencies whose support is necessarily limited in time. Aid agencies must take into account that this type of project involves significant support over a few years, with short project cycles (one to two years) not giving satisfactory and lasting results.

Finally, aid agencies must strengthen their capacities to evaluate the results obtained by these projects, whether through regular visits by the local agency to intervention sites or by sending retrospective evaluation missions. The development and monitoring of quantitative and qualitative indicators are necessary in order to measure the impact of projects on the populations concerned, both in terms of poverty reduction and satisfaction with the quality of service and maintenance. infrastructures. This work will make it possible to capitalize on past experiences to design new participatory projects and to share these experiences with other aid actors.

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