

Dimensions and Indicators of Development in Shadow Areas

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Abstract:

Shadow areas are among the most marginalized community units in Algerian society. Most of their inhabitants face various problems and difficulties, including underdevelopment, poverty, deprivation, ignorance, and other indicators and dimensions. This has led many researchers to delve into the subject of development and improvement in shadow areas. This topic is considered important and common at the same time and has sparked a great debate among social researchers. It coincided with the emergence of several theoretical perspectives that attempt to provide various explanations and analyses of this reality. In this context, the current study addresses the topic of indicators and dimensions of development in shadow areas. It will attempt to highlight the most important elements related to the subject, including specific definitions of development and shadow areas, as well as shedding light on the key dimensions, indicators, and future prospects of development, improving the skills and capabilities of individuals in shadow areas, and enhancing their lives for the better.

Key words: Development, Shadow Areas, Dimensions, Indicators.

1. INTRODUCTION

Given the importance of development and the persistent efforts to achieve it in human societies, especially those that are underdeveloped, the concept of development has become a headline for many policies, plans, and actions across different levels. This term has become burdened with many meanings and generalizations, and it has indicators and dimensions that represent it. However, it often remains limited to the economic aspect and is closely linked, to a large extent, to work on increasing production, which in turn leads to increased consumption. To such

a degree that the civilizations of nations are now measured by the level of individual income and their annual consumption of food and housing, disregarding the development of their characteristics, advantages, and human contributions, as well as their preparedness to fulfill the role entrusted to them in life and achieve the goals they were created for. Moreover, this materialistic view of the development process has settled in the minds of most Islamic world populations and has dominated their thinking as a result of Western dominance and the influence of its culture.

Based on this, it calls for a reexamination of the concept of development from a multidimensional perspective, clarifying its areas and determining which ones deserve more attention. The focus should be placed on education as a fundamental axis for development and societal advancement. Educational development is considered the means to overcome cultural decline, especially in what is known as shadow areas or marginalized regions.

2. Concepts and Definitions

2.1 Concept of Development

Development is the advancement of a society and its transition from a static state to a higher and better state, utilizing the available and potential energies for better exploitation. Development, in simple terms, refers to growth and the movement of something from one place to another.

Development is the achievement of rapid, cumulative, and permanent increase over a period of time in production and services, resulting from the scientific efforts to organize collective government and popular activities. Forms of development include comprehensive development, integrated development, and development in specific major fields such as the economic, political, social domains, or sub-fields like industrial development or agricultural development. It can be seen as a planned social change carried out by humans to move society towards a better state that aligns with its economic, social, and intellectual capacities and needs (Damraoui, 2022).

Development is the process that results in an increase in life opportunities for some individuals in a society, without depriving others of their life opportunities at the same time, including the society as a whole. It involves a tangible increase in comprehensive and integrated production and services, interconnected with the movement of society, utilizing modern scientific methods in technology, organization, and management.

According to the United Nations, development is the process through which efforts are directed towards improving the economic, social, and cultural conditions of

local communities, enabling them to integrate into the life of nations and contribute to their progress to the best extent possible.

Greek Philosophers and Development: The Greek philosophers were the first to contribute to the emergence of this concept in European culture. Among them was Heraclitus, who discussed change and emphasized that the world is constantly evolving and changing. He famously said, "You cannot step into the same river twice." He explained that everything consists of opposites and this generates internal tension, leading to conflict. Aristotle, on the other hand, discussed change from a different perspective. He explained the nature of the state in his book "Politics," where he described a system in an organic being that transitions from one phase to another, beginning with birth, maturation, and ultimately decline and death.

Ibn Khaldun stated, "Know that the difference between generations lies in the difference in their means of livelihood. The coming together of people in their conditions is for the purpose of cooperation in achieving their basic needs, starting with necessities provided by the indispensable and the adequate. At that time, their coming together and cooperation in their needs, livelihood, and construction, using their strength and resources, is only to the extent necessary for preserving life and obtaining the means of living, without excess beyond what is required, due to the inability to achieve more. However, if the wealth of these individuals who assume the means of livelihood expands and they acquire more than what they need in terms of wealth and luxury, that leads them to stagnation" (Damraoui, 2022).

2.1.1 Forms of Development

- **Cultural and Intellectual Development:** This form of development focuses on improving individuals' culture and increasing their awareness. It can be achieved through various methods, including universal education and combating illiteracy.
- **Social Development:** It aims to achieve social stability for individuals and encourages their participation in social events, charitable activities, and the promotion of a sense of communal spirit among them.
- **Political Development:** It aims to increase individuals' ability to participate in the political process, make decisions, and exercise proper choice.
- **Economic Development:** It aims to encourage individuals to work, produce, and engage in work driven by their inner conscience, as well as prioritize the public interest.
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2.1.2 Characteristics of Community Development

- **Comprehensive Process:** It encompasses all aspects of the social, economic, cultural, and administrative dimensions of a community, treating it as a complete and integrated system.
- **Continuous Process:** It is an ongoing process that does not stop at a certain point of change. The implementation of community development and achieving the desired results requires a long time because it involves changes in the fundamental structure of the society.
- **Planned Process:** Any form of community development cannot begin without identifying its main objectives. These objectives can only be achieved through a well-planned and scientifically organized process.
- **Investment-oriented Process:** It relies on the investment of existing human and material resources with the aim of achieving desired outcomes.
- **Administrative Process:** The success of community development depends on the efficiency of governance, requiring the collaboration of all institutions, whether they are government or private.

The process of development aims to uplift individuals in society and achieve well-being for them (Dwaikat, 2016). We can also explore the origins of development from the early experiments conducted by the first humans to understand the changes happening around them. This was associated with living experiences and contemplation of the differences observed in the seasons, plants, humans, and animals. These changes affirmed that the world is in constant motion and undergoing continuous transformation. These observations and reflections led to philosophical discussions about the nature of things and the nature of the changes occurring in them.

2.2 Concept of Shadow Areas

Its implications have been translated into development programs to address the wide gaps resulting from mismanagement and inadequate monitoring of projects within local plans, which have had harsh consequences on the inhabitants of these human spaces who found themselves outside the scope of coverage.

The definition of this term refers to defining the geographic scope of residential areas that lack essential facilities and are far from the requirements of daily life, classifying them as areas of deprivation. Consequently, they directly fall under the framework of points that genuinely require intervention to address the accumulated backwardness they have experienced on multiple levels.

In comparison to previous years, the reference has always been associated with

remote or so-called impoverished areas. In this context, the Ministry of Solidarity has conducted a study in recent years that resulted in compiling a list of regions considered "deprived" based on the essentials of livelihood, categorized according to each municipality. However, this time the description carries a comprehensive nature, meaning that attention is focused on the entire relevant unit. These regions are still engulfed by the shadow that has not dissipated, depriving them of their right to local development. The initial initiatives taken in this regard include conducting a census, revealing that there are 15,000 shadow areas with 8.5 million citizens benefiting from 2,238 projects. The presented numbers are extremely large, requiring a new approach in managing these areas from now on, based on alternative mechanisms that aim to prevent the recurrence of the same problems in the future. Thus, the forthcoming endeavor will be based on sound governance capable of managing the intricacies of local development on clear principles, monitoring projects on the ground, and assessing their progress. Without adopting this approach, it becomes difficult to control what happens at the local level. The challenge here is evident in minimizing these numbers to the greatest extent possible, which is not an easy task. However, there is a determination to find necessary solutions, regardless of the difficulties, to eliminate shadow areas, and this task falls upon local communities (O'Kelly, 2020).

3. Dimensions and Indicators of Development within Shadow Areas

3.1 Dimensions of Development within Shadow Areas

From the previous definitions, it is observed that development encompasses multiple interrelated dimensions. By focusing on addressing these dimensions, tangible progress can be made in achieving the desired development. Here, four crucial and interactive dimensions can be identified: economic, human, environmental, and technological dimensions.

- **Economic Dimension:** This dimension revolves around the current and future economic impacts on the environment. Economic growth should be achieved in a way that values environmental assets and conserves natural capital.
- **Social Dimension:** The social dimension focuses on human resource development by addressing health, education, and cultural aspects, enhancing the community's ability to overcome poverty and achieve social justice.
- **Environmental Dimension:** This dimension highlights the strategies that should be followed to optimize the management of natural capital instead of wasting and depleting it in an irrational manner.
- **Institutional Dimension:** The institutional dimension involves achieving

sustainable development goals by establishing institutions capable of implementing strategies that ensure the application of their principles and foundations.

- **Technological Dimension:** It involves the transition to cleaner technologies that reduce energy consumption by improving their production and consumption patterns and enabling the use of renewable resources.

3.2 Indicators of Development within Shadow Areas

3.2.1 Economic Indicators (Wasila, 2016, pp. 20-22)

- **Economic Structure Indicators:** One of the most important indicators is the per capita share of the gross domestic product (GDP). This indicator is widely used in international and regional reports to measure the level of development and assess sustainability.
- **Investment-to-GDP Ratio:** This indicator helps measure capital growth in the national economy and the development of capital accumulation in terms of goods and services. The Trade Openness Index indicates the degree of economic openness of a country to the outside world and its level of trade relations with different countries.
- **Production and Consumption Patterns:** The key indicators related to this dimension include:
 - **Energy Intensity Indicator:** This indicator reflects the efficiency of energy consumption in a country.
 - **Hazardous Waste Generation:** This indicator aims to measure the negative impact of industrial activity on various environmental systems and natural resources by representing the quantity of solid waste.

3.2.2 Social Indicators

The key social indicators include (Wasila, 2016, pp. 20-22):

- **Human Poverty Index:** This indicator consists of three dimensions: long and healthy life, knowledge and illiteracy, and access to economic resources.
- **Human Development Index:** This indicator is calculated based on the average of three components: life expectancy, financial resources directed towards human development, and levels of knowledge and living standards.
- **Distribution Indicator:** It is measured by the individual's share of the gross income, and the Gini coefficient is commonly used to measure income distribution equity.

3.2.3 Environmental Indicators

Environmental sustainability measurement relies on several indicators, including (Wasila, 2016, pp. 20-22):

- **Air Pollution Index:** Measured through emissions of gases such as nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide.
- **Climate Change:** Measured through the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions.
- **Urban Environmental Issues:** Measured by the volume of non-recycled solid waste and urban expansion at the expense of agricultural land.

3.2.4 Institutional Indicators

Institutional development indicators include (Wasila, 2016, pp. 20-22):

- **Institutional Readiness:** The national development strategy and the implementation of agreements include indicators that reflect the institutional measures taken to support sustainable development.
- **Institutional Capacity:** Sustainable development indicators related to institutional capacity aim to measure progress in the field of information technology and communication infrastructure.

4. Development of "Shadow Areas": The New Algeria Challenge and a Strategic Goal Defined by Four Conditions

- The New Algeria project cannot be completed without equitable development.
- The justice of development distribution starts from promoting shadow areas into upscale residential communities.
- The strategy for developing impoverished regions must be based on precise scientific vision.
- Effectiveness of any development policy depends on the adjustment of the concept, definition of the vision, and timeline.

The participatory approach is the optimal solution for deepening the developmental impact of the policy for promoting shadow areas. Since its launch by the head of state during the meeting of the government with the governors in mid-February 2020, the term "shadow areas" has become one of the most widely circulated terms in Algeria. It has transformed from a mere description of impoverished regions in Algeria, which the government wanted to shed light on, into a distinguished political and economic term. Many experts agree that the development and promotion of impoverished regions represent the challenge of the economic and

social revitalization of the New Algeria, and it is a strategic goal that will allow Algeria to make significant progress if achieved.

However, despite the map announced by the government, which included about 150,000 areas classified as poverty hotspots inhabited by approximately 9 million Algerians, the effectiveness of the strategy for developing and promoting those areas remains dependent on four fundamental conditions (Djawadi, 2020):

First: Adjusting the concept and defining precise criteria for defining a "shadow area." Because the ambiguity of the definition makes it difficult, if not impossible, to reach the true impoverished regions. The accuracy of the statistical process is entirely dependent on this, and it constitutes the first crucial step in accurate diagnosis, which accounts for two-thirds of solving the problem. On the contrary, the fragility of the statistical system, due to the absence of a precise definition, undermines the project and opens the door wide to personal interpretations that may not serve the state's strategy for developing these impoverished areas.

Secondly: Establishing a clear economic vision for the development of these regions, through a strategy that focuses on: precisely identifying the strengths and development potentials of each region, objectively diagnosing areas of underdevelopment and prioritizing their needs, assessing the available development opportunities for each region based on their legal and geographical characteristics, and finally identifying the challenges that need to be addressed. This vision should start with a general description of the social and economic reality of the region, by collecting what can be called a development atlas that includes: (01) accurate information about the local labor market, including population numbers, classifications, their needs, unemployment rates, employed individuals and their distribution across sectors, average household income, the number of resident and migrant skills, etc.; (02) major features of the region's economy, such as financing resources and their size, the size of utilized and unused agricultural, industrial, and farming real estate, the number and distribution of active companies, those that have closed or gone bankrupt, and those expected to start operations, rental and property sales costs, the size of the informal economy; (03) the investment environment or investment climate, through assessing administrative facilitations, the tax system, the banking system, insurance, and social protection; (04) the state of infrastructure, including road networks, electricity, gas, water supply, etc.; (05) finally, national and regional information about the region's position within the national development plan, the status of neighboring regions, international border crossings, and international

agreements concluded, etc.

Thirdly: Establishing a well-defined timeline for the stages of the development strategy directed towards these regions, with each region having its own specific plan. This schedule should include at least four periods: (01) organizing efforts, which I believe we have already started; (02) describing the current situation of each region, by identifying the strengths and development potentials of each region, determining areas of underdevelopment and general needs, assessing available opportunities, and identifying challenges to be addressed; (03) outlining the general lines of the development strategy by defining the desired objectives and listing the necessary resources (financial, human, etc.); (04) implementing and realizing the development strategy; and finally (05) reviewing and evaluating the outcomes of the development strategy.

Fourthly: Adopting a participatory approach in the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the stages of the development strategy for these regions, with the active involvement of all stakeholders in the economic and social reality of the region, including the government sector with all its institutions, the private sector with all its components, and the civil society with its various activities.

It is worth noting that there are three essential and integral conditions for the success of the participatory mechanism: firstly, the will of the central authority (the government); secondly, the will of the local authority (local administrators responsible for the region); and thirdly, and most importantly, the existence of a structured and aware civil society and community activities. I believe that these conditions are available in Algeria, or at least to a sufficient extent to initiate the adoption of the participatory approach as a new development methodology.

In conclusion, launching the development and promotion of "shadow regions" according to the aforementioned mechanisms will have positive and structural effects on their economic and social development, transforming these regions from economic and social burdens into developmental factors that enhance the country's efforts towards the economic and social revitalization of the new Algeria.

5. Development Reality within Shadow Areas

The Algerian government has given significant attention to the issue of development in "shadow areas" and has taken it seriously. Ibrahim Murad, the advisor to the Algerian President responsible for shadow areas, revealed that 38% of registered projects have been implemented, indicating the authorities' determination to end the suffering of 10 million citizens, including 8 million in 15,000 shadow areas.

During his participation in a forum on the first radio channel, the advisor responsible for shadow areas, Ibrahim Murad, mentioned that 15,044 "shadow areas" have been identified in Algerian territories, inhabited by approximately 8 million people. He also stated that the current year's budgets have been distributed to all provinces before the meeting of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune with the governors of the republic in February. Following the meeting, the president issued instructions to take care of the inhabitants of these areas and begin implementing several projects to improve their living conditions. Murad said, "According to the initial assessment, the progress rate of the projects is showing advancement."

The president's advisor identified the most important needs and priorities of the shadow areas in 14 sectors, primarily related to road networks or pathways connecting villages to transportation networks, electricity and gas supply, sanitation, healthcare coverage, providing drinking water, improving study conditions and recreational facilities. He mentioned that "the development operations to address and solve the problems faced by the inhabitants of these areas will be recorded." He added that "based on field surveys, hundreds of minor development operations have been implemented over the past four months, contributing to alleviating the suffering of these people through modest financial resources" (Yahi, 2020).

5.1 Qualitative Leap

Regarding the priority given by the government to "shadow areas," Samir Meharz, a professor of political science, stated, "Before discussing the presented numbers and statistics, it is important to recognize the significance of paying attention to these areas after 20 years of developmental neglect, especially in the interior provinces." He emphasized that "the development of shadow areas falls within the framework of the New Algeria project." Furthermore, he stated, "The focus on 15,000 areas of this type, in the fields of transportation, healthcare, education, and the promotion of light and medium industries, will allow for a positive qualitative leap for the benefit of the country in the next five years." He added that "there are two types of shadow areas: the first type requires development, while the second type lacks living conditions, and it is crucial to focus on it seriously."

Meharz believed that "the statement of Ibrahim Murad, the advisor to the President responsible for shadow areas, about the government allocating approximately 3.72 billion dollars to complete 38,700 projects in 15,044 shadow areas, reflects the level of attention given by the authorities to bring 8 million Algerians into the light." He stressed the necessity of monitoring and following up on

the implementation of these projects by local competencies, in addition to representative committees from various civil society groups, whose members are elected to avoid any forms of corruption and financial embezzlement, to achieve the desired outcome in the near future (Yahi, 2020).

5.2 Completion of Projects by the End of 2020

According to information obtained by "Andbend Net Arabiya," Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad emphasizes the need to complete the work on various projects accepted within the framework of developing shadow areas before the end of the current year. This deadline was given to local officials during his meeting with the governors in August. He also instructed them to take the necessary measures to improve the water supply to citizens in shadow areas. Considering the health crisis that affected the progress of various projects, it is expected that the government will extend the deadline given to officials to complete them (Yahi, 2020).

5.3 Reverse Migration

On the other hand, Ibrahim Murad stated that "the countryside may witness reverse displacement after reaching the desired level," explaining that "families have been forced to leave the countryside due to the lack of living conditions, but the development of these areas may lead to reverse displacement from the city to the countryside." He confirmed that "there are citizens who are considering returning to their original homeland and practicing their activities there instead of staying in cities and enduring hardships in them," adding that "2021 will be the year of shadow regions par excellence."

Murad further clarified that "governors must demonstrate the required skill in order to distribute budgets according to needs in collaboration with local communities, and direct budgets to projects awaiting launch and the release of remaining funds. As well as relying on some funds to implement projects that contribute to improving the living conditions of deprived populations in shadow areas," expressing his frustration "at the recorded delays in the field of local development in various isolated areas across the country." He emphasized the need for "an accurate and detailed survey of the concerns and needs of the population in isolated areas in order to determine priorities and prepare an urgent program to address the delays." He mentioned that "the policy of caring for shadow areas through implementing development operations and providing decent living conditions for their residents is a priority for President Abdelmajid Tebboune" (Yahi, 2020).

6. Challenges facing development in shadow areas

These challenges can be highlighted as follows (Bashir, 2021):

In Algeria, after the presidential elections in December 2019, a term emerged that we had not heard of before and spread to the extent that the new presidency appointed an advisor to the president to handle the issue. This term refers to wide areas that exist on the margins of development without facilities, services, or basic necessities of life. It is a term called "shadow areas" that signifies regions living in underdevelopment and economic oppression, completely devoid of public policy in many areas across Algeria. These shadow areas are not limited to a specific region but include both areas far from major cities and areas in the heart of major cities that are seemingly unimaginable to lack development.

These areas are neglected and excluded from indicators of development and government programs aimed at meeting the needs of citizens in terms of facilities and services. They cover the geographical regions of Algeria in all four directions.

The problem of shadow areas presents a bigger challenge than public policy because President Abdelmadjid Tebboune himself raised his voice in a meeting with the governors of the republic (city governors), expressing surprise at the spread of these areas and the extent of economic oppression they suffer from. After watching a video clip about the reality of these shadow and marginalized areas, he appointed an advisor to address the issue. In the same meeting, he discovered that thousands of areas are living in conditions worse than what he had witnessed, lacking even the basic necessities of a decent life. Since that meeting, the public television continues to broadcast images in every news bulletin that we never believed could exist in an oil-rich country like Algeria. The reality is terrifying regarding the living conditions and the indicators of a decent life that are not provided for Algerian citizens.

– **Is the problem related to the nature of governance or governance itself?**

This is the issue that Algerians need to agree upon. Here arises a crucial question related to the money generated by Algeria from the oil boom: What was done with it? How was it spent? Why did underdevelopment persist and even worsen? This question may lead to even greater problems when discussing what was mentioned a few days ago by the main news anchor on public television about a camera entering shadow areas for the first time since independence. Also, we heard from some residents living in those areas about the unimaginable suffering due to the absence of any standards that allow for a decent life. This sheds light on the larger picture of poverty and its extent, affecting large segments of the population.

It suggests that the percentage of people living in poverty is much higher than what is mentioned in the news and reports, and that the public policies for development since independence have failed. Thus, a realistic diagnosis leads to two conclusions: the exclusion of these developmental indicators from those areas and the consequences of this on the responsibility borne by some individuals. Additionally, it necessitates evaluating the cost of this failure in terms of corruption and missed development opportunities.

The authorities have decided, based on this diagnosis, to focus on these areas by assessing their needs, identifying shortcomings, and providing the necessary funds to alleviate the oppression. However, are these decisions sufficient, or should the work extend to a larger scale by announcing the failure of the state-building and economic model followed since independence? Is there a need for national consensus that includes all Algerians and society's segments to acknowledge the reality and plan a comprehensive reconstruction project, away from patchwork policies that have not been fruitful and will not lift the oppression experienced by those areas and the rest of the Algerian population.

– **Is the problem in the nature of governance or in governance itself?**

That is the dilemma that Algerians need to reach a consensus on because governance, which refers to management standards for addressing problems or finding solutions to the equation of needs/resources, falls on the shoulders of decision-makers from institutions that have not found solutions to those problems. Even with the availability of funds, considering the oil boom, the money has not been able to bridge the gap between the two sides of the mentioned equation. The needs remain the same, and the voice of the citizen always rises through various approaches, including protest and condemnation, due to their dissatisfaction or sometimes the complete absence of meeting their needs. Meanwhile, the official discourse in the past used to deceive us by suggesting that development exists and that needs have decreased due to state intervention.

– **Perhaps the challenges of economic, political, and strategic problems provide an opportunity to agree on broad lines for another Algerian project**

As a result, both sides of this problem, governance and rule, need an evaluation of their work and an assessment of their mistakes. This is an essential methodology in public policy worldwide, where elected and representative oversight institutions for all segments of the population evaluate public policies, with a vital element being the

examination of public expenditure. This is to determine whether the problem lies in the plans drawn to achieve development or whether the problem lies in the lack of necessary efficiency to realize that development according to its standards. This evaluation is followed by a strategic stage, which is the assessment that is politically implemented through change, meaning by announcing failure and appointing those responsible for it, and then turning to the constitution to search for solutions that may include early elections after a comprehensive government change. It may also be achieved economically by declaring the complete failure of the current economic approach and directing choices towards another economic strategy that is more effective and uplifting from this oppression.

Another problem lies in Algeria, where the parliament, in its two chambers, is not performing its duties because it is not representative. This is what the amended constitution recently attempted to correct by including measures to prevent corrupt money from reaching parliament, and by considering a new organic law for elections, which is currently being worked on for approval. However, against the backdrop of the contradiction between the desire for reform and enabling the current parliament (in its two chambers) to do so, despite the increasing voices calling for the dissolution of the lower chamber in order to hold early legislative elections, which may take place in the fall of this year if the necessary political and health conditions are met.

– **The previous regime attempted to deceive Algerians into believing that they were living in the best country and at the highest levels.**

It has been previously mentioned the necessity of consensus to overcome these problems, and efforts must be made to strategically establish it by recognizing that the February 2019 movement did not emerge out of nowhere but rather as a result of the accumulation of these problems. Areas of shadow, poverty, lack of facilities, and services constitute prominent aspects of this image. Perhaps this accumulation of problems, both political and economic, is the main driving force behind finding common ground among Algerians through negotiations, dialogue, or meetings, in order to breathe life into it as we desire. The important thing is to agree on the diagnosis and then swiftly move towards consensus on remedies that serve the country and lead us towards a broad space to embody a project that places us as a regional power and a leading force in the Maghreb and the Sahel-Saharan region, playing a strategic role in the western Mediterranean as a whole.

In conclusion, lifting the oppression from shadow areas requires a broader

project than just facilities and services because the problem is bigger, and its two components, governance and rule, are awaiting the challenge of consensus to find not just one solution, but multiple solutions for the future. Urgent consensus and its mechanisms are required to eliminate the causes of failure, leading to the adoption of systematic approaches to work, centered around efficiency, cleanliness of hands, and the ability to address all problems for the benefit of all Algerians.

7. Development prospects within shadow areas

7.1 Revitalizing the industrial sector

The activity of an industrial enterprise, its survival, and its ability to compete are linked to its responsiveness to the needs of its customers. Hence, the importance of directing enterprises to achieve their specific goals, as well as development objectives in general.

7.1.1 Development prospects lie in achieving an industrial strategy based on available resources:

The Algerian state must unify future prospects based on both natural and human resources to achieve its current and future industrial policy. This can be accomplished by harnessing natural resources, as the abundance and quality of these resources serve as the starting point for industrial development, especially regarding energy resources.

As the national economy relies on rent-based economics, the government has been compelled to find means to adapt to these obstacles and challenges by implementing various programs within the framework of economic development. It has revealed an ambition to produce 10% of electricity from renewable sources such as water, solar, and wind power by 2020. The primary goal of the current industrial strategy in Algeria is to expand the production base and reduce reliance on a single source of income. This results in building a balanced economy that can, in addition to the need to develop resources, withstand fluctuations that may affect the natural hydrocarbon sector.

7.1.2 Methods for revitalizing the industry

A. Investment promotion policy

Investments, both domestic and foreign, hold a prominent position among policy-makers' priorities. Therefore, Algeria seeks to develop strategies that help attract foreign investment, especially since investment climate indicators in Algeria have not shown improvement, starting from the facilitations provided for project establishment to the final liquidation. Thus, developing investment requires creating

an effective environment that provides investors with a suitable institutional framework and a motivating protection system. Therefore, the investment promotion strategy is an inseparable part of the overall economic system strategy. Several amendments have been introduced to Law No. 06/08 concerning the development and improvement of the existing system, including:

- Investment facilitation.
- Restructuring the granting and management of benefits to align with international practices in the field.
- Reducing the processing time for investment files.
- Protecting the rights of investors who have the right to appeal to the specialized committee for this purpose.
- Eliminating entry visas for foreigners, reviewing customs laws, reducing tax and social costs, and abolishing the tax on export proceeds.

B. Qualification policy:

Qualification refers to a set of measures and actions aimed at improving and enhancing the effectiveness of the enterprise compared to its leading competitors in the market. It encompasses a range of technological, technical, and managerial processes with the aim of achieving competitiveness and enabling the enterprise to produce quality products, meet standards, and generate profits. A new qualification policy has been proposed due to the importance of qualifying economic institutions in improving their competitiveness to face international competition and its significant role in achieving economic development. The policy revolves around the following points:

- Unifying current programs into a unified and integrated program within the manufacturing strategy.
- Implementing a comprehensive qualification program that incorporates all modernization factors.
- Taking care of the qualification of institutions through coordination, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Targeting sectoral priorities, aid and incentive systems.

C. Standardization:

The development of standardization, accreditation, certification, and industrial property activities contributes to the modernization of the national economy. Conformity assessment is part of the quality efforts applied in the field of

standardization. Certification responds to the need of the institution to enjoy the trust of its stakeholders, which is a factor for economic integration.

D. Human resource development:

The success of every institution depends on the development of human resources as an incentive factor for absorbing technologies and industrial modernization. This requires intensifying supply in the field of qualified training through the establishment of vocational training schools and advanced technical institutes in major industrial sectors. Diversifying training channels to match qualifications with market needs and valuing human capital have become urgent necessities for all international organizations and entities. Investing in human resources is now seen as a value for achieving national output, rather than a social cost borne by the administrative organization.

7.2 Strategy for market-based development

One of the most prominent aspects of the contraction of the state's role in the economic field is the implementation of what is known as privatization policy, in addition to investment policy and regulatory policy.

- **Privatization Policy:** Privatization in Algerian economic law refers to the transfer of public ownership from the state to natural or legal persons governed by private law. This transfer means the transfer of physical or moral assets in a public institution or part thereof, or the transfer of the management of public institutions to natural or legal persons governed by private law through contractual formulas that determine the methods of transfer and the conditions for practicing it in Algeria, aiming to achieve significant economic efficiency based on sustained growth. Privatization aims to create job opportunities, replace the liberal management model with a rational economic management model, eliminate bureaucratic stagnation, reduce the burden on the budget in the medium term, use its revenues to manage debts and encourage investment, as well as contribute to modernization and strengthen the competitiveness of financial institutions, encourage transaction transparency, and eliminate unethical practices, thus promoting and serving development in all its dimensions.
- **Investment Policy:** Investment refers to the acquisition of assets within the framework of establishing new activities, expanding production capacities, rehabilitating or restructuring, and contributing to the capital of a financial or non-financial institution.
- **Regulatory Policy:** Achieving balance in the state budget depends on improving

the management of financial resources through controlling expenses. The state must combat tax evasion as it is an economic crime that deprives the state budget of significant revenues. By mobilizing all material and human resources in the public interest, considering that the public sector is a profitable sector, the state must resort to measures such as loans instead of money issuance, which fuels inflation. In addition to combating tax evasion, the state should control the exchange rate policy, which is a means of influencing resource allocation among different sectors and the profitability of export industries, as well as inflation.

7.3 Governance

Enhancing good governance, combating bribery, and fighting corruption are closely linked, especially since they are essential elements for achieving growth and development on various levels (Naima, 2016).

7.3.1 Activating development through the application of the concept of governance

7.3.2 Strategy to combat administrative and financial corruption

Due to the prevalence of practices that exceed the law and undermine proper market economics, which include strict regulations for controlling business activities and transactions to protect the national economy, investors, and stakeholders, as well as considering fraud and bribery as the fundamental pillars of corruption, it is necessary to detect and combat such practices. This can be achieved through the following mechanisms:

- Reforming government institutions and combating bureaucratic performance while continuously evaluating work methods.
- Increasing the efficiency and enhancing the capabilities of employees through training programs, thereby strengthening the capacities of governmental, administrative, and executive bodies.
- Improving the judicial system and providing all necessary resources for law enforcement.
- Practicing corporate governance in both public and private companies.
- Adopting international accounting standards to support financial management efficiency.
- Combating bribery as part of governance reforms.
- The relationship between governance, corruption, and their impact on development.
- The environment and achieving development goals.

- The impact of environmental protection on employment.
- The impact of environmental protection on price stability.
- The impact of environmental protection on economic growth.

8. CONCLUSION

These areas, characterized by their geographical nature as mountainous, desert, or border regions with neighboring countries, or regions located at the borders between states, are considered inhospitable for populations due to the absence of infrastructure such as local road networks and rural pathways, lack of access to rural electricity and natural gas, and scarcity or absence of potable water. Moreover, in terms of education and healthcare, there is a complete absence of schools and health facilities, or existing ones are closed, and if they exist, they are ill-equipped and provide inadequate services. All these factors have led to the absence of regional justice and a clear imbalance in regional development.

The relevant ministries have urgently directed local authorities to conduct a comprehensive survey of these neglected areas, identifying shortcomings and needs, as well as determining priority areas for intervention programs to stimulate development in these regions. Additionally, organizing the rural environment through appropriate mechanisms is crucial to improve the living conditions of the population.

From here, it is evident that modern development trends are based on an approach that focuses on regional development through local development and revitalizing stagnant sectors such as agriculture and tourism, integrating them into the growth process. It is expected that the contribution of the agricultural sector, which currently accounts for only 9%, will reach 25%. The government's development approach aligns with these trends.

Launching the development process in the neglected areas will have numerous positive effects, such as making them more attractive to residents, reducing rural migration to cities, and potentially even reversing migration from urban areas to rural ones. Moreover, establishing rural communities in these areas will alleviate population pressure on major cities. These development measures will make the shadow regions more dynamic and active in the overall economic process, especially in terms of domestic investment. These actions will create new social and economic focal points and enhance their contribution to the country's economic and social life.

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