



The reality of productive woman's contribution to promoting local economic development in desert areas

“A field study of a sample of women entrepreneurs in southern Algeria”

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Abstract ;

The study aims to clarify the degree to which productive woman contribute to promoting local economic development in the desert areas. In pursuance of the study's goal, a questionnaire was distributed to a purposive sample of 101 women who own a private enterprise, work in seven states of southern Algeria, and are active in various economic fields.

After the analysis and interpretation of the results and testing of the hypotheses, it was concluded that the prominent feature of women's projects in southern Algeria is the traditional crafts and industries. The findings also revealed a strong correlation between the status and role of productive woman in their local community and the degree of their contribution to achieving local economic development, in addition to significant differences in the degree of productive women's contribution to promoting local economic development according to the nature and location of the project.

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1. Introduction

Economic, social, cultural, and environmental factors are all part of the multidimensional concept of development. Every stakeholder in society must work together to successfully complete the complicated and challenging process of development in all of its forms. As a result, attaining local economic development in each of the nation's regions is the only way to accomplish the more challenging but important objective of achieving comprehensive and equitable economic development.

Moreover, in light of government policies and development programs of international entities, women are regarded as an important part and an effective partner in the process of economic development by increasing investments in women's productive roles and supporting the establishment of income-generating micro-enterprises. Women in desert areas resort to setting up private projects in the field of crafts, traditional industries, agriculture, trade...etc, as well as accomplishing their various household chores, yet their contribution to economic activities that result in achieving local economic development is neglected.

In order to determine the extent of women's contributions to the growth of their local community, particularly in desert regions that have the human potential and material resources necessary for successful investment, the following issue must be addressed when studying how to increase women's productivity levels: **What is the degree to which productive women contribute to promoting local economic development in desert areas?**

To answer the question raised, we opted to raise the following sub-questions:

- Do productive women contribute to local economic development in the states of southern Algeria?
- What is the relationship between the status and role of productive women in their local community and the degree of their contribution to local economic development?
- Does the productive participation of women in the local community differ according to their educational level, the status of setting up their project and the nature of its activity?

In order to answer the previous questions, the following initial hypotheses were put forward:

- Productive women contribute greatly to local economic development in desert areas.
- The contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development is closely related to their position and role in the local community.
- There is no difference in the contribution of productive women to the local economic development in the desert areas, according to the location of the project and the nature of the project's activity.

- Objectives of the study:

The study aims to achieve the following:

- Analysis of the current situation of productive women in the states of southern Algeria;
- Identify the level of economic empowerment of women in the states of southern Algeria;
- Measure women's orientation toward establishing private projects in southern Algeria, and monitoring the nature of these projects;
- Determine the role of local economic development in supporting and formulating effective programs to reduce the main problems that productive women face at the present time;
- Expose the indicators through which it is possible to assess the status of productive women and measure the capabilities of the local community to empower women economically;
- Provide suggestions for improving the whole situation of women's projects in the states of the south to promote local economic development in them.

2. Theoretical framework of the study

2.1 The concept of the productive woman

The productive woman was not specifically and properly defined in the research literature. Numerous studies that addressed the subject of women's engagement in economic life highlighted education and employment as fundamental factors in determining how well-off or underprivileged women are in society.

Studies have also shown that employment and education improve women's status in society, their capacity for decision-making, their sense of empowerment, and their efficiency in the personal, social, and economic spheres. Women can have more control over their lives when they receive a formal education, enrol in college, work part- or full-time employment in public and private organizations, or launch their own enterprises (Dandona, 2015, p. 38).

However, the burden that women face as a result of their essential role in society constitutes a major obstacle to their participation in economic development through productive work. According to et al Fajarwati (2016) the role of women is divided into three categories (the triple work of women), namely: (Fajarwati & al, 2016, p. 372)

- **Reproductive role (reproductive labour):** Is a role related to the care responsibilities and household tasks necessary to ensure the preservation and safety of the family, and to ensure the continuity of the family. Women's work includes reproductive work (domestic work, child care and upbringing, adult care, sick care, water and fuel work, health work...etc).
- **Productive role (productive labour):** Is the role that men and women perform alike, in order to obtain wages in cash or to produce non-consumer goods. It includes productive

work (production directed to the market, production for the family, including work in formal and informal sector institutions such as agriculture and trade, whether at home or in the neighbourhood,...etc).

- **The role of public and political administration (community administrative work):** It is a role linked to women's assumption of community management roles (social activities), which are activities that have been implemented as an extension of the reproductive role. It includes community administrative work (solidarity among community members, maintenance of community needs as a social grouping, voluntary work and unpaid activities). While political administration (political activity) is carried out at the level of the community organizing role at the formal political level, this role aims to make decisions that affect people's lives such as women's candidacy for local elections, or other government positions.

Coordinating the reproductive role (reproductive labour) in the first article is time-consuming for the woman and limits her productive role (productive labour) to working in formal sector institutions or establishing her own mini-project that is in line with her reproductive role, preventing women from taking risks and establishing large-scale economic projects. This propagated the idea of designating the domestic realm as a space for women to execute their traditional tasks and pursue their own interests.

According to available evidence, women tend to run smaller and less dynamic businesses than men, with some gender differences in entrepreneurial appetite explained by institutional barriers that constrain women, such as family beliefs and tax policies that discourage their participation in businesses. The labour market and the establishment of entrepreneurship, and negative social attitudes towards women entrepreneurs (OECD/European Union, 2017, pp. 55-56). Women entrepreneurs are more likely to run smaller, less productive, and less profitable businesses than men when starting a formal or informal business to increase their income or achieve flexibility in their home and professional schedules (Purnamawati & Yuniarta, 2020, p. 2).

In the absence of a comprehensive definition, the productive woman can be defined as follows: every woman owns and manages a private project, either individually or collectively, within a formal or informal framework, and the outputs of this project generate cash income, a portion of which contributes to the development of the local community, as long as it is available. A productive woman possesses the skills and resources required to compete in markets, as well as the ability to have fair and equal access to a variety of resources, as well as the ability to make economic decisions, act on them, and control resources and profits.

2.2 The concept of local economic development

The definitions given for local economic development differed in the research literature. Review defining the local community, local development, and economic

development, in order to derive from it the concept of local economic development that serves the objective of the current study.

2.2.1 Definition of a local community

The term community is oftentimes used to describe the commonplace or location of a group of individuals, and it is also used to refer to groups that are not geographically defined but share common characteristics or interests. According to the previous definition, the idea of community falls within two main classifications: one is a territorial concept of community based on geographic location and the other, is a relational concept of community based on social network relationships (Aref, Gill, & Aref, 2010, p. 157)

Accordingly, the community as a relational concept represents the individuals who reside within the same geographical boundaries and are divided on the basis of local, political, ethnic, resources or industry located in the mother area; These individuals are linked to each other through intermarriage and friendship and the formation of groups and gatherings linked by the same goals and interests, and the local community plays an essential role in the lives of its various members by promoting their health, social, psychological and spiritual well-being.

2.2.2 Definition of local development

Based on the definition of the local community, we opted for two definitions of local development that serve the objective of the current study. According to (Kisman & Tasar, 2014) It may be seen as a method which helps improving quality of life, supporting or accelerating empowerment of ordinary people, developing or preserving local assets, overcoming market failures, strengthening cohesion, and defining and delivering grass-root development projects. Local development can be characterized as a dynamic process along three main lines: inputs, outputs and outcomes.

The keywords associated to each are: (Kisman & Tasar, 2014, p. 1690)

- **Inputs:** area, sense of belonging, community, bottom-up, partnership, endogenous potential, proximity;
- **Outputs:** local beneficiaries, self-help, increased incomes and revenues, access to services, quality, efficiency, relocation, diversification, new methods, and increased local value;
- **Outcomes:** collective and common goods, development, strategy, regeneration, effectiveness, future, social innovation, empowerment, legitimacy, well-being, amenities, and collective intelligence.

Local development can also be characterized by a clear interpretation of its components so that the local is the location where we live and want to reach a level of living that allows us to express ourselves and feel like we belong there. In reaching and meeting

the necessities that provide a good life for every member of the local community (Alouni, 2019, p. 62).

The two previous definitions indicate that local development is a continuous and escalating transformation to satisfy the renewed needs and desires of the local community. The success of local development policies in any region is based mainly on the extent to which the indigenous people of that region are aware of their effective role in preserving and exploiting its natural and human resources, provided that they are supported financially and morally by the government authorities.

Based on the aforementioned, we can say that the foundations of local development are built through awareness of the components of the local community and are based on two main elements:

- popular participation in local development efforts; This is achieved by the participation of the people themselves in all efforts made to improve their standard of living and the quality of life they live, relying as much as possible on their own initiatives;
- Providing various services and local development projects in a manner that encourages this initiative, self-reliance and participation.

2.2.3 Definition of Economic Development

Economic development is defined as the process by which society moves from a state of underdevelopment to a state of progress. This transition takes place by making radical changes in the structure of production, the quality of goods and services produced, and the structure of income distribution for the benefit of the poor. Economic development aims to devise new production methods, develop skills, and expand production capacity, through attention to agriculture and industry. That is, it is the process by which a continuous increase in the average per capita share of the real national income is achieved during a specified period of time by raising the average per capita productivity by using the available resources to increase production during that period (Adjamia & al, 2008, pp. 81-82).

Additionally, it defined economic development as a thorough civilized process connected to the creation of new and developed situations. Economic development is heavily dependent on the seriousness of the state's economic and political decision-makers, their commitment to achieving change from a backward to an advanced reality in all economic, social, and cultural fields, and their conviction that development occurs in people and for Humanity (Baderan, 2014, p. 15). Based on this, it can be said that the main objective that economic development seeks to achieve is to reduce the disparity in the distribution of income among members of society.

2.2.3 Definition of local economic development

From the 1970s up till the present, the idea of local economic growth has been known to evolve. The numerous advancements are illustrated in Table 1, which links this development specifically to development theory, the means of carrying out the local economic development strategy, and the party in charge of its execution.

Table 1. Evolution of the concept of local economic development

Stage	local development thinking	Authorities responsible for local economic development	Methods of implementing the local economic development strategy
The seventies to the eighties of the twentieth century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobile investments in manufacturing industries from outside the local communities; - Attracting foreign direct investment; - Making investments in physical infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public sector - private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving large grants, tax incentives and subsidized loans to investors in manufacturing industries; - Subsidized investments in physical infrastructure; - Reducing production costs through methods such as the use of low-paid labour.
The eighties to the mid nineties of the twentieth century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining and growing local business activities; - Continuing focus on attracting inward-oriented investment, but targeting specific sectors or coming from specific geographical areas. 	Public sector only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directing payments directly to individual business activities; - Finding workplaces for the establishment of business activities; - Providing advice and training for small to medium-sized private projects; - Providing technical support; - Supporting newly established business ventures; - Investments in both hard and flexible infrastructure.
Late nineties and early twentieth century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Making business environments as a whole suitable; - Making flexible investments; - Making public sector investments work towards the public interest; - Improving the quality of life and security for the people of local communities and for potential investors; -Attracting inward-directed investments, building on the competitive advantage in the local area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partnership between the public and private sector -Local and global partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Developing a holistic strategy to provide a competitive local business environment and encourage growth for local companies; -Establishing networks of cooperation between the actors in development; -Facilitating clusters of economically interdependent business activities; manpower development; -Encouraging the maintenance of the level of quality improvements.

Source: (Houssin, 2018, p. 137)

We can confirm the Mandisvika (2015) concept of local economic development as a process that encourages partners from the local community, the public sector, the private sector, and non-governmental sectors to work cooperatively to create conditions for Better economic growth and job generation with the aim of improving the local economic future and quality of life through Table No. 01, which shows the development of the concept of local economic development from the 1970s until today ((Mandisvika, 2015, p. 198).

In order to improve a local area's economic future and overall standard of living, the World Bank also thinks that local economic development should focus on boosting local businesses. It is a procedure in which partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors collaborate to improve the environment for economic growth and job creation (W.Bank & Stiftang, 2004, p. 9)

In short, we define local economic development as a sustainable process in which all actors in the local community, whether public or private, participate in the presence of an appropriate work climate with the aim of stimulating economic activities, using the resources available in the region, and achieving rates of economic and social development.

2.3. Relationship of productive women to local economic development

Since the eighties, the trend towards discussing issues of gender equality and its relationship to economic growth and social and economic development has begun. Where economic empowerment is the term that most recognizes the role of women as important agents and partners in achieving economic development.

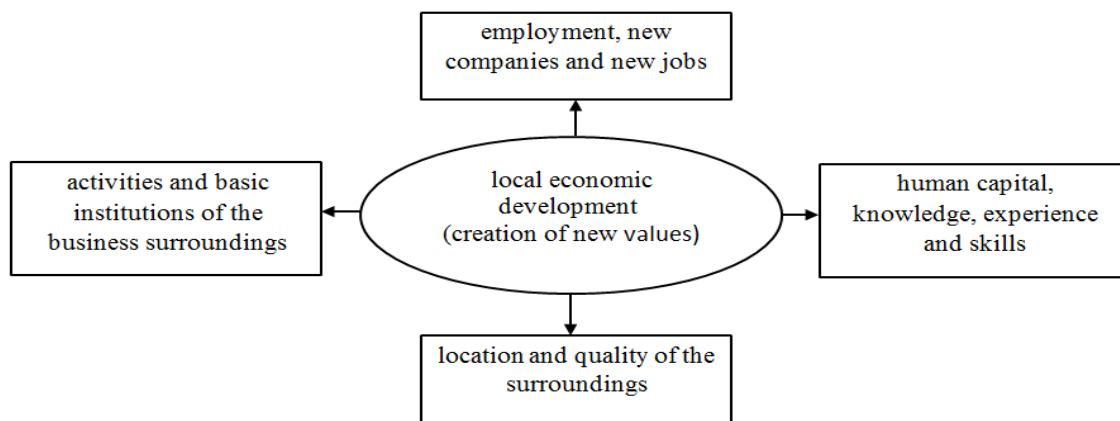
Whereas the idea of economic empowerment refers to the process of transforming the economic power structures in which people live, this also means that the person must have confidence in his or her own abilities, capabilities, and psychological readiness to pick between several options (Bebba, 2011-2012, p. 17) As for the economic empowerment of women, it means increasing the participation or contribution of women in economic activity by removing all obstacles that prevent them from being able to exercise their economic role and their interaction with the economic policies in the country, and one of its most important elements is equality in access to economic resources and the availability of training and knowledge that enhances their economic status in society (El-Bajouri, 2019, p. 112).

The goal of women's economic empowerment is to enable women to make decisions and choices that have an impact on society, either individually or collectively, and to provide people with the freedom to think and act as they like. As a result, its empowerment is crucial for the local community's growth.

According to Bhoganadam et al. (2014), there is a direct correlation between the empowerment of women and economic growth. They have two different effects on one another. In the first, development alone can significantly reduce social and economic disparities between men and women; in the second, empowering women as an essential component of economic growth may improve the development process (Bhoganadam, Malini, & Srinivasa Rao, 2014, p. 100). In the same context, the results of Duflo's study (2012) indicate that access to women's empowerment will bring about changes in decision-making, which will have a direct impact on development (Duflo, 2012, pp. 1051,1076). The transformations resulting from the active participation of individuals in society, including the activities of women, lead to transformations in local economic development and create new values in the local community, the most important of which are the following: (Sekula, 2002, p. 61)

- products, goods, services meant to satisfy internal and external needs;
- employment, new companies creating new jobs;
- non-material values, such as: human capital, knowledge, higher qualifications and skills;
- attractive location proposals consisting of “hard” elements, such as buildings and technical infrastructure and “soft” elements understood as excellent natural.

Fig.1. Local economic development and Economic empowerment



Source: (Sekula, 2002, p. 61)

By analysing indicators of economic empowerment of women in Africa, El-Bajouri (2019) concluded that women's empowerment plays a central role in any development strategy because of its role in raising economic productivity and achieving economic growth that extends to non-economic indicators such as education, health and food security. The results of the same study also confirmed that the problem of promoting development in Africa is not due to the size of women's economic participation, as the rates of production and employment for females in Africa are relatively high, but the problem lies in the failure of females to achieve full empowerment, and the required levels of productivity as a result of economic and legislative obstacles in particular. related to obtaining productive assets, as

well as an interest in building and strengthening their capabilities by providing equal opportunities to obtain the education and training necessary to raise their productivity (El-Bajouri, 2019, pp. 109-140).

In light of the aforementioned, it is obvious to us that enhancing the local population's quality of life through economic empowerment is essential for local economic development. The exploitation of local resources and indigenous knowledge is at the core of local economic development. Assessing women's capacity to overcome challenges and impediments also involves economic empowerment. That is, the process of economic empowerment is capable of improving their skills, facilitating their access to productive resources, and enhancing their quality of life, dignity, and work in the local community, which contributes to achieving local economic development.

3. The Practical Part

In pursuance of the study's aim which is to investigate the extent of productive women's contribution in promoting local economic development in the desert areas. The questionnaire was used as a research tool to collect data on a sample of female entrepreneurs in the states of southern Algeria for the sake of answering the research questions.

3.1 Design of the research tool

The study questionnaire was created using the findings of past research and studies that covered the same topic as the current study. Following the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, the necessary changes were made, and the final questionnaire was developed, which consists of two axes, namely:

- **The first axis:** includes the personal information of the owners of private projects, including (age, marital status, educational level, family income, number of family members, place of residence, nature of the project, the source of the project idea).
- **The second axis:** includes 15 statements divided into two parts. The first part included 08 statements that reflect the opinions of the study sample members about the first variable represented in the position of productive women in the local community, that is, the level of economic empowerment that women have in the desert areas; As for the second part, it includes 07 statements formulated in order to measure the second variable represented in the role played by productive women in order to achieve economic development in the local community.

The statements of the questionnaire were formulated according to the triple Likert scale, which consists of three options (disagree, neutral, agree), we considered score (1) as the lowest score and score (3) as the highest score. The arithmetic mean is then evaluated according to the weighted average categories of the Triangular Likert scale. Following that the trend is determined according to its values shown in the following table:

Table 2. Categories and Classifications of the Weighted Average of the Triple Likert Scale

Option	Score	Category	Evaluation
disagree	1	From 1 to 1.66	Low
neutral	2	From 1.67 to 2.33	Average
agree	3	From 2.34 to 3.00	High

Source: Designed by the researcher based on Triple Likert Scale

3.2 Research population and sample

The selection of the suitable sample is among the most basic and important factors in ensuring the validity and accuracy of the study's results. Based on the study's primary objective, the study population was represented as all women who own projects in desert regions, that is, each woman owns and manages her own project in the states of southern Algeria.

3.3 The sampling method

The non-probability (non-random) sampling method was used, relying on sample selection based on the deliberate (intentional) sampling method, because it accurately represents the study population. On this basis, 120 questionnaires were distributed to a sample of the following private entrepreneurs: liberal professions, handicrafts and traditional industries, commercial and service projects, industrial projects, and agricultural projects; these entrepreneurs work in the following states of southern Algeria: Oued-Souf, Oued-Righ, Ouargla, Ghardaia and El-Menia, Adrar, Tamanrasset, Illizi.

Furthermore, 101 questionnaires were retrieved from 120 ones distributed at a rate of (84.17%), all of which are subject to statistical treatment, and 19 forms were excluded with a percentage of (15.83%). The following table shows the distribution of projects for women by desert region (Southern Provinces).

Table 3. Distribution of the sample members according to the project area

The place in which the project is managed	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oued-Souf	15	14.9
Oued-Righ	19	18.8
Ouargla	29	28.7
Adrar	11	10.9
Tamanrasset	13	12.9
Illizi	11	10.9
Ghardaia and Meniea	03	3.00
Total	101	100.0

Source: Designed by the researcher based on the results of the Spss22

3.4 The validity of the research tool

One of the most important steps to take before distributing the questionnaire to the study sample is to ensure the validity of the tool in order to know the accuracy of this questionnaire's measurement of the dimensions of the phenomenon studied. Among the most common types of honesty is structural consistency validity.

To ensure the structural validity of the questionnaire, the correlation coefficient of the total score for each dimension was calculated with the total score for the second axis, and we reached the results shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Correlation coefficients of the degree of dimensions with the total degree of the axis

	correlation coefficients		
	The first dimension: the position of the productive woman in the local community	The second dimension: the role of productive women in the development of the local community	The second axis: the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas
The first dimension: the position of the productive woman in the local community	1	0.282**	0.752**
The second dimension: the role of productive women in the development of the local community	0.282**	1	0.844**
The second axis: the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas	0.752**	0.844**	1

**The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (bilateral)

Source: Designed by the researcher based on the results of the Spss22

It is evident from the results of Table 4, that there is a strong positive correlation at the level of significance of 0.01 between the total score of the first dimension and the total score of the axis as a whole with a percentage of (75.2 %), and the total score of the second dimension with the total score of the axis as a whole with a percentage of (84.4 %).

3.5 The Reliability of the research tool

The reliability of the questionnaire means the consistency of the results with no significant changes if it is redistributed to the same sample members several times during different time periods, and the reliability is verified using a set of tests.

Through the use of the SPSS Statistics program, we calculated Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for each dimension of the questionnaire, and for the axis as a whole; the obtained results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Reliability measurement using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient

	Number of statements	Cronbach's Alpha Value
The first dimension	08	0.879
The second dimension	07	0.858
The whole questionnaire	15	0.804

Source: Designed by the researcher based on the results of the Spss22

According to the results shown in Table 5, the values of Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient for the content of each variable of the study are: (the position of the productive woman in the local community = 0.879, the role of the productive woman in the development of the local community = 0.858), which are very acceptable reliability coefficients because their values Positive and high, while the value of Cronbach's alpha coefficient for all paragraphs of the questionnaire was 0.804, which is a very high value, which indicates that the questionnaire is characterized by a high degree of reliability, and is suitable for the application, analysis of results, answering study questions and testing hypotheses.

3.6 Description of the distribution of the sample members based on the personal variables

According to the descriptive statistical analysis, half of the study sample members are between the ages of 30 and 40, and their number has reached 50 women who own a private project, a rate of 49.5 %. While there are 25 female entrepreneurs aged 41 to 50 years, they account for a quarter of the sample (24.8 %); 22.8 % of the study sample is under 30 years old, with 23 women; and 2.9 % are over 50 years old, with only three women out of the total women of the study sample.

With regard to the family situation, the results indicated that most of the study sample members are married with a rate of 47.5%, followed by the single group with a rate of

41.6%, and the total remaining percentages are estimated at about 10.9% of the total sample of the study, distributed between divorcees and widows.

As for the educational level, it relied on dividing the study sample according to their level of education into two groups. It is noted from the above table that the majority of private entrepreneurs hold university or training certificates with a rate of 86.1%, and the percentage of non-university or training certificates was estimated at only 13.9%.

Through the results of the descriptive statistics of the personality variables of the members of the study sample, it became clear to us that women in the states of southern Algeria are at the appropriate age to assume responsibility, especially since the ratios of married and single women this indicates that the reproductive role of women is not an obstacle to their productive role. They have an educational level that qualifies them to set up their own businesses.

The income level of the study sample was divided into three levels. The results shows that 68 women had a medium income of 67.3 %, while those with a low income were 29 private entrepreneurs with a percentage of 28.7 %, and women with high incomes were less than that. Frequently, the rate was estimated at only 4 %.

Moreover, the results also indicated that 69.3% of women entrepreneurs live in families with a number of between 5 and 7 members, and 17.8% live in large areas with more than 7 members.

The results of the nature of projects owned and managed by women in the states of southern Algeria showed the dominance of projects in the field of crafts and traditional industries by 46.5%, and 51.4% were divided equally between private women's projects in the field of liberal professions (25.7%) and trade services (25.7%), and only two projects (2.1%) in the agricultural sector, with a complete absence of women's projects in the industrial sector (0.00%).

Based on the results of the descriptive analysis of the family income variable, the number of family members and the nature of the project, it is clear that most of the women producers in the southern Algerian states under study live in families with medium and weak incomes, and this may push them to establish their projects in order to help improve family income, and if we take the contribution of women In the combined economic activities, we find that their projects are confined to the field of handicrafts and traditional industries, followed by projects in the field of trade and services.

Even though only a small portion of them come from wealthy families and are driven to launch their own projects for self-actualization, especially given that these projects are in the liberal arts and sciences, which are fields where women's credentials in these fields are largely dependent on their university degrees (law firms, medical clinics, private schools, offices Consulting services...etc).

3.7 Hypothesis testing, analysis and interpretation of results

To answer the main hypothesis of the study, we divided it into the following sub-hypotheses:

- H₁: The productive women contribute to the local economic development in the desert areas to a large extent.
- H₂: There is a positive correlation between the contribution of productive women in promoting local economic development and the status and role of productive women in the local community.
- H₃: There are no statistically significant differences at the level of significance α less than 0.05 in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project and the nature of the project's activity.

- Testing the first sub-hypothesis:

We can interpret the values of the arithmetic averages of the questionnaire based on the categories and weighted average classifications shown previously in Table 2, which reflect the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas.

Table 6. Evaluation of the importance of study variables

Study variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	Classification	Evaluation	Rank
The position of productive women in the local community	2.60	0.30	agree	high	1
The role of productive women in the development of the local community	2.37	0.42	agree	high	3
The contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas	2.49	0.28	agree	high	2

Source: Designed by the researcher based on the results of the Spss22

The results of the general evaluation of the study variables are shown in Table 6, where all study variables were rated "Agree," and their evaluation was "high," with arithmetic averages greater than 2.33 and all standard deviations less than 1, reflecting the high degree of consistency between the answers of the sample members. This indicates that productive women in the states of southern Algeria are of great importance in the local community, and their position in their society makes them contribute to promoting local economic development, which indicates the great role that productive women can play in the development of their local society. This proves the validity of the first sub-hypothesis, which states that "productive women contribute to local economic development in desert areas to a large extent."

- Testing the second sub-hypothesis

Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated between the total scores for the main study variables to test the second hypothesis, which states that "there is a positive correlation between the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development and the status and role of productive women in the local community."

It was concluded that the value of the Pearson correlation coefficient between the total degree of the variable of the productive woman's position in the local community and the total degree of the productive woman's contribution to promoting local economic development is ($r=0.752$) at a significance level of ($\text{Sig}=0.000$) is a strong positive correlation at a significance level α less than 0.01 .

The Pearson correlation coefficient between the total degree of the productive woman's position in the local community and the total degree of the productive woman's contribution to promoting local economic development equals ($r=0.844$) at a significance level ($\text{Sig}=0.000$), indicating a strong positive correlation at a significant level α less than 0.01. In addition to the existence of a statistically significant positive correlation between the position of the productive woman and her role in the local community, its value is ($r=0.282$) at the level of significance of ($\text{Sig} = 0.004$).

The findings explain the existence of a direct relationship between the study's main variables, that is, raising the role and status of productive women in the community leads to a greater contribution to promoting local economic development in her community, and vice versa, proving the validity of the second sub-hypothesis. The findings also show a positive relationship between the productive woman's role and her position in her community.

- Testing the third sub-hypothesis

In order to test the third sub-hypothesis, parametric tests (T.Test and ANOVA Test) were used, after making sure that the study data follow a normal distribution through the use of the 'Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test'.

To facilitate the process of analyzing the results of testing the differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas, statistical hypotheses for the third sub-hypothesis have been developed, according to the variable of the project's place of residence and the nature of the project activity. These are the hypotheses:

The null hypothesis H_0 : There are no statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project.

The alternative hypothesis H_1 : There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project.

The null hypothesis H_0 : There are no statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the nature of the project's activity.

The alternative hypothesis H_1 : There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the nature of the project's activity.

The results of the differences test shown in Table 5 were interpreted according to the following:

- If the level of significance (Sig) is greater than the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$), we accept the null hypothesis H_0 , and reject the alternative hypothesis H_1 .
- If the level of significance (Sig) is less than the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$), we accept the alternative hypothesis H_1 , and reject the null hypothesis H_0 .

Table 7. Testing the differences in the degree of women's productive contribution to local economic development in desert areas

Contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas	Test value (F)	Sig value	Interpretation of test results
Differences according to the location of the Project (ANOVA Test)	3.409	0.004	There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project. That is, there is a large discrepancy in the degree of participation of women producers in each of the southern Algerian states under study.
Differences according to the nature of the project (ANOVA Test)	30.719	0.000	There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the nature of the project's activity.

Source: Designed by the researcher based on the results of the Spss22

The third sub-hypothesis was rejected by interpreting the results of the apparent differences test in Table 7, that is, there are differences in the levels of productive women's contribution to local economic development in the states of southern Algeria, that is, the degree of productive women's contribution to local economic development in Ouargla which is distinct from the results of Oued-Souf...etc. This disparity can be explained by differences in population density and the ratio of women to men in each southern state, as well as the nature, components, and resources of each southern state and how they are exploited.

According to the nature of the project's activity, the large disparity in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas is caused by the dominance of crafts and traditional industries projects in the southern states and their adoption as an area that enables women to highlight their position in the local community.

4. CONCLUSION

Three hypotheses were tested using data on 101 productive women from a project in seven states in southern Algeria to clarify the relationship between women's productive roles and their contribution to local economic development. Our particular focus was on the differences between the project's location and its nature.

The study's findings revealed a strong relationship between the status and role of a woman who owns a private project and the degree to which she makes a significant contribution to economic development in her community. The findings also revealed differences in the degree to which the project contributed to local economic development based on its nature and location.

The interest of governmental and non-governmental support bodies in investing in women's capabilities and productive roles by creating opportunities for establishing private micro-enterprises and supporting women's entrepreneurship is one possible explanation for the existence of a significant relationship between the productive role of women and their position in the local community, as well as the high degree of their contribution to local economic development. Especially since the policies and programs of local development in the Algerian state tend to consider women as a new partner in the economic take-off and an integral part of the process of economic and social development.

After demonstrating the validity of the hypothesis that productive women are an effective and necessary component in promoting economic development, work should be done to increase the rates of women's participation in local economic development in the states of southern Algeria, and to make them entrepreneurs in areas far from traditional crafts and industries, and they should receive services such as training on industrial, agricultural, and income-generating business activities.

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6. Appendices

Questionnaire

Peace be upon you

My dear sister, in the framework of preparing a research study titled "The Role of Productive Women in Promoting Local Economic Development in Desert Regions," we would appreciate your cooperation in filling out this form, which will be used solely for scientific research purposes. As a result, we ask that you respond by checking the box that best expresses your objective opinion. Thank you in advance.

First Axis: Personal Variables

- 1- **Age:** Under 30 years old 30 to less than 40 years old
40 to less than 50 years old 50 years and over
- 2- **Family status:** Single married divorced widowed
- 3- **Educational level:**
With a university degree or training without a university degree or training
- 4- **Family Income:** Low average high
- 5- **Number of people living with you:**
Four people or less From 5 to 7 people More than 7 people
- 6- **Place of residence:** Oued-Souf Oued-Righ Ouargla Adrar

Tamanrasset Illizi Ghardaia

7- **Nature of the project:** Trade and services Crafts and traditional industry
 agriculture manufacturing self employment

8- **Source of the project idea:**

Training courses Support from government agencies Support from civil society organizations personal preferences university training

The second axis: measuring the degree of women's productive contribution to local economic development

The first dimension: the position of the productive woman in the local community	disagree	neutral	agree
The family environment encourages female education			
Society encourages female education			
The family environment encourages women's work			
Society encourages women's work			
Society sees men as capable of accomplishing tasks that women do not			
Society encourages women's participation in economic life			
The family environment encourages women to complete their own projects			
Governmental bodies and civil society associations encourage women to carry out their own projects			
The second dimension: the role of productive women in the development of the local community			
After the establishment of the project, the outlook of the family and society changed positively			
The family's income increased after the establishment of the project			
The project contributed to the employment of an acceptable number of people in the area			
The project contributed to the use of raw materials available in the area			
The project reduced the cost of acquiring some local products			
The project contributed to providing some of the region's needs easily			
The project contributed to introducing the characteristics of the region to the rest of the country			