

## Gender Disparity Examining Women's Presence in Algerian Sports Media

الاختلاف بين الجنسين: دراسة تواجد المرأة في الإعلام الرياضي الجزائري

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**Abstract:** To be a female sports journalist is not an easy profession as it may seem, since it is considered a profession long reserved career for men especially in sports which is an area of gender disparity. This paper is an exploration of Algerian women in sports journalism and the challenges they face in the field. The literature review about previous studies and theories, revolving around the presence of women in this domain, indicate that women do not have higher chances or brighter opportunities in sports sector. The purpose of this research is to investigate and explore the status of women in the field of sports journalism, as well as the difficulties that female journalists encounter while entering the sports journalism section in particular.

**Keywords:** Gender disparity; women; Algeria; sports media

**المخلص:** تهدف هذه الدراسة الى تسليط الضوء على عمل المرأة كصحفية رياضية. التحدي لا يبدو سهلا، لأنها تعتبر مهنة مخصصة للرجال منذ زمن طويل، خاصة في مجال الرياضة الذي يعد مجالا للتفاوت بين الجنسين. تتناول هذه الورقة البحثية المرأة الجزائرية في الصحافة الرياضية والتحديات التي تواجهها في هذا المجال. وتشير مراجعة الأدبيات للدراسات والنظريات السابقة، التي تدور حول وجود المرأة في هذا المجال، إلى أن المرأة لا تحظى بفرص أكبر أو حظوظ اوفر في القطاع الرياضي. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تقصي واستكشاف وضع المرأة في مجال الصحافة الرياضية، وكذلك الصعوبات التي تواجهها الصحفيات أثناء دخولهن قسم الصحافة الرياضية على وجه الخصوص.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التفرقة بين الجنسين؛ الجزائر؛ وسائل الإعلام الرياضية

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## **1-Introduction:**

In the past, women had not made significant progress in many critical domains of the news, such as politics, business, and, particularly, sports. In most cases, males are known to lead the world of sports journalism, while women are known to be rare in this field. And if women were covering sports, it meant they were covering women's teams. Over time more women entered the world of sports as athletes, which had given more opportunities for women to report on sports. In addition, they discovered that the success was not in reporting women's sports, but in making a lot of money on reporting men's sports including football, baseball, and basketball. They were first rejected by several newspapers and sports groups, and women journalists have faced numerous challenges and obstacles.

The literature review section is designed for the main purpose of exploring early research on the topic of women journalists in Algeria in the domain of sports. One important source on the topic is the dissertation that is entitled *Women's Representations in the Algerian Print Media* by Rabahi Boudaba Khadidja in 2010. The dissertation discussed in general the role of women journalists in the period between 1996-2006. A period that witnessed a critical economic, social, and even political upheavals that affected women and media. The study puts into account how the gender role and sexism are immensely used in media which resulted in females being invisible in this domain and this led as well to shape a forged views and aggressive attitudes about women.

Susan Fornoﬀ, who spent the most of the 1980s covering the Oakland Athletics, wrote *Lady in the Locker Room*. Her book is about her time working with the A's and her time covering them for the Sacramento Bee as a beat writer. Fornoﬀ did not only describe her experiences with the Oakland Athletics in her book, but also her profession in general. Susan Fornoﬀ and her compatriots working in sports journalism in the 1980s were far from the first women to do so, according to the Association for Women in Sports Media (AWSM).

Sadie Kneller Miller was the first known woman to cover sports when she covered the Baltimore Orioles in the 1890s. According to an other related work conducted by Phyllis Miller that is entitled 'The Invisible Worn' and revolving around Female Sports Journalists in the Workplace; although women have not reached parity in newsrooms, they have moved beyond token status.

Despite the fact that women are not traditionally associated with this type of reporting, this phenomenon has gotten increasingly popular over time. Statistics have revealed that the number of women journalists has increased in the field of sports in all over the world and also in Algeria. The research is an investigation about Algerian women journalists in sports. The main research questions are what are obstacles that make the majority of Algerian women journalists out of sports field? Why there is a male dominance in sports journalism?

The work hypothesizes that Algerian female journalists encounter huge difficulties and serious hindrances while choosing to join the field of sports journalism. The general hypothesis includes a group of sub-hypotheses, which are as follows:

- Algerian women journalists are subject to marginalization.
- Stereotypes still exist towards working females in sports journalism.
- Employment opportunities in the domain of sports journalism are offered to men more than women.

## **2- General Objective of the Study:**

-the main objective of the work is to Identify reasons behind gender disparity in sports journalism.

## **3- Procedural Definition of the Concepts Mentioned in the Research:**

- Gender Disparity: social process by which people are treated differently and disadvantageously, under similar circumstances, on the

basis of gender (The Oxford Dictionary of Sports Science & Medicine).

- Sports Media: refers to the relationship between sports and the media, particularly mass media platforms such as television, radio, newspapers, and online news agencies. It is a dynamic system where sports organizations and media companies interact and influence each other (Esennur Sirer, 2024: 349).

## **1. Women Journalists in Sport around the World**

In a study of US newspaper sports departments, Hardin and Shain discovered that papers which were in the top 200 when it came to circulation only had around 11 per cent female journalists writing about sports. This stood in contrast to the percentage of female journalists in the newsroom as a whole, where the gender divide was found to be more equal; the top 200 newspapers had on average 39 per cent female journalists overall. Newspapers with a circulation above 250,000 were found to have sport departments that included more women, about 13 per cent (Strong, 2007: 17). However, among the papers with a circulation in the top 200 the percentage of women saw a steep decrease as circulation increased. Most US papers generally only have a few or no women sports journalists and there are very few female sports editors.

A 2007 study of Australian metropolitan newspapers found that only 11 per cent of the sports articles were written by women, and figures from neighboring New Zealand mirrored this trend (Strong and Hannis, 2007: 117). The latter is generally considered more gender-balanced than other countries. Sports journalism has traditionally been a male stronghold in many countries. Women started joining the ranks of sports journalists in the 1920s, and while most English-speaking countries have a few high – profile women sports journalists, the sports departments in the majority of newsrooms remain a male-specific environment (Miller, 1988: 20). Still while other areas of reporting saw a subsequent shift to an improved gender balance, sports did not. The number of women entering sports journalism did increase, but even by the mid-1990s there had not been a significant shift in the number of female sports journalists.

## **2. Sports Journalism in Algeria**

### **2.1. Before Independence**

To begin with, journalism as an entity did not exist in Algeria before 1830. It all started with the arrival of the French colonization.

The latter was the period in which the first newspaper ever “L’Estafette d’Alger” was published in the French language under the Algerian sky. This beginning was obviously controlled by the colonizer, however; sports journalism in Algeria as a sub-branch is considered a pioneer at both the Arab and international levels, but as all domains it has suffered a great blockage after the outbreak of the revolution. This part of the industry was finally restored around the year of 1958. It was the formation of the first Algerian football club which eventually lead to the creation of the first Algerian magazine “Algerian Youth” that covered all the updates and data related to Algerian sports status (Rabahi, 2010: 11).

## **2.2. After independence**

1962 was a transitional year in various domains and matters related to sports and “entertainment”, as some have referred to it. The latter, did not exactly peak people’s interest as much as it does now, therefore; sports news remained subject to skimming with one-page limit published within a 24 paged newspaper. After this period and with the development of the Algerian situation, newspapers specialized in sports only started emerging bit by bit. Published in French, “El-Hadef” was the first sports specialized newspaper to ever exist in Algeria. Following the latter, “Al-Mountakhab” was published in Arabic (Bali 15). Gradually, many more newspapers of this sort kept emerging and evolving with the development of the industry. Not to mention that people’s interest was acceptable compared to the previous era in the history of sports journalism in Algeria. Because of the youthful category of the country and their need to avoid serious matters such as politics or heavy-weight problems as well as their genuine love for sports and the adrenalin it simply provides (Al Rifi, 2021: 3).

## **3. Women in Sport Journalism in Algeria**

No one can deny the fact that there is a lack in female journalists in sports in Algeria. This field of journalism is almost dominated by men, and for many reasons female journalists avoid engaging in this profession. According to Radia Al-Kizani only 22% of sports journalists in the Arab world are females. Nevertheless, the weakness of attendance -according to her- is not due to the lack of competence of the female component as much as it is related to social and intellectual factors that reflect the society’s culture and its view of women. Al-Kizani also sees that the mentality which limits females to

specific domains, such as house care and social practices, is also a reason for the absence of females in sports journalism" (Al-Kizani 2021: 14).

In some Arab countries and specifically in the Algerian society, it is considered to be weird finding females in football stadiums because Algerian stadiums are dangerous places where women can be sexually harassed, insulted, and even beaten. Also, the stadium is the main outlet for the audience to unload their anger, as we find some songs containing obscene and immoral expressions, and insults, which usually makes women stay away from such places (Bali, 2019: 298). Moreover, Asma Halimi -an Algerian sports journalist- states in a lecture on the Algerian national radio that "A sports journalist is considered inferior to her colleagues who work in the political, economic or cultural department. While these journalists benefit from advantages during their travels to cover events, the sports journalist does not find any care or support".

Algerian sport journalist Laila Samati states that the Sports Federation needs adequate support for women, as it is subject to social customs and traditions. According to her experience, the path of women's sports is difficult, whether it is for a female athlete or a sports broadcaster (Samati, 2013: 12).

### **3.1. Sexism in Sports Journalism in Algeria**

It is true that women in our society have faced many gender discriminations over the past years. However, we can notice some remarkable changes when it comes to present life. Although, it is still weird for women to work in an environment which is full of working men, it is becoming an acceptable idea that women can work wherever they want. We cannot deny the fact that all of these changes are the results of women who fought all over the past years to change a little bit the concepts and the traditions which controlled the Algerian society a minority" (Bel Fodil, 2018: 51).

This reveals that female journalists have become more acceptable in their working environment and they are feeling more equal and satisfied. Layla Samati also highlighted that the Algerian women in sport journalism are facing challenges in the media field, which are represented in the multiplicity of cultures and how the environment view them but this culture has remarkably changed over the time in which there was a big development in women's sports culture. Samati declared that: "I don't actually feel undermined in the newsroom.

Everybody I have met along the way have always been really supportive to me, and I think if you push yourself forward and put yourself into that position you will succeed” (Be In Sports, 2015).

Zakariya Oudini a sport journalist in El-Haddaf journal stated that “most athletes now have grown up watching Layla Benfarhat and Rasha Al-Barghouti and many other female journalists so that it is not out of the ordinary to them”. Therefore, these new and young players are used to see women reporting on sports, so it is not a novelty to them, women in these unconventional professional roles do not seem odd to these fields.

Dounia Hijab, an Algerian sports reporter and a Judge. D. Hijab is a professional and passionate national player in judo and this was an inspiration and facilitated her path to becoming a sports journalist and she, indeed, accomplished her target, she is not merely a journalist but she was the first female who covers judo competitions in the Olympic 2008 in Beijing China. But this achievement has not been a trouble-free as it seems.

D. Hijab reported that her parents were totally against her decisions about joining the field of sports and they compelled her to continue her studies instead of her passions. Algerian society, including women, are strongly affected by traditions and cultural aspects, and female in sports domains, is sort of unfamiliar and new and is and will ever be a man's matter. Therefore, it is no surprise that Coakley states that sport participation among girls and women will not continue to increase automatically, naturally (qtd in Dendan, 2017: 14).

#### **4- The Methodological Procedures used in the Study:**

##### **4-1 Method and tools:**

-The exploratory study:

The data collection procedure adopted in the diagnostic part of this research is based on an investigation through a questionnaire that has been distributed to thirty Algerian women journalists.

##### **Approach used:**

This study follows the descriptive approach because the study applies the quantitative research.

##### **Field of the study:**

A- Time domain: This study took place from 20/07/2023 to 07/04/2024.

B- Spatial domain: This study was conducted with 30 women journalists in the regions of Annaba, Blida, and Algiers.

### **Population and sample:**

This study picked a sample of 30 women journalists who work in different types of media; written; visual, audio-visual.

## **4-2 Presentation and Analysis of Results:**

After obtaining the questionnaire, participants' answers were calculated and assessed to provide the acquired results to reach the required quest and identify the reasons behind gender disparity of women's journalists in the sports sphere.

**Table 1: Personal Information**

| Age   | Number | Rate |
|-------|--------|------|
| 30-40 | 13     | 43%  |
| 40-50 | 10     | 33%  |
| 50-60 | 7      | 23%  |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Table 1 shows the respondents' age, the majority of interviewees' (43%) age range between 30-40 years old whereas 33% of respondents' age range between 40-50 years old. The rate of respondents who are between 50-60 years old is 23%. From the table above we notice that young women journalists have a tendency to join sports journalism.

**Table 2: Social Status**

| Social Status | Number | Rate |
|---------------|--------|------|
| Single        | 21     | 70%  |
| Married       | 9      | 30%  |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Table 02 reveals that 70% of respondents are single whereas 30% are married. Results show that women's sports journalism is a hard job that requires women's availability and putting their job at the top of their priorities.

**Table 3: Work**

| Type of Journalistic Work | Number | Rate   |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Written                   | 6      | 20%    |
| Audio                     | 13     | 43,33% |
| Audio-visual              | 11     | 36,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Results shown in table 3 reveal that 43,33% of respondents work in the audio sector, whereas 36,66% work in the Audio-visual sector, the remaining 6 interviewees (20%) join the written media. The above table unveils the reality of the difficulty for female sports journalists to join the audio-visual and written media. The majority of them join radio broadcasting.

**Table 4: Training**

| Have you participated in training courses in the field of journalism | Number | Rate   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                  | 25     | 83,33% |
| No                                                                   | 5      | 16,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Answers obtained from the question about participating in training courses in the field of journalism indicate that 83,33% of interviewees had the opportunity of having training in the field of journalism and only 16,66% of them had not.

**Table 5: Cultural Involvement**

| Are you involved in cultural and intellectual clubs or associations? | Number | Rate |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Yes                                                                  | 27     | 90%  |
| No                                                                   | 3      | 10%  |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Respondents' answers to the fifth question reveal that 90% of participants are involved in cultural and intellectual clubs. Only 10% are not involved in intellectual associations. Respondents believe that joining cultural and intellectual clubs and associations is of a paramount importance for their job and career.

**Table 6: Cultural Participation**

| Do you participate in cultural activities | Number | Rate   |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Local                                     | 5      | 16,66% |
| Regional                                  | 10     | 30,33% |
| National                                  | 15     | 50%    |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Participants answers to the sixth question show that 50% of respondents participated in national activities, 30,33% of respondents have participated in regional activities, 16,66% of interviewees participated in local activities. Results reveal that participation in cultural activities whether at the local, regional, or national levels will be beneficial in covering important events.

**Table 7: Achievements in the Career**

| Have you received any awards or certificates of appreciation in your career as a journalist? | Number | Rate   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                                          | 14     | 46,66% |
| No                                                                                           | 16     | 53,33% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

The responses to the seventh question reveal that 53,33% of participants have received awards or certificates of appreciation in their career as a journalist whereas 46,66% have not.

**Table 8: Factors Influencing the Choice of Journalism**

| From your point of view, what are the social determinants that affect the choice of women for the profession of journalism? | Number | Rate   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Cultural level                                                                                                              | 20     | 66,66% |
| Social roles                                                                                                                | 6      | 20%    |
| Customs and traditions                                                                                                      | 4      | 13,33% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Females' sports journalists' responses to the eighth question show that 66,66% of respondents opted for the cultural level as a strong factor that affected their choice for sports journalism profession, 20% of interviewees consider that social roles have been the reason that influenced the choice for their profession, and 13,33% selected customs and traditions as the core determinant that affected their choice to the job of journalism.

**Table 9: Managing Professional and Personal Life**

## Gender Disparity: Examining Women's Presence in Algerian Sports Media

HAMZAOU Ahlem

| Do you think that you are able to manage your professional life and personal life? | Number | Rate   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                                | 25     | 83,33% |
| No                                                                                 | 5      | 16,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Interviewees answers to the ninth question indicate that 83,33% of them admit that they are able to manage their professional and personal life whereas 16,66% of respondents acknowledge that it is a hard task for them to manage their professional and personal lives.

**Table 10: Roles do you play at Home**

| What roles do you play at home? | Number | Rate   |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Wife and mother                 | 5      | 16,66% |
| Daughter                        | 15     | 50%    |
| Sister                          | 10     | 33,33% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Responses to the question about what roles do you play at home reveal that 50% of interviewees are having the role of daughters, 33,33% are having the role of sisters, and 16,66% are wives and mothers. The job of female sports journalists requires readiness, devotion, and availability.

**Table 11: Support to join Journalism**

| Have you received encouragement from your family to work in the sports journalist field? | Number | Rate   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                                      | 10     | 33,33% |
| No                                                                                       | 20     | 66,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

As far as the eleventh question is concerned, 66,66% of respondents admit that they have not received any encouragement from their families to work in the sports journalist field whereas 33,33% of interviewees claim that they have received encouragement to join the field of sports journalism. Results reveal that families still have resistance towards joining their daughters to this field.

**Table 12: Negative Reactions**

| Do you face any negative reactions as a woman sports journalist from others? | Number | Rate |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Yes                                                                          | 18     | 60%  |
| No                                                                           | 12     | 40%  |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Table 12 reveals that 60% of interviewees do face negative reactions from others while 40% indicate that they are not subject to such behavior. Responses to this question show that people do not fully accept the job of females sports journalists.

**Table 13: Hardships while exercising Journalism**

| Do you find it difficult to obtain information while performing your tasks? | Number | Rate   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                         | 25     | 83,33% |
| No                                                                          | 5      | 16,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

As an answer to the question about whether it difficult to obtain information while performing your tasks, 83,33% of respondents state that they find huge difficulties to get data while exercising their job whereas 16,66% of interviewees declare that they do not encounter hurdles while getting information related to their job.

**Table 14: Delay outside Home**

| As an Algerian woman, do your family members accept a delay in working outside home? | Number | Rate |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Yes                                                                                  | 3      | 10%  |
| No                                                                                   | 27     | 90%  |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Participants responses to the question about whether family members accept a delay in working outside home, 90% of them admit that their family members do not accept delay outside home whereas 10% of participants state that the delay outside home does not pose problems for their families.

**Table 15: Females' Performance**

| Are women capable to perform in sports media as good as a man? | Number | Rate |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Yes                                                            | 30     | 100% |
| No                                                             | 00     | 0%   |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

As an answer to the question whether women are capable to perform in sports media as good as men, 100% of interviewees state clearly that they are as good as men in performing their job as sports journalists.

**Table 16: Treatment**

| Are female and male sports journalists treated equally in our society? | Number | Rate |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Yes                                                                    | 12     | 40%  |
| No                                                                     | 18     | 60%  |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Table 16 represents participants' answers about whether female and male sports journalists treated equally in our society, 60% of interviewees state that there is no equal treatment between male and female sports journalists whereas 40% of respondents declare that equality exists between both sexes in the domain of sports journalism.

**Table 17: Employment Opportunities**

| Do you think that men and women have equal employment chances in sports Journalism? | Number | Rate   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                                 | 4      | 13,33% |
| No                                                                                  | 26     | 86,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Responses from the question about having equal employment chances in sports journalism came as follows; 86,66% of participants state that there are unequal opportunities to be recruited in the sports journalism, 13,33% of interviewees declare that there might be equal chances to be hired. Sometimes, there are no equal opportunities, some institutions refuse to employ women on the pretext that they refuse to work at night, or because they will have absences due to their children even after the maternity leave.

**Table 18: Marginalization**

| Are Algerian women sports journalists feel marginalized? | Number | Rate   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                      | 23     | 76,66% |
| No                                                       | 7      | 23,33% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

As far as the question about are Algerian women sports journalists feel marginalized, 76,66% of respondents said yes whereas 23,33% said no. Whenever we have a glance at the sports media, we find out that the number of men exceeds that of women which means that females sports journalists are marginalized in away and they do feel excluded.

**Table 19: Encouragement to join Sports Journalism**

| Does the current situation encourage more women to join sports journalism field? | Number | Rate   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes                                                                              | 10     | 33,33% |
| No                                                                               | 20     | 66,66% |

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher

Table 19 demonstrates the issue of whether the current situation encourages more women to join sports journalism field, 66,66% of participants state that they won't encourage female journalists to join the sports section, 33,33% claim that they will push and encourage women to be sports journalists.

### **4-3 Discussion and Interpretation of the Results:**

Through such questions we aimed to sense how these women journalists feel about their experience in the field of sports journalism in Algeria. Therefore, getting to know how it has gone for them and obtain the overall synopsis on this job from their point of view. Interviewees described it as a beautiful, great, and rich experience since they picked this job out of love and passion being their dream job. However, some participants thought about quitting at times, but their deep attachment and love for their job helped them to carry on and even occupy higher positions.

It is well known that women living in our society are undoubtedly chained with its stereotypes and typical patriarchal standards. Not to mention the extra weight that working women had to endure especially if they work in what has been under male control for decades as sports journalism. Thus, we wanted to draw attention to the challenges that face women in order to analyze the severity of their situation.

Through analyzing their answers, it appears that women journalists do not solely deal with the same professional challenges that face men, but also encounter extra difficulties rooted from social, cultural, and personal factors such as, working late or in holidays which is seen by society and family as unsuitable for women unlike men who are allowed to work freely.

Besides, women working as sports journalists encounter even heavier burden than women in other types of journalism since sports journalism has been a forbidden ground for women. Hence, they faced a different level of hardships like sexism that facilitated men's work,

for instance: unlike women, men journalists had easier access to sports news.

Married women in our society's standards have more responsibilities between housekeeping, children and husband duties. Thus, it adds more chores to the list of Algerian women sports journalists who are married. They have to wisely manage their time between family and work requirements, especially during weekends and holidays. The latter, made it harder for them to get their family members and spouses to adapt and getting used to their absence.

Answers of journalists have confirmed more about the depth of sexism that exists in our society. So, women journalists in stadiums are being harassed, belittled, and neglected, which reflects the violent and reductive gaze that women are exposed to by males and society, interviewees have clearly stated that there is no equality regarding men and women's employment in both journalism and sports journalism. The main common reason was that most companies prefer to hire men only. While the few remaining institutions employ women for their own commercial profits.

Given the fact that women numbers are naturally higher than men's in society, it results in higher numbers of female graduates than males. But, this input does not affect the number of male employees that exceed women's in sports journalism. Owing the fact that men are way more welcomed to work in sports journalism than women.

Some interviewees do not encourage either genders to work in journalism. For the reason that Algerian journalism has lost its brilliance, originality, and power due to the dominance of mediocrity. Other interviewees stated that Algerian women can work in all aspects of journalism provided that they stay strong, competent, and passionate.

### **Conclusion:**

The relationship between women and work has always been debatable, it is considered as a controversial topic at all levels; professional, social, and cultural. Women around the world were not granted equal chances like men. They have always been subject to social classifications that they became whatever society decides. No matter the domain, women were always challenged and put to test whenever they tried to professionally indulge in any field. In Algeria, the idea of women working was not highly forbidden or against any

rules, yet that depended on the work's type. Society indicates that each gender has its duties that are governed by certain rules. As a result, men jobs and women jobs became common traditions on their own. A woman cannot avoid being criticized and even out casted if she is going to dare and join men territories.

Algerian traditions and customs for instance were the foreground to nearly all women struggles regarding this topic. The latter is rigid, fixed, and undebatable. Accordingly, women journalists working in sports specifically is one of the numerous cases in which women were met with various difficulties concerning both personal and professional matters. For instance, the slow adaptation to the environment as working in fields and stadiums was always a setback which gave women little to no chance in being equal to men in any form. It is possible to say that men are more welcomed in this sector compared to women. Therefore, women are still suffering of fewer opportunities provided and are still subject to stiff social ideologies.

Given the fact that women are constantly judged and criticized, their positions in media institutions, ability to express their perceptions, and competence regardless to gender were all fictional at some point and in this exact path. Sports journalist women are now slowly breaking through those exact walls that restrained their development and constantly kept them one step behind men. With great competence, perseverance and courage women in sports journalism could possibly surpass all social expectations. This phenomenon is to be given more attention and awareness for women to respectfully claim honorable positions same as the opposite gender.

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