

Demographic transition and family development in Algeria

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Abstract:

Through this article, we aim to address the subject of the demographic transition and the evolution of the family in Algeria from independence to the present day, by reviewing the most important changes in population growth in Algeria, in addition to the evolution of the size and structure of the family in Algeria and the most important demographic and socio-economic factors leading to this change, relying on the descriptive and analytical approach of various statistical data related to this.

We have concluded that in addition to the demographic transition that Algeria is witnessing, like the rest of the world, the Algerian family is witnessing a change in its size and structure due to the intersection of various demographic, social and cultural factors.

Keywords: Demographic transition; population growth; family development in Algeria; status of women; Factors of family change.

1. INTRODUCTION

The family is one of the most important pillars of society, there is no society without the family and no family without society, it is the first cell from which human gatherings arise, and there is no doubt that the size and structure of the family did not remain constant over time, but it also knew several changes at the level of structural and functional structure, where many studies and research were conducted on the family, which confirmed that the latter moved from the extended or

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traditional family to the nuclear family consisting of the father, mother and single children. This change is due to several demographic, social and economic factors such as the high level of education, especially among women, their entry into the world of work, the high age of marriage and the use of family planning methods, which resulted in low fertility, as well as the individual's desire for independence and other factors that affected to varying degrees the style, shape and size of the family.

Algerian society has witnessed several important changes at the demographic, social, economic and even cultural levels, affecting the various elements and structures that make up the latter, including the family, which is one of the most important basic units in demographic, social and other sciences.

Which is mainly due to several demographic, social, and economic factors. Such as the high rate of schooling among both sexes, especially among females.

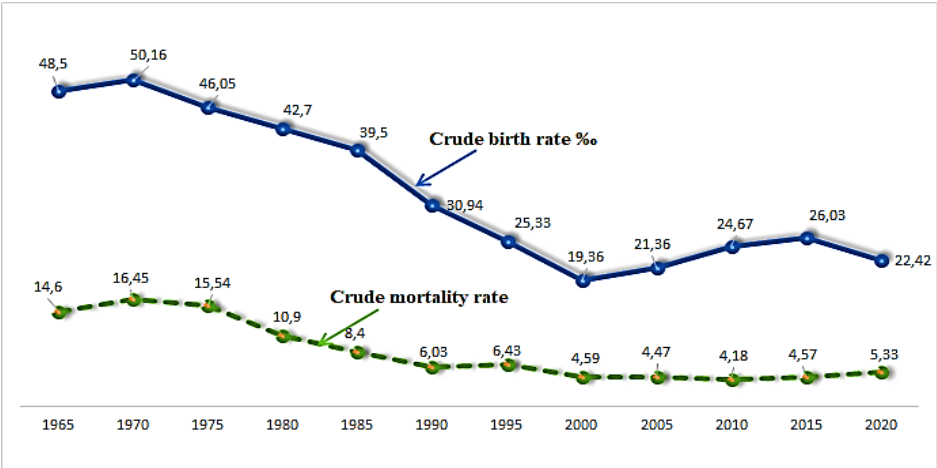
The social status that women occupy in Algeria by reaching the highest levels of education, entering the world of work and economic participation, has contributed significantly to changing their reproductive behavior and changing the size and structure of the family.

Through the above, we resort to raising the following problem: What is the reality of the demographic transition and the evolution of the family in Algeria from independence to the present day?

2. Demographic transition in Algeria:

2.1 Evolution of population growth: Population growth in Algeria has gone through three phases, as follows:

Figure 01 : Evolution of birth and death rates in Algeria from 1965 to 2020



Source: Prepared based on data from Office for National Statistics (ONS).

• **First phase (1965-1985):** This stage witnessed an increase in the number of births, especially in the seventies, where the birth rate achieved its highest level in 1970, which was estimated at 52.16‰ with a higher population growth rate in the world of 3.6%, and this is mainly due to the desire to compensate the victims of the liberation revolution, in addition to early marriage, which was the average age of marriage in this period between 18 for females and 19 for males, and the lack of intensive use of contraception, which was estimated at 8% in 1970⁽¹⁾, after which the birth rate tended to decline estimated at 39.50‰ in 1985, while we note a decrease in crude mortality rates, which moved from 15.87‰ in 1967 to 8.40‰ in 1985, This is thanks to the efforts of the State after independence to improve the level of health care and the development of a set of policies and programs "such as free access to the services of maternity and childhood centers, which numbered 250 in 1974, the spread of vaccination and its free vaccination for five diseases: tuberculosis, tetanus, whooping cough,

(1) ONS, ENQUETE NATIONALE A INDICATEURS MULTIPLES MICS3 ALGERIE 2006(Rapport Préliminaire), Algérie 2007, p.59

polio and smallpox"⁽¹⁾, in addition to improving the standard of living and social of citizens.

- **Phase II (1986-2000):** The second half of the eighties witnessed a clear decline in the number of births, as the crude birth rate was estimated at 34.73‰ in 1986 compared to 1985, which was estimated at 39.50‰, and this is due to Algeria's adoption of the program to control demographic growth, so that this period is known as a prevalence in the use of contraceptives, which was estimated at 36% in 1986⁽²⁾ compared to 8% in 1963, to continue to rise to 56.9% in 1995, and the establishment of many facilities and centers that are interested in assessing birth spacing, as well as The mortality rate continued to decline, but at a slow pace in the period from (1987-1997), as it moved from 6.97‰ to 6.12‰, and this is due to the economic and political crisis that the state was going through, which made Algerians go through a harsh experience socially and economically, after which the birth and death rates continued to decline until they reached 19.36‰ for the birth rate and 4.59‰ for the death rate, and this is in the year 2000, which is due to the intensive use of contraceptives along with the change in social status. of women in Algeria and their entry into the labor market.

- **Phase III (2001-2020):** This stage witnessed an increase in the number of births offset by stability in mortality rates, as the crude birth rate was estimated at 19.36‰ in 2000 to reach 26.80‰ in 2016 and the reasons for this increase are due to the return of security stability to the country and the improvement of the economic situation with the rise in oil prices, which contributed to the return of social and economic investments, and the availability of jobs, thus improving the social and living situation of the population than it was in the nineties, which led to a high rate of marriage, which moved the number of marriages from

(1) عمارة سامية، السياسة الصحية في الجزائر، مجلة الحكمة للدراسات التربوية والنفسية، العدد 06/2015، الجزائر: مركز الحكمة للبحوث و الدراسات، 2015، ص127.

(2) Ali Kouaouci, Enquête Algérienne sur la Santé de la Famille, université de Batna, Algérie, 2005,p49.

177,500 marriages. in 2000 to 388,000 marriages in 2013⁽¹⁾, but starting from the period (2017 to 2020) the number of marriages witnessed a significant decline, which in turn led to a decrease in the crude birth rate.

During the year 2020, the number of births reached 992,000 births compared to 2018, which reached the number of births in that year by 1,038,000 births, a decrease of 46,000 births⁽²⁾, this decrease in the volume of births has affected the birth rate, as it moved from 24.39‰ in 2018 to 23.80‰ in 2019 to become the year 2020 by 22.42‰, as for deaths, we note that there is stability during the period (2002 to 2019) to start rising slightly in 2020, as the number of deaths reached 236,000 One death rate of 5.33‰ This is due to the epidemiological crisis (Covid-19) that the whole world has gone through.

2.2 Fertility development in Algeria :

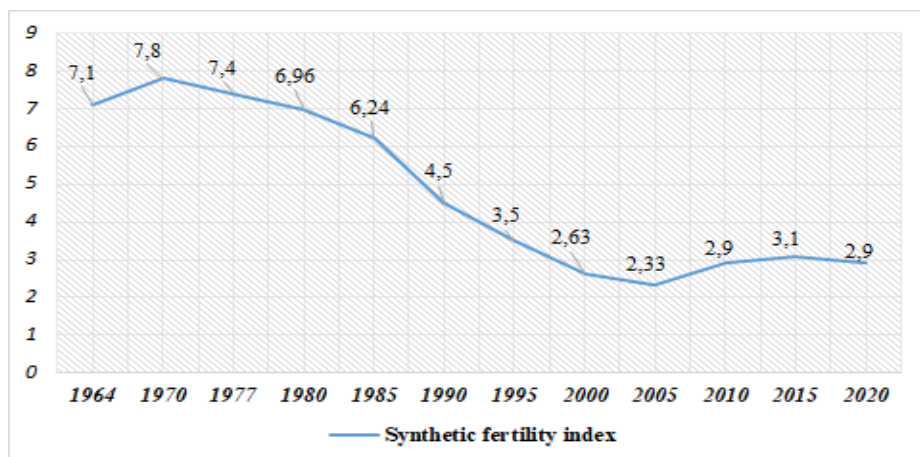
The Synthetic Fertility Index is one of the important demographic indicators for understanding the population conditions and demographic development in a particular country., It is a measure used to determine the level of fertility in a given population in a specific period of time, usually between 15 and 49 years of reproductive age. This indicator aims to measure the availability of the necessary conditions for having children and determine the reproductive rates in that period.

The synthetic fertility index is calculated by aggregating the number of live births that occur in the specified time period and dividing it by the number of women in this age group. An indicator is usually expressed in integers or approximately decimals.

(1) JONS, demographie Algerienne 2018 N° 853, Alger.

(2) Personal account based on data from the National Office of Statistics.

Figure 02: Evolution of the synthetic fertility index in Algeria from 1964 to 2020.



Source : Kouidri Mohamed, transition démographique et développement en Algérie, 2007, tome 1, p49.

ONS, démographie Algérienne 2020, N° 949, p5.

Through the graph related to the development of the synthetic index of fertility in Algeria, we note that it witnessed a great development, as it was characterized by its rise in the early years of independence, where it was estimated at approximately 8 children per woman in the seventies, to witness a significant decline and reach 24.6 children per woman in 1985, then to 4 children per woman in the nineties and then to 63.2 children per woman, fertility decreased from the period 1970-1985 by two children per woman, while the synthetic index decreased 1985-2000. With approximately 4 children, this decrease is due to several factors, the most important of which are:

The generalization of the use of contraceptives by traditional and modern couples is one of the main reasons for reducing fertility rates, as the rate of use of contraceptive methods by couples was estimated at 65% in 2018⁽¹⁾, compared to 8% in 1970⁽²⁾.

(1) UNFPA, état de population mondiale 2018, LES DROITS REPRODUCTIFS ET LA TRANSITION DÉMOGRAPHIQUE LE POUVOIR DU CHOIX, New York, NY 10158 (États-Unis), 2018, p130.

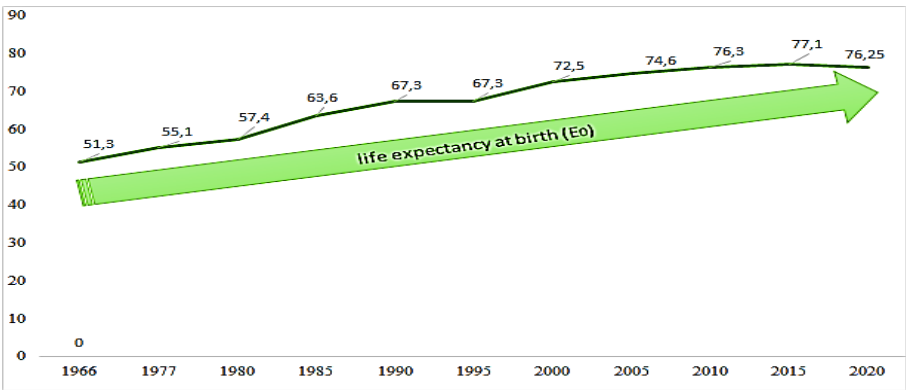
(2) ONS, Opcit.

In addition, the age of marriage has been delayed for both sexes due to the important social and economic changes that Algerian society has undergone, which have had a profound impact on the demographic behavior of individuals. From 2005 to the present day, the synthetic fertility index in Algeria has risen again, estimated at 1.3 children per woman in 2017, perhaps due to the increase in the number of marriages and also women who married at a somewhat later age in having the largest number of children before the end of their reproductive capacity.

2.3 Evolution of life expectancy at birth in Algeria:

Life expectancy is one of the main demographic indicators that provide a general picture of the state of health and well-being in a particular country or geographical region. Life expectancy is an important indicator for assessing the quality of life and economic and social development of a population.

Figure 03: Evolution of the Life expectancy in Algeria from 1966 to 2020.



Source : 1966-2002 :(ONS, Rétrospective statistique 1970-2002)
,2005 p4, 31.

Office for National Statistics (ONS), Algerian demography, statistical data of the defferent years.

Through the graph, we note that Life expectancy in Algeria has witnessed a continuous increase, thanks to the improvement in the

living and health conditions of the population, which contributed significantly to reducing the rates of infant and under-5 mortality and maternal mortality as well compared to the early years of independence, which allowed raising the average age of the Algerian individual, who moved from 51.3 years in the sixties to reach by 2020 to 76.25 years, thus earning the Algerian individual from his age 25 years of life.

Thanks to the great and effective role played by the state from independence to the present day in approving a set of programs and policies such as free treatment, vaccination programs against diseases such as measles, polio, diphtheria and other diseases such as free treatment, vaccination programs against diseases such as measles, polio, diphtheria and other diseases, and improving the level of health care for mothers in the period before and after birth.

3. The development of the family in Algeria (reality and data):

3.1 Definition of family by different censuses⁽¹⁾:

The concept of family varied according to different population censuses, at the expense of ordinary households, where this type is used in demographic studies and on the basis of which classifications are given for analysis. This type of family is defined as follows:

- 1966 census: A group of people living in the same dwelling and eating their meals together.
- 1977 census: A group of people living in the same dwelling and eating their meals together.
- 1977 census: A group of people living in the same dwelling under the responsibility of the head of the household, generally preparing and eating the main meals together. These people are often related to each other by blood, marriage or marriage.

(1) راشدي خضرة، الانتقالية الديمغرافية والتحولات السوسيو اقتصادية للأسرة الجزائرية، أطروحة دكتوراه في الديموغرافيا، كلية العلوم الاجتماعية، قسم الديمغرافيا، جامعة وهران2، ص 117.

- 1987 census: same definition as 1977 census plus one person forming a household, and a household can include one or more households.
- 1998 census and 2008 census, 2022: Same definition as 1987 census.

3.2 Types of families:

There are several varieties of families, the most important of which are:

- Extended family: "It is a group consisting of several nuclear families linked by a relationship of uncles and cousins, and the common denominator of the extended family is the same dwelling."⁽¹⁾

- In another definition: "The extended family consists of two or more marital or complex families, in which the blood relationship between the members of those families is required."⁽²⁾

- The nuclear family (nuclear family): It is a family consisting of a husband and wife and their children only, and this type of family is characterized by independence from the extended family in decision-making.

3.3 Evolution of the number of families in Algeria:

Algeria has witnessed several important demographic changes from independence to the present day, perhaps the most prominent of which is the change in the size, structure and shape of the family in Algeria, which has been affected by several social and economic changes that have affected Algerian society.

In the first census completed in 1966, Algeria's population was estimated at 12 million, while the number of households was estimated

(1) مالكي حنان. تكامل الأدوار الوظيفية بين الأسرة والمدرسة، مذكرة لنيل شهادة ماجستير في علم الاجتماع، جامعة بسكرة، 2010-2011م، ص24.

(2) دردوف محمد، الأشكال الأسرية: مقارنة نسقية مفاهيمية، مجلة الحوار الثقافي، المجلد 03، العدد2، جامعة عبد الحميد بن باديس مستغانم، 2014. ص200.

at 2031167 families, after which the population witnessed a continuous increase offset by an increase in the number of households, as the population tripled from the 1966 census to the 2008 census.

Table 01: Evolution of the number of households in Algeria by population census

Census years	Population	Number of households	Annual growth rate	
			number of households	population
1966	12096347	2031167	-	-
1977	15645491	2333553	1,28	2,34
1987	22600957	3183137	3,12	3,71
1998	29100867	4425521	3,03	2,27
2008	34080030	5815158	2,24	1,58

Source : راشد خضرة، 2013، ص123

According to the data, we note that the population growth in Algeria from the 1977 census to 1987 is directly proportional to the rate of family growth, as the population increases, accompanied by an increase in the number of families, so that the population growth rate decreases compared to the growth of the family in the periods 1998 and 2008.

3.4 Evolution of family size in Algeria:

The study of the size of families allows us to know the extent of changes that have affected families and affected the number of individuals and their distribution in general, this indicator is closely related to several factors, the most important of which are demographic factors represented in fertility, mortality, high age of marriage, contraceptive use and migration, as well as economic factors such as high unemployment and the exacerbation of the housing problem, which somehow affects their composition and expansion, and other social and cultural behaviors and convictions that affect marriage and childbearing.

Table 02: Evolution of family size in Algeria from 1966 to 2019

Years	Less than 5 people	More than 5 people	Medium size
1966	36.7	63.3	5.9
1977	29.7	70.3	6.6
1987	24.9	75.1	7.7
1998	31.3	68.7	6.6
2008	33.5	65.5	5.9
2012	37.3	72.7	5.4
2019	42.8	57.2	4.9

Source : Census data 1966-1977-1987-1998-2008.

Mics4,2012-Mics6 , 2019.

The evolution of the size of families in Algeria has witnessed a set of stages, the most important of which are :

- **The first phase of 1966-1987:** At this stage, the average family size tended to escalate, increasing from 5.92 family members during the 1966 census to 6.66 members in the 1977 census to continue climbing until it reached 7.10 family members according to the results of the 1987 census, recording a rate of change towards an increase of 12.5% between the 1966 and 1987 censuses. This stage.

However, the rates of change in the average family size between the three censuses included in this stage were different, so that the two residential areas witnessed an increase in the average size of households, but at a different pace, as it moved in the urban center from 5.69 individuals during the 1966 census to 6.65 individuals during the 1977 census, and then continued to increase until it reached 6.83 individuals in the 1987 census, which is the largest average level of family size recorded in urban areas throughout Interval. Note, marking an increase of 20.24% between 1966 and 1987.

In rural areas, the average size of households went from 6.07 individuals in the 1966 census to 6.67 individuals during the 1977 census, and then to 7.39 individuals during the 1987 census, recording the largest level ever known to the average family size in each of the two areas since the first census (1966) until the 2008 census. The general average Algerian household was 26.69% between the 1966 and 1987 censuses.

• **The second phase of 1987-1998:** the average size of households was characterized by a decline, unlike what was witnessed in the previous phase, where the average family size decreased from 7.10 members during the 1987 census to 6.3 members according to the previous phase. The results of the 1998 census, recording a rate of decline of 11.27% between 1987 and 1998, the decline in the average size of the Algerian family went down at the level of urban and rural residential areas, as the average household size in rural areas decreased from 7.39 members during the 1987 census to 6.9 members in the 1998 census, translating a decrease rate of 10.27%. In urban areas, the average household size decreased from 6.83 members according to the 1987 census to 6.2 during the 1998 census, recording a lower rate of decline than that recorded in rural areas of 9.22%. Overall, at this stage the decrease in average household size in rural areas was significant compared to the level recorded in urban areas during this phase.

It fell from 6.9 individuals during the 1998 census to 6.64 individuals during the 2002 survey, recording a relatively small decline rate of 3.77%. If we compare the average family size at this stage with the results of the 1966 census, we will notice that it remained high despite its decline in these periods. Phase, increasing at a rate of 7.43% according to the results of Table 2 between 1966 and 2002.

• **the Third phase from 2002 to 2008:** The average household size decreased from 6.36 members per household according to the results of the 2002 survey to 5.86 members according to the results of the 2008 census, recording a decrease rate of 7.86% over the period of the phase. This decrease resulted from the decline in the average

household size in the urban center during this stage from 6.18 members in the household to 5.72 members in the family, with a rate of change in the direction of decrease of 7.74%, unlike what was witnessed in the previous phase, which witnessed a decrease in the average in the rural area compared to the urban area. The average size of households in rural areas for this stage also decreased, but not significantly, from 6.64 family members to 6.2% household members, achieving a downward change rate of 6.6%.

4. Factors leading to the change in the size and structure of the family in Algeria :

One of the most important factors that played a role in changing the structure and size of the family are demographic and socio-economic factors, for this we tried to limit the demographic factors to: age at first marriage, contraceptive use and low fertility, while socio-economic factors have been limited to the development of schooling and the exit of women to work, housing and income level.

4.1 Demographic factors:

Celibacy: Among the important demographic factors that have a significant impact on the average family size are the phenomena of celibacy and spinsterhood, and the phenomenon of celibacy is also affected by a set of economic, social and even cultural conditions, as the phenomenon of celibacy worsens, the average size of families decreases, so we will try to track this phenomenon during the study period in Algeria at the level of both sexes, males and females, while trying to highlight the extent to which this phenomenon affects the change in the levels and average size of the family in Algeria, focusing on the proportions of Singles in the quinquennial age groups 25-29 and 30-34 of the total individuals over the age of 15 years in males in both categories, because the average age of first marriage in males falls within the scope of the two categories at all observations except for the year 1966 As for females, we will focus on the percentages of single women for the quintuple age groups 20-24 and 30-34 for the same

justification that the average age of first marriage in females falls within the scope of the two categories mentioned at all observations except for a year ⁽¹⁾1966 .

According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics, there is a terrible and continuous increase in the rates of celibacy between the sexes, male and female, in the two categories in question, so that single women represented only 11% of the total females of the 20-24 category in 1966, to increase the percentage for the same group to 32% in 1977, then this percentage jumped to 76.46% in the next census, and according to the results of the 2006 survey, it achieved its highest level ever by 82.77%. of the total females of the class.

What can be concluded is that there is an inverse relationship between the proportions of singles, whether males or females, both in young groups and the average size of households in Algeria, and that the percentages of singles for young groups of both sexes in Algeria negatively affect the average size of families due to their constant trend of increasing throughout the study period.

✓ **Age of marriage:** Marriage is one of the most important demographic phenomena that intervene and are related to economic, social and cultural elements, marriage has a significant impact on the dynamics of the population, as it strongly affects fertility and the average family size

Table 03: Evolution of the first age at marriage in Algeria from 1966 to 2019.

sex	1977	1984	1985	1987	1992	1998	2006	2008	2019
males	25.3	27.4	27.6	27.7	30.2	31.3	33.5	32.9	30.0
Females	20.9	22.1	22.2	23.7	25.8	27.6	29.9	29.1	24.2

Source : ONS les donnees de RGPH1966-1977-1987-1998-2008.

(1) طبعة عمر، تطور متوسط حجم الأسرة الجزائرية من 1966 إلى غاية 2008 وأهم العوامل المؤثرة فيه، مجلة العلوم الانسانية والاجتماعية، العدد 21، جامعة قاصدي مرباح، 2015، ص179.

ONS, Mics4,2012.

ONS, Mics6, 2019.

Through the data on the evolution of age at first marriage in Algeria by sex, where we notice a clear increase in the period (1987-1998), as it witnessed an increase of 4 years for females and 3.6 years for males, to reach the highest level in 2006 with an increase of 2.2 years for males and 2.3 years for females between (1998-2006), after which we notice a significant decrease in the average age at marriage According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2019), a decrease of 3.5 years for males and 5.7 years for females was recorded. During the period (2006-2019) this decrease in the age of marriage may be traced.

The effects of late marriage on the family are as follows:

The delay in the age of marriage for women means a decrease in fertility and this is what we have observed in recent years and thus the size of the family has decreased.

The change in the structure of the family, as we noticed that the proportion of the nuclear family is constantly increasing, and this is due to the desire of today's youth to be independent and separate from the extended family.

The size of the family changed compared to the past, moving from 7.7 individuals in 1987 to 4.9 members in the family, according to a survey (2019)⁽¹⁾.

✓ Contraceptive use: Algeria has witnessed a remarkable development in the use of contraceptives, from 35% in 1980 to 50.9% in 1992 to 61.4% in 2006, thanks to awareness of the need for family planning, as well as the effective impact of national programmes and population policies. ⁽²⁾

(1) عطاري إبراهيم، أثر بعض العوامل الديموغرافية والاجتماعية على تغير الأسرة في الجزائر، مجلة الباحث في العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية، المجلد 10، جامعة قاصدي مرباح ورقلة، 2018، ص 149.

(2) بن زايد ريم، الخصوبة في الجزائر تطورها، مجلة الباحث في العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية، المجلد 13، العدد 2، جامعة قاصدي مرباح ورقلة، 2021، ص 82.

Table 04: Evolution of the use of contraceptive methods in Algeria from 1980 to 2019

years/ methods		1980	1992	2006	2012/2013	2019
Contraceptives	Traditional methods	–	–	9.4	9.2	8.1
	Modern methods	–	43.1	52	47.9	44.9
	total	35.5	50.9	61.4	57.1	53.6

Source: les données des enquêtes nationales. UNFPA, Data for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS3, MICS4, MICS6).

Through statistical data, it is clear that the use of contraceptives by couples is witnessing a significant expansion, which may affect the size of the family, as the rate of use moved from 8% in the seventies to 35.8% in the eighties, then 61.4% by 2006, and this is mainly due to the population growth control program adopted by the state in 1983, reaching the rate of its use by 2019 to 54%.

4.2 Socio-economic factors :

The social and economic status enjoyed by women in Algerian society at the present time has had a great impact on the composition of the family and the demographic path, and this is largely represented in the delay in the age of their marriage and thus the reduction of their reproductive age.

✓ Women's Education:

Thanks to the free and compulsory education policy implemented by the state after independence, Algerian women have imposed themselves by achieving the highest rates of schooling at all levels, especially higher education.

Therefore, women's education plays a prominent role in influencing the size and structure of the family, as confirmed by Canadian researcher Dandurant (in her study on family and social changes, where she showed that many educated women delay the age of Marriage either because they have extended their schooling in advanced stages, or because they enter the world of work because educated working women are paid Their wages are much better than their uneducated counterparts. She also showed that the school factor in turn affects married women through Many educated women favor delaying the age of motherhood beyond 30 years, and at the same time schooling affects Males are in the marriage aspect, as many of them delay the age of marriage due to the extension of the period of study and entering the world of work later than others⁽¹⁾.

✓ **Women's work:**

Official data in Algeria revealed a remarkable development in the presence of women in the labor sector compared to previous years, as the percentage of working women rose to about 50% of the total workforce in various economic and service sectors and vital institutions⁽²⁾.

Today, the impact of women's labour on the size and structure of the family in Algeria is an important aspect of the development of modern society, and this increased participation extends to a range of aspects, from fertility rates to social and economic dynamics.

5. CONCLUSION

Through what we discussed in this article, it is clear that the Algerian family has undergone important changes in its structure and size, as the demographic transition and demographic and socio-

(1) Dandurand.R, "La famille n'est pas une île. Changement de société et parcours de vie familiale", in le Québec en jeu. Comprendre les grands défis. Chapitre 13, les Presses universitaires de Montréal, Montréal, 1992, p 362.

(2) عثمان لحياني، المرأة في الجزائر، على الموقع <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/society> تم الاطلاع عليه 2023/08/13.

economic factors played an effective role in this.

Algeria, like other Arab countries, has witnessed an important demographic transformation, the features of which are evident in the decline in birth and death rates, which resulted in a decrease in population growth rates, the latter mainly due to the improvement in the social and living conditions of the population compared to what it was in the past, development programs and their role in improving the health situation through the construction of health facilities and the formation of medical and paramedical cadres that contributed to the control of communicable diseases and thus reduce mortality rates, especially for infants and under five years of age and maternal mortality rates. Contributing to the high expectancy of survival at birth for both sexes, the state's adoption of the population growth control program contributed to reducing growth rates. Thus, the Algerian family witnessed a change at the level of its structure and size, as the family is moving towards the nuclear model, which is limited to the couple and their children only, as this pattern has become the predominant and prevailing in Algeria, where the family size has shrunk after it had reached 7.7 individuals in 1987 to 4.9 individuals in 2019.

Several factors have contributed to a change in the Algerian family, most notably the social and economic status that women have become occupied by their education and reaching the highest levels and entering the field of work, which contributed significantly to influencing their reproductive behavior "marriage and childbearing".

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