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Economic Empowerment of Productive Families and Its Role in Enhancing Local Development in Algeria

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Abstract:

This study examines the role of the economic empowerment of productive families in promoting local development in Algeria, within the framework of recent transformations in development policies that emphasize productive inclusion rather than social assistance. The research analyzes the mechanisms of economic empowerment provided to productive families under Executive Decree No. 25-236 and evaluates their economic and social implications for local communities. Adopting a descriptive–analytical approach supported by a legal analysis of the regulatory framework, the study shows how empowering productive families can strengthen local economies — not just by raising household incomes, but by expanding the productive base, creating employment, and building more dynamic local markets. The findings suggest that economic empowerment, when properly supported, can serve as an effective driver of local development and social stability. However, its effectiveness depends on whether training is practical, follow-up consistent, financing accessible, and markets reachable, to ensure the sustainability of productive family initiatives.

Keywords: Economic empowerment; productive families; local development; social policy; Algeria.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Contemporary development policies have undergone fundamental shifts in their approaches to addressing poverty and economic vulnerability. Poverty is no longer viewed simply as a lack of money. Development thinking has turned to a more pressing question: Why do some people remain poor even when aid reaches them? The problem here is not a lack of resources, but rather a lack of capabilities — that is, the ability to seize opportunities, make decisions, and participate effectively in economic life. This shift has driven new development strategies focused on enhancing economic empowerment by building individuals' assets and capabilities

Productive families sit at the intersection of these two concerns — social vulnerability and local economic potential. These small household-based units are not simply a welfare category; they are economic actors waiting to be activated. When supported effectively, they expand the local productive base, create employment close to home, and put local resources to work. And as they grow more financially stable and competitive, the effects ripple outward — into local income levels, social cohesion, and the broader project of inclusive development.

The question is not whether productive families should be empowered — that much is no longer seriously contested. The real debate is about how, and whether support programs are truly designed to build sustainable capacities or are merely distributing resources and moving on. What began as a shift away from consumption-based aid toward productive economic inclusion has become, in many policy contexts, a strategic commitment. But a commitment on paper is only as strong as the programs that carry it out.

Despite the growing body of literature addressing economic empowerment, limited research has examined productive family empowerment programs within the Algerian context, particularly under the new regulatory framework established by Executive Decree No. 25-236. Therefore, this study derives its significance from addressing one of the

emerging approaches in development policy, namely the economic empowerment of productive families as a mechanism for promoting economic inclusion and supporting local development.

This study aims to analyze the role of economic empowerment of productive families in enhancing local development by examining the support mechanisms directed toward this group and analyzing their economic and social impacts. It also seeks to highlight the legal and regulatory framework governing the productive family program in Algeria and to assess its contribution to integrating low-income families into local economic activities.

Accordingly, the main research question of the study can be formulated as follows:

To what extent does the economic empowerment of productive families, particularly through financial support mechanisms, contribute to promoting local development and achieving sustainable economic integration within society?

Based on this research problem, the study addresses the following questions:

a) What is meant by the economic empowerment of productive families, and what are its main dimensions and mechanisms?

b) What are the nature and mechanisms of financial support provided to productive families?

c) What is the impact of financial support on the sustainability of productive family activities?

d) How does the economic empowerment of productive families affect local development indicators such as job creation, income improvement, and local market dynamism?

e) What are the main challenges that limit the effectiveness of economic empowerment in achieving local development?

The study proposes the following hypotheses:

First hypothesis: Economic empowerment mechanisms adopted within the productive family program contribute to strengthening the capacities of productive families and

enhancing their economic empowerment, thereby supporting their contribution to local development.

Second hypothesis: Organizational, financial, and marketing challenges limit the effectiveness of productive family empowerment programs and reduce their ability to achieve sustainable developmental outcomes.

This study contributes to the literature by examining the legal and institutional framework of productive family empowerment in Algeria and its implications for local development.

This study adopts a descriptive–analytical approach to examine the relationship between the economic empowerment of productive families and local development. The descriptive method clarifies key concepts, while the analytical method assesses the impact of economic support on the sustainability of productive activities and its effects on local development indicators such as employment generation, income improvement, and economic activity.

The study also adopts a legal approach through the analysis of legislative and regulatory texts governing the productive family program, particularly Executive Decree No. 25-236, in order to better understand the legal framework regulating the mechanisms of economic support and empowerment for productive families in Algeria.

Accordingly, the study is structured into two main sections:

a) Theoretical framework of economic empowerment of productive families and local development.
b) Economic empowerment of productive families as a mechanism for promoting local development

2. The Theoretical Framework of the Economic Empowerment of Productive Families

Before examining how productive families are empowered in practice, it is worthwhile to

establish the conceptual and theoretical framework of economic empowerment and its relevance to local development. Scholars and development practitioners have long debated what it truly means to lift people out of poverty. Over time, a broad consensus has emerged: financial transfers alone are not enough. What matters is whether people can build something lasting — skills, assets, relationships, and the confidence to use them. It is this recognition that has placed empowerment at the center of modern development thinking

2.1 The Concept of Economic Empowerment

According to the World Bank, empowerment refers to the process of expanding the assets and capabilities of poor people in order to enable them to participate in, negotiate with, influence, and hold accountable the institutions that affect their lives, as well as to exercise control over resources and decisions related to them (Narayan, 2002)

At its core, economic empowerment is about control — the ability of individuals and groups to access resources, make meaningful economic decisions, and build a degree of financial independence. This is not simply a matter of income. A person may earn a wage and still remain economically vulnerable if they lack the skills, assets, or institutional support to sustain that income over time. True empowerment therefore requires a combination of factors: access to finance, vocational training, entrepreneurial opportunity, and — crucially — the removal of barriers that prevent marginalized groups from entering and competing in economic life.

2.2 The Concept of Productive Families

The productive family project is a socio-developmental initiative aimed at strengthening household economic resources by utilizing family members' skills and time in small productive activities such as home-based industries, handicrafts, and small businesses. It seeks to improve living standards while contributing to broader social and developmental objectives within the framework of human development. (Jabr, 2024)

According to Article (2) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 of 9 September 2025, a productive

family is defined as "a family that relies on practicing activities based on the craft qualifications or professional skills of its members, whether acquired through experience and officially validated, or obtained through formal training in accordance with the applicable regulations". (Executive Decree No 25-236, 14 September 2025.)

An analysis of Article (2) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 shows that the Algerian legislator structures the concept of the productive family around three main pillars: economic productivity, human capital, and legal-institutional recognition. Families engage in productive activities to meet their needs, reflecting a shift from social assistance to work-based empowerment. At the same time, the regulation links these activities to certified skills and professional qualifications, enabling their integration into the formal economy and access to support mechanisms. This definition refers to a development approach that aims to enhance the economic empowerment of families by activating their productive capacities within an institutional framework.

2.3 The Importance of Empowerment in Achieving Local Development

Empowerment has been one of the most influential concepts in shaping development thinking over the past three decades, and the World Bank, in particular, has placed it at the heart of its poverty reduction framework, emphasizing that transforming the poor from passive recipients of aid into active partners in development is not only desirable but essential. In practice, this takes shape across several dimensions:

a) Improving governance and institutional effectiveness.

Empowerment contributes to institutional reform by strengthening the ability of citizens and vulnerable groups to access information and hold service providers accountable. This process helps reduce corruption through greater transparency in resource allocation and ensures that public policies are more responsive to the real needs of disadvantaged groups. (Narayan, 2002, pp. 2-3)

b) Promoting pro-poor economic growth.

Empowerment does not merely aim to improve income levels; it also focuses on expanding the assets and capabilities of the poor—whether material assets, skills, or collective organization. This integration into productive systems ensures a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth and enables marginalized groups to become active contributors to wealth creation rather than remaining on the margins of the market. (Narayan, 2002, p. 4)

c) Enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of development projects.

Empirical evidence suggests that involving local communities in the planning and implementation stages of development projects strengthens their sense of ownership. This engagement ensures that projects are better aligned with local realities, increases operational efficiency, and enhances the sustainability of outcomes through reliance on local knowledge and experience. (Narayan, 2002, p. 6)

d) Removing institutional barriers and promoting equity.

Empowerment helps address structural imbalances in power relations by eliminating legal and social barriers that prevent marginalized groups—particularly women and rural families—from accessing economic opportunities. This approach seeks to provide these groups with a voice and greater bargaining power in claiming their developmental rights (Narayan, 2002, pp. 11-19)

e) Empowerment as a human value and development goal.

Beyond its functional role, empowerment is also considered an intrinsic goal of human development. It aims to expand individuals' freedom of choice and strengthen their ability to control their life trajectories, thereby transforming development into a process of human liberation that enhances dignity and autonomy. (Narayan, 2002, p. 2)

Productive families are where this theory meets the ground. By activating the skills and resources already present within households, they translate the abstract logic of empowerment into concrete local economic activity.

Understanding how this translation happens, however, requires stepping back to trace how empowerment itself evolved as a policy idea. What began as a management term has grown into one of development policy's most consequential ideas — one that shifts the focus from what governments provide to what people can do. This is precisely where productive families come in — drawing on local skills and resources to generate sustainable income rather than waiting for support from outside. In Algeria, Executive Decree No. 25-236 reflects a shift from social assistance toward an empowerment-based approach that supports productive family activities and promotes their integration into the formal economy, thereby contributing to local development.

The economic empowerment of productive families can also be interpreted through the Capability Approach developed by Amartya Sen, which conceptualizes development as a process of expanding individuals' capabilities and opportunities to pursue the lives they value. From this perspective, economic empowerment goes beyond income generation to include expanding individuals' economic choices and strengthening their ability to actively participate in productive activities. This theoretical lens reinforces the importance of the mechanisms outlined in Executive Decree No. 25-236, which extend support beyond financial assistance to encompass training, skill development, and market integration — all of which are essential for building genuine productive capabilities among low-income families.

Taken together, the theoretical strands reviewed in this section point in a consistent direction: development that does not build people's capacity to sustain themselves is, at best, incomplete. Productive families are not a marginal policy category — they are a concrete test of whether empowerment frameworks can work at the household level. Algeria's move to regulate and support these families through Executive Decree No. 25-236 is, in this light, more than an administrative measure. It represents a deliberate policy choice to move away from dependency and toward productive inclusion — one household at a time

3. The Impact of the Economic Empowerment of Productive Families on Local Development in Algeria

Algeria's approach to addressing poverty and social vulnerability has not been static. Executive Decree No. 25-236 outlines a different approach: a political commitment that productive families, with appropriate support, can become genuine contributors to the local economy rather than permanent recipients of government aid. This section tests this commitment by examining the empowerment mechanisms and questioning whether these mechanisms, in practice, are capable of achieving effective local development.

3.1 Mechanisms of Economic Empowerment of Productive Families According to Executive Decree No. 25-236

Executive Decree No. 25-236 constitutes the regulatory framework adopted by the Algerian government to support and economically empower productive families through a set of institutional mechanisms designed to transform low-income households from a position of dependence on social assistance into productive economic actors within the local community. The main mechanisms can be summarized as follows:

a) Capacity Building and Skills Development Mechanism

Of all the support mechanisms established by the decree, capacity building is arguably the most consequential — because equipment without skills produces nothing lasting. In this regard, Article (2) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 defines a productive family as a household that relies on productive activities based on the craft qualifications or professional skills of its members, whether acquired through practical experience and formally validated or obtained through recognized training programs.

Article (7) of the same decree further reinforces this approach by requiring beneficiaries of the productive family program to possess recognized craft skills or professional qualifications. This reflects the legislator's intention to professionalize household productive activities and link program eligibility to certified competencies,

thereby improving product and service quality and enhancing the chances of success and sustainability of family-based enterprises, while facilitating their integration into the formal economy.

Furthermore, the decree emphasizes the importance of training and qualification programs. Article (19) stipulates that productive families benefit from training programs organized by the National Solidarity sector in coordination with several relevant sectors, including vocational education and training, agriculture, tourism and handicrafts, as well as institutions supporting micro-enterprises. This institutional coordination reflects the adoption of an integrated approach aimed at strengthening the professional skills and productive capacities of productive families, enabling them to manage their projects efficiently and ensure the sustainability of their economic activities. (Executive Decree No 25-236, 14 September 2025.)

In addition, training in planning and project management plays a crucial role in enabling families to transition from spontaneous activities to organized economic initiatives based on a clear entrepreneurial vision. In this regard, Saad Jabr emphasizes that the sustainability of productive family projects requires continuous development and a strong understanding of market requirements. Training therefore extends beyond technical skills to include entrepreneurial thinking and managerial competencies that enable productive families to effectively utilize the outcomes of training in their economic and social activities. (Jabr, 2024, p. 13)

b) Productive In-Kind Support Mechanism

Article (4) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 stipulates that productive families may receive a one-time grant in the form of equipment, tools, or productive assets related to the activities specified in Article (6) of the decree. The value of this support ranges between 80,000 and 100,000 Algerian dinars.

This measure reflects the orientation of public policy toward supporting productive investment among low-income households by providing them with the necessary means of production to initiate income-generating activities. Such support enhances their economic autonomy and facilitates their integration into the local economic cycle. (Executive Decree No 25-236, 14 September 2025.)

c) Integration into Social Policy Frameworks

Programs supporting productive families primarily target socially vulnerable groups that lack stable sources of income. This reflects a shift toward targeted social policy, whereby public support is directed toward the most economically vulnerable groups.

Article (5) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 specifies that the productive family program is intended for households without income, particularly household heads and women who support their relatives or siblings. Consequently, this mechanism contributes to the economic and social inclusion of vulnerable groups by transforming them from passive beneficiaries of social assistance into active participants in local economic activity. (Executive Decree No 25-236, 14 September 2025.)

d) Organization, Marketing, and Market Integration Mechanism

Economic empowerment extends beyond the production stage to include organizing the relationship between productive families and the market. Articles (6) and (18) of the decree provide mechanisms for organizing productive activities and facilitating marketing through exhibitions, local markets, and other promotional spaces.

These mechanisms reduce the economic isolation often faced by home-based productive activities and allow the integration of productive family outputs into local value chains, thereby enhancing the sustainability and potential expansion of such activities.

e) Monitoring and Post-Support Evaluation Mechanism

Article (20) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 assigns the Directorate of Social Activity and Solidarity at the provincial level the responsibility of monitoring and supervising the

implementation of the productive family program to ensure compliance with the program's provisions and the achievement of its developmental objectives.

Furthermore, Article (17) requires beneficiaries to sign an agreement with the Directorate specifying the conditions of support, particularly the obligation to use the provided equipment exclusively for productive activities. Failure to comply with these obligations may lead to the termination of the agreement and the recovery of the equipment, except in cases of force majeure, in accordance with applicable legal provisions. This procedure reflects the legislator's intention to ensure the effective use of public support and to direct it toward achieving its intended productive objectives. (Executive Decree No 25-236, 14 September 2025.)

f) Institutional Coordination Mechanism

Article (10) of Executive Decree No. 25-236 establishes a committee at the level of the Directorate of Social Activity and Solidarity in each province to examine and approve applications for participation in the productive family program. The committee includes representatives from several government sectors, including vocational training, agriculture, trade, tourism and handicrafts, health, and employment, in addition to representatives from the ministry responsible for micro-enterprises and the regional branch of the Social Development Agency.

This institutional arrangement reflects a multi-sectoral governance approach, aimed at enhancing coordination among the various actors involved in implementing the productive family program, ensuring transparency in the selection process, and facilitating administrative procedures related to program implementation.

g) Geographical Targeting and Local Development

The program also relies on a geographical targeting approach, whereby support is directed according to the economic characteristics and needs of each region. This strategy promotes the valorization of local resources and encourages activities related to local

economic environments, such as traditional crafts and local food production. It also contributes to reducing rural-urban migration by creating economic opportunities in rural and remote areas, thereby promoting balanced territorial development.

3.2 The Economic Impact of Productive Families on Local Development

a) Job Creation and Unemployment Reduction

One of the more immediate effects of productive family programs is on employment — not in the formal sense, but in the practical sense of people finding ways to generate income without depending on a wage from an external employer. Within a family enterprise, roles tend to be shared organically: one member produces, another handles sales, another manages supplies. This internal division of labor, modest as it may seem, keeps income circulating within the household and reduces pressure on an already strained formal labor market. By utilizing available skills and resources, these initiatives contribute to increased productivity, higher household income, and greater family stability. (Jabr, 2024, p. 13)

The economic empowerment of productive families creates employment opportunities in rural and peripheral areas, reducing migration to major cities. By enabling individuals to secure livelihoods locally, it strengthens social stability and contributes to more balanced regional development.

b) Stimulating the Local Economic Cycle

Local economies often suffer from a paradox: goods and services that could be produced locally are instead imported, while local skills and resources sit underutilized. Productive families, in a quiet but meaningful way, begin to close this gap. A family producing traditional food products or handmade crafts is not just generating household income — it is keeping money within the local economy, reducing import dependency, and creating demand for raw materials sourced nearby. The cumulative effect of many such households operating

simultaneously is a local economic cycle that feeds itself rather than leaking outward. They also enhance market activity and consumer confidence in locally produced goods.

c) Increasing Household Income and Improving Living Standards

Rising income among productive families is a key outcome of economic empowerment, as productive activities provide stable income that improves living conditions and reduces poverty. Greater financial stability also reduces vulnerability to economic shocks and enhances future planning. Moreover, shifting from assistance-based policies to production-oriented approaches transforms families into self-sufficient units, reducing pressure on social welfare budgets.

d) Promoting Local Economic Growth

Empowering productive families supports the concept of bottom-up economic growth, where economic development begins with small productive initiatives within local communities rather than relying exclusively on large-scale investments. Despite their small scale, family-based enterprises contribute to expanding the productive base, generating employment opportunities, and stimulating local demand, thereby strengthening the dynamism of grassroots economies.

Studies in social entrepreneurship indicate a strong positive relationship between small-scale productive initiatives and economic growth, as such initiatives promote more inclusive and resilient economic development capable of withstanding economic shocks.

e) Innovation Based on Local Resources

Many productive families rely on the utilization of locally available resources, such as agricultural products and traditional crafts, thereby creating a unique local competitive advantage. Local raw materials that might otherwise remain underutilized can be transformed into value-added goods characterized by distinctive cultural and regional identities, which are difficult for large-scale industrial production to replicate.

f) Digital Transformation and Market Expansion

With the rapid development of digital technologies, the activities of productive families are no longer limited to local markets. They now have opportunities to access broader markets through digital platforms. This transformation complements field-based support mechanisms established by Article (18) of Executive Decree No. 25-236, which facilitates the promotion of productive family products in hotels, chambers of crafts, and exhibition spaces.

The integration of physical marketing channels (such as exhibitions and hotels) with digital marketing platforms expands market reach from local to national levels, strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of productive family enterprises.

g) Development of Supporting Industries and Local Value Chains

The expansion of family-based productive activities generates increasing demand for related economic services such as packaging, transportation, and raw material supply. This interconnectedness creates what economists refer to as the multiplier effect, whereby new supporting economic activities emerge around the core productive activity, contributing to the formation of integrated local production systems and strengthening the overall dynamism of the local economy.

3.3 The Social Impact of Economic Empowerment on Local Development

a) Strengthening Social Stability

Economic empowerment contributes to social stability by transforming vulnerable individuals into active participants in economic activities. By integrating productive families into the productive cycle, it reduces economic exclusion and provides marginalized groups with income opportunities and access to local markets, thereby strengthening social inclusion.

This process helps reduce social inequalities and promote economic justice within the

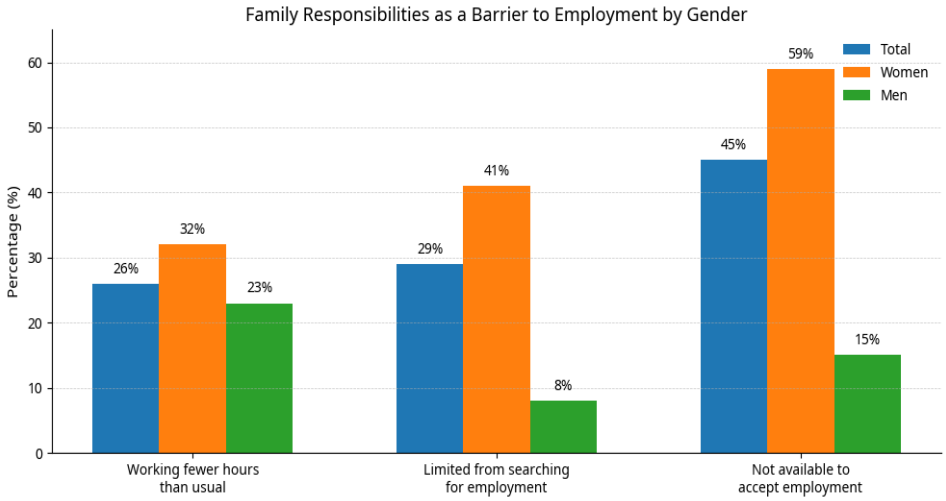
community. Shared family projects also strengthen cooperation among family members, improve economic stability, and reduce social pressures associated with poverty, thereby enhancing family cohesion and their positive role within the local community.

b) Women's Economic Empowerment

Women's economic empowerment represents one of the most significant social dimensions of empowerment, particularly within the context of productive families, where women often play a central role in household productive activities. This dimension is especially important in local communities where female-headed households are relatively common, making women's empowerment a key pathway for strengthening social stability and promoting local development. In this regard, the productive family program contributes to empowering women—particularly female household heads—as reflected in Article (5) of Executive Decree No. 25-236, which identifies beneficiaries among households headed by women or those facing difficult social conditions.

This empowerment is achieved by providing women with productive tools, equipment, and skills that enable them to engage in income-generating activities and gain greater economic independence (Executive Decree No 25-236, 14 September 2025.). As a result, women move from being aid recipients to active economic actors, while increased financial autonomy also strengthens their role in household decision-making and improves family welfare.

Figure 1: Family Responsibilities As A Barrier To Employment



Source: International Labour Organization, Closing gender data gaps in the world of work – role of the 19th ICLS standards, October 2020. P57.

The data presented in Figure 1 indicate that family responsibilities constitute a greater barrier to women's participation in the labor market compared to men. According to the International Labour Organization, 59% of women are unable to accept employment due to family responsibilities compared to 15% of men, while 41% of women face difficulties in job searching for the same reason compared to only 8% of men. (ILO, October 2020., p. 57)

These findings highlight the persistence of gender gaps in economic participation opportunities. Consequently, economic empowerment programs and productive family initiatives play an essential role in providing flexible employment opportunities that allow women to balance family responsibilities with economic participation.

c) Preserving Traditional Crafts and Cultural Heritage

The economic empowerment of productive families contributes not only to improving income and strengthening productive capacity but also to preserving cultural identity and traditional crafts. Many productive families operate in artisanal sectors passed down across generations, linking their economic activities to the cultural and social heritage of local communities and giving their products a distinctive identity within the market.

Productive families rely on local resources in activities such as food production and handicrafts, promoting sustainable resource use while preserving cultural heritage. By transmitting traditional skills across generations, they transform cultural identity into an economic asset that enhances the competitiveness of local products.

d) Strengthening Social Capital

The economic empowerment of productive families strengthens social capital within local communities by promoting trust, cooperation, and shared responsibility. Family-based initiatives encourage the exchange of knowledge and resources while facilitating cooperation in production and marketing, which improves the efficiency and sustainability of productive activities (Jabr, 2024, p. 38). In this context, cooperation becomes an important intangible resource that supports the sustainability of family enterprises and strengthens socio-economic relations.

Interaction among productive families helps create an environment that supports collective innovation and community engagement by combining practical experience with local knowledge to develop competitive products. International organizations emphasize that women's economic empowerment in productive sectors is essential for inclusive development (FAO, 2020). Empirical studies also show that productive family projects strengthen family cohesion, social recognition, and community participation, thereby supporting local development (Al-Shammari & Al-Saifi, 2022) . Furthermore, they create a supportive environment for collective innovation, which is a source of strength and success for productive family projects (Al-Jaryan, 2020, p. 25).

3.4 Challenges of the Economic Empowerment of Productive Families

The true test of any empowerment program lies not in its design, but in its implementation. In the case of family empowerment in Algeria, several structural, financial, and technical

obstacles stand between political intentions and actual developmental impact. These challenges can be classified into several main dimensions as follows:

a) Sustainability and Post-Support Follow-Up Challenges

The lack of continuous monitoring and follow-up mechanisms poses a major challenge to the sustainability of productive family projects. Providing equipment without technical support or professional guidance may lead to operational difficulties or project failure. Studies emphasize that empowerment requires ongoing institutional support, including access to information, mentoring, and training programs, to ensure effective management and long-term sustainability of these initiatives. (Narayan, 2002)

Furthermore, weak post-establishment follow-up and limited technical support from funding institutions may lead to project failure; therefore, awareness and training workshops are essential to equip project owners with the skills needed for effective management (Al-Shraideh, 2020, pp. 117-118)

b) Entrepreneurial and Managerial Skills Gap

Although many productive families possess craft or technical skills, they often suffer from limited entrepreneurial and managerial competencies, such as financial planning, scientific pricing strategies, and market analysis. This gap may hinder the transformation of family initiatives into sustainable and competitive economic enterprises.

c) Market Access and Digital Transformation Barriers

Products of productive families often struggle to compete with large-scale industrial goods due to limited distribution channels and weak branding. In addition, limited use of digital technologies—especially in rural areas—restricts market access and opportunities for expansion.

d) Financial and Organizational Vulnerability

Many productive families face financial challenges due to limited working capital and the lack of financing mechanisms such as microcredit, which restricts their ability to expand or

manage economic risks. These difficulties are further aggravated by the informal legal status of some families, preventing them from benefiting from legal protection and formal economic opportunities. Addressing these challenges requires empowerment policies supported by an appropriate organizational culture, based on fundamental shifts in perspective, more flexible leadership styles, and adjustments in certain roles and institutional structures (Al-Omari, 2019, p. 62).

e) Socio-Cultural Constraints and Weak Collective Organization

Weak cooperative culture often leads productive families to operate individually, increasing costs and reducing their market bargaining power. Social factors may also limit women's participation or reinforce the perception that these projects are merely forms of assistance, which negatively affects their sustainability and developmental impact.

Conversely, experiences in rural development demonstrate that the presence of collective organizations—such as rural workers' unions, producer associations, and grassroots organizations—supported by national and international intermediaries or civil society institutions can significantly enhance cooperative work and strengthen the capacities of local producers. Such collective frameworks contribute to the success and sustainability of small economic initiatives (Vasconcellos, 2009, p. 139)

f) Supply Chain and Raw Material Challenges

Many family-based productive activities rely on local or seasonal raw materials, which may result in fluctuations in production costs or irregular access to essential inputs. Given the limited financial resources of many productive families, increases in raw material prices or supply disruptions may lead to interruptions in production or reduce the competitiveness of local products

4 . Conclusion

This study set out with a simple but important question: can supporting productive families at the household level translate into meaningful local development? The answer,

based on the analysis conducted, is cautiously affirmative — but with conditions. Empowerment works when it goes beyond handing over equipment. It works when training is practical, when markets are accessible, when institutional follow-up is consistent, and when families are treated as economic actors rather than welfare cases. Executive Decree No. 25-236 creates the legal architecture for this kind of empowerment. Whether that architecture is fully activated on the ground remains the central challenge going forward

In this respect, Executive Decree No. 25-236 establishes a development approach that views the family as a productive unit rather than a social problem to be managed. The decree supports home-based handicrafts and small-scale productive activities, linking them to the socio-economic characteristics of local communities. Beyond its technical provisions, this decree reflects a broader political choice: that sustainable local development cannot be built on dependency, but on the productive potential already present within communities

The analysis further reveals that the effects of empowering productive families go beyond simply increasing their income or reducing poverty rates. Economically, families who gain productive capacity begin to support their local economies by creating jobs and building supply chains that did not previously exist. Socially, the changes are equally significant: women gain economic standing, traditional crafts are passed down through generations, and social capital within local communities is strengthened, making it a crucial driver of sustainable local development.

None of this happens automatically. Training must be practical and effective, funding must be available, and follow-up must be ongoing. Digital tools must reach rural areas, and cooperative structures must be actively promoted. Empowering productive families is not a one-time intervention, but an ongoing commitment. If approached as such, it has the potential to become one of Algeria's most effective tools for building development that begins at the family level and extends to other regions.

Based on the findings of this study, several practical recommendations can be proposed to

enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of productive family empowerment programs in Algeria:

a) Strengthening monitoring and mentoring systems: Develop institutional mechanisms for continuous monitoring and post-implementation evaluation of projects by providing ongoing technical support and professional guidance to ensure the effective use of productive assets and the sustainability of family-based economic activities.

b) Developing entrepreneurial training programs: Introduce specialized training programs for beneficiary families that include financial management skills, market analysis, and competitive pricing strategies in order to transform family initiatives into structured and scalable economic enterprises.

c) Supporting marketing and digital transformation: Establish digital platforms for marketing productive family products and provide training in e-commerce and product branding to enhance their competitiveness and expand their market reach.

d) Expanding financing mechanisms: Develop progressive financing pathways, such as accessible microcredit schemes, to support productive families in expanding their activities and transitioning from stability to growth.

e) Promoting cooperative organization: Encourage the establishment of cooperatives or production clusters among productive families in order to reduce production costs and strengthen their bargaining power within the market.

f) Protecting the cultural identity of traditional products: Introduce quality labels and certification mechanisms for traditional and craft-based products linked to local cultural identity to increase their economic value and protect them from unfair competition.

g) Strengthening partnerships with civil society: Enhance the role of civil society organizations in mentoring productive families and conducting field monitoring of their projects in order to improve transparency and provide continuous support in addressing technical and marketing challenges.

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