



The civil society organizations and their role in promoting citizenship values in Algeria

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Abstract:

The civil society holds significant importance for many philosophers and thinkers, as it is a collection of organizations established through the free will of individuals within any society, As its organizations aim to achieve their goals and the interests of their members, such as civil associations, social movements, and non-governmental organizations, Civil society organizations work to foster the spirit of citizenship within the community, enabling citizens to play a role that creates a dual relationship; The first is between them and society within the framework of civil rights, and the second is between them and the authorities within the framework of political rights. Civil society organizations also contribute to spreading civic culture, with the aim of establishing new patterns of rationality in society, the development of human rights awareness has become one of the most important areas of work for these organizations, This study seeks to examine how civil society organizations contribute to promoting citizenship values in Algeria.

Keywords: The civil society organizations; role, promoting; citizenship; values; Algeria.

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**Introduction:**

The Civil society organizations are among the entities in which individuals voluntarily participate, they are established and operate independently from the state. These organizations represent a set of political, economic, social, cultural and legal structures, which is organized within a complex network of relationships and practices between forces and formations in society. These voluntary organizations strive to achieve their goals and the interests of their members, such as grassroots associations, social movements, and non-governmental organizations. Civil society organizations also represent the link between the rulers and the governed, they provide a secure path for the development of political practice, which contributes to enhancing civic awareness in society. In addition, they strengthen the values of positive citizenship, which aims at community development in various aspects.

From this perspective, the problem statement of this study was formulated as follows: **How do Algerian civil society organizations contribute to enhancing the values of citizenship?**

This problem includes the following sub-questions:

- What do civil society and citizenship represent?
- How has the concept of civil society evolved?
- What are the functions of civil society?
- What are the values of citizenship?
- What role do Algerian civil society organizations play in promoting the values of citizenship?

Study objectives: This study aims to achieve the following:

- Identify the concepts of both civil society and citizenship.
- Highlight the historical stages of the development of the concept of civil society.
- Study the relationship between civil society and the concept of citizenship.
- Explain how Algerian civil society organizations contribute to supporting the values of citizenship.

Study Methodology: To address the study's problem, **the descriptive method** was employed to gather various information related to the concepts of civil society and citizenship and to clarify the relationship between them. **The analytical method** was also used to understand how Algerian civil society organizations contribute to supporting the values of citizenship.

In order to answer the previous problem and the sub-questions included under it, this study has been divided into three main topics. **The first topic** discusses the conceptual framework of civil society, while **the second topic** will address the conceptual framework of the concept of citizenship, while **the third topic** will address the role of civil society organizations in promoting the values of citizenship.



THE FIRST TOPIC: THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY

There have been various contributions and different viewpoints in addressing the concept of civil society, and it has been widely accepted and spread among many researchers.

FIRST REQUIREMENT: THE DEFINITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The researcher Alexis de Tocqueville, in his book, *Democracy in America*, pointed out that civil society is the endless series of associations and clubs that citizens join spontaneously, he linked the guarantee of political freedom to laws and customs.¹

Some view that civil society is a collection of voluntary, independent organizations that fill the public space between the family and the state. These voluntary organizations, such as civil society organizations, social movements, and non-governmental organizations, seek to achieve their goals and the interests of their members. These organizations link their existence and activities to values and standards of respect, mutual consent, tolerance, and the peaceful management of diversity and difference.²

The United Nations defines civil society as voluntary groups, that are non-profit, organized by citizens on a local, national or international basis, organized around specific tasks, led by people with common interests, performing a variety of humanitarian services and functions, informing the government about citizens' concerns, monitoring policies and encouraging political participation at the community level, providing analysis and expertise, serving as early warning mechanisms, and helping to monitor and implement international agreements. Some of these organizations focus on specific issues such as human rights, environment or health.³

The Euro-Mediterranean Club agrees with this definition, which sees civil society as consisting of all individuals and organizations that:⁴

- They give their effort without the goal of profit.
- They fight for the respect of high values, human rights, democracy and international law.
- They work by peaceful means and independently of commercial interests, public authorities, political parties and religious programs.
- They seek to mobilize public opinion and deepen collective awareness of public issues, social solidarity, equality between men and women, multiculturalism, ways to improve the quality of life, cleanliness of the environment, protection of nature, and participation of citizens in political life.

There are two main conceptualizations of civil society:⁵

- **The broad concept:** It is the set of institutions, events and activities that occupy an intermediate position between the family as the basic unit on which the social structure and value

¹ Halilou, Nabil and Mohamed Mammeri, "The Role of Civil Society in Consolidating Democratic Values," in **Sociology Journal**, Volume 1, Issue 3, December 14, 2017, p. 174.

² Rehab Mokhtar, "Civil Society Organizations and the Expected Role in Strengthening the Values of Democracy and Instilling a Culture of Belonging in the Algerian Individual," in **the Journal of Social and Human Sciences**, Issue 3, January 2013, p. 83.

³ Halilou Nabil and Mohamed Maamri, op. cit. 174.

⁴ Mustafa Al-Masmoudi, **Arab Civil Society in the Time of the Digital Revolution**, Tunis, Tunisia: Hibiscus Publishing and Dar Al-Bustan Publishing, 2005, p. 16.

⁵ Amrani Karboussa, "Civil Society in the Current Arab Hirak... What role? With reference to the state of civil society in Algeria", in **Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences**, Issue 16, September 2014, p. 154.



system in society is based, on the one hand, and the state and its official institutions and agencies, on the other hand.

- **The narrow conception:** It is the set of organizations and practices that arise by the free will of the members of any society in relative independence from traditional groupings on the one hand (family, tribe, clan), and from the modern state of institutions on the other hand (legislative institution, executive institution, judicial institution).

Thus, civil society is a group of organizations that arise by the free will of the members of any society, which seek to achieve their goals and the interests of their members, such as civil associations, social movements and non-governmental organizations, which link their existence and activity to the values and standards of respect, compromise, tolerance and peaceful management of diversity and difference, led by people with common interests, and perform a variety of humanitarian services and functions.

SECOND REQUIREMENT: THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The common use of the term civil society in the social science literature dates back to the 1990s, after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc led by the Soviet Union, but the concept dates back to the 16th and 17th centuries with the social contract theories of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. At that time, the concept referred to a society of free citizens, who of their own free will choose the form and conditions of government under which they live, and the term civil society continued to be used by social thinkers until Hegel and Marx until the late 19th century.¹

Since its emergence, the concept of civil society has undergone many changes associated with different thinkers and philosophers on the one hand, and different societies and their conditions on the other hand, as the concept of civil society evolved with the development of Western liberalism. Adam Smith is considered the first to formulate the bourgeois concept of civil society accurately, as he considered it a mechanism for creating wealth rather than for establishing creative and civic life. Jean-Jacques Rousseau linked the concept of civil society to property, as he considered that the access to civil society is through the transition from the first state of nature, i.e. equality between individuals to property, and thus the emergence of civil society is linked to the emergence of private property, specifically real estate property, and thus the emergence of civil society is linked to the emergence of private property, specifically real estate property. As for the German philosopher Frederick Hegel, he saw civil society as a set of legal and economic ties that unite individuals in relations of dependence, as he believes that the state is a means to achieve civil society and at the same time it is a goal, as reaching the formation of the state means the rationalization of the individual and the emergence of the citizen. Doutherville used civil society to refer to centrist organizations, the arena of democratic free action that limits the excesses of state intervention. The Italian thinker Antonio Gramsci considered civil society as a space for achieving hegemony under capitalism, as he considered it

¹ Lokman Maghraoui, "Civil Society Actors and Public Policies in Algeria: What relationship?", in **Journal of Constitutional Law and Political Institutions**, Vol. 05, No. 01, 2021, p. 264.



a space for ideological cultural hegemony exercised through organizations such as unions, schools, and various cultural bodies.¹

At present, the use of the concept of civil society has gone through three main stages:²

- **The first phase:** It was characterized by the openness of civil society to political parties, forces and systems, in order to popularize their activities, by integrating members or officials of humanitarian movements and charitable social organizations into ministerial formations as a way to bring politics closer to active groups in society.

- **The second phase:** Civil society was treated as independent organizations parallel to the state and involved in achieving many of the tasks that the state seeks to retreat from. This concept corresponds to the spread of the concept of globalization and the transition towards a society that takes responsibility for managing most of its basic affairs. Western countries have used the concept of civil society to justify their withdrawal from carrying out financially costly activities that have been associated with them for a long time.

- **The third phase:** Civil society has become an autonomous pole and a center of leadership and social authority, at the level of global organization in particular, against the pole represented by the state, so that the concept of civil society aspires to become a theoretical tool for developing an alternative global and national policy based on a set of values and norms.

THIRD REQUIREMENT: THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The Civil society is of great importance within any society due to the important roles it plays, and its importance appears in two main elements:³

Firstly: The Economic importance

The Civil society is the capital of society and a very favorable climate for development, as researcher **Robert Dutnam** highlighted that the economic strength of society is linked to the strength of civil society, He explained that civil society organizations give their members a wide range of skills and a wide network of contacts that give them many opportunities to start economic projects and face obstacles, As some development experts have pointed out, one of the factors in the success of economic development in East Asian countries has been the active role played by voluntary, non-profit civil society organizations, These institutions also played a social role that complements the family and religious institutions in terms of deepening the values of friendship, honesty and discipline in order to support and consolidate the values of public integrity, which represents social and moral capital that develops values that contribute to motivating citizens to cooperate together and create creative economic institutions.

Secondly: The Political importance

The Civil society organizations are linked to the shura and democratic system, as they resolve disputes through peaceful means, respect the other and give him the right to express himself, and civil society helps to dispense with political authority, as its members rely on themselves to solve issues and various economic or social issues. Through the roles played by civil society, culture and ideology have come to shape power and regulate its functioning within

¹ Amina Hallal, "Civil Society Organizations: A mechanism to consolidate the values of citizenship", in **Annals of the University of Algiers** 1, Vol. 35, No. 01, 2021, pp. (596-597).

² Ibid, p. 597.

³ Rehab Mokhtar, op. cit, pp. (87-88).



the state. The Civil society also contributes to the transformation of the mode of governance from a vertical one that rules by force and employs tools of repression and physical violence to one that governs through dialogue and persuasion. Examples of these roles of civil society include its effective contribution to the overthrow of the totalitarian regime in Romania, The Civil society represented a real guarantee of the realization of the constitutional concept that stipulates that power belongs to the nation, which made the ruling regimes always seek to gain legitimacy from the popular masses through persuasion, away from the use of fraud, force and violence, The Civil society represented a real guarantee of the realization of the constitutional concept that stipulates that power belongs to the nation, which made the ruling regimes always seek to gain legitimacy from the popular masses through persuasion, away from the use of fraud, force and violence.

FOURTH REQUIREMENT: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The thinker **Samuel Huntington** asserts that effective civil society formations sometimes depend on a basic measure of their degree of institutionalization. The degree of institutionalization of a political system is determined by four criteria that can be used to judge the degree of development of an institution or organization:¹

Firstly: The Adaptability

It means the ability of an organization to adapt to developments in the environment in which it operates. The more adaptable an organization is, the more effective it is, because stagnation leads to diminishing or eliminating its importance. Adaptation is divided into the following types:

1. **Temporal adaptation:** The longer a political institution exists, the more institutionalized it becomes.
2. **Generational adaptation:** The more the organization overcomes the issue of succession peacefully, the more institutionalized it becomes. The more the organization overcomes the issue of succession peacefully, the more institutionalized it becomes, This leads to the flexibility of the organization in the face of the requirements of social and economic development, as the speed of social transformation is linked to the emergence of a generation of elites with great organizational acumen that enables them to achieve the desired success and excellence.
3. **Functional adaptation:** This is the ability of civil society organizations to make adjustments in their various activities in order to adapt to various developments, thus preventing them from being merely a means to achieve certain purposes.

Secondly: The Independence

Independence means that civil society formations should not be subordinate or dependent on other institutions, groups or individuals, which facilitates the process of controlling them and directing their activities in a direction that is consistent with the vision of the controller: The nature of the establishment of civil society organizations, the extent of their distance from the interference of the political system, the extent to which they enjoy financial independence and the distance of their sources of funding from the institutions of the political system, and the

¹ Amrani Karboussa, op. cit, pp. (156-157).



degree of administrative and organizational independence they enjoy in managing their internal affairs in accordance with internal laws and away from the interference of the political system.

Thirdly: The complexity:

The structure of civil society at all vertical and horizontal levels, the multiplicity of its organizational bodies, the existence of hierarchical levels within it, and its wide geographical spread, The more diverse the number of sub-units, the better the organization's ability to ensure the loyalty and retention of its members, and an organization with many objectives is better able to adapt itself to different developments.

Fourth: Homogenization

It means that there are no conflicts within civil society organizations that affect the exercise of their activities, as the more peaceful resolution of conflicts and divisions indicates the development of the organization, Also, the more patterns of relations based on cooperation and competition at the expense of relations based on conflict between civil society forces and groups is an indicator of the vitality of this society in a positive sense.

FIFTH REQUIREMENT: THE FUCTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

From the perspective of the ruling classes, civil society is an arena of conflict through which they can establish a counter-hegemony that enables them to expand their influence in society, push for a wider margin of movement and influence, and develop democratic mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, On this basis, five functions that civil society performs in order to fulfill this role have crystallized as follows:¹

Firstly: Grouping of interests

Civil society crystallizes collective positions on the issues and challenges facing and enabling them to take action to resolve their concerns and safeguard their interests.

Secondly: Conflict Resolution

Civil society resolves all internal disputes between its members by amicable means without resorting to the state and its bureaucratic apparatus.

Thirdly: Increase wealth and improve conditions

It means the ability to provide the possibility of practicing an activity that leads to increased income, such as projects carried out by productive cooperative societies, the activity carried out by consumer cooperative societies, and small income-generating projects carried out by NGOs.

Fourth: Creating new leaders

Civil society organizations are an inexhaustible reservoir of new leaders and a renewable source of supply for society, as they attract citizens to membership, enable them to discover their abilities through collective activities, provide them with the means to practice leadership through the responsibilities assigned to them, and provide them with the necessary experience to exercise those responsibilities.

¹ Nassir Khalfa, "The limits of the effectiveness of civil society as a mechanism to consolidate the culture of citizenship and social peace in Algeria", in *Al-Ra'id Journal of Political Studies*, Vol. 01, No. 02, June 2020, pp. (28-29)

**Fifth: Promoting a democratic civic culture**

It means spreading a civic culture that instills in society respect for the values of voluntarism and teamwork, accepting differences and diversity among oneself and others, managing conflict by peaceful means in light of the values of respect, tolerance, cooperation, competition and peaceful conflict, and commitment to public accountability and transparency.

SIX REQUIREMENTS: THE MEANS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The Civil society organizations rely on a range of legitimate means to exercise their roles and achieve their goals in a peaceful manner: ¹

- Negotiation and bargaining, which is one of the most important means of influencing the government and its policies in a peaceful manner.
- Organizing public seminars and lectures and issuing periodic publications and bulletins in order to present different points of view and seek a compromise solution to reconcile the private interests of individuals and groups with the general interest of society.
- Establishing networks of organizations with common goals or characteristics, whether horizontally or vertically, locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, ensuring knowledge and functional synergies between these organizations.
- Establishing a network of educational institutions such as schools, libraries, educational centers, organizing festivals, camps and training courses.
- Encourage individuals to join more than one organization at a time, as overlapping membership in civil society organizations creates common interests.
- Seek access to government departments and personal contact with decision-makers, or have people representing them and advocating for their views within the government itself.
- Using audio-visual media such as newspapers, radio and television to influence public opinion.

THE SECOND TOPIC: THE CONCEPTUEL FRAMEWORK OF CITIZENSHIP

The term citizenship has been used to refer to the mutual obligations of individuals and the state, so that individuals receive political and civil rights and fulfill certain duties by virtue of belonging to that state.

FIRST REQUIREMENT: THE DEFINITION OF CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is defined as a state in which a person enjoys a set of rights, privileges, and duties that make him worthy of the status, and citizenship is originally the relationship between the state and the people, as individuals and groups, and extends to form the relations of different groups within this state, The term citizenship also includes a legal and social meaning, as the legal meaning is the set of rights and duties granted to members of the people in exchange for their association with a specific country, while the social meaning is due to the participation of members of society to confirm and enshrine those rights and responsibilities.²

¹ Chaouch Ikhwan Jahida, "The reality of civil society in Algeria, a field study of the associations of the city of Biskra as a model", **Doctor of Science thesis in Sociology**, Specialization: Sociology of Development, Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra, 2014/2015, p. 81.

² Kalthoum Zaatout and Saida Homsy, "The Shared Responsibility of the State and Civil Society in Spreading Citizenship Values," in **Al-Sirraj Journal of Education and Social Issues**, Issue 06, June 2018, p. 42.



The Encyclopaedia Britannica, which defines citizenship as a relationship between an individual and a state as defined by the law of that state, and the duties and rights that those relationships entail, emphasizes that citizenship implies a level of freedom with attendant responsibilities.¹

According to the director of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, the modern meaning of citizenship refers to three concepts, namely: The political concept is associated with the citizen's rights to participate in public life; the legal concept is concerned with the civil and economic rights of the citizen, such as the right to life, freedom, security, equality and property, without losing sight of the citizen's duties such as protecting the homeland, paying taxes and respecting the laws.²

The sociological dictionary defines citizenship as a status or social relationship between a natural individual and a political community (the state), Through this relationship, the first party provides loyalty and the second party protects.³

There are those who define citizenship as a set of values and regulations for managing the common public space, the most important manifestations of which are defined as belonging to the homeland, enjoying the rights of citizenship and adhering to its duties, and participating in managing the public space. Citizenship education is limited to socialization that attempts to raise the individual and the citizen to adopt all these political, legal and cognitive values and regulations of the concept of citizenship, to be reflected in his institutions, behaviors and social relations within the common public space (the homeland).⁴

Most constitutional jurisprudence references have agreed on a general framework that defines the terminological definition of citizenship as follows: Citizenship is a relationship between an individual and a state, as defined by the law of that state, and with the duties and rights that this relationship entails in that state, and it confers on the citizen political rights such as: The right to vote and hold public office, full membership in the state or in some units of government, a person's affiliation with a particular state is a bond between him and it, and is thus related to constitutional law in terms of its identification of the citizen as a pillar of the state, and its guarantee of the citizen's right to his nationality.⁵

Thus, citizenship is a state in which an individual enjoys a set of rights and incurs a set of duties that make him worthy of this status, and the term citizenship includes political, legal and social connotations, The political meaning refers to the relationship between the state and the people, where loyalty to the state appears in exchange for the benefits of protection and political rights, while the legal meaning is the set of rights and duties granted to members of the people in exchange for their association with a specific country, while the social meaning is due to the participation of members of society to confirm and enshrine those rights and responsibilities.

¹ Chebita Ali and Miftah Ben Hedia, "Civil Society and Prospects for Promoting the Values of Citizenship and Development," in **Milaf Journal of Research and Studies**, Boualouf University Center Mila, Vol. 09, No. 01, July 2023, p. 204.

² Amina Halal, op. cit. p.600.

³ Chebita Ali and Miftah Ben Hedia, op. cit. p. 204.

⁴ Amina Halal, op. cit. p.600.

⁵ Ali Mohamed Mohamed al-Salabi, **Citizenship and Homeland in the Modern Muslim State**, 1st edition, DDN, 2014, p. 18.



SECOND REQUIREMENT: DISTINGUISHING THE CONCEPT OF CITIZENSHIP FROM SIMILAR CONCEPTS

The concept of citizenship can be distinguished from some similar concepts such as identity, nationality, patriotism and citizenship in the following:¹

Firstly: Citizenship and identity

Identity means the common denominators of the group that makes up a nation, and the relationship between identity and citizenship is inseparable, as it is not possible to talk about citizenship without a clear societal identity. Citizenship is the mirror image of identity, although citizenship can combine several identities into a single image of international citizenship (within a single multi-identity nation).

Secondly: Citizenship and nationalism

Nationalism represents that political entity that includes a nation, race, or ethnicity that is different from the inhabitants of that entity, and they only have to adhere to the prevailing national pattern, then nationalism prevails by thinking or imitating, and the state is dominated by a homogeneous people in which differences largely disappear. Citizenship is the relationship between individuals and the state, as defined by the law of that state, and the duties and rights that this relationship entails.

Thirdly: Citizenship and patriotism

Patriotism means loyalty to the homeland, an emotion that develops with the citizen from the moment he feels his social connection to the people with whom he shares one homeland, the ties that bind him to this people and this government, and the protection, benefit, and social justice that comes to him because of his belonging to this homeland. Citizenship is a state in which individuals enjoy a set of rights and privileges and have a set of duties and obligations that make them worthy of that status.

Fourth: Citizenship and nationality

Nationality expresses the legal bond that binds the individual - the citizen - to a specific and defined geographical area, and individuals originally enjoy it by birth or acquire it after birth according to legislation and laws, as nationality grants its holder a legal status that entitles him to a set of rights and binds him to a set of duties. Citizenship, on the other hand, is that relationship that results from the extent to which the implications of that status are applied, which ultimately crystallizes into identity and belonging in the form of patriotism.

THIRD REQUIREMENT: DIMENSIONS OF CITIZENSHIP

There are many dimensions to the concept of citizenship that vary depending on the angle from which it is presented, including the following: The cognitive and cultural dimension, the

¹ Mohamed Arabi Ladmi, "Citizenship as a distinctive characteristic of the national state: An analytical study of citizenship in its dimensions and values", in *Scientific Horizons*, Vol. 11, No. 03, 2019, pp. (85-86).



skills dimension, the dimension of belonging and loyalty, the political and legal dimension, the philosophical and values dimension, and the social dimension:¹

Firstly: The Cognitive and Cultural Dimension

It means that citizens need science and knowledge in order to build their skills and competencies, and civic education is based on people's culture while taking into account the psychological, social and cultural specificities of society.

Secondly: Skill dimension

The skills refer to critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, and others. An individual who has mastered the previous skills is able to distinguish things, and his thinking is more rational and logical, which is reflected in his behaviors in daily social life.

Thirdly: The dimension of affiliation and loyalty

It means instilling in individuals a sense of belonging to their country, their culture, and their society, as belonging is the tendency that drives an individual to enter into a particular social and intellectual framework. This implies a commitment to the norms and rules of this framework and to advocating and defending it against other social and intellectual frameworks.

Fourth: The political and legal dimension

Citizenship is defined by a set of organizational, behavioral and relational norms and standards within society, and the enjoyment of full citizenship rights, such as the right to participate, manage, make decisions, assume responsibilities, fulfill citizenship duties, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to equality and equal opportunities.

Fifth: The philosophical and value dimension

Citizenship is based on a philosophical and value reference that gives its connotations from the concepts of freedom, justice, right, goodness, and destiny.

Six: Social Dimension

It means that citizenship becomes a determinant of the system of social representations, behaviors, relationships and values, so that citizenship becomes a social normative and value reference, as well as a culture and social system.

FOURTH REQUIREMENT: CONDITIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP

There are many conditions that are considered the basis for the completion of citizenship in society, including the following: The full development of the state, the link between the concept of citizenship and the existence of a democratic state, citizens' enjoyment of political, legal, economic, social and cultural rights, and social and cultural upbringing.²

¹ Hind Ghadaifi and Rahima Ghadban, "The role of civil society institutions in consolidating the values of citizenship in Algerian society - a field study in the city of Batna -", in *Al-Sirraj Journal of Education and Social Issues*, Issue 07, September 2018, pp. (293-294).

² Nassir Khalfa, op. cit. (30-31).

**Firstly: Complete state growth**

The growth of the state is based on having a culture that is based on political participation, equality before the law, and a proper understanding of the state.

Secondly: The relationship between the concept of citizenship and the existence of a democratic state

Democracy is considered the first incubator for citizenship, given that the people are the source of authority in the state, and equality regardless of religion, race, sect, or gender. The effectiveness of citizenship is determined by the extent of awareness based on access to information from various sources, as it represents the basis for the ability to assume responsibility and participation.

Thirdly: Citizens' enjoyment of political, legal, economic, social and cultural rights

This is done through a social contract between the people in society and the political authority, as legal and political rights and duties and social, economic and cultural rights must go hand in hand based on the distribution of opportunities and equality among all citizens.

Fourth: Socialization and cultural upbringing

The various institutions in society mold the individual capable of understanding citizenship through an integrated educational and cultural system.

FIFTH REQUIREMENT: PRINCIPLES OF CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is based on a set of principles: A sense of responsibility, enjoying the rights granted by the law, assuming responsibilities and obligations.¹

Firstly: Sense of responsibility

Society is characterized by its multiple components and identities, multiple and sometimes overlapping cultures, in addition to different ethnicities and religions, and therefore a sense of national identity is necessary, which is a guarantee and safety valve to maintain the cohesion of society.

Secondly: Enjoying the rights granted by law

The citizen's enjoyment of benefits and rights is an essential element of the individual's membership in society and his sense of being, and the individual's participation in society is evidence of his sense of being, personality and existence, and these rights are categorized into legal rights, political rights and civil rights (economic and social).

Thirdly: Taking on responsibilities and obligations

The individual has a number of responsibilities and obligations, which can be divided into mandatory ones such as: taxation, military service, and adherence to laws, and voluntary responsibilities such as participation in the improvement of political and civic life and

¹ Kadri Fadl Kasbeh, "Civil Society Organizations and their Role in Promoting the Concept of Citizenship in Palestine," **Master's Thesis in Planning and Political Development**, Faculty of Graduate Studies, An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine, 2013, p. 42.



commitment to political loyalty to the state. Criticizing the conditions of political and civic life in general, community participation, respecting and defending the rights of others, and voting.

SIXTH REQUIREMENT: VALUES OF CITIZENSHIP

The concept of citizenship encompasses many values, including the following: Equality, justice, freedom, belonging, participation.¹

Firstly: Equality

Equality is one of the fundamental values affirmed by all divine religions, as Islam has called for equality between people in transactions without discrimination between them on the basis of race, gender, or color. All international human rights charters emphasize equality, and the principle of equality includes many areas such as equality before the law, equality before public utilities such as security, education, health and electricity, and equality before social benefits such as the enjoyment of rights and the absence of disparities in them, and equality in the assumption of public office.

Secondly: Justice

Justice is one of the lofty values called for by all divine religions, as justice means fairness, balance, equity, and the delivery of every right to its rightful owner, and the value of justice is related to the value of equality, as equality can only be achieved by achieving justice, so that everyone is equal before the law. The wider the application of justice, the greater the scope of goodness, security and stability, and the more social justice spreads, the more people belong to their homeland and their dedication and devotion to its advancement, protection and sacrifice for it.

Thirdly: Freedom

Freedom is reflected in many rights such as freedom of belief and practice of religious rituals, freedom of movement within the country, freedom of expression, freedom to support or protest a cause, position or policy, and freedom to participate in conferences and meetings of a social and political nature.

Fourth: Affiliation

It is an inner feeling that makes the citizen work with enthusiasm and sincerity to promote and defend his homeland and ensure its safety, and this belonging does not conflict with belonging to the family and religion, but rather these affiliations are in harmony with each other.

Fifth: Participation

Participation includes many rights, such as the right to participate in the activities of society and take part in its events. Participation comes through the establishment of the principle of rights and duties through political and social activities, such as electoral activity at the level of councils and others, and participation in social and political issues by holding national dialogues and expressing opinions freely and confidently.

¹ Hind Ghadaifi and Rahima Ghabban, op. cit. p. 295.



THE THIRD TOPIC: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN PROMOTING CITIZENSHIP VALUES

There is no doubt that the political authority has a great responsibility in achieving citizenship, and civil society organizations also have many roles to play in promoting the values of citizenship in the country.

FIRST REQUIREMENT: THE RELATIONSHIP OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO THE CONCEPT OF CITIZENSHIP

The concept of civil society and citizenship has been associated with liberal democratic systems. The prevalence of the values of tolerance, institutional respect for laws, the will of the majority without excluding the minority, and respect for human rights is the only way that enables civil society organizations to play their role in establishing full citizenship. Freedoms and human rights are defined by international organizations emanating from the United Nations, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and before that by our true religion, such as the right to equality and the right of the individual to think freely and embrace religious principles and opinions. The right to public participation, which includes the right to establish parties, associations and unions, the right to assemble and vote, freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful opposition, all of which fall within the scope of citizenship.¹

Civil society performs a fundamental task in consolidating the idea of positive citizenship, which is an imperative necessity to build citizens' awareness and sensitize them to the importance of civil society and the extent to which it plays a positive role in achieving social security. This could lead to activating the will of the state's decision-making by convincing it that the idea of building and developing the modern state depends on developing it from within, meaning developing political and representative institutions on the one hand and allowing room for accelerating and developing the work of civil society on the other. In what it provides through its constituent elements, such as the family, schools, universities, associations, parties and unions, to guide or correct citizens to exercise their rights and duties to the fullest, and thus enjoy the right to citizenship in all its political, economic, social and cultural dimensions.²

Civil society organizations work to create free, educated citizens who are aware of their rights and voluntarily engage in public life. Civil society organizations contribute to learning about citizenship and political participation.

SECOND REQUIREMENT: THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ESTABLISHING THE VALUES OF CITIZENSHIP

Civil society institutions play an important role in the process of national and national unification with their cultural and cognitive determinants that form a collective consciousness that expresses the common identity of the people of the one nation. Awareness of the concept of the homeland is one of the most important vocabulary of modern political culture that humans acquire in the framework of social and political socialization processes. Civil society organizations use civic education as a mechanism for individuals and groups to acquire their

¹ Ghania Chelighem, "Civil Society and Citizenship in Algeria: Reality and Obstacles", in *Algerian Journal of Security and Development*, Issue 08, January 2016, pp. (165-166).

² Farida Belfrak, "The role of civil society in rooting the culture of citizenship", in *El-Hakika Journal*, Vol. 05, No. 01, 30/06/2006, p. 114.



citizenship, in terms of awareness of the rights and duties of citizenship. It is also embodied in the constitutional and legal frameworks governing the state and society, and the citizen's awareness of his citizenship through the concepts of equality, freedom, equity and participation. Here, the citizen becomes an active participant in the changes taking place in his or her society, and even a contributor to the realization of that change and transformation.¹

To strengthen the bond of citizenship, civil society organizations work to raise awareness among citizens regarding the values and principles of citizenship and upbringing in order to ensure unity and cohesion among citizens within the state. Associations represent a space for exercising freedom and activating collective initiatives to embody the values of solidarity, which achieves social stability for the state and society. The individual's sense of common ties with other members of the group, such as blood, neighborhood, homeland, customs, traditions, values and beliefs, as well as his sense of attachment to the homeland and his belonging to the group that constitutes it. Thus, a sense of citizenship means ensuring loyalty to the state, and thus civil society organizations are active in demanding the protection of citizens' rights and fundamental freedoms, enhancing their status in society, and promoting their social life.²

In modern civil society, citizenship has become one of the foundations of building a society. In a Muslim society, it is based on respect for Islamic principles, social values, freedom of thought, and freedom of opinion and expression. It also aims to enable citizens to understand themselves, their homelands and the world around them, and to understand their own culture and respect the cultures of others. We must focus on civil society organizations to promote the values of citizenship and hold national meetings, seminars and conferences that instill the meaning of this message in the hearts of the members of society in all their different roles.³

The contribution of civil society organizations in establishing the values of citizenship is highlighted by the following:⁴

- Civil society works to frame the spirit of citizenship within society, as citizens are able to play a role that produces a dual relationship between them and society within the framework of civil rights, and between them and the authority within the framework of political rights.
- Civil society works to spread concepts of belonging that create a sense of participation in the soul of citizens, and make them feel that they are part of the national structure and must have participation.
- Sensitize citizens to the fact that they are the key element in shaping the mechanisms of civil society institutions, which are the result of the initiative of the citizen who, as soon as he feels the value of his existence and entity, realizes the meaning of his citizenship in return.
- Developing social awareness by creating a culture and spirit of initiative among citizens and the desire to be self-reliant.
- Contributing to giving value to the concept of the modern state, which must be based on a reconciled relationship with the citizen, and this reconciliation is realized through an administrative basis that overlaps the political, social, economic and cultural aspects Through a public system that revitalizes the values of citizenship, defines and controls its references, and diagnoses its most important manifestations and forms of practice.

¹ Amina Halal, op. cit. P. 604.

² Ramal Amine, "The constitutional foundations of the National Observatory of Civil Society and its role in promoting national values and the performance of civil society in Algeria", in *Journal of Legal and Economic Studies*, Vol. 05, No. 01, 2022, pp. (1019-1020).

³ Kalthoum Zaatout and Saida Homsy, op. cit. p. 53.

⁴ Rehab Mokhtar, op. cit. pp. (89-90).



- Paying attention to the role of the diaspora by assisting them and showing solidarity with them in the issues they face, so that they can become full-fledged citizens, which can create a relationship of international cooperation.
- Supporting citizenship education through the basic structures of society, such as the family and schools, and working towards the realization of a professional national network in this regard, in addition to working to make civil society a force for change.
- Supporting democracy as an endless process.
- Acquiring a culture of participation, where civil society organizations move from the level of automated and directed service organizations to active participation organizations with proximity and positive communication with the citizen.

The role of civil society organizations is to establish a culture of citizenship based on valuing the role of the human being in achieving comprehensive development, considering that the human being is the main actor in driving the path of development and at the same time is its ultimate goal and objective. One of the most important indicators of civil society is the participation of the people in parties, unions, organizations, federations and voluntary associations. Democracy (the culture of citizenship) must secure human rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression and social and political organization, Ensuring effective participation and equality of opportunity through the revitalization of civil society and combining freedom: the right to expression, the right to assembly, the right to organize, the right to dissent, the right to personal initiative, individuality, creativity, competition, the right to difference, pluralism, and social justice.¹

Civil society organizations also educate members of society about the concept of human rights as an integrated system of rights and freedoms that is not limited to civil and political rights, but also includes social, economic and cultural rights. Developing awareness of human rights has become one of the most important areas of their work. They work to spread civic culture with the aim of establishing new patterns of rationality in society, by materializing individuals' awareness and practice of their civil and political rights. In this process, a real relationship of belonging is formed between individuals who feel a sense of belonging to the homeland, and then seek to build the society in which they seek to live according to the principles of citizenship and equality.²

Civil society organizations spread awareness among citizens about the values and principles of citizenship and positive upbringing. The goal is to ensure unity and cohesion among citizens within the state to which they belong.

THIRD REQUIREMENT: THE ROLE OF ALGERIAN CIVIL SOCIETY IN SUPPORTING THE VALUE OF CITIZENSHIP

If one follows the historical process of the first manifestations of community participation in Algeria, the components of citizenship are established through the interactive relationship between them and the citizen's participation in all political and social events and scenes. Citizens have a number of rights and duties. After independence, Algeria adopted a one-party system through which it called for the establishment of a popular democracy with a social dimension through which it seeks to achieve equality and social justice guided by a single party. The 1976

¹ Grid Samir, "Algerian Civil Society and the Problem of Establishing a Culture of Citizenship," in *Oasis Research and Studies Journal*, No. 18, 2013, p. 182.

² Amina Hallal, op. cit. p. 604.



Constitution enshrined the principle of community participation and decentralization in the conduct of the nation's life and management of its affairs. This participation applies equally to men and women, which is known as equality, an important ingredient for the emergence of participatory democracy that paves the way for citizenship.¹

In light of the political transformations that Algeria has witnessed since 1988 and the aftermath of the Arab revolutions, It has become an urgent need to consolidate the values of citizenship, which does not stop at the limits of the rights and duties granted by constitutions and legislations, but goes beyond that to the possibilities and opportunities available to the citizen to express his will to fully engage in the affairs of his society The resulting realization of other principles that support democracy, such as civil rights and freedoms, the principle of equality, etc.²

Through the 1989 Constitution, Algeria worked to achieve equality and protect the citizen from exploitation. This constitution expanded the field of rights and freedoms, as it recognized individual and collective freedoms, political pluralism and elections as a means of access to power, The principle of rotation of power and separation of powers. With regard to the constitutional amendment in 1996, some articles (29, 36, 41 and 56) contain indicators that include the enshrinement of citizenship as a principle of equality before the law, The inviolability of freedom of belief, the inviolability of freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the right to recognize the right to trade unions for all citizens.³

With the return of relative stability in Algeria, some protest movements emerged in 2011 with demands of both a socio-economic and political nature, They were responded to in 2012 with political reforms that included amending the organic law on elections, the quota system for women's representation in elected councils, and the organic law on parties, On February 22, 2019, Algeria witnessed a worsening of the political crisis (crisis of legitimacy), due to the withdrawal of confidence and credibility from the various components and institutions of the political system, With the prevalence of corruption and the deterioration of social conditions such as unemployment and illegal immigration, as well as the weakness of legislative and judicial institutions against the dominance of the executive authority in the decision-making center, the Algerian people came out to find solutions and alternatives to hold free and fair elections and punish the corrupt, On June 15, 2019, the National Symposium of Civil Society Actors held an initiative to present proposals to end the political crisis in Algeria, which included the following:⁴

- Call for the installation of a national figure or a consensus presidential body to oversee the transitional period.
- Organize the next presidential election within six months at the latest.
- Forming a national competency government.

¹ Chebita Ali and Miftah Ben Hedia, op. cit. p. 207.

² Zreik Nafisa, "Citizenship in Algeria: A reading on the dimensions of citizenship and its implications for democratic construction in Algeria", in **Journal of Political and Administrative Research**, University of Djelfa, Algeria, Vol. 06, No. 02, 2017, p. 262.

³ Alaa-eddine Saidi, "The question of citizenship through the curricula of the Algerian school after the reforms of the second generation 2016, "The curriculum of civic education for the intermediate stage as a model", **PhD thesis at the third level in political science and international relations**, specialization: The State and the Development of Major Political Theories, Department of International Studies, Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, University of Algiers 3, 2020/2021, p. 97.

⁴ Lokman Maghraoui, "The Role of Civil Society Actors in Algeria: An analytical study of the repercussions of the popular movement in Algeria on the performance and effectiveness of civil society 1989-2020", in **Madarat Political Journal**, Vol. 05, No. 01, 2021, pp. (364-366).



- Establish an independent body to supervise the elections and announce the results, while ensuring oversight mechanisms.
- Opening a comprehensive national dialog with various civil society actors.

The popular movement in Algeria (February 22, 2019) has created awareness among Algerian citizens and increased their demands to change the political equation towards a better vision, especially after the December 2019 elections, which witnessed a constitutional amendment in the November 2020 elections, This has brought about profound transformations, as there are numerous official legal texts that expand the space for civil society and social participation for all, as well as the establishment of mechanisms to empower citizens to make decisions, democratize the state and institutionalize participation and the fair practice of political and social life, In addition to a large number of civil society organizations of all kinds.¹

Algeria's new Constitution of 2020 sought to enshrine and consolidate citizenship rights and worked to promote them by enabling all citizens to exercise them equally before the various state institutions, and to preserve them with all the principles and components of the law, This constitution truly reflects a new vision towards the transition to a civil state that respects rights and freedoms and works to build them through the collective participation of citizens in the conduct of public affairs as allowed by democratic mechanisms in various political, economic and social aspects.²

In this context, the National Civil Society Observatory was established as an advisory body to the President of the Republic to provide opinions and recommendations related to the concerns of civil society, as well as its contribution to the promotion of national values, democratic practice and citizenship, By forming organizations capable of performing their role in the conduct of public affairs and working to educate citizens and sensitize them to their responsibility towards their society, By introducing and supporting the principle of citizenship to obtain civil society institutions capable of management, control, and even accountability within the framework of achieving transparency and integrity.³

The National Civil Society Observatory disseminates national values and principles and proposes basic mechanisms to encourage voluntary work and work for the public interest in civil society activity, develop the spirit of belonging and enhance the abilities of individuals to communicate with each other, It also contributes to any study that aims to promote and activate the role of various civil society actors in various fields.⁴

The process of researching the values of citizenship is oriented towards the need for this concept to acquire legal and political contents that make those concerned and benefiting from it (societies) truly know the meaning of citizenship and truly represent its values in their lives, By adopting principles, committing to institutions, and employing tools and mechanisms that ensure its consolidation as a value in society as a prelude to the consolidation of the principles of democratic values.⁵

¹ Chebita Ali and Miftah Ben Hedia, op. cit. p. 209.

² Al Khal Ibrahim and Ben Omar Abdel Rahman, "A Reading of the Concept of Citizenship in Algerian Legislation", in **Maarif Journal of Legal and Economic Sciences**, Vol. 02, No. 03, 2021, p. 08.

³ El-Haj Ahmed Mohamed Yacine and Hisham Abdelkarim, "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Governance of Local Communities in Algeria," in **Elmofaker Journal**, Vol. 18, No. 01, 2023, p. 24.

⁴ Zaoui Ahmed and Louhani Habiba, "The creation of the National Observatory for Civil Society in light of the Algerian constitutional amendment of 2020", in **Journal of Human Sciences of the University of Oum El Bouaghi**, Vol. 09, No. 03, December 2022, p. 620.

⁵ Zreik Nafisa, op. cit. p. 263.



The process of establishing the values of citizenship does not stop at the limits of the rights and duties granted by constitutions and legislation, where the relationship of loyalty to the state emerges in exchange for protection and political rights, rather, citizens must be given opportunities and possibilities to express their will to engage in the affairs of their societies, through their participation to affirm and enshrine those rights and responsibilities.

Conclusion:

Civil society organizations are a group of free voluntary organizations that fill the public sphere between the family and the state, and that seek to achieve their goals and the interests of their members, such as civil associations, social movements, and non-governmental organizations, Civil society is characterized by a set of characteristics: Adaptability, independence, complexity and homogeneity.

Citizenship is a state in which individuals enjoy a set of rights and have a set of duties that make them worthy of this status.

Through this study, the following findings were made:

- Civil society organizations perform many functions such as aggregating interests, resolving conflicts, increasing wealth, improving conditions, producing new leaders, and promoting a democratic civic culture.
- Civil society organizations play an important role in the process of national unification with their cultural and cognitive determinants that form a collective consciousness that expresses the common identity of the people of the one nation, Awareness of the concept of the homeland is one of the most important vocabularies of modern political culture that humans acquire in the framework of social and political socialization processes.
- Civil society organizations work to frame the spirit of citizenship within society, as citizens are able to play a role that produces a two-way relationship, The first is between him and society in the framework of civil rights, and the second is between him and the authority in the framework of political rights.
- Civil society organizations educate members of society about various human rights, including political, social, economic and cultural rights.
- Civil society organizations work to spread civic culture in order to establish new patterns of rationality in society by making individuals aware of their civil and political rights.
- The term citizenship includes a political connotation that refers to the relationship between the state and the people, where loyalty to the state appears in exchange for entitlements to protection and political rights, The legal meaning is the set of rights and duties granted to members of the people in exchange for their association with a specific country, and the social meaning is the participation of members of society to affirm and enshrine those rights and responsibilities.

Based on what has been discussed in this study, the following recommendations can be proposed:

- Granting citizens all their basic rights and freedoms increases their trust in the state they belong to.
- Providing opportunities and possibilities for citizens to express their will to engage in the affairs of their communities.
- All social actors such as the family, educational institutions and governmental organizations must work together to instill the values of citizenship in individuals.
- Facilitating the procedures for establishing and developing civil society organizations to encourage them to perform their tasks.



- Establishing the values of openness, dialogue, synergy, respect, and consensus as core values that contribute to spreading the culture of citizenship among individuals in society.

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