

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

Mustapha Chibani

University of Tamenghasset, Algeria, mustaphatittaf78@gmail.com

Received: 12/10/2024, **Accepted:** 21/07/2025, **Publication:** 30/09/2025

Abstract:

Despite Algerian authorities' efforts to modernize cities, the pull of some inappropriate behaviors remain strong. A detailed qualitative investigation that includes in-depth investigation of large sections of Algerian population expressed in social media, along with the analysis of secondary materials like media reports; both form the backbone of this research. The findings from city-level data reveal three main challenges: firstly, non-compliance with environmental requirements which negatively affects urban life, secondly, citizen weak participation to create livable modern city, thirdly, lack of social awareness that consequently led to notoriously bad traffic and contributed to residents' bad mood.

Keywords: Algeria; city; behavior; environment; media; challenge; citizen.

INTRODUCTION

As it has recently been noted by a number of followers of Algerian social and environmental issues in an ever-changing world, most Algerian cities have been facing flashing urban growth and expansion during last three decades. This fact comes along with a colossal growing population and increasing industrialization. Therefore, the challenge of maintaining a clean and healthy environment has never been more critical than today. The role of some social behaviors in reducing the care for the whole society has also been plainly noticed on several aspects. Exemplified in widespread of notorious conducts such as reckless driving, these attitudes have created a deep split in Algerian interpretation of the very meaning of certain core concepts people have for so long associated their lives

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

with. Concepts such as mutual respects and care for others are unfortunately now at stake particularly with teenagers' everyday odd behaviors which consequently lead to cause short-term discomforts.

The beforehand mentioned environmental and social challenges that pose a significant threat to the health and well-being of citizens are not in fact less alarming than the technical and economic ones. Despite state enormous and diversified efforts on different levels to cope with this situation, a lot is still need to be undertaken, which includes the participation of social institutions along with state entities in order to and to enhance life quality. A qualitative inquiry has been conducted in forms of interviews with several sections of Algerian society as first material to reveal deep causes and people perspectives. The analysis of media reports forms secondary materials for this research study. It is mainly based on social media data as people tend relatively to freely express their views and report, on daily routine, about these issues and challenges spontaneously and in an informal way.

Obnoxious social stereotypes

In a harmonious social fabric, people are often aware of what might always help stabilizing the very sense of living. Nevertheless, this awareness can sometimes be negatively affected due to many different factors; social, educational, and in some cases even economic. Throughout our survey of a huge amount of content being displayed on social media particularly Facebook and with less importance Twitter, a significant number of posts are of those reporting on counterproductive behaviors ordinary people are experiencing on daily life. Large Algerian cities get a big share of followers comments especially when these genres of conducts cost people health and economic damage or even sometimes worse than that if human life is jeopardized.

Table 1. Displayed content on Facebook and Twitter reporting on counterproductive behaviors in Algerian cities

Period	Facebook posts	Main reason of bad conduct	Twitter posts	Main reason of bad conduct
March 2024	11	time constraints	3	work commitments
April 2024	13	work commitments	3	academic pressure
Mai 2024	17	academic pressure	5	academic pressure
June 2024	15	academic pressure	4	academic pressure
July 2024	21	family issues	7	social pressure
August 2024	25	social pressure	7	family issues

Source: Facebook and Twitter

According to what is showed on these pages, the very causes are often attributed to social pressure most people suffer while driving. This can easily be noticed when referring to repulsive conducts related to traffic circle. Other social reasons are also clearly to be seen on the comments, from work commitments and time constraints to academic pressure and family issues. An important space in this regard is also dedicated to the role of academic institutions in fostering the importance of the sense of social coexistence and spreading awareness between different sections of Algerian society. It goes beyond that to even suggesting an overall review of the way these social matters are being represented throughout various grades and levels of Algerian educational system. Traffic jam and poor road conditions cannot also be excluded, these what might seem to be economic factors along with the existence of a huge number of old polluting cars still in use across Algerian big cities.

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

Environmental hygiene and public places respect

It is well-known that environmental health is a sub-branch of public health that is concerned with different aspects of both natural and built environment which usually affect human health (**Hills & Piachaud, 2002**). Environmental hygiene in its turn is mainly concerned with all sort of practices meant to keep the environment clean and healthy with an ultimate purpose to prevent any kind of diseases and prevent a potential health risks. This concept is also including all the measures and actions taken as precautions in the first place in order to improve the basic environmental conditions affecting the environment and human health in particular. This notion includes cleaning natural green places and open spaces, reforming and repairing public equipment, then removing and destroying potential harming factors or agent that may affect a sustainable environmental and healthy life

With the purpose to actively help control various factors that may influence Environmental hygiene within Algerian large cities in particular, this study opted for an observational investigation based on local television reports and social media posts and comments. Most of Algerian cities have for decades been facing flashing urban growth associated with soaring environmental challenges. This situation became much more alarming and in the center of discussion since water scarcity problem also emerged to the surface.

Table 2. Observational investigation based on local television reports and social media posts

Period	Main topic on National TV	Main topic on private TV	Main topic on Facebook	Main topic on Twitter
March 2024	air pollution	air pollution	random urban growth	air pollution
April 2024	Other environmental challenges	random urban growth	Other environmental challenges	Other environmental challenges
Mai 2024	air pollution	air pollution	water scarcity	water scarcity
June 2024	water scarcity	water scarcity	water scarcity	water scarcity
July 2024	water scarcity	water scarcity	water scarcity	water scarcity
August 2024	water scarcity	water scarcity	water scarcity	water scarcity

Source: Social media and local TV

As rapid urbanization increases, continued poor city sanitation are in fact causing heavy toll on public hygiene and sanitation. The risk goes beyond public health to include both surface and groundwater contamination as a result of widespread use of chemical products to fight different enemies of agricultural products (**Heleta, 2010**). Lack of technical facilities and poor management has also led to perpetual flooding that continue to put risk which leads into a diffusing urban instability, and moreover threaten the very existence of some Algerian cities.

Careless responding to imminent significant threat

This is one of several studies that proved the consequences of careless responding along with an invalid response styles in general to pressing risks engendered by abnormal social practice as described in the research results. This latter has assessed the effects of careless

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

responding to continuous warning on maintaining perpetual solid social fabric. Most studies conducted in this regard concluded that careless responding can substantially have negative results, such as soaring social group differences (Bjelajac, 2011). Some individuals, according to this study, keep claim the absence of social and even sometimes an integrated sort of state deterrence to put an end to such heinous attitudes that only reflect an unpleasant picture of Algerian society.

Table 3. Causes and consequences of careless responding to imminent social threats

Period	Main cause according to TV reports	Main consequence	Main cause according to social media	Main consequence
March 2024	absence of social deterrence	An effected social fabric	absence of state deterrence	unpleasant image on the society
April 2024	lack of social awareness	An effected social fabric	absence of social deterrence	social group split
Mai 2024	absence of social deterrence	social group split	lack of social awareness	social group split
June 2024	lack of social awareness	effects on collective and individual stability	lack of social awareness	soaring social crimes
July 2024	lack of social awareness	effects on collective and individual stability	lack of social awareness	effects on collective and individual stability
August 2024	lack of social awareness	soaring social crimes	absence of state deterrence	an effected social fabric

Source: Social media and local TV

Others, according to some comments on social media, found moreover effects of careless respondents on the social structure, questioning therefore the role of social and state institutions on the scene. Accordingly, those breaching the law will be seen particularly by teenagers as role model to be imitated, and consequently the whole society ends up having an incoherent understanding of what productive conduct model is all about. Cities generally do have special status mainly large and populated ones, and people are with regards to security and safety very sensitive. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to put into practice every single mean necessary to maintain people well-being as a priority in the first place (**Williams, 2005**). The varying consequences of carelessness are likely to be a result of underestimated aspects not rightly evaluated of various social negative effects.

Every single type of careless response should be dealt with independently adopting a technical strategy. The prevalence of a continuous carelessness might ultimately turn up having varying effects on a long term collective and individual stability. This strategy can also be implied widely so that the perceived effects of social careless responding to different breaching cases will in its turn need only to be investigated in specific settings (**Jovanovic, 2000**). Multiple inquiries and investigations results should be used to make sure people are satisfied with various measures being taken on different levels. This satisfaction can easily be perceives as reflected in the collective engagement within the mainstream collaborative initiative of making a difference. Nevertheless, extra measures will always be needed to be considered if people judge the already taken steps as insufficient.

Strengths and limitations

This study main strength is that it is a field study in which a large spectrum of society is covered in order to review and make an investigation concerning some critical environmental and social issues. Moreover, this study dealt with the crucial subject of careless responding, by some members of the same society, to numerous

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

immoral behaviors. All of this was conducted within the specific context of maintaining the whole community well-being and preserving security and safety of Algerian cities at large, particularly densely populated ones. In a wide and representative social media sample, the spontaneous interaction between different sections of Algerian society has given this study a special status. This privilege of reflecting to a large extent what ordinary people really feel about obnoxious attitudes being seen and experienced on the daily life basis is in fact what Algerians need to understand and study in such social inquiries and investigations.

Consequently, the results at the end provide recommendations regarding the implementation of preventive measures in that context. Added to that, our results are also useful for other researchers collecting data on the level of technical scales. They provide suggestions on how to further investigate the performance of Algerian citizens regarding what does serve the very interest of a peaceful city. Furthermore, this study helps detecting at the same time any kind of carelessness that has no explanation in nowadays existence of every single mean of communication particularly social media. In fact, it is on this genre of social media where people feel much more free to break the psychological barriers interacting in an effective manner sometimes anonymous or with pseudo-names reporting events in a plain spontaneous manner.

However, this study as every single research has also some limitations. This ultimately leads to suggestions and recommendations for further research. First, we could not identify an exact age category from social media reports in the investigation for collecting suitable and reliable data. Second, we did not compare the performance of people from different age categories or social status due to an invalidity checks allowances and ultimately the performance of every individual regarding odd social behaviors remains to be evaluated. Future research may focus on developing direct screening methods for

obtaining effective data results so that the inquiry do not lead to feel that the answers are not trusted. Third, our study focused only on social media posts and comments, with only few views from national television reports and documentaries that often limit the scale of investigation particularly when people direct responses are believed to matter in every reporting symptoms (**Dühr & Nadin, 2010**). The social results and outcomes are most likely to be present in collected data. Directly or indirectly, these responses styles obtained from people posts and comments may have affected our prevalence estimates, especially those based on events taking place particularly on the roads traffic influencing the image of large Algerian cities . The prevalence estimates based on the person-single comment are less likely affected by any purposeful ever-existing under-or over-reporting investigation for the reason that such respondents adopt another character individual value and always respond consistently with respect to that particular character value (**Cheremisinoff, 2003**).

Suggestions for upcoming studies

Here is to suggest an important topic for future research is to find ways to motivate and then assess people readiness for making a change. Any pattern of tangible move with alternative measures that really make careless individuals and groups both observe and feel a peaceful revolution in Algerian cities. This might happen in terms of self-report measures regarding driving conducts, environmental hygiene, social mutual respect, and to preserve Algerian citizen's well-being. Additional advantages are likely to be seen once other external measures and precautions in the same context are being taken into consideration. This may help faster the necessary change of mentalities in the first place, getting rid of selfishness while working for the benefit of the entire community. Once every individual is assuming his or her responsibility, this positive change would come as a natural result of collective cooperation and social integration. Any study that might opt for some particular Algerian cities for investigation would be more than appreciated and valuable at this

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

stage. This is for the simple reason that this country is the larger, most diverse, and very strategic one, not only in the Arab world but in whole African continent..

CONCLUSION

Several aspects of technical, economic and sometimes even social challenges profoundly affect Algerian deep religious faith and belief in the nation's traditional culture of environmental hygiene and public places respect. As rapid urbanization increases, Algerian cities are often hot-spots for both poor air qualities as a natural result of dangerously unhealthy environment, along with obnoxious people behaviors and undermining conducts. With an exponential demographic growth leading to a spiral of social demand, civil society organizations in Algeria are facing an alarming social stereotypes and mentality that seems careless of its own security and safety. Algerians have thus been caught between what they perceive as continued poor city sanitation and incredibly rude attitudes such as reckless driving.

The findings from city-level data obtained throughout the study that rely on social media posts representing people's views and comments along with national television reports on ground observation, reveal three main challenges that pose a significant threat. In fact, this risk significantly jeopardize both the health and well-being of citizens and consequently people no longer have the same sense of feeling secure and safe regarding their healthcare and the environment : firstly, non-compliance on a very large scale with environmental requirements prescribed by specialists on the field which negatively affects urban life and causes short-term discomforts. The carelessness expressed in form of neglecting the basic rules that should be respected while being in public places is one example that can easily be noticed from a number of posts on Facebook particularly in the summer holiday's period. Secondly, citizen's weak or sometimes ineffective participation to create livable modern city and to enhance life quality. This weak engagement is often attributed to a

low sense of belonging to social activities organized by members to create momentum for change. It is again part and partial of what every citizen should take as a practical lesson throughout the whole process of the educational system. Finally, the lack or absence of social awareness. This latter should be the most preoccupying social matter, of different social institutions, that can be achieved through the mean of multiple activities and voluntary events. In case these issues are not being seriously taken into account this may consequently lead to notoriously bad traffic and contributed to residents' bad mood. What can be in fact learned from successful social initiative is that engaging particularly children and youngsters is of paramount importance. These two social categories will easily assimilate a lesson for a long-term well-being of the entire community and the city as a whole. Many bad habits can be avoided in this regard by showing a good role model example and fostering collective work.

Bibliography List :

Books :

1. Bjelajac, Z. (2011). *Ecological Policy of EU and its Criminal Legal Draft*. London: Routledge.
2. Cheremisinoff, N. (2003). *Handbook of Solid Waste Management and Waste Minimization Technologies*. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann.
3. Dühr, C., & Nadin, V. (2010). *European Spatial Planning and Territorial Cooperation*. London: Routledge.
4. Heleta, M. (2010). *System Management Projecting of Environmental*. Beograd: University Singidunum.

The Environment and Social Conducts in Algerian Cities: The Role of Constructive Awareness and Citizens Active Participation

5. Hills, L. G., & Piachaud, D. (2002). *Understanding Social Exclusion*. New York: Oxford University Press.
6. Jovanovic, L. (2000). *Recycling as an Important Part of Sustainable Development*. London: Routledge.
7. Williams, P. (2005). *Waste Treatment and Disposal*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.