

The Role of Quality of Life in Shaping the Attitude Toward Illegal Migration Among Algerian Youth

دور جودة الحياة في تكوين الاتجاه نحو الهجرة غير الشرعية لدى الشباب
الجزائري

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Abstract:

The study —through a field investigation—aimed to explore the role of quality of life in shaping the attitude toward illegal migration, whether negative or positive, while identifying the predominant attitude among the sample members, as well as differences based on gender and occupation. The study adopted the **descriptive approach** to determine the nature of attitudes toward migration, the differences in these attitudes based on gender and occupation, and the impact of quality of life on shaping the attitude toward illegal migration.

Keywords: Quality of life; illegal migration; youth; Algeria.

ملخص:

هدفت الدراسة الحالية - من خلال البحث الميداني- للكشف عن دور جودة الحياة في تكوين الاتجاه نحو الهجرة غير الشرعية إن كانت سلبية أو إيجابية مع تحديد الاتجاه السائد بين أفراد العينة، الفروق بين الجنسين والمهنة. هذا واعتمدت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي لتحديد طبيعة الاتجاهات نحو الهجرة، والفروق فيها بين الجنس والمهنة وتأثير جودة الحياة في تكوين الاتجاه نحو الهجرة غير الشرعية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: جودة الحياة؛ الهجرة غير الشرعية؛ الشباب؛ الجزائر.

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1. Introduction

Migration is a complex social phenomenon influenced by economic, social, and psychological factors, making it a crucial decision for many individuals, especially in the face of declining quality of life. In Algeria, as in many developing countries, illegal migration has become a sought-after refuge for youth aspiring to a better reality, despite the risks associated with this path.

Quality of life serves as a key indicator reflecting individuals' satisfaction with their daily lives across various dimensions, including economic and living conditions, social stability, and psychological support. This highlights the importance of studying the relationship between quality of life and the attitude toward illegal migration to determine whether feelings of deprivation or marginalization are the primary drivers of this inclination or if other factors contribute to reinforcing the desire to embark on this perilous journey.

The study aims to examine the role of quality of life in shaping the attitude toward illegal migration among Algerian youth, focusing on identifying the prevailing attitude within the sample and the differences related to gender and occupation. Through this study, we seek to shed light on the underlying reasons that drive young people to consider illegal migration, which may contribute to developing effective strategies to enhance quality of life and mitigate this growing phenomenon.

1.1 Problem Statement

Scientific studies have dedicated a significant portion of their efforts to examining various aspects of human misery. However, they have been less generous in their contributions, analyses, and theoretical frameworks when addressing the brighter aspects of life, such as happiness, joy, tolerance, and life satisfaction, as well as the more refined and civilized human dimensions, including the sense of meaning in life and quality of life. As a result, research into positive concepts has become an urgent human necessity after long being preoccupied with negative concepts and psychological disorders that have plagued humanity for decades (Bakhit, 2012).

In this context, an individual's perception of their quality of life has come to be viewed from a psychological perspective as a matter intertwined with other dimensions of quality of life. Quality of life is now recognized as a fundamental factor in uncovering an individual's potential and capabilities. Consequently, the concept of quality of life has become central in research and studies, taking on various meanings across different contexts in the natural, human, and social sciences (Dehimi, 2010).

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The disparity between objective and subjective evaluations has widened the gap between the reality an individual experiences and the life they aspire to, which they may perceive as unattainable in their homeland. This leads to attempts at migration by any means necessary. Here, the phenomenon of illegal migration (also known as clandestine migration or *harga*) emerges as an alternative to legal migration, which has historically existed but has now evolved from a natural occurrence into a phenomenon threatening stability and security. Illegal migration has become a serious global challenge due to the risks it entails. It is now considered the third most prevalent form of transnational crime after drug and arms trafficking. According to a study by the Refugee Studies Center (2006), migrants crossing the Mediterranean are often victims of human trafficking.

Accordingly, the following research questions are posed:

- Are there statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on attitudes toward illegal migration (negative or positive) among Algerian youth?
- Are there statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on gender among Algerian youth?
- Are there statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on gender among Algerian youth?
- Are there statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on employment status (employed or unemployed) among Algerian youth?
- Are there statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on employment status (employed or unemployed) among Algerian youth?

1.2 Study Hypotheses:

- There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on attitudes toward illegal migration (negative or positive) among Algerian youth.
- There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on gender among Algerian youth.
- There are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on gender among Algerian youth.
- There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on employment status (employed or unemployed) among Algerian youth.

- There are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on employment status (employed or unemployed) among Algerian youth.

1.3 Study Objectives:

The study aims to achieve several objectives, including:

- Identifying the level of quality of life and the prevailing attitude toward the phenomenon of illegal migration.
- Determining the extent to which quality of life influences the formation of attitudes toward illegal migration.
- Examining differences in gender, age, employment status, and social status concerning both quality of life and attitudes toward illegal migration.
- Assessing the degree of interaction between quality of life and the formation of attitudes toward illegal migration.

1.4 Study Significance:

This study is considered valuable in the field as it serves as a prospective investigation into the attitudes of various segments of society, aiming to uncover their thoughts, emotions, and readiness for migration in the future. Migration, in essence, originates in the mind before being driven by social and economic factors.

Furthermore, the significance of this study lies in its scientific value, as it provides insights into certain empirical realities that can help understand this phenomenon across different social groups. This is particularly important given that illegal migration continues to raise critical issues in Algerian society, which is witnessing a concerning exodus of its skilled workforce, talents, and youth.

- This study enables us to identify the trend of societal attitudes formed through psychological and social experiences, especially with the advancement of media and communication technologies. Undoubtedly, this will help assess the prevailing quality of life within society under current circumstances.
- The findings of this study will facilitate the prediction of potential migration patterns toward developed countries, a subject that has been widely explored in recent research and studies.

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1.5 Operational Definitions of the Study

1.5.1 Illegal Migration

According to *Mohamed Samir Mostafa*, illegal migration refers to the entry of individuals into a country without valid identification documents or entry permits. This typically occurs through human smuggling, self-initiated migration, or the facilitation of a broker who enables migrants to reach foreign shores illegally, with their role ceasing at that point.

1.5.2 Attitude Toward Illegal Migration:

According to *Andersen* (2005), this concept refers to a state of mental or psychological readiness that predisposes an individual to respond in specific behavioral patterns toward people, ideas, events, situations, or obstacles. It constitutes a complex system where various interacting variables shape one's stance.

In this study, we define it as a combination of an individual's perspectives and opinions formed through life experiences regarding illegal migration. These attitudes allow us to predict the individual's likelihood of engaging in illegal migration, which is measured using a specialized scale developed for this study.

1.5.3 Quality of Life:

According to (*Abdel-Moati*, 2005), quality of life is a concept used to express the advancement of material and social services provided to members of society. It also reflects a tendency toward a luxurious lifestyle, which can only be achieved in affluent societies.

In this study, quality of life is defined as a positive sense of well-being, assessed through behavioral indicators that reflect high levels of self-satisfaction and overall life satisfaction, along with a continuous pursuit of personally meaningful and valuable goals. Operationally, it is measured by the total scores obtained by participants on the scale used in the study.

2. Fieldwork of the Study

2.1 Research Methodology

The study adopts the descriptive approach, which involves measurement techniques and the inference of statistically significant relationships relevant to the research problem. This study relies heavily on fieldwork to explore the phenomenon from within, utilizing specific measurement tools. Two scales are employed: one to assess quality of life and another to measure attitudes toward illegal migration.

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2.2 Exploratory Study

The exploratory study consists of multiple essential steps that must be considered before proceeding to the field study. These steps include:

- Conducting personal interviews with various segments of society, including individuals who have migrated illegally, those who failed in their migration attempts, and those who express a desire for illegal migration.
- Developing a Quality of Life Scale and an Attitudes Toward Illegal Migration Scale, based on insights gained from personal interviews. This approach ensures direct engagement with the phenomenon and confirms that the measurement tools effectively assess the intended constructs.
- Verifying the validity of the hypotheses in addressing the research questions, allowing for an assessment of whether the study is on the right track or if modifications are necessary.

2.3 Study Sample

The study aims to explore the role of quality of life and its impact on shaping attitudes toward illegal migration across different societal groups, given the widespread nature of this phenomenon and its influence on various social segments. Accordingly, the study sample includes individuals aged between 15 and 70 years, ensuring the representation of both genders. This selection is based on the observed increasing tendency among females to consider illegal migration, adding a significant dimension to the study's findings.

Additionally, the study will ensure a balanced distribution of the sample across different regions of the country to achieve comprehensive geographical representation. This approach enhances the credibility of the findings and strengthens their generalizability.

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3. Study Instruments

3.1 Quality of Life Scale

Based on the study's objectives and nature, and to test the research hypotheses effectively, the Quality of Life Scale developed by Kazem and Almansi (2006) was utilized, ensuring its suitability for the Algerian societal context and the study sample.

The instrument consists of two main sections:

- First Section: This part includes personal data of the study participants, covering variables such as gender, age, and specialization.
- Second Section: This section contains the Quality of Life Scale, which comprises 60 statements. The following table clarifies their meanings and the aspects they cover.

Table (1): Explains the variables of the scale, including the numbers of positive and negative statements and the total number of statements.

Variable	Negative Statements	Positive Statements
Quality of Life	5-18-20-22-24-26-28-32-37-40-48-52-58-60	1-2-3-4-6-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-19-21-23-25-27-29-30-31-33-34-36-38-39-41-42-43-44-45-47-49-50-51-53-54-55-56-57-59

Source: (Kazem –Almansi, 2006)

Responses are recorded on a five-point Likert scale, structured as follows: Very often; Often; Somewhat; Rarely Never.

Table (2): Shows the score ranges corresponding to the statements that make up the scale.

Options	Very Much	Much	To Some Extent	Very Little	Never
Positive Score	5	4	3	2	1
Negative Score	1	2	3	4	5

Source: (Kazem –Almansi, 2006)

The final score is calculated by summing the participant's responses to both positive and negative items, resulting in a total score ranging from 60 to 300 points.

To determine the level of quality of life among the sample members and their responses to the scale's dimensions and items, we proceed as follows:

3.1.1 Method of Score Calculation for Assessing Quality of Life:

- The maximum total score of the scale: $60 \times 5 = 300$
- The mid-level total score of the scale: $60 \times 3 = 180$
- The minimum total score of the scale: $60 \times 1 = 60$

Where 60 represents the number of scale items.

The assessment of the quality of life level among the sample members is determined as follows:

- From 10 to 100: Low.
- From 110 to 200: Moderate.
- From 210 to 300: High.

3.1.2 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument:

The validity of this scale was confirmed through expert judgment. Regarding reliability, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the six dimensions ranged between 0.85 and 0.62, with an average of 0.75, while the overall reliability of the scale was 0.91. The split-half method was used in this study.

3.2 Scale of Attitudes Toward Irregular Migration:

Although there are existing scales measuring attitudes toward this phenomenon (harqa), most of them do not belong to our society. Our society has a unique specificity regarding this phenomenon, as the mere term harqa reflects the depth of this issue within our community. Additionally, the scales previously used to measure it did not meet objective criteria for scale construction. Moreover, such scales are scarce and almost non-existent, as most studies on this phenomenon have taken a theoretical or analytical approach rather than employing measurement tools. The remaining studies have mostly relied on non-Algerian scales. Therefore, a new scale of attitudes toward irregular migration was developed, providing a useful tool for future researchers studying this phenomenon.

This scale was constructed based on field observations gathered through conversations with young individuals who attempted irregular migration but failed, as well as interviews with various youth groups. These discussions focused on the phenomenon itself and the reasons driving youth to engage in it. A significant part of the scale's development involved analyzing the thought processes of youth intending to migrate irregularly and comparing them with those who hold negative attitudes toward the phenomenon—those who openly condemn the behavior and either entirely or partially reject the justifications provided by those considering irregular migration.

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Furthermore, the scale was developed with insights from specialists in psychology and social psychology, incorporating their analyses of the phenomenon and its underlying motivations. The researcher utilized this scale as an initial step toward quantifying attitudes, enabling a clear distinction between individuals with positive attitudes toward irregular migration and those with negative attitudes, with varying degrees of inclination toward each side.

The final version of the scale consists of 22 items, covering different perspectives and opinions, whether behavioral, cognitive, or emotional. Respondents select an answer that aligns with their viewpoint, choosing from the provided response options, which include two degrees of agreement, two degrees of disagreement, and a neutral option represented by "unsure."

3.2.1 Scale Scoring:

The scale is scored using a correction grid specifically designed for this purpose. The researcher developed this grid to streamline the scoring process, enhance speed, and minimize errors during evaluation.

The correction grid assigns a score ranging from 1 to 5 for each item, depending on its orientation. A score of 1 is given to responses reflecting a negative attitude toward irregular migration, while a score of 5 is assigned to responses that express a positive attitude toward the phenomenon. The remaining scores are distributed accordingly based on the degree of deviation from a positive to a negative stance, or vice versa. Notably, neutral responses (i.e., "unsure") always receive a middle score.

The final score on the scale ranges from a minimum of 22 to a maximum of 110, with an intermediate neutral point at 66. Additionally, 44 represents a midpoint between 22 and 66, while 88 serves as a midpoint between 66 and 110.

The interpretation of scores follows this pattern:

- The closer the score is to 22, approaching the neutral point (66) from below, the more negative the attitude toward irregular migration.
- The further the score moves away from 44 toward 22, the more strongly negative the attitude.
- Conversely, as the score approaches 110, the more positive the attitude.
- The further the score moves away from 88 toward 110, the stronger the positive attitude becomes.

3.2.2 Validity and Reliability Procedures:

A. Validity Procedures:

The validity of the scale was established through expert judgment validity. The scale was reviewed by a panel of specialists in psychology, social psychology, and sociology, as well as a group of field psychologists. Adjustments were made to the wording and phrasing of items to ensure clarity and comprehension for respondents. Items that received majority approval from the experts were retained, while those requiring modifications were revised accordingly. The final version of the scale consists of 22 items designed to measure attitudes toward irregular migration.

B. Reliability Procedures

The split-half method was employed to assess the reliability of the scale. The scale was administered to a sample of 43 individuals after conducting interviews with them about irregular migration. These individuals were predominantly those with positive attitudes toward the phenomenon. Their attitudes were evaluated, and a correlation coefficient was calculated between even-numbered and odd-numbered items for each respondent.

Table (3): Presents the correlation coefficient between odd and even items in the scale measuring attitudes toward illegal migration, along with the mean, standard deviation, correlation coefficient, and significance level.

Scale Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Correlation Coefficient	Significance
Odd Items	25.65	8.89	0.86	Significant
Even Items	23.51	9.94		

Source: (Kazem –Almansi, 2006)

The results, as presented in the table, indicate a high correlation between odd- and even-numbered items, with a coefficient of 0.86. This statistically significant positive correlation suggests that the scale demonstrates good internal consistency.

4. Statistical Methods:

The following statistical methods were used to test the study's hypotheses:

Descriptive Statistics: Including frequencies, percentages, arithmetic means, and standard deviations.

Inferential Statistics: Including:

- Discriminant validity coefficient

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- Pearson correlation coefficient
 - Cramér's V correlation coefficient
 - Chi-square (K^2) test for significance of differences
 - T-test for significance of differences
 - Post hoc variance test
 - One-way ANOVA (Analysis of Variance)
 - Andrew and Heyes interaction coefficient

These analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. As for study Limitations The field study was conducted during January and February 2024.

5. Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of Study Results:

After applying the study's measurement tools to a sample of university students to either confirm or refute the proposed hypotheses, the following results were obtained:

5.1 Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of the First Hypothesis:

To examine and analyze the first hypothesis, which states: *"There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life depending on attitudes toward illegal migration (negative or positive) among Algerian youth,"*

the T-test was used to determine the significance of differences after ensuring homogeneity between the two groups. The differences in the Quality of Life Scale and the Attitudes Toward Illegal Migration Scale used in this study were calculated, yielding the following results:

Table (4): Displays the differences in the level of quality of life based on attitudes toward illegal migration.

Variable	Negative (N=116)		Positive (N=80)		F Value	ddl	T Calculated	Sig Level
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
Quality of Life	161.28	35.65	118.16	48.71	15.03	194	-4.856	0.01

SD = Standard Deviation

Source: prepared by the researcher

From Table (4), it is observed that there are significant differences in the level of quality of life based on the variable of attitudes toward illegal migration (negative or positive). The calculated T-value (-4.856) is statistically significant at the 0.01 level.

The difference favors those with a negative attitude toward illegal migration, as their mean score (161.28) is higher than that of those with a positive attitude (118.16). Additionally, from the table, it is noted that the quality of life level is moderate for both groups, as their scores fall within the range of 110–200, which is the classification range for quality of life.

The findings also show that the majority of respondents (116 individuals) had a negative attitude toward illegal migration, while 80 respondents had a positive attitude toward it. This result is logical, as most individuals tend to avoid illegal migration due to its inherent risks. However, a portion of the population is still willing to take the risk despite the potential dangers.

Accordingly, we accept the research hypothesis, which states: *"There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life depending on attitudes toward illegal migration (negative or positive) among Algerian youth."*

5.2 Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of the Second Hypothesis Results

To examine and analyze the second hypothesis, which states: *"There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on gender among Algerian youth,"* and to verify its validity, the T-test was used to determine the significance of differences after ensuring homogeneity between the two groups. The differences in the Quality of Life Scale used in the current study were calculated, yielding the following results:

Table (5): Shows the differences in quality of life levels between genders based on the gender variable among Algerian youth.

Variable	Males (N=100)		Females (N=96)		F Value	ddl	T Calculated	Sig Level
Quality of Life	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	3.1	194	-2.427	0.01
	125.5	55.72	164.45	64.97				

SD = Standard Deviation

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Source: prepared by the researcher

From table (5), it is observed that there are differences in the level of quality of life between females and males. The computed T-value (-2.427) is statistically significant at the 0.01 level.

The difference is in favor of females, who had a mean score of (164.45), which is higher than that of males (125.50). This result suggests that females perceive a higher level of quality of life than males.

This disparity may be attributed to the societal expectations placed on males, which create continuous pressure in their lives. Males are often expected to achieve social status and bear responsibility for a family, whether an extended or nuclear one, unlike females, who are not subjected to the same societal demands.

Based on these findings, we accept the research hypothesis stating that: *"There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on gender among Algerian youth."*

5.3 Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of the Results of the Third Hypothesis:

To examine and study the third hypothesis, which states: "There are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on gender among Algerian youth," the statistical T-TEST was used to determine the significance of differences after ensuring homogeneity between the two groups. The differences in the attitudes toward illegal migration (negative, positive) scale used in the current study were calculated, yielding the following results:

Table (6): Presents the differences in attitudes toward illegal migration between genders based on the gender variable among Algerian youth.

Variable	Males (N=100)		Females (N=96)		F Value	ddl	T Calculated	Sig Level
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
Attitudes	67.63	15.47	64.09	15.4	0.13	194	-1.607	0.01

SD = Standard Deviation

Source: prepared by the researcher

From table (06), we observe that there are no differences in attitudes toward illegal migration (negative, positive) attributed to the gender variable. This is because the calculated T-value (-1.607) is not significant at the (0.05) significance level. Additionally, the results show that the mean score for males indicates a positive attitude toward illegal migration, as it reached (67.63), which is higher than the hypothetical mean (66).

In contrast, the mean score for females was (64.09), lower than the hypothetical mean (66), indicating a negative attitude toward illegal migration. However, the noticeable rise in the mean score and its proximity to the hypothetical mean suggest that the desire for illegal migration is no longer exclusive to males but has also begun to attract females. Evidence of this is the increasing number of female fatalities washed up by the sea.

Moreover, the desire to improve social life is no longer limited to men; women also aspire to independence and seek to break free from religious and social constraints. This is due to the collapse of the value system in society and the fact that some families have nearly abandoned the parenting process for various reasons, including the difficulty of meeting the desires and needs of family members due to economic hardships. Additionally, there is a growing desire among females to detach themselves from values, customs, and traditions that they perceive as restrictive to their freedom and independence. Furthermore, imitation and the aspiration to live like the liberated Western girl drive them to board the "boats of death."

The traditional concept of migration has changed in the eyes of society and today's youth. In the past, migration was driven by the desire to improve financial status and support the family to lift them out of economic hardship. However, today—according to our perspective—migration is viewed by the majority of those boarding the "boats of death" as a means to experience European life, whether male or female.

The obtained results can be attributed to the inherent characteristics between males and females, which can be traced back to the prevailing cultural nature of our society, where traditions and religion serve as the primary drivers of individual behavior. The negative attitude of females toward illegal migration is considered normal, as such matters are traditionally deemed masculine and not even to be contemplated by females. Additionally, societal perceptions grant males the liberty to engage in all kinds of actions, even if they are socially unacceptable. However, the negative attitude of females toward illegal migration does not negate the fact that this phenomenon has been spreading among them due to factors that may be linked to globalization.

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Furthermore, women today enjoy greater freedom, which may lead them to follow such a path. In addition to this, social affiliation to peer groups can create an environment where males learn new norms that do not align with societal values, especially in the absence of family supervision. This makes them more susceptible to imitating illegal migrants.

Moreover, the unemployment crisis significantly impacts males, as the cultural model and societal expectations place the burden of financial responsibility on them. They are required to work to meet the demands of future life stages. The pressure and despair they experience, combined with a lack of social support and the absence of psychological and cognitive coping mechanisms, further exacerbate the situation. This is a result of the fragile role of both family upbringing and official institutions in guiding individuals. Consequently, the unemployed resort to emotional venting through risk-taking and indirect suicide by boarding the so-called "boats of death."

Accordingly, we reject the research hypothesis, which states that there are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on gender among Algerian youth.

5.4 Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of the Fourth Hypothesis Results:

To examine and study the fourth hypothesis, which states: *"There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on employment status (employed, unemployed) among Algerian youth,"* the statistical *T-test* was used to determine the significance of differences after ensuring the homogeneity between the two groups. The differences in the quality-of-life scale used in the present study were calculated, yielding the following results:

Table (7): Displays the differences in quality of life levels between employed and unemployed individuals among Algerian youth.

Variable	Employed (N=112)		Unemployed (N=84)		F Value	ddl	T Calculated	Sig Level
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD				
Quality of Life	151.47	57.56	114.82	59.56	0.29	194	4.335	0.01

SD = Standard Deviation

Source: prepared by the researcher

As observed in table (07), there are differences in the level of quality of life among Algerian youth based on employment status. This is indicated by the computed *t-value* (4.335), which is significant at the (0.01) level. The difference favors the employed group, who experience a higher level of quality of life, with a mean score of (151.47), which is greater than the mean score of the unemployed group (114.82). This result is highly logical, given that quality of life is a subjective evaluation of an individual's lived experience and interactions. It encompasses various psychological, social, and material aspects. The greater the financial capability of an individual, the more they perceive their quality of life positively, as they are able to meet both their personal and family needs. Conversely, an unemployed individual finds themselves unable to fulfill even their personal necessities, which negatively impacts their psychological state. This is especially true when an individual is capable of working but cannot find employment, leading to a lower self-evaluation of their quality of life—particularly in today's world, where everything is assessed through a materialistic lens.

This result can be interpreted in light of what (Qlaib, 2008) noted: unemployment is linked to multiple factors, including personal factors, which manifest in an individual's inability to cope with certain life circumstances, such as joblessness. This, in turn, becomes a significant psychological and emotional stressor. These factors are commonly referred to as "*personal susceptibility and predisposition*." Studies in this field have confirmed that unemployed individuals tend to experience greater dissatisfaction with life compared to those who are employed.

Amid the psychological, social, and economic crises faced by unemployed individuals and their inability to secure jobs, (Ibrahim, 2003) affirms that employment is closely tied to human well-being, livelihood, political and social stability, and positive participation in national development through an enhanced sense of patriotism. Here, the concept of *citizenship* emerges as the foundation of the modern state, representing the constitutional basis for rights and responsibilities among members of the same nation.

Accordingly, the obtained results can be interpreted by stating that unemployed youth, in general, suffer from frustration due to the lack of job opportunities necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. This issue is further exacerbated by the inclusion of university graduates among the unemployed—a phenomenon that was relatively rare in the past. After years of effort in university and other stages of education, these graduates find themselves facing an uncertain future.

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Thus, the unemployment of educated individuals has become a significant issue, as university-educated youth harbor aspirations and expectations that they hope to fulfill through their education and training. However, they often face a harsh reality that forces them to perceive their future negatively, leaving them feeling purposeless and without direction in life. This, in turn, leads to a sense of worthlessness, which can be psychologically devastating. Consequently, direct or indirect thoughts of drug use emerge as a means of escaping this harsh reality.

On the other hand, non-university-educated youth are more likely to take risks, such as embarking on perilous illegal migration journeys in search of what they perceive to be a better life. This tendency is due to their limited educational background and the influence of their social circles, making them more susceptible to peer pressure. Individuals who have not completed their education often experience feelings of inadequacy and incapacity, which discourages them from pursuing vocational training to acquire a profession for future employment. Studies have shown that most school dropouts do not learn a trade, making this group the most inclined toward seeking illegal migration.

Based on these findings, we accept the hypothesis stating: *"There are statistically significant differences in the level of quality of life based on employment status (employed, unemployed) among Algerian youth."*

5.5 Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of the Results of the Fifth Hypothesis

To examine and study the fifth hypothesis, which states: *"There are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on employment status (employed, unemployed) among Algerian youth,"* statistical processing was conducted using the T-test to determine the significance of differences after ensuring the homogeneity between the two groups. The differences in the Attitudes Toward Illegal Migration Scale (negative, positive), used in the present study, were calculated, yielding the following results:

Table (8): Presents the differences in attitudes toward illegal migration between employed and unemployed individuals among Algerian youth.

Variable	Employed (N=112)		Unemployed (N=84)		F Value	ddl	T Calculated	Sig Level
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	0.06	194	2.593	0.01
Attitudes	52.55	11.6	68.27	15.02				

SD = Standard Deviation

Source: prepared by the researcher

From table (08), it is evident that there are significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration among youth based on employment status. The calculated *t-value* (2.593) is significant at the 0.01 level. The differences indicate that the unemployed group holds a more positive attitude toward illegal migration, with a mean score of (68.27), which is higher than the theoretical mean (66) that distinguishes between positive and negative attitudes. In contrast, the employed group had a mean score of (52.55), which is below the theoretical mean (66), indicating a negative attitude toward illegal migration.

These findings reflect the degree of frustration and despair experienced by the unemployed in the face of the challenging economic conditions prevailing among Algerian youth. Moreover, societal norms generally regard employment positively, particularly if the job holds a prestigious status. Employment provides psychological comfort and a certain level of financial stability, thereby reducing the inclination toward illegal migration.

The researcher considers employment to hold high value for individuals not only in terms of financial stability but also in its psychological and social dimensions—enhancing self-confidence, self-esteem, and societal recognition. Employment grants individuals social standing, whereas unemployment leads to opposing psychological effects, negatively impacting mental health. Prolonged unemployment fosters a loss of hope in securing a job, reinforcing a sense of alienation from a society that has failed to ensure a fundamental right—the right to work. This alienation can lead to social withdrawal as a manifestation of value conflicts, pushing individuals to adopt new behavioral norms and values that diverge from those of their society. Consequently, they may develop a positive attitude toward illegal migration as a form of retaliation against a society that has failed to provide them with basic necessities, ultimately leading them to disengage from that society.

The Role of Quality of Life in Shaping the Attitude Toward Illegal Migration Among Algerian Youth

Thus, it can be concluded that unemployment, with its associated lack of purpose and existential void, combined with the absence of social and governmental support mechanisms for the unemployed, contributes to the formation of misguided cognitive beliefs due to the deteriorating conditions experienced by youth. As a result, individuals resort to improper methods to overcome daily life struggles, with illegal migration emerging as one of the solutions adopted by today's youth.

Accordingly, we accept the hypothesis stating: *"There are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on employment status (employed, unemployed) among Algerian youth."*

6. Study Recommendations

In light of the findings of this study, several practical recommendations can be proposed, emphasizing the following points:

- Activating the role of youth centers across the country by establishing listening and counseling units to provide psychological and social support.
- Providing assistance to associations that address youth-related issues, particularly those dealing with repatriated illegal migrants.
- Reevaluating employment mechanisms as well as career and university guidance to help alleviate unemployment, especially given the mismatch between labor market demand and academic specializations.
- Establishing youth counseling and guidance centers to offer career orientation and psychological support.
- Conducting a national study to understand the root causes of illegal migration and implementing effective solutions in practical contexts.
- Focusing on research conducted by universities and research centers and utilizing their findings to develop practical solutions to address illegal migration.

Conclusion

The present study aimed to examine the role of quality of life in shaping attitudes toward illegal migration among Algerian youth. It adhered to the scientific and methodological steps followed in academic research, starting with the general framework, which provided an overview of the relationship between the study variables. This was done by reviewing previous research on the topic, formulating research questions, and proposing hypotheses based on the perceived relationship between these variables.

The study also highlighted its significance and objectives, selected appropriate research tools, and, after data collection and statistical analysis, arrived at the following key findings:

- There are statistically significant differences in quality of life levels based on attitudes toward illegal migration (positive or negative) among Algerian youth.
- There are statistically significant differences in quality of life levels based on gender among Algerian youth.
- No statistically significant differences were found in attitudes toward illegal migration based on gender among Algerian youth.
- There are statistically significant differences in quality of life levels based on employment status (employed vs. unemployed) among Algerian youth.
- There are statistically significant differences in attitudes toward illegal migration based on employment status (employed vs. unemployed) among Algerian youth.

This study explored two critical variables: quality of life and illegal migration. Quality of life encompasses both social and material well-being, as well as subjective and objective dimensions, while illegal migration has been widely linked in previous research to the individual's perceived quality of life. The current study represents an effort to either confirm or refute the relationship between these two variables.

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