

Social Security Between Protection Strategies and Care Methods

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Submitted on: 18 / 11 / 2024; Accepted on: 04 / 12 / 2024; Published on: 31 / 12 / 2024

Abstract:

Social security refers to a comprehensive system aimed at protecting individuals from social and economic risks such as poverty, unemployment, and illness, while enhancing their well-being through various care methods. This study analyzes the protection strategies offered by the current system, reviews available care methods, and proposes a developmental vision to ensure sustainability and social justice. The significance of the study lies in addressing the challenges of social security, particularly in light of economic crises and geographical disparities in service provision. The study highlights the relationship between protection and care and explores mechanisms to improve the system's effectiveness in ensuring services reach eligible groups. The primary question posed by the study is: How can social security achieve an effective balance between protection strategies and care methods in addressing current challenges?

Keywords: Social security; Social protection; Social care; Law.

JEL classification code : H55.

1. Introduction:

Social security is a key pillar for states in achieving social justice and safeguarding vulnerable groups. It is a system designed to protect individuals from economic and social risks that could impact their livelihood and stability, such as poverty, unemployment, and illness. As global economic and social changes continue to accelerate, social security systems are confronted with significant challenges regarding the effectiveness of their protection strategies and care methods.

Therefore, this study is important as it examines the relationship between the protection strategies offered by social security and the care methods that ensure the long-term well-being of individuals. The research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis, focusing

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on core concepts, implementation mechanisms, and the key challenges faced by current systems, along with the researcher's insights on how these systems can be improved.

2. Concepts of the Study

Social security, social protection, and social care are fundamental components of a comprehensive welfare system aimed at ensuring the well-being of individuals, particularly the most vulnerable members of society. As nations strive for social justice and economic stability, these systems play a crucial role in protecting individuals from the risks that can undermine their livelihood, such as poverty, unemployment, illness, and disability. However, despite their importance, these systems often face significant challenges in adapting to the rapid economic and social changes occurring globally. This text explores the relationship between social security, protection, and care, highlighting their interconnectedness and the need for an integrated approach to address the various risks individuals face throughout their lives. By analyzing the core concepts and examining the mechanisms through which these systems are implemented, this study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the strategies employed to safeguard individuals' well-being and the obstacles that current systems encounter. Through this exploration, we also seek to identify potential pathways for the development of more effective social security and protection systems in the future.

We can define the social security as a system designed to provide financial protection against various risks that could disrupt an individual's income and well-being. These risks include workplace accidents, occupational illnesses, disability, illness, death, and childbirth, all of which can lead to income loss or reduction. The primary function of social security is to mitigate these risks by providing income replacement or compensation, ensuring economic security for individuals (Barr, 2012). As an administrative insurance system, social security not only offers protection from health and social risks but also strives to improve living conditions for those covered. This system acts as a crucial mechanism to help individuals maintain their standard of living during periods of financial instability, contributing to broader social justice and stability (Hoffman, 2014).

Where as the Social protection refers to a range of public and private policies and programs that aim to address the social and economic risks that can threaten an individual's livelihood. These measures are particularly focused on compensating for the absence or reduction of work-related income, often by providing financial support to families with children, ensuring access to healthcare, and promoting housing security (World Bank, 2014). Social protection policies are enacted by the state to protect citizens from crises such as unemployment, poverty, or natural disasters. These programs not only provide immediate relief during times

of economic distress but also aim to reduce vulnerability and inequality in the long term, fostering social inclusion and security (Devereux & Sabates-Wheeler, 2004).

We can define the social care involves organized efforts, services, and programs provided by governmental, non-governmental, and international entities aimed at assisting individuals who cannot meet their essential needs for growth, development, and social interaction. Social care is typically directed towards vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, individuals with disabilities, and those with special needs. These services are intended to improve the quality of life and social integration of these groups, helping them adapt to their social environments (Gray & Jackson, 2013). Social care goes beyond basic survival needs, focusing on enhancing the dignity and well-being of individuals, ensuring they have the support necessary to thrive despite challenges (Bennett, 2012).

When examining the relationship between protection and care in social Security, we can say the relationship between protection and care within social security systems is integral, as both are essential in ensuring an individual's overall well-being. Protection provides immediate relief during crises, addressing income loss or disruption, while care services focus on the long-term well-being of individuals, especially the vulnerable. Social protection mechanisms, such as unemployment benefits or health insurance, offer financial security during periods of economic hardship, while social care focuses on improving the social and personal development of individuals over time (Esping-Andersen, 1999). The integration of both protection and care ensures that individuals not only survive economic challenges but also thrive in their social environment. Together, these two components are essential in fostering economic stability, social inclusion, and long-term well-being (Palme, 2006).

3. Social Protection Strategies: An Overview

Social protection strategies consist of policies and programs aimed at providing social security, particularly to the most vulnerable groups within society. These strategies are essential in mitigating risks that threaten the stability of individuals and families, such as unemployment, illness, disability, old age, and accidents. By ensuring a steady income and access to healthcare, education, and other services, social protection strategies contribute significantly to the overall quality of life. The scope and design of these strategies, however, vary across countries, reflecting their economic capacities, political systems, and development levels. Countries with stable economies and substantial financial resources tend to offer more comprehensive social protection systems, while those with limited resources face challenges in ensuring universal coverage (World Bank, 2021).

3.1 Legal Frameworks for Social Protection Strategies in Algeria

In Algeria, various laws and regulations govern social protection strategies, establishing the legal mechanisms through which services are delivered and vulnerable groups are protected. The following legal instruments are key in shaping the country's social protection landscape:

- **Social Security Law No. 83-11 of July 2, 1983:** This foundational law regulates social security in Algeria, covering areas such as healthcare insurance, retirement pensions, unemployment insurance, and occupational accident coverage. It specifies the rules for participation in these systems for both employees and independent workers (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 1983).
- **Law No. 08-01 of January 23, 2008 (Amending Law No. 83-11):** This amendment introduced an electronic card system for social security beneficiaries, simplifying access to healthcare services nationwide (National Social Security Fund of Algeria, 2008).
- **Labor Law No. 90-11 of April 21, 1990:** This law regulates workers' rights and working conditions, ensuring wage protection and safe work environments. It guarantees essential workers' rights, including social security and retirement, with an emphasis on health prevention, occupational safety, and labor medicine (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 1990).
- **National Solidarity Law No. 02-09 of February 10, 1972:** Focused on protecting the most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income families, this law outlines mechanisms for financial support and social care, including food and medical assistance (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 1972).

Additionally, Algeria has ratified international agreements like **ILO Convention No. 102** and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**, ensuring the alignment of its social security systems with international standards (International Labour Organization, 1952; United Nations, 1966).

3.2 Key Protection Strategies

Social protection strategies are designed to address specific risks and can be categorized into various areas:

- **Social Insurance:**
 - **Unemployment Insurance:** Provides financial support to individuals who lose their jobs involuntarily, offering temporary income while they search for

new employment. The **National Unemployment Insurance Fund (CNAC)** manages this scheme in Algeria (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 1995).

- **Health Insurance:** Covers medical expenses and healthcare services for insured individuals, including basic treatments, medications, and surgeries, and is managed by the **National Social Security Fund**.
- **Old-Age and Retirement Insurance:** Ensures a stable income upon reaching retirement age. Contributions are made by both employees and employers, with pensions determined by participation in the social insurance system.
- **Occupational Accident Insurance:** Protects workers from accidents at work, providing healthcare, medical treatment, and financial compensation.
- **Social Assistance:** For individuals without social insurance or a stable income, social assistance programs provide support for low-income families, food subsidies, and housing assistance. These programs are critical in ensuring a basic standard of living for those most at risk.

3.3 Targeted Development Programs

Targeted development programs are crucial in fostering economic growth, particularly in underserved and remote areas. These initiatives aim to empower youth by promoting entrepreneurship, providing essential training, and supporting the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). One key initiative is **microloan programs**, which offer financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs who lack access to traditional banking systems. These loans enable individuals to start small businesses, such as local retail stores, agricultural ventures, or artisan workshops, which in turn stimulates economic activity and fosters innovation tailored to local needs (Kiva, 2020). These programs also help in building informal economies that can eventually transition into the formal sector.

Youth training initiatives are another significant aspect of these efforts, equipping young people with the practical skills required to meet market demands. Programs focusing on technical and vocational training in fields such as carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work, along with soft skills like communication and teamwork, are essential. Additionally, entrepreneurship-focused training equips youth with the financial literacy, business management, and marketing knowledge necessary to run successful enterprises (UNDP, 2018).

Promoting digital literacy is particularly transformative, as it enables youth in remote areas to access e-commerce platforms, thus bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusivity.

With access to digital tools, young entrepreneurs can tap into global markets and participate in the digital economy.

Support for SMEs further enhances these efforts by creating an environment where businesses can grow and thrive. Financial support, access to larger markets, and mentorship programs provide small businesses with the necessary resources to expand and innovate. SMEs incentivized to hire and train local youth play a critical role in reducing unemployment and addressing skills gaps. However, in remote areas where infrastructure is limited, these programs must adapt to overcome specific challenges, such as improving roads, internet access, and electricity, which are crucial for business activities (World Bank, 2021).

By integrating community involvement and cultural sensitivity into these initiatives, the chances of success are greatly enhanced. Local leaders and stakeholders should be engaged in the process to ensure that the interventions are tailored to the unique needs and values of the community. When effectively implemented, these programs not only contribute to reducing poverty and unemployment but also promote long-term economic development and social progress in underserved areas (International Labour Organization, 2020).

4. Challenges Facing the Social Security System in Algeria

The social security system in Algeria, while a critical part of the country's welfare framework, faces several challenges that hinder its full effectiveness:

1. **Lack of Funding:** The Algerian social security system is heavily reliant on contributions from employees and employers. This dependency becomes problematic during periods of high unemployment or economic downturns when the labor market declines. Balancing the system's revenues and expenditures becomes more difficult under such conditions, particularly with the added pressures of global economic instability (World Bank, 2020).
2. **Geographical Disparities:** Social services in Algeria are concentrated primarily in urban areas, with rural and remote regions often lacking access to essential services. The disparities in healthcare and social assistance between urban and rural areas contribute to growing social inequalities, as people in these underserved regions struggle to access basic services (United Nations, 2019).
3. **Weak Infrastructure:** The social security sector in Algeria is hindered by inadequate digital and administrative infrastructure, which limits the efficient management of data and the equitable distribution of resources. This issue affects the system's ability

to reach all beneficiaries and respond swiftly to their needs (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 2020).

4.1 *Care Methods in Social Security*

Social care refers to a set of measures and services designed to improve the quality of life for individuals by addressing their basic needs and promoting long-term well-being. Unlike social protection, which responds to crises or risks, social care takes a proactive and continuous approach to ensure individuals have access to resources and opportunities throughout their lives. This is particularly important for vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and low-income families. Key Care Methods:

1. Healthcare: Algeria provides comprehensive healthcare services through public hospitals, which are available to all social groups without discrimination. The Health Law No. 18-11 of July 2, 2018 establishes the framework for healthcare services, ensuring free or low-cost treatment in public institutions such as hospitals, laboratories, and primary health clinics.
 - Article 12: Guarantees the right to health as a fundamental human right at all levels.
 - Article 13: Ensures free treatment for all citizens.
 - Article 14: Mandates the state to promote prevention, protection, and health education.

In addition to general healthcare services, preventive care is a vital component, including vaccinations for children, early detection programs for chronic diseases, and community health consultations. Specialized programs cater to individuals with chronic illnesses or specific needs, such as the elderly and people with disabilities (WHO, 2018).

2. Family Support: Algeria's social security system provides financial assistance to low-income families to meet their basic needs. Additionally, there are programs designed to support vulnerable family members, including children, single mothers, and the elderly, improving their living conditions through targeted interventions.

4.2 *Improving the Quality of Health and Social Services*

To improve the overall quality of healthcare and social services in Algeria, the following strategies must be prioritized:

- **Modernizing Healthcare Infrastructure:** There is a pressing need to enhance hospitals and clinics by providing modern medical equipment and expanding the primary healthcare network. These upgrades will ensure that healthcare services meet contemporary needs (Algerian Ministry of Health, 2021).
- **Training Healthcare Professionals:** Continuous professional development programs for healthcare workers are essential to ensure they are equipped with the necessary skills to provide high-quality services (World Health Organization, 2021).

4.3 *Enhancing Transparency and Oversight*

To ensure the efficiency and transparency of social services, the following measures should be implemented:

- **Digital Systems for Monitoring:** Introducing digital platforms that enable real-time monitoring of social services performance would improve transparency and allow citizens to report any irregularities. This technology can also streamline service delivery and reduce errors (World Bank, 2020).
- **Independent Oversight Institutions:** Strengthening the role of independent institutions responsible for overseeing the distribution of aid and regularly publishing reports on the effectiveness of social programs would ensure greater accountability and help improve service delivery (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 2020).

4.4 *Promoting Community Participation*

For social security systems to be effective, it is essential to involve civil society and beneficiaries in the decision-making process. The following approaches can foster community engagement:

- **Advisory Committees:** Establishing advisory committees in each region with representatives from target groups will provide platforms for dialogue, ensuring that social services meet the needs of the communities they serve (UNDP, 2018).
- **Listening to Vulnerable Groups:** Engaging vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and impoverished families in the design of programs ensures that interventions are better suited to their specific needs (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 2020).

4.5 *Strengthening International Cooperation*

To enhance the social security system in Algeria and ensure its sustainability, international cooperation is crucial. This can be achieved by:

- Collaboration with Advanced Systems: Leveraging expertise from countries with more advanced social security systems will allow Algeria to improve its own framework by learning from successful models.
- Support from International Organizations: Algeria should continue to utilize technical and financial support from international bodies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank to bolster its social security infrastructure (World Bank, 2021).

4.6 Advancing Digital Transformation in Social Security

Digital transformation is essential for improving the accessibility, efficiency, and transparency of social security services. The following steps are crucial:

- Digital Platforms for Registration: Launching digital platforms to simplify the process of registering for social security programs will ensure more citizens can access services easily (UNICEF, 2020).
- Artificial Intelligence for Process Monitoring: Utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) can help optimize social security processes, reduce human error, and speed up service delivery, making the system more responsive and transparent (Algerian Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, 2021).

5. Conclusion

In modern societies, social security is fundamental for promoting social justice and ensuring economic stability. It acts as a safety net, providing protection and care against various social risks such as unemployment, illness, old age, and disability.

In Algeria, while efforts have been made to improve the social security system and extend coverage to more citizens, significant gaps and challenges remain, preventing the system from fully achieving its objectives.

This study emphasizes the critical role of social protection strategies in offering individuals a safety net and addressing social inequalities by providing insurance, retirement benefits, and healthcare services. It also highlights the importance of care methods in improving the daily lives of citizens, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

Despite these efforts, the current system faces numerous obstacles, including funding deficits, geographic disparities in service delivery, weak administrative and technological infrastructure, and inadequate coordination among key stakeholders.

To create a comprehensive and equitable social security system, a long-term strategic approach is necessary. This approach should involve learning from successful international models, ensuring political commitment, and engaging all sectors of society to meet common goals.

Based on the analysis, the following measures are recommended to enhance Algeria's social security system:

- **Restructure Social Security Funds:** Improve efficiency and sustainability by diversifying funding sources, including sustainable investments and partnerships with the private sector.
- **Establish Fair Contributions:** Implement fair and balanced contribution systems that take into account the needs of different social and economic groups, while also including informal sector workers.
- **Integrate Informal Economy Workers:** Create flexible and accessible programs that bring informal sector workers into the social security system.
- **Improve Service Delivery in Rural Areas:** Ensure that rural and remote areas receive the same level of service efficiency and quality as urban centers.
- **Enhance Healthcare Infrastructure:** Modernize hospitals and healthcare facilities to ensure the availability of essential medications and medical equipment.
- **Focus on Human Resource Development:** Provide ongoing training for staff to ensure the delivery of high-quality services to citizens.
- **Adopt Modern Digital Systems:** Implement digital systems for managing social security, including electronic registration and tracking to improve transparency and efficiency.
- **Develop Access Platforms:** Create applications and platforms that enable citizens to easily access social security services and interact with the administration.
- **Launch Awareness Campaigns:** Inform citizens about their rights and obligations within the social security system, highlighting the importance of participation for long-term sustainability.
- **Involve Civil Society in Planning:** Include civil society in the design and evaluation of social security programs to ensure they meet the actual needs of the population.

- **Establish an Independent Oversight Body:** Create an independent institution to monitor the performance of the social security system, ensuring financial efficiency and service quality.
- **Promote Transparency:** Make data on social security expenditures and revenues publicly available to increase transparency.
- **Learn from International Models:** Study successful social security systems, such as those in Nordic countries, to apply relevant lessons to Algeria's system.
- **Collaborate with International Organizations:** Work with international bodies to secure financial and technical support for improving the social security system.
- **Update Relevant Laws:** Revise the laws governing the social security system to align with current economic and social realities.
- **Ensure Legal Compliance:** Establish clear legal mechanisms to ensure that all parties fulfill their obligations, including contributions and service delivery.

A social security system in Algeria that is adaptable to both local and global challenges is essential for providing comprehensive protection to all citizens. The ultimate goal should be to achieve social justice and economic stability by guaranteeing everyone's right to care and protection. In the future, Algeria's social security system can play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development by creating job opportunities, fostering social cohesion, and reducing poverty and economic disparities. The success of this vision will depend on the collaboration of all stakeholders—government, civil society, and citizens—to ensure a dignified life for every individual in Algerian society.

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