

# Social and Economic Impacts of Freelance Professions on Women's Entrepreneurship in Algeria: A Field Study on a Sample of Women-Owned Enterprises in Setif Province".

"التأثيرات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للمهن الحرة على ريادة الأعمال النسوية في الجزائر"  
"دراسة ميدانية على عينة من المقاولات النسوية بولاية سطيف"

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## Abstract :

*This study aims to explore the socio-economic impacts of freelance professions on women's entrepreneurship in Algeria. Field observations have revealed that women have made significant progress in enhancing their roles in social, economic, and political spheres, overcoming many obstacles thanks to education. The study employed a descriptive approach, case study technique, and observation, utilizing official statistical data from relevant institutions such as ANGEM and NESDA, along with a sample of 45 women collected using the snowball sampling technique. The results showed that family plays a vital role in the success of women entrepreneurs by providing financial and moral support. Recent changes in Algeria have also pushed women towards freelance professions as a means to combat unemployment, as they invested in small projects with limited capital. However, the study encountered social, economic, and administrative challenges that affect their professional progress.*

**Keywords:** Social Impacts, Economic Impacts, Female Entrepreneurship, Women, Entrepreneurship.

## ملخص :

تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف التأثيرات السوسيو-اقتصادية للمهن الحرة على المقاولات النسوية في الجزائر. فقد اتضح من خلال المتابعة الميدانية أن النساء أحرزن تقدما ملحوظا في تعزيز دورهن في المجالات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والسياسية، متجاوزات العديد من العقبات بفضل التعليم. كما اعتمدت الدراسة على المنهج الوصفي وتقنية تاريخ الحالة والملاحظة، وتم الاستعانة ببيانات إحصائية رسمية من المؤسسات ذات الشأن مثل (ANGEM و NESDA)، بالإضافة إلى عينة مكونة من 45 امرأة تم جمعها باستخدام تقنية عينة كرة الثلج. أظهرت النتائج أن الأسرة تلعب دورا حيويا في نجاح المقاولات النسوية من خلال تقديم الدعم المادي والمعنوي. كما أسهمت التغيرات الأخيرة في الجزائر في دفع النساء نحو المهن الحرة كوسيلة للتغلب على البطالة، حيث استثمرن في مشاريع صغيرة برؤوس أموال محدودة. ومع ذلك، واجهت الدراسة تحديات اجتماعية واقتصادية وإدارية تؤثر على تقدمهن المهني.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التأثيرات الاجتماعية، التأثيرات الاقتصادية، المقاولات النسوية، المرأة، المقاولات.

## **1. Introduction**

Algerian women have made several strides to reach a prestigious social position, to prove themselves and enhance their active role in all aspects of social, economic and even political life, and overcome all obstacles that lead to weakening their energies and highlighting their abilities, and education has enabled them to achieve higher scientific degrees, and with the development and change witnessed by most countries, including Algeria, made them rush towards external work (especially self-employment), while maintaining their traditional roles, and thus freed a little from all the an integral personality, capable of challenging the problems of society, she embodied the image of a mujahideen in This is what made her go through a new experience of entrepreneurship and small projects, despite knowing that she would face many problems and obstacles on the one hand, and on the other hand, support and encouragement from parents and institutional mechanisms anchored to facilitate attention to the role of women and their initiatives.

### **I- Research Problem questions:**

#### **1-Statement of the Problem:**

Thanks to compulsory education, women have been able to reach higher levels, as this has given them job opportunities in various sectors such as education and health; thus narrowing the gap between them and men and removing obstacles that stand in the way of stumbling blocks to achieve their success, they have sought to reach and earned respectable positions in society , and due to the nature of women, who consistently strive to assert their presence and showcase their capabilities, they have not limited themselves to traditional professions. Instead, they have ventured into fields that were once exclusively male-dominated, especially in the realm of entrepreneurship (female entrepreneurship). This has led them to invest in private projects and acquire the qualities of successful female entrepreneurs. Over the years, these entrepreneurial women have become more prevalent in Algerian society, driven by the cultural awareness they have gained. The state has supported their ambitions and encouraged their initiatives by providing them with access to various government bodies and financial support mechanisms to assist them in this new field.

Despite all these encouragement, they still faces many challenges and difficulties that hinder her activity, both from the socially -where the society is

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born after a conviction to exercise this economic role- , and economically , such as some administrative issues and other problems. These challenges impact the activities of women entrepreneurs.

Hence, the problem of our study crystallized and resulted in the following central question: What are the socio-economic repercussions of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria? Several sub-questions arise from this question, as follows:

- What are the social repercussions of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria?
- What are the economic impacts of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria?
- What are the main challenges facing women entrepreneurs in Algeria?

### **2-The Importance of Study**

- Addressing women entrepreneurs as an effective element in economic development.
- Identify the mechanisms adopted by the state to facilitate women's to entry into the entrepreneurial world.
- Exploring the reality of female entrepreneurship in Algeria.

### **3 - Objectives of the study**

- To understand the economic and social impacts of freelance professions on women entrepreneurs in Algeria.
- To identify the various obstacles facing women working in the liberal professions.

### **4-Previous Studies:**

The researchers tried to attempt on some previous studies that dealt with feminist entrepreneurship and only two studies were presented to serve the purpose of this research :

- **The first study :** *This is a local study titled : "The entrepreneurial orientation of women in Algeria"*, (salami,2006-2007) the researcher who authored the study tried to find out the most important factors that toil women "students" for entrepreneurial orientation in Algeria and the most important obstacles they face, the most important objectives of the study were as follows:

- To identify the most important factors that would push or hinder the transition of individuals, and women specifically to the field of entrepreneurship and the establishment of enterprises.
- To measure the entrepreneurial orientation of female students who are nearing to graduate and choose their professional path.
- To propose possible solutions to further encourage University women to enter entrepreneurship and establish businesses.

The study concluded that the orientation towards entrepreneurship differs between graduates by their desire to enter this field, by the possibility of completing projects, and by the degree of encouragement of the external environment. The study recommended the creation of specialized training in entrepreneurship to take the perceived shortcomings of students seriously and focus on developing personal entrepreneurial skills such as creativity, entrepreneurship, risk-taking and teaching the technical and commercial skills necessary to launch a business.

**- The Second Study; This is a foreign study titled: “*The feminist position of liberal professions, by researchers Olivia Ferrin, Philippe-Armand, Francois Saint-Cast.*”** This study is a general report that came in the form of a study for the ministerial delegation of liberal professions in 2001.

It is a comparative study between the category of men and women in demographic perspective (age and gender) and professional terms, profession, time, work stability, and in socio-economic terms: income, professional status, they tried through this study to find out the type of liberal professions most in demand and practiced in France and classified them as follows: profession, law, pharmacy, engineering...

The purpose of this study is to identify the main factors that lead many women to prefer self-employment, and this is the first work on self-employment for the feminist category.

The study reached the most important results: that the category of men in liberal professions is more than women due to differences in working time and professional status, and the results of the study confirm that liberal professions require a high scientific level.

- Women turn to self-employment because they prefer independence, as well as trying to reconcile family and professional life.

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- This study also focused on women who are heading to liberal professions that typically require high educational qualifications. However, today women are doing self-employment that does not require a high level of education. Today, women have become the Masters of their own decision and choose the profession that they think is suitable for them, as they possess the willpower to manage them.

## II- Conceptual and Theoretical Framework of the Study

### 1-Defining Concepts

**Female Entrepreneurship** :There is no special definition of an entrepreneurial woman, but it can be defined as: as " Any woman, whether alone or accompanied by one or more partners, who has established, bought or acquired a business through inheritance, so she becomes financially, administratively and socially responsible for it, and also contributes to its ongoing management .she is also contributes to its ongoing management, taking on financial risks to create or acquire an enterprise, and manages it creatively by developing new products and entering new markets".( Raport, 2000, p 9)

That woman who possesses certain characteristics and features that qualify her to take the risk of doing business on her own account, then she possesses the spirit of initiative, risk-taking and taking responsibility for management and organization to achieve success and excellence. (salami,2006-2007,p87) .

In addition to the above, the concept of a woman entrepreneur applies to every woman, whether alone or accompanied by one or more partners, who founded, bought or acquired an enterprise through inheritance, becoming financially, administratively and socially responsible for it, and also contributing to its management.

We can also say that the term "entrepreneurship "includes all of the following:( Kouach and Ben Qamja, 2015, p30)

- Women who practice the entrepreneurial business profession'
- Any independent woman who controls makes decisions and manages her own business.
- Any woman who has created an entrepreneur in an innovative and creative manner.

**As for the procedures,** it defines that a female entrepreneur is a woman who is able to create projects through her own capital with the ability to take risks and responsibility for success.

**Freelance Professions:** It is difficult to put an exact definition of the profession because it is a social idea rather than a legal one, that it is every work practiced by its owner on his own account and aims to provide a public service and depends mainly on mental faculties, specialization and preparation.

- Professions that are independently undertaken by employees, the main component of which is work and is based on personal business practice<sup>1</sup>.(Mohamed Abdullah, 2005, p52)

- Self-employment goes to all professional activities that are supported by one person and independently.

- **Self - employment:** any profession practiced on a personal basis and under the individual's own (personal) responsibility independently professionally. Liberal professions can also be defined as a number of activities such as medicine, business, and law.( Boudon, 1986, p545)

Procedurally, **self-employment** is defined as those activities that women carry out independently, providing them with greater opportunities to work and achieve financial independence.

- **Women's Entrepreneurship:**

Women's entrepreneurship refers to the economic initiatives that women undertake by creating and managing their own projects. These companies are considered an essential part of the economy, as they contribute to enhancing the role of women in society and providing employment opportunities. Women's entrepreneurship focuses on empowering women economically and socially, helping them overcome traditional obstacles that they may face in the fields of work. Therefore, women's entrepreneurship encompasses various aspects, including:

- **Economic empowerment:** through entrepreneurship, women seek to achieve financial independence, which enhance their position in society.
- **Challenges:** women entrepreneurs face numerous challenges, such as lack of financial support, cultural and social barriers, which require them to adopt innovative strategies to overcome these obstacles (Thaziri and Chaouche, electronic link)

- **Education and training:** Education plays a vital role in empowering women to enter the business world, enabling them to acquire the necessary skills to Project Management. (Thaziri and Chaouche, electronic link)
- **Female entrepreneurship** (Aradhya D, electronic link ) can be defined as any woman or group of women who start, organize, and manage a business venture. According to Schumpeter (Aradhya D, electronic link), "female entrepreneurs are women who innovate, initiate, or adopt a business activity".

## 2-Socio-Economic Impact of Female Entrepreneurship

### - Economic Influences:

- **Increasing Income:** self-employment provides an additional source of income for women, which contributing to improve the standard of living.
- **Job creation:** Female entrepreneurs contribute to jobs creation for other women, which helps to reduce unemployment.
- **Local Economic Development:** these companies promote economic activity in local communities through the purchase of raw materials and the provision of services.(Salami and Qureshi, 2014, pp. 87-88) .

### - Social influences

- **Women's Empowerment:** self-employment helps to enhance women's self-confidence, enabling them to make economic and social decisions.
- **Changing Social Perception:** Women's entrepreneurial successes contribute to changing stereotypes about the role of women in society, and promoting gender equality.( Soudari and Boudessi, 2022, pp. 272-291)

## 3. Challenges facing women Entrepreneurs (Thaziri and Chaouche, electronic link)

**Lack of Financing:** women face difficulties in obtaining the necessary funding to start or expand their businesses, which limits the possibilities for growth and sustainability potential.

**Education and training:** there is a lack of training programs targeting women in the fields of entrepreneurship, which affects their ability to manage business effectively.

**Social and Cultural Barriers:** social traditions and Customs remain an obstacle for women, as women are sometimes perceived as unqualified to take on leadership roles.

#### **4-The Issue of Gender and the Organization of Female Entrepreneurship:**

In addition to issues related to women's ability and willingness to start new businesses, there is concern about the survival and growth rates of women-owned businesses (Maria and Pia, 2003, p12) .The issue of growth is also particularly important in high-income countries where women are increasingly starting technology-based businesses. Studies comparing the performance of companies owned by men and women show that women-led businesses tend to be smaller and achieve slower growth compared to those led by men. (Maria and Pia, 2003, p12) Smaller size and slower growth rates are usually perceived as problems. It is assumed that women want to expand their business if they can. This idea has significant consequences for female entrepreneurship, as women may face greater difficulties accessing external funding , which reflects them economically and even socially .

In fact, self-employed women still face barriers compared to self-employed men, due to gender-related barriers associated with education, child- rearing, and the labor market. Additional barriers include social interaction practices, family roles, and the potential lack of business contacts. It is widely believed that the barriers faced by women in all these fields lead to higher failure rates and lower growth rates for businesses run by women.

### **III - The Empirical and Methodological Aspects of the study:**

#### **1. Fields of study:**

One of the important methodological steps in the design of research is to determine the field of study, which is the scope in which the study is being conducted, and many people involved in research methods have agreed that every research study has three areas that the researcher should clarify: the geographical area, the temporal area, and the human area.

- **The Geographical Field:** This refers to the place where the field study was conducted in this study, it was carried out in the state of Sétif\* and included some of its districts and municipalities, namely : Setif, Amoucha, Ain el Kabira, Ain Arnat, Ouresia, and El- Eulma .

-**The Temporal Field:** This refers to the time spent collecting data, starting from the theoretical work and then moving to the fieldwork. The exploratory

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phase began from August 17, 2024, to August 27, 2024. The aim of this phase was to gain more insight into some businesses and to build trust with them for later assistance in completing the questionnaires and noting valuable observations for constructing the survey form. The researchers also approached support agencies for entrepreneurs, such as the National Agency for Youth Support and Employment, the National Unemployment Insurance Agency, and the Social Solidarity Agency for Women and Children. Additionally, they visited the Chamber of Traditional Industry and Crafts to gather information on the activities that women typically engage in. We were provided with necessary data and statistics regarding female entrepreneurship and the sectors they operate in, in order to better understand the human aspect of the study.

The fieldwork began on September 2, 2024, with the distribution of 50 questionnaires to the participants. Five questionnaires were excluded because they were not relevant to the research topic. The surveys were distributed with the help of family and friends in various locations: Setif, Amoucha, Ain El Kebira, Ain Arnat, Ouresia, and El Eulma, to better familiarize ourselves with the study's topic and achieve the research objectives.

**- The human Field:** the process of choosing a research community is one of the essential elements in building social research, each study has a human community, which is represented by a research community, which is defined as " a collection of individuals and things that share certain characteristics of interest to the researcher, or is the sum of research units from which we want to obtain data or about them.

Due to the nature of our study subject's, which is *the socio-economic impact of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria*, the human Field: Women Entrepreneurs of different ages, educational and social levels.

**- Sample of the Study:**

One of the most important stages of research study that requires the researcher to be accurate and well-chosen is the sample on which the scientific research is conducted, as it is the most important step facing the researcher.

As a result of the inability to study the entire indigenous community, the researchers took a sample representing the indigenous community. Therefore , **the sample is defined as :** " a phase part of the research community or study

from which field data is gathered, and it is considered part of the whole, meaning that a group of community members are taken to be representative of the research community, the sample is a certain part or a certain percentage of the members of the indigenous community, and then the results of the study are circulated to the entire population (Karima, 2017, p. 228), "Due to the difficulty of contacting all female entrepreneurs in the state of Sétif, the researcher used a **snowball sampling technique**, as the target population is not easily accessible.

Thus, **the snowball sample** is defined as: "A method of reaching study units, where one study unit (person) provides the researcher with the name of a second person, who in turn provides the name of a third person, and so on until the desired sample size is reached." This is a type of non-probability sampling, meaning that the first individual serves as the starting point for the sampling process, which continues to expand like a snowball.( Adnan, 1994, p 194)

This type of sample is often used in research when the target population is difficult to access, either because it is small or because it is hard to reach. The sample in this study was limited to 50 women, most of whom were contacted through snowball sampling. Each time the researchers encountered an entrepreneur with a project, they asked if she knew other female entrepreneurs with small-scale projects.

## **2-Method of the Study:**

The method is considered the way a researcher should proceed in his study of scientific phenomena in order to obtain certain results in revealing the nature of these phenomena and their underlying causes and subject to laws, and according to our study, the descriptive method was chosen because it is the most appropriate to investigate, detect and describe the phenomenon as it is in reality and know its various dimensions in order to obtain scientific results and interpret them in an objective way.

The descriptive method is defined as: a method that describes, analyzes, and interprets various data and information related to the phenomenon under study. It is also defined as: "a form of description, analysis, and scientific interpretation aimed at describing the phenomenon in terms of both what it is and how it occurs, by collecting theoretical and field data, classifying, analyzing, and subjecting them to study."(Rachid, 2007, p 87)

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Alternatively, it is described as: "a method of analysis and interpretation in an organized scientific manner in order to achieve specific objectives related to a social situation or a particular population." (Amar and Mahmoud, 1995, p80)

Through this study, we aim to describe, analyze, and understand the key factors, obstacles, and economic and social impacts of freelance professions on female entrepreneurship in Algeria.

### **3-Data Collection Tools:**

Data collection tools are the means upon which any scientific research relies to gather data and facts about the phenomenon to be studied. The accuracy and reliability of the results obtained depends on the precision of the tools used to approach the phenomenon and the degree of their credibility.

**The Questionnaire:** The selection of data collection tools in any study depends on a set of factors represented by the nature of the topic, the objectives of the study, and the types of approaches used and adopted in the study. In our research, the questionnaire was chosen as the primary tool; the reason for this choice lies on the advantages it offers and achieves, both in terms of shortening effort or time, as it consists of a set of questions directed at respondents to obtain information. The questionnaire is considered one of the most important tools used in data collection in research related to the humanities and Social Sciences. It is defined as: "A tool or instrument used by researchers in the field of psychological and Social Sciences in order to obtain information or opinions that are useful in proving the validity of the hypotheses posed about a particular problem" (Ali Moamer, 2008, p 203)

In this study the questionnaire included four main sections that contained questions with closed, semi-closed, and open-ended data. The section covered the following topics:

- **The first section:** personal information of female entrepreneurs in Algeria.
- **The second section:** social impact of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria.
- **The third section:** economic impact of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria.
- **The fourth section:** challenges faced by female entrepreneur in Algeria.

These were the key areas that the researcher focused on to gather accurate information for the study. The questionnaire was formulated and structured to align with the nature, objectives, and questions of the study

The researchers also resorted to observation as a secondary auxiliary tool.

**Observation is one of the oldest methods of social research; so that "it was used first by anthropologists and ethnologists, while sociologists and other social scientists preferred to use surveys and other techniques"**( Sotiriou 2017, p 39), and the reason that researchers resorted to this tool, is due to familiarity with all aspects of the study and providing information that may not be obtainable through the questionnaire alone.

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#### 4. Presentation; Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

| Groups                | Frequencies | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| Under 22 years        | 2           | 4.4%       |
| 23 to 35 years        | 23          | 51.1%      |
| 36 to 48 years        | 18          | 40.0%      |
| Over 49 years         | 2           | 4.4%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 45          | 100.0%     |
| Marital Status        | Frequencies | Percentage |
| Single                | 17          | 37.8%      |
| Married               | 21          | 46.7%      |
| Divorced              | 6           | 13.3%      |
| Widowed               | 1           | 2.2%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 45          | 100.0%     |
| Educational Level     | Frequencies | Percentage |
| Intermediate          | 8           | 17.8%      |
| High School           | 16          | 35.6%      |
| University            | 19          | 42.2%      |
| Vocational Training   | 2           | 4.4%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 45          | 100.0%     |
| Number of Children    | Frequencies | Percentage |
| No children           | 2           | 7.1%       |
| One child             | 8           | 28.6%      |
| Two children          | 7           | 25.0%      |
| Three children        | 5           | 17.9%      |
| Four children         | 4           | 14.3%      |
| Five or more children | 2           | 7.1%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 28          | 100.0%     |
| Place of Residence    | Frequencies | Percentage |
| Urban                 | 34          | 75.6%      |
| Semi-Urban            | 8           | 17.8%      |
| Rural                 | 3           | 6.7%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 45          | 100.0%     |
| Project Start Date    | Frequencies | Percentage |

|                                                                                  |                    |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 1 year                                                                 | 1                  | 2.2%              |
| 1 to 6 years                                                                     | 27                 | 60.0%             |
| 7 to 12 years                                                                    | 14                 | 31.1%             |
| More than 13 years                                                               | 3                  | 6.7%              |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                     | <b>45</b>          | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| <b>Type of Business Activity</b>                                                 | <b>Frequencies</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
| Productive                                                                       | 18                 | 40%               |
| Service                                                                          | 15                 | 33%               |
| Marketing                                                                        | 12                 | 27%               |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                     | <b>45</b>          | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| <b>Essential Characteristics for Female Entrepreneurs (in order of priority)</b> | <b>Frequencies</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
| Initiative                                                                       | 13                 | 28.9%             |
| Courage                                                                          | 14                 | 31.1%             |
| Risk-taking                                                                      | 6                  | 13.3%             |
| Credibility                                                                      | 4                  | 8.9%              |
| Vigor                                                                            | 1                  | 2.2%              |
| Training                                                                         | 2                  | 4.4%              |
| Responsibility                                                                   | 2                  | 4.4%              |
| Strong Personality                                                               | 2                  | 4.4%              |
| Creativity                                                                       | 1                  | 2.2%              |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                     | <b>45</b>          | <b>100.0%</b>     |

### - Analysis and Interpretation

- It is clear from the data provided in the above table, particularly regarding age groups, shows that 51.1% of the study sample are between the ages of 23 to 35 years, while 40.0% are between the ages of 36 to 48 years, and 4.4% are under the age of 22 years old, and older than 49 years, respectively, and through these data it turns out that the majority of women entrepreneurs enter the entrepreneurial world at a young age, which can be attributed to the lack of obligations and responsibilities at that stage in life, allowing them to dedicate themselves fully to entrepreneurial activities.

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- The results of the table related to the marital status indicated that 46.7% of the study sample are married, while 37.8% are single, 13.3% are divorced, and 2.2% are widowed,. This gives us an idea of the diversity of the study sample in terms of material status, through the analysis of data it shows that married women represents the largest percentage entering the world of the contractor from her wide door to support their families and improve their economic and living conditions. In contrast, single women pursue entrepreneurship to achieve social status and gain access to the business world in a broad sense
- As for the statistical evidence observed from the results of the above table related to the educational level of women entrepreneurs, we find that 42.2% of the study sample their educational level is University, 35.6% their educational level is secondary, while 17.8% their level is average, and 4.4% their educational level is vocational training. This indicates that most female entrepreneurs possess university degrees that qualify them to enter the business world, equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for success. In addition to those with a lower average level (secondary education) take advantage of opportunities to enter the entrepreneurial field and complete ,while those with middle school education represent a smaller group, as entrepreneurship offers them a way to achieve social status.

So the majority of women entrepreneurs are university students, and due to the difficulty of finding work, many women prefer to start their own business instead of waiting for a job position.

- According to the results of the table on the census of children, It indicate that the majority of the study's married, divorced or widowed participants have one child, accounting for 28.6% of the sample. Meanwhile 25.0% have two children, 17.9% have three children, 14.3% have four children, 7.1% have five or more children, with another 7.1% do not have any child. Based on the analysis of the data it turns out that most women entrepreneurs have one or two children to devote more and take care of them. On the other hand, women entrepreneurs who have more than three children represent a smaller group and may find it more

difficult to balance their roles as mothers with their entrepreneurial activities.

- However, we note from the results of the table related to the place of residence that 75.6% of the study sample lives in urban areas within cities, while 17.8% reside in semi-urban areas, and 6.7% reside outside cities, i.e. in rural places. This indicates the diversity of the study sample in terms of place of residence, through data analysis it turns out that the area where women reside plays an important role in accepting or rejecting the idea of female entrepreneurs. Women living in urban areas have the greatest luck in entering the world of entrepreneurship, and this is due to the culture of the region, which does not contradict the nature of this activity for women, as well as the support in these areas. In contrast, semi-urban areas Rural areas impose certain restrictions on women, such as the specific nature of these areas, as well as the cultural values and customs of society.
- The results from the table regarding to the year of the start of the project show that 60.0% of the study sample began their project between 1 and 6 years ago, representing the majority of the sample. Meanwhile, 31.1% started their projects from 7 to 12 years ago, and 6.7% the year of the start of their project is more than 13 years ago, while 2.2% have less than a year since the start of their project relative to the current date. By analyzing the data, it turns out that most of the women engaged in entrepreneurial activities have less than 6 years of experience, indicating that most of them have relatively little time in entrepreneurship. This due to their previous work as employees, and after gaining experience and saving money, they started their own businesses.
- The results of the table show that 40% of the study samples are involved in productive activities primarily, while 33% are engaged in service activities and 27% are involved marketing activities. This suggests that the majority of women prefer to engage in productive activities due to their experience in this field, which provides them with the ability to manage the project. Following this, service activities are the most favored by female entrepreneurs due to the lower capital requirements

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compared to the returns and profits. The least common activity is in the marketing field, which attracts women because of their knowledge of the market and how to manage it, based on the experience they gained, both through their family and through their previous work as assistants.

- From the results of the table, we can conclude that 31% chose the trait of courage as the most important quality that a woman entrepreneur should possess, where a woman transcends her fear and believe in her ability to succeed. while 28.9% chose the trait of initiative as the second most important trait necessary for starting a project, as it reflects her autonomy in decision-making. Additionally, 13.3% chose the trait of risk-taking , 8.9% chose credibility, and 4.4% chose qualities such as training, responsibility, and strong personality . The final 2.2% chose the quality of vitality and creativity. There is no doubt that one of the most important characteristics of a successful entrepreneur is courage, initiative and the willingness to take risk in starting projects and establishing businesses, followed by other qualities such as credibility, responsibility ,and strong responsibility, which define the character of the female entrepreneur and distinguish her from other ordinary women

## 5- Study Results

### 5-1- Discussion of the Study Results in Light of the Sub-Questions

After conducting the empirical study, which serves as the core of the scientific research to answer the underlying questions, we reached the following results after analyzing the field data:

#### - The first Sub-Question: What are the social impacts of self-employment on female entrepreneurs in Algeria

The study reached the following findings :

- Some of the women's parents who were questioned are practicing freelance professions, by 33.03%. This has influenced the women entrepreneurs to pursue this field influenced by their parents. On the other hand, the majority of mothers are housewives, and it was estimated at 73.07% due to lack of education ,and early marriage. So, these

mothers encourage their daughters to engage in entrepreneurial activities and start their own businesses to ensure a better future than what they experienced .

- The educational level of the husband ranges between the average and university by 67%, as most of them had the opportunity to study and therefore have an open –minded view about women's work. Regarding their profession, the majority of them 57.01%, engaging in entrepreneurship , which has enabled them to gain professional experience in how to manage and take over projects, thus help their wives choose the appropriate activity for them.
- Most of the female entrepreneurs received support from parents, as indicated by the statistical data in the field study with 73.03% as a result of the social and cultural awareness among Algerian families and families. This support was both material and moral, accounting for 53%. Families encourage their daughters to open their own businesses.
- As for the question related to the family's attitude towards their daughter's entrepreneurial profession, the majority of parents accepted the idea of their working in the contracting field by 84.04%, which is a positive indicator indicating the openness of families ' outlook and awareness of the importance of women's work.
- When it comes to the question of whether a female entrepreneur can balance her professional and family life, the study found that 82.2% of women entrepreneurs successfully manage both aspects by facilitate their personal and professional affairs, and this is what the responses of the researchers came by 67%, emphasized this approach to avoid neglecting their household responsibilities and ensure that they perform their roles well. This is what the study sample showed by 71%, and therefore they did not neglect their families because of their activity, they did not resort to using meals this is what 60% confirmed to us. Additionally, 84.04% of them contribute to household expenses to cover essential needs and improve the living standards.
- The majority of the respondents, with 87%, confirmed that they are not exposed to family problems that prevent her from performing her profession to receive encouragement from the start to work. The consultative decision-making process plays a role in reducing the

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tension and problems, as confirmed by 98% of the respondents. Most of these decisions are related to the household budgets and the future of children, especially for married women. For single women, we find some of the pressures that women suffer, but they still find time for themselves, which is considered necessary for women in general due to their psychological and physiological nature, as indicated by 84.04% of the sample.

- Based on the above and through the opinions of the respondents, it is clear that most women entrepreneurs received both financial and moral support from their parents, with 73.03% helping them to start their own business. Furthermore, 84.04% of the women's families accepted and encouraged their involvement in entrepreneurial activities. They also succeeded in reconciling their career without any shortcoming, as confirmed by 82.02%, without forgetting their contribution to expenses improving the standard of living, thus having a say in decision-making, with 98%, indicating this. These factors positively influenced their social environment.

**Therefore, based on the foregoing, it can be said that women accept free professions because of a psychological and social desire, in addition, they achieve personal goals through entrepreneurship. Thus freelancing professions have social impacts that contribute significantly to the establishment and success of female entrepreneurship in Algeria.**

### **- The Second Sub-Question: What are the economic impacts of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria?**

The study reached the following findings:

The main source of money approved for starting a business was provided by parents accounting for 41.03% to ensure the future of their daughters, and allow them to have an independent source of income. Regarding the choice of activity they practice, 62% of the respondents selected their fields because they had professional experience in them. This reflects their prior employment in

the field, which allowed them to gain experience, which was confirmed by respondents' answers. As for the business premises,, 64.04% indicated that they do not own a place and had to rent, therefore they resort to lying and choosing an activity place close to home, which allows them to move to it effortlessly by 62%. Regarding the ownership of the project, 60% preferred to have private ownership as they valued working independently, away from the challenges of partnerships.

The results of the empirical study confirmed that the motivation to enter a business in order to achieve social status came by 24% of the respondents, with the intention of improving their economic and personal circumstances, which creates a distinctive position for themselves in society. Most of female entrepreneurs(89%) have achieved financial independence since they entered the business world , which allowed them to face economic difficulties and provide a better standard of living for themselves and their families. Financial independence was further reflected by 80% of the women owning a driver's license after establishing their businesses ,demonstrating that entrepreneurship helped them pursue various goals, including owning a private car,. As for the changes at home, 46.07% of the study sample made improvements to their homes, particularly in furniture and decoration in general .

In terms of domestic help, 93.03% of women entrepreneurs confirmed that they do not rely on domestic workers, as they successfully balanced both their professional and household duties. This also reflects the absence of a culture of using servants for domestic work in Algeria.

As for the fact that marriage is an encouraging factor or a hindrance to the development of women's work, most of the respondents,( 73.03%), believe that marriage is an encouraging factor, as they received supporting from their husbands due to the high cost of living and the preference of husbands for their women to work independently rather than being dependent on an employer.

**From the above, through the opinions of the respondents , it turns out that the motives that made women break into the world of entrepreneurship were the most prominent of which was the achievement of social status and economic well-being, and financial independence with 89% emphasizing financial autonomy. T he primary funding source for their businesses was from their parents by 41.03% and some personal savings,. Additionally marriage is also**

**considered an economic and social encouraging factor for the development of women's work, with 73% affirming this. Through these findings, we come to the conclusion that entrepreneurship positively impacts the economic environment of women, and this is what proved by the results of the field study.**

### **The Third Sub-Question: What are the most important obstacles facing women entrepreneurs in Algeria?**

The study reached the following findings

One of the biggest challenges faced by women entrepreneurs from a social point of view is the outdated customs and traditions that have been defined by the culture of society, which considers women as a biological being to work only at home.

As for the impact of male domination on the success of their work, the majority(71.01%) of female entrepreneurs stated that it did not affect the success of their businesses, and this is attributed to the conservative society's acceptance of these professions, and many women entrepreneurs have become more uninterested in what is said about them or how they are perceived, focusing instead in achieving their goal and succeeding in their businesses . so the nature of society has not affected their success in their professional career, and 55.6% of female entrepreneurs work in a male-dominated society, unconcerned by it .Some respondents emphasized that Algerian women have been able to integrate into the world of workforce in general and entrepreneurship in particular , and impose themselves as contributors to development .

The biggest challenges and obstacles that faced women entrepreneurs from the economic point of view were the reimbursement of expenses , lack of capital, and marketing issues, with 31.11% of respondents facing difficulties in marketing their products freely, due to the prevailing culture of society that has not fully embraced female entrepreneurship in a male –dominated and competitive environment . While we find that 53.03% of women entrepreneurs experienced challenges at the beginning of their professional career due to lack of experience in this field of self-employment, although they quickly adapted to

their business activities . Furthermore, 82.33% admitted that they were affected by administrative problems and obstacles in the course of their work in terms of the number of administrative documents as well as long delays in of time in financing applications.

**Based on the above, it is clear that there are several socio-economic obstacles that stand behind the success and development of women entrepreneurs in Algeria, and this is confirmed by the results obtained, especially from the economic and social perspective.**

## **5-2- Discussion of the Results in light of Theoretical Framework:**

Starting from the results of the study, it will be discussed in light of the theoretical approaches that were reached:

- **Historical Materialist Theory:** The results of our study agree with the historical materialist theory, which asserts that women have an active role in the economic system, represented by their participation in labor activity side by side with men since ancient times.
- **Gender theory:** the results of this study agree with the theory in emphasizing that women, like men, have the rights to contribute to entrepreneurial activities, and there is no difference between them except in terms of biological characteristics. Therefore, education doors should be opened to them, and given opportunities to invest without any gender discrimination.
- **The feminist movement Theory:** the results of our study agree with this theory that women have struggled to gain equal rights with men, particularly in the right to work in general and equal opportunities in entrepreneurship in particular. They have faced numerous social and economic challenges to reach what they are today. Therefore, should be viewed as a partner in development rather than competitors.

## **6-General Results of the Study:**

Based on our theoretical and field study, through which we wanted to find out the socio-economic impact of self-employment on women entrepreneurs in Algeria and to identify the main challenges they face from the economic and social perspectives, and after presenting and analyzing the data and discussing the results in light of hypotheses, our study concluded :

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- The family plays a big role in the success of women –owned businesses (i.e., the success of women) through encouraging and supporting them financially and morally, and accepting their involvement in of entrepreneurial activities. This indicates the development of the view of Algerian families than before for their social and cultural awareness of the importance of women's work. This has positively impacted their ability to achieve their personal ambition and goals.
- The motivation for women to engage in entrepreneurship is linked to the developments and changes that Algerians have known in recent years, which prompted women to escape from the shadow of unemployment by investing in small projects with limited capital, granting them financial independence that enables them to improve their economic and personal situation and raise their standard of living . As a result women gain a distinct position in society.
- Society accepts women’s work in the field of entrepreneurship as long as this work does not diminish the social values commonly accepted in Algerian society.
- Women entrepreneurs in Algeria face several socio-economic and administrative obstacles that affect the advancement of their businesses.
- Regarding social obstacles: they are represented by social customs and traditions, where certain work fields are still perceived as male-dominated . As a result women are unable to pursue such work for fear of social rejection , which may lead to failure .
- Regarding financial and administrative obstacles : these include a lack of capital and difficulty of obtaining loans from banks , and most women avoid taking an advance from banks for fear that they will not be able to repay the d installments in case of failure of the project, as for the administrative obstacles include excessive paper work and delays in reviewing financing files to approve project initiation.

## **VI- Conclusion:**

The study indicates that self-employment represents a great opportunity for women in Algeria; however, they face multiple challenges that need to be addressed. By providing appropriate support, the role of female entrepreneurs can be enhanced in achieving economic and social development in Algeria.

## **Recommendations and Suggestions:**

There is no doubt that the topic of female entrepreneurship is one of the most vital areas of study, which has recently gained attention. However, the level of participation among women is limited compared to the efforts made by the state this regard. Thus we recommend a set of suggestions:

- Establishment of advisory and guidance offices to raise awareness about entrepreneurial spirit among women and encourage them to enter the world of entrepreneurship.
- Creation of dedicated Centers for female entrepreneurs, and determine the direction they want according to their degree, educational levels, as well as their inclinations.
- Raising awareness among women by promoting the culture of investment and providing examples of successful female entrepreneurs and how they overcome obstacles.
- Conducting studies and research on entrepreneurship to fill the gaps of shortage and remove economic and social obstacles.
- Providing the necessary facilities, especially procedural and financial ones, such as reducing administrative documents and issuing permits within a short time
- Supporting women entrepreneurs with small project by promoting their products and providing them with modern technologies.
- Including the entrepreneurship courses in universities in order to consolidate an entrepreneurial culture among members of society.
- Encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship in rural areas through the establishment of awareness and motivational campaigns to create many opportunities for rural women in line with the values of her region and family commitment, on the one hand and on the other hand to benefit from her craft skills.

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*\* Setif Province is located in the highlands of the eastern Upper Plateau, bordered to the north by Béjaïa and Jijel, to the east by Mila, and to the south by Batna and M'Sila. To the west, it borders the province of Bordj Bou Arreridj. The province has 20 districts and 60 municipalities, covering an area of 6,504 km<sup>2</sup>.*