

Shadow areas are a product of social marginalization

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ABSTRACT

Despite the Algerian state's eagerness after independence to undo the destruction and backwardness left by colonialism in all areas of social life, where it was keen to embody the social character of the state through compulsory and free education for both sexes, the development of the health sector, with free medical examinations and treatment in state health institutions and health insurance as a priority, enabling citizens to obtain decent social housing, other groups remain socially marginalised and therefore unable to educate their children or benefit from social housing, unable to pay the costs of studying such as transport and school supplies, unable to benefit from, Through this intervention, we try to show the effects of social marginalization in all its dimensions, creating inequality and injustice in the distribution of wealth between members of society and providing opportunities to some individuals and groups at the expense of others, increasing alienation and widening the gap between members of society. The shadow areas in the city of Annaba, Seraidi Municipality as an example, which have been marginalised and excluded from development and sustainable development projects for several decades, are among the results of the latter, as they suffer from the lack of basic necessities and the lack of electricity and gas supply, the lack of educational centres, the lack of connection to the drinking water network, the lack of health care, In addition to the almost total lack of basic necessities, the lack of electricity and gas, the lack of educational centres, the lack of access to drinking water, the lack of health care and the almost total lack of entertainment means that frustration and a sense of alienation are created, in which delinquency and illegal immigration become the real response of a group that has suffered from marginalization

1. Introduction

Algeria has made great efforts to concretize the social character of the state through compulsory and free education for both sexes up to university level, the provision of free health services in state hospitals, as well as the provision of social housing and many other privileges for the benefit of the citizens, but there are still other groups that are affected by social marginalization and therefore cannot educate their children or benefit from social housing, because they are unable to pay for study costs such as transport and school supplies, cannot benefit from health services, and thus suffer the consequences of marginalization and social exclusion due to underdevelopment and poverty.

Social marginalization is often associated with manifestations of social inequality and injustice in the distribution of opportunities; the negative effects of globalization have directly contributed to the widening of global social inequalities, which have become very worrying as they impede growth and social mobility, fostering deviance and violence, despite the improved financial situation of the state as a result of the frequent increases in oil prices, however, many sectors of Algerian society have not benefited from this improvement, which has widened social inequalities, and the slight increase in wages is far from meeting the needs of ordinary Algerian citizens, given the profound effects that social marginalization has had on the social structure, with cases of poverty recorded in several provinces and some municipalities even classified by the authorities as the most impoverished, 19 per cent of Algerians live in a state of sustained poverty, especially in the suburbs of major cities (Ahmed Saleh Sabaa, Ramzi Abbassi, 2023, p. 28).

The idea of social marginalization suggests a blatant violation of the human dimension and the denial of citizenship rights, as it does for both Rosa Linde Virgion and Marsh Moser David Rockering, where marginalization is synonymous with several concepts and terms, including neglect, isolation, abandonment, desertion, closure, segregation, inequality, exclusion, alienation, confinement and marginalization, which at an individual level results in the individual being excluded from meaningful social participation (**Walsh, Tamara 2006**). This definition clearly explains the state of inequality in the distribution of wealth and the frustration experienced by the poor in particular. This category, which despite the state's attempt to contain them, to make up for shortcomings or meet some needs, especially the necessary ones, as a reform step to alleviate their suffering, through programmes affiliated to the Ministry of Solidarity, Family and Children, such as lump sums, Ramadan rations However, the rate of unemployment and poverty is increasing in the face of the decline in purchasing power.

Shadow areas are one of the consequences of marginalization in Algeria, where in June 2020 the state counted more than 13,000 shadow areas distributed in 1375 municipalities. According to the Mediator of the Republic Ibrahim Mourad (**Ibrahim Mourad, 2021**), on the occasion of a forum on "Telemedicine and the economic and social aspects of shadow regions" organized by the National Centre for Comprehensive Strategic Studies, which prompted the Algerian state to launch the Economic Recovery Programme Plan (2020-2024), in which shadow regions are of great importance. In order to create sustainable local development for the benefit of the shadow regions, the Ombudsman of the Republic stated that the shadow regions have a "remarkable shortage" of public health centres throughout the national territory, with an estimated 1126 health centres in need of either rehabilitation or construction, but that the inhabitants of these regions in Algeria "complain of recurrent health problems, in particular maternal deaths due to post-natal complications, lack of vaccines for children", the State of Annaba is one of the states that, like other states, has many shadow areas despite its tourist and agricultural character, and the communities of Seraïdi and chetaibi are living examples of shadow areas in the State of Annaba and their lack of development at many levels. Through this intervention, we seek to address the consequences of social marginalization as the production of shadow areas in an attempt to answer the main question: what is the reality of shadow areas in the State of Annaba?

This leads to the following sub-questions:

- What are the geo-strategic potentials of the governorate of Annaba?
- What are the manifestations of marginalization in Annaba Governorate?

2. Importance of the theme

The importance consists in addressing the study of the concept of social marginalization as a concept that overlaps with other concepts and expresses the gap between needs and gratifications and the creation of social injustice, and shadow areas are considered one of the dependencies of social marginalization due to the negative effects of the latter on the development of one geographical area at the expense of another.

Thirdly, the objectives of the study: An attempt to clarify the concept of social exclusion and shadow areas and related concepts.

- To monitor the reality of shadow areas in Annaba governorate in order to identify indicators of social injustice.

3. Conceptual framework of the study

3.1. The concept of social marginalization

The concept of marginalization has been associated with exclusion and exclusion, three concepts that are considered compatible, as they refer to a category of society that has been deprived of exercising its normal activities that are compatible with the rules and foundations of society. To identify the development strategies for the shadow areas in Annaba governorate, exclusion is the social process by which individuals are marginalized, especially the marginalization of a group in a larger society, such as the exclusion of those who are undesirable or perceived as useless, or their exclusion from the systems of protection and interaction in society, thus reducing their opportunities and financial resources that help them to survive. In the same context, we find that marginalization means placing people or groups on the margins of events and means isolation, exclusion, marginalization or non-inclusion, and it also means the inability of society to activate all its members to the extent of fulfilling their functions and activating their abilities, talents and energies (**Hamed bin Shanta Al-Marjan, 2017**). It is also the exclusion of individuals or political, ethnic or natural groups from political needs or from social engagement in its various institutions, despite the desire of those excluded to engage in their society as parties to a social contract that guarantees their participation and access to rights such as the right to life and the right to live in security. Hamed Al-Bashir Ibrahim provided a comprehensive definition of social marginalization to highlight some aspects of marginalization other than poverty or the material aspect, as follows "Marginalization means the inability of society to activate all its members to the extent that they reach their tools and activate their abilities, talents and energy, and therefore marginalization does not mean and should not be limited to narrow economic aspects, but also has a cultural,

social, political, civilizational and symbolic meaning, because marginalization in this context means the absence of consideration and the absence of meaning and value for a group." (**Hamed Al-Bashir Ibrahim, 2014**).

3.2. *The concept of shadow regions*

The term "shadow regions" has not been widely used in the past, but it appeared prominently during the Council of Government on 16 February 2020, where an investigation entitled "The suffering of shadow regions" was presented by Algerian television at the request of President Tebboune Abdelmadjid. The investigation showed the suffering of the inhabitants of isolated areas, which is expressed by the term "shadow regions". The term "shadow regions" has become a widely used political, social and economic term that expresses the hotbeds of underdevelopment throughout the country. The term "shadow regions" has become a widely used political, social and economic term that expresses the hotbeds of underdevelopment across the country, meaning those areas that are isolated, remote, marginalised and deprived of development. (**Benfredi, 2020**), are remote and isolated areas that suffer from a state of fragility, where their inhabitants experience difficult and miserable living conditions due to the lack of vital infrastructure and the basic necessities of life such as water, electricity, gas, schools and job opportunities (**Instruction No. 10881, 2020**), as well as the absence of roads and paths to break the isolation of rugged areas that have known misery and poverty, as well as health care (**Algerian Radio website, 2021**).

These are the poor areas that are still shrouded in a shadow that has not been lifted due to the denial of their right to local development, which led to the creation of geographical areas with a significant population density that does not have the necessary facilities and the requirements of daily life, which had harsh repercussions on the residents of these human spaces and really needed to be the subject of real care to catch up with the path of delay that was inflicted on them. (**Oukili, 2020**.) These areas are considered repulsive to the population as defined by (**Ben Ferdi, 2020**) due to the absence of infrastructure, all these factors led to the absence of regional justice and a clear imbalance in the regional balance.

4. **The physical and natural potential of the state of Annaba**

By defining the geostrategic potential of the state of Annaba, we try to highlight the contradiction between the natural and human data and material resources and the past and current development strategy that prevented the development of the state and contributed to the creation of poverty centres represented in the shadow areas as in the municipality of Seraidi and the municipality of chetaibi and many other areas on the suburbs of the city that lack many infrastructures and vital facilities.

Annaba, the jewel of the Mediterranean as it is called, is one of the largest cities in Algeria and the capital of the Annaba State, with a population of 464,740 inhabitants and 1,000,000 inhabitants with a high population density of 9484.489 n/km², Annaba is one of the most attractive cities for tourists, especially in summer, as its numerous golden beaches, whether in the city centre or in the neighbouring communes, attract holidaymakers, especially from eastern Algeria, as well as a centre for various vital activities, such as industry, transport and finance. It has witnessed a significant growth in economic development, while the large population increase has greatly affected the architectural and demographic structure, creating informal settlements.

All these capacities and infrastructures do not mean that there are no material needs, that unemployment is low and that the housing needs of citizens are met, which explains the phenomenon of illegal immigration and the choice of young people and even families on death boats in the face of social exclusion and marginalization.

Table 1: Geo-strategic potential of Annaba State

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Transport domain	1- The city has an international airport (Rabah Bittat Airport), which guarantees many daily international flights, especially to the French capital Paris and other French cities, and Arab cities such as Jeddah, Dubai, Cairo, and Istanbul, as well as daily domestic flights with Algiers, Oran, Constantine, and Tamanrasset. 2- A harbour with 122.5 kilometres of coastline. 3- Annaba has a good road transport network to the rest of Algeria and is only about 150 kilometres from the Tunisian border.
Fisheries Sector	1- A seafront consisting of 21 beaches located 10 minutes away from the capital Annaba. 2- Its port is one of the most important ports in Algeria with a coastline of 122.5 kilometres of the Mediterranean Sea basin. 3- With a fishing potential of about 30,000 tonnes/year, all species combined.
Tourism sector	1- Exceptional maritime tourism potential with many small beaches including Sidi Akkacha in Chetaibi, Jannan El Bey in Seraïdi and Ain Achir beach in Annaba as well as one of the most beautiful bays in the world, Gharbi Bay in the town of Chetaibi. 2- Mountain tourism possibilities with an enjoyable trip in the aerial lift linking Annaba municipality and Seraïdi municipality, which gives you the opportunity to enjoy wonderful views. 3- Ancient architectural landmarks such as the Abu Marwan Mosque, built in the 11th century AD, an Andalusian style built on Roman columns, and beautiful architectural landmarks such as St Augustine's Basilica. 4- The city has a number of hotels, including the Sheraton Annaba, the beautiful "Rym hotel" overlooking the sea, the five-star "seybouse hotel", in the city centre, and not forgetting the beautiful mountain palace park. 5- Medical tourism because Seraïdi has a rehabilitation hospital.
The industrial sector	1- An industrial base expanded by the presence of large national and international industrial complexes (ArcelorMittal - Vertical - Ferroval) and extremely attractive due to the subcontracting possibilities it can generate and the skilled labour force it can attract.

5. Tables and Figures

Algeria's adoption of the directed economic system with central planning methods since independence has had a major impact on the drastic changes in Algeria's industrial map, with the addition of a series of industrial units, important industrial zones and poles, and the result has been to encourage migration to industrial areas to improve the standard of living and proximity to all vital interests, given the inability of the state to meet the housing needs of workers and members of society in general, leaving them only to build chaotic constructions, With rapid demographic growth, informal settlements spread out of control. The black decade also disrupted the process of social and economic development, which increased the inability to achieve social justice and equality, to create job opportunities and opportunities for legitimate satisfaction, such as access to schools, hospitals, factories and the basic necessities of life, as well as the provision of roads to break the isolation of many areas, so that frustration and alienation become a feeling for the majority of citizens, which later translates into irrational or socially unacceptable behaviour as a reaction to the marginalization they are subjected to.

5.1. The municipality of Seraïdi:

The municipality of Seraïdi is one of the municipalities of Annaba, which was called Bugeaud during the French colonisation of Algeria, located 13 km from Annaba on Mount Edough (850 m above sea level) in a forested area. The area is famous for the Seraïdi Therapeutic Hospital because of the natural and healthy atmosphere provided by the area away from pollution, the Montazah Hotel, the Creps Sports Complex, overlooking Seraïdi Bay and has several beaches, the most famous of which is **Jnan Elbay Beach; Bogart Valley**.

Despite its geographical location, especially the view of the sea and the natural mineral resources, it has been classified as a shadow region due to the lack of the most basic necessities of life that would advance the region, whose people disappeared one by one and the maximum dream of its youth is to migrate to the other side of the world, a concrete example is the village of Ain Barber, which is considered the lung of Mount Edough, as stated by (**Romissa Bouzida, 2021**).

The inhabitants of Ain Barber live in great poverty and lead a primitive life based on gas bottles, which they have to carry to their homes with great difficulty, especially in winter, when the region is very cold, given that it is a rugged and mountainous area par excellence, and this is exacerbated by the lack of heating, because the forgotten village is only about 6 kilometres from the Seraïdi municipality and is considered to be one of the most important agricultural areas on the eastern side of the coastal municipality, but according to its inhabitants it has still not received its share of support and its inhabitants complain of :

- The lack of a strategy for the development of agricultural investment, where the population suffers from the lack of support for agriculture, given that this is an agricultural area par excellence, famous for its fertile land and livestock production, especially almonds and honey.
- It has not benefited from government support for rural housing.
- The demand for the provision of transport in the area to break the isolation and facilitate the movement of the population and the education of children.

As a result of the great emptiness experienced by the young people of the region and their total isolation from the outside world, due to the lack of educational and recreational facilities, their destination is the sea, specifically the Italian island of Sardinia, which is only a few hours away from Ain Barber by sea, according to a report in the newspaper Al-Nahar.

6. Development strategy for the shadow regions

Development is not only an international issue, but also a national one, as the Algerian State has increased its interest in the development of areas that have experienced shortcomings and marginalization in recent years, in order to follow the example of developed countries, especially since the modern global trend of developed countries is to make a break with all forms of backwardness, marginalization and social exclusion, where the State has made the shadow areas a very important target due to their marginalization, which has reached the poverty line, as 1400 poor communities have been counted, living on subsidies from the Common Fund for Local Communities, including 800 communities classified as the most impoverished in 2020; These communities suffer not only from poverty in the abstract sense, but also from the lack of many services, and in many areas we must adopt the United Nations' concept of poverty, which states that "poverty is more than a lack of income, resources or sustainable livelihoods, because its manifestations include hunger, malnutrition, reduced access to education and basic services, as well as social discrimination and exclusion from society"; and lack of opportunities to participate in decision-making", the latter was associated with urban areas as well as rural areas as stated in the World Bank report: 'Interestingly, the data show that extreme poverty rates are higher in urban areas than in rural areas, which is often not the case. Using a poverty line of \$3.10 per person per day (**Gabriel Lara Ibarra and Aziz Atamanov, 2017**) at 2011 purchasing power parity, the poverty rate is estimated to be 3.3 per cent.

An attempt to break the isolation of the region by creating development projects and reviving life in facilities that were a source of income for the municipality and comfort and recreation for the people of the region and neighbouring areas, where the state interests in Annaba in 2020 included the municipality of Seraïdi among the affected shadow areas due to its lack of transport and housing projects, In addition to the delay by the concerned authorities in completing the development programmes on time, which called on the Governor of Annaba "**Brimi**" to accelerate the development movement and promote the economy in those areas that were known to be marginalised in previous years and allocate large financial shares to revive investments and cover other old and new projects among them:

Table 2: Development Strategy for Seraïdi Municipality as a Shadow Region in 2020

Strategy for Seraïdi Municipality as a Shadow Region in 2020	
Sports and Tourism Sector	1. Allocation of 200 billion centimes for the rehabilitation of the Creps Sports Complex as a tourist and sports resort to generate diversified income.
Education sector	1. Allocating 22 billion centimetres for the construction of a high school in the municipality of Seraïdi 2. Solving the issue of heating, school food and transport
Sanitation	1. Connecting the Edough neighbourhood to the sewage network and the Sidi Tamam infiltration basin, in addition to reconfiguring the sewage channels in Dar Samir, and renovating the damaged drainage complex in the Wad El Sheikh neighbourhood.
Health sector	Equipping a treatment room in Ain Barbar.
Fighting unemployment	1. Supporting residents of tourism and agricultural areas to invest in these two fields by creating co-operatives and start-ups that provide jobs and create wealth
Housing	1. By transferring rural housing benefits to citizens of shadow areas who do not have title deeds

Local and central authorities have also noted that shadow zone projects create a developmental and economic dynamic, whether by employing labour in the implementation of projects or by facilitating the daily lives of citizens and farmers engaged in various activities, whether agricultural or livestock (**Hussein Dredh, 2021**).

Recommendations:

- Develop a culture of decentralisation through equitable planning, which will help to reduce feelings of exclusion and promote social inclusion.
- The rehabilitation and redevelopment of old and run-down residential areas, such as the old town, would revive life in these neighbourhoods and restore the moral value of them and their inhabitants.
- Rethinking the face of the city by creating high quality residential complexes worthy of the city, which would reduce informal settlements, reduce segregation and promote the principle of equal opportunities among citizens.

7. Conclusion

It can be said that 'social marginalization' is an expression of more severe cases of poverty and exploitation, a concept that expands more than one meaning to include deprivation, poverty, inequality, lack of social justice, exclusion from participation and social interaction, deprivation from development, Anthony Giddens argues that this concept refers to 'the ways in which paths are blocked for large numbers of individuals to engage in broad social life, and in this sense this concept refers to a process of mechanisms of exclusion, For example, families living in deteriorating housing conditions send their children to low quality schools and scarce employment opportunities, and are deprived of the opportunities necessary for them to improve their situation compared to other categories of society, and this concept differs from poverty in the strict sense of the word because it focuses on a broad system of factors that exclude individuals and groups from the opportunities available to the majority of the population (**Anthony Giddens, 2005, p. 394**) and the research orientation in this social, political and economic phenomenon tried to determine the position of Annaba Province in terms of development strategies.

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