

Health Policy and Its Impact on Sustainable Development in Algeria

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Received: 17/03/2025

Accepted: 24/03/2025

Published:31/03/2025

Abstract:

The study of the relationship between health policy and sustainable development in Algeria showed significant progress in certain areas, such as improving access to healthcare and improvements in health indicators. However, it still faces major challenges in areas such as financing, infrastructure, and bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. To achieve sustainable health development, Algeria must strengthen preventive health policies, improve the financing of the healthcare system, and enhance collaboration between various stakeholders, including the government, private sector, and civil society.

Keywords : Health policy, Sustainable development, Algeria.



I- Introduction:

Health has become one of the most important concerns. development ", whether advanced or underdeveloped, as one of the most important factors contributing to the achievement of development is both sustainable and one of the two indicators While health is valuable in itself, it is also a key to increasing production and increasing economic productivity. s health conditions, which is the nucleus and goal of development a healthy human being is capable of building sound and sustainable development, On the other hand, if the direct and major factor in the beauty of health is the control of the disease and the medicine to treat it There are many critical factors that fall outside the direct control of the health sector, and this is acknowledged by the Imliyah and Sanitation sectors. Education, militia, rural, housing, energy, agriculture, especially the environment.

The last years of Algerian society have witnessed some growth and achievements in many fields, including the improvement of people's health. There have been dramatic changes in the quantity and quality of the health landscape in terms of the number of structures, capabilities and health professionals over the past decade, especially as the private sector has entered the field of health and become a supportive support for the State's efforts to promote health in Algeria.

Despite all this progress in the field of health, the weakness of the state of health constitutes one of the constraints to the sustainable development process. From this point of view, the problem that can be raised in this area is a fundamental question :

- ✓ **What is the role of health policy in achieving sustainable development in Algeria ?**

In response to this problem, we divided the study into several themes:

I. Conceptual framework for health policy and sustainable development

1. Definition of health policy:

The definition of the International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences indicates that health policy is: "A set of basic health goals and programmes, accompanied by a series of actions embodied in legislative, executive and proposed action programmes of Governments, defines how to make public health goals accompanied by how to implement and manage health services from the Government's involvement and influence in private and public sector health activities with a view to achieving overall goals efficiently and effectively. (عمر 2011، 16)

2. Objectives and importance of health policy:

The health policy clarifies how decisions are made in the health institution, and outlines the foundation's outline and objectives that the health institution wishes to achieve.

Conversely, health policies emerge through (دياب 2009، 216):

- ✓ Health policy is formulated by the highest authority in the State or by the highest level of management in the health institution. Therefore, the process of responding to a health policy is as close as possible when it relates to higher administrative levels. The commitment, response and attention to health policy is closely linked to the level of management that has made the decision and health policy.
- ✓ There are a number of ways and means of developing health policies. Health policy methods and methods are important to these policies. Sometimes these policies are designed to respond to the demands of senior management and therefore policy is taken in a certain way, sometimes to achieve certain goals. The importance of health policy stems from the nature of the goal for which it was set.

- ✓ The health sector varies from State to State but is generally made up of the public health sector and the private health sector, as well as some other health sectors depending on the nature of those States' health system, but either of them can make a health policy.
- ✓ Health policy is vague as a result of the lack of clarity on the real reasons for formulating some health policies. Health policy may be formulated for political or historical reasons. The ambiguity of some health policies has given it importance in terms of lack of real knowledge of the goal to be achieved from such policies.
- 3. **Health Policy Divisions:** Many thinkers have divided the health policy as follows (دياب، إدارة خدمات الرعاية الصحية 2009، 218-219):
 - ✓ **Dr. Walt's Division 1994 :** The Health Policy Section is a big policy and a small policy, so that the big one has the distinction of caring for all people in society and for long-term goals. Small policy is concerned with the community and short-term goals. It also addresses a specific rather than a cross-cutting theme.
 - ✓ **Dr. Frank's Division 1994 :** Health Policy Section to four levels:
 - **Level of the system :** this level of health is linked to the general manifestations and matters of the health system and the extent of planning and education of human health resources. It also explains the nature of the relationship between the different health sectors within the health system and the health sector's relationship with the systems and other unhealthy sectors.
 - **Programme level:** This level of policy identifies health-care priorities and the nature of health programmes to be implemented in order to achieve the goals of the health system, as well as identifying ways and means through which material and human resources are ideally distributed and utilized as much as possible.
 - **Level of Regulation:** This level determines the way work, productivity, health service delivery and how to increase the quality and level of the health service.
 - **Performance level:** This level contains the executive systems for working in the health institution as an illustration of the applicable management information system, workers' affairs systems, incentives and operational work systems for the rest of the health units of the institution.
 - **Overall Policy Division :** Policies are divided into :
 - **Meta Policies:** Those Policies Set the Rules on which the Decision Maker Relies in Making Policies in the health sector incorporate the system and policy development .
 - **Mega policies:** The elite policy includes an advanced set of policies and includes indicative policies and guidance for other lower-level policies. The level of mega in the health policy can be determined if :
 - Clarification of the role of the health institution in the economic or social development or health sector of the State‘
 - Basic rule and values of the health institution‘

- Clarify the priorities and objectives that the Foundation wishes to achieve

4. **Health Policy Components** : Health Policy Components are :

- **Political commitment** : The formulation and implementation of the National Health Policy requires an explicit political commitment to achieving and programming the desired goals, in the sense that before the policy is formulated it is necessary to take unequivocal decisions binding on all sectors concerned with health. Public opinion must be mobilized and clarified. All obstacles can be overcome and financial resources provided for the policy's implementation.
- **Social considerations** : health policy is integrated with comprehensive social and economic policies, and aims to improve the quality of life especially for the disadvantaged, such as reducing the gap between rich and poor, in the sense of allocating a portion of resources to the groups of society that need it most.
- **Community participation** : Appropriate measures must be taken to ensure the free and informed participation of society, so that individuals, families and societies bear responsibility for their health and well-being regardless of Governments' responsibility for the health of their people, which is considered a social and economic necessity.
- **Management reform**: in order for health policy to be efficient and implemented, it is necessary to strengthen and adapt structures and systems in all sectors, including The health sector, as well as joint coordination between the health sector and all other sectors, must be reviewed to ensure coordination at all levels in order to strengthen these systems at the local level.
- **Allocation of financial resources**: In developing the national health policy, the need to allocate financial resources and increase the health budget to the maximum extent possible, given the increase in the cost of service and output, the increase in workers' wages and the rapid advancement of health technology.
- **Enactment of legislation**: New legislation on environmental protection, social security and health insurance should be enacted. It would be useful to have access to health legislation in all States.

II. **Fundamentals of Sustainable Development**

- **Definition of sustainable development** : As long as the concept of development is linked to economic growth, it is even narrowly conceived to be very similar to the concept of economic growth. With the issuance of UNDP reports, the concept of development is no longer limited to economic growth, but goes beyond it to emphasize the need to improve the material and moral conditions and quality of life and political freedoms. Aspects related to human life, and thus a further shift has emerged in the definition of the concept of development, adding a time dimension to it on the basis that justice must be provided in the benefits of development for future generations, thereby becoming sustainable development.

In other words, development is sustainable: "the ambition for a better tomorrow for meeting economic and social levels without compromising the

environment and its resources, since achieving development purposes depends on the resources provided by the environment (الرفاعي 2006، 2).

- **Basic components of sustainable development :** In order to establish the concept of sustainable development, a number of key elements must be found, which are the pillars of sustainable development (خامرة 2007، 31-33):
- **Addressing the human needs of the population :** the basic function of sustainable development is to redirect resources to ensure that the basic needs of society are met and their standard of living improved. Therefore, we find them to be very grounded in the issue of poverty eradication on the conviction that a factor endemic to poverty and inequality will undoubtedly be vulnerable to environmental, social and economic crises.
- **Environmental economy:** The economy is the nervous system of interactions between the environment and development, so sustainable development depends on how successfully the economic system and the ecosystem balance.
- **Environmentally sound technology (clean technology):** Sustainable development runs counter to environmentally harmful technology, and to achieve sustainable development, the technology used must be reoriented, making it more environmentally friendly, less resource and energy-friendly and generating less pollution and waste.
- **The Principles of Sustainable Development:** Sustainable Development is a set of principles that we can mention as follows (عوينان 2008، 26):
- **Careful prioritization:** the seriousness of environmental problems and the scarcity of financial resources have necessitated strict prioritization and phased implementation of treatment procedures for problems that must be addressed without delay.
- Rational use of depleted environmental resources and cessation of waste in unjustified extravagance, investment in securing alternative resources
- **Utilization of each dollar:** most environmental policies, including successful policies, were unbarred and developing countries could not use high-cost methods traditionally used in industrialized countries;
- Seizing each other's profit opportunities: some gains in the beauty of the environment will involve costs, trade-offs and others can be achieved as subsidiaries of policies designed to improve efficiency, reduce poverty and reduce support for the use of natural resources is the clearest profit-for-all policy.
- **Dimensions of sustainable development:** Sustainable development is addressed in overlapping, integrated dimensions and can be limited to:
 - **Economic development:** maximizing equity in the distribution of wealth
 - **Social development:** equality, cohesion and social mobility
 - **Environmental conservation:** natural resources.

III. Health policy's relationship to sustainable development in Algeria :

1. **Health Sector Realit :** Algeria's health policy has witnessed several developments depending on the determinants in which it has been governed, which may be mentioned below:

The beginning of the 1990s was also marked by the establishment of practical health programmes, including the National Programme to Combat Child Mortality, but the health system continued to suffer from a swing in the absence of clear targets, as demonstrated by citizens' protests and the scaling down of incentives with poor composition. It was also dominated by concerns about the provision of medicines and the organization of urgent social files. This period was characterized by the many problems that surfaced at the end of the 1980s, especially with the crisis of low oil prices and the worsening economic and social situation, which ended in an economic and social crisis with medical neglect and resulted in the private sector. The Algerian Government paid attention to prevention policy and the clinic system, which emerged in 1991 through the introduction of a reform programme aimed at (195، 2010، كريم جوان):

- Openness to the ocean while trying to renew guardianship and better budget management ;
- Development of adjustment and responsiveness mechanisms through a comprehensive five-year path, and given the political instability, the programme's efforts have not been successful owing to the lack of clear objectives and the absence of private sector control in the face of a severe deterioration of the public sector.

2. **Foundations for sustainable health development in Algeria :** Achieving sustainable health development in Algeria requires a comprehensive approach that integrates various factors, including social, economic, and environmental considerations. Below are key foundations for achieving sustainable health development in Algeria :

1. **Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure:** A robust and well-distributed healthcare infrastructure is essential for sustainable health development. This includes improving hospitals, clinics, and medical centers, especially in remote and underserved areas, ensuring all citizens have access to quality healthcare services.

2. **Improving Public Health Awareness and Education:** Promoting health education and raising awareness about preventive healthcare are vital components. Public health campaigns focusing on issues such as nutrition, hygiene, vaccination, and disease prevention can reduce the burden of preventable diseases, enhancing the overall health of the population.

3. **Emphasizing Primary Healthcare and Prevention:** Prioritizing primary healthcare and preventive services, such as vaccinations, screenings, and early detection programs, can significantly reduce the incidence of diseases. A focus on prevention over treatment will contribute to long-term health sustainability and reduce healthcare costs.

4. **Integrating Health Policies with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) :** Algeria's health policies should align with global and national sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly those related to health and well-being (SDG 3). This integration ensures that healthcare initiatives contribute to broader objectives such as poverty reduction, gender equality, and economic growth.

5. **Promoting Health Equity :** Ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic background or geographical location, is fundamental. Reducing disparities in health outcomes between different groups within society helps to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable health system.

6. Investment in Human Capital : A sustainable health system relies on a skilled and motivated workforce. Investing in the training and continuous education of healthcare professionals is essential to ensure a high-quality healthcare workforce that can respond to evolving health challenges.

7. Collaboration Between Public and Private Sectors: Strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors in healthcare delivery can lead to more efficient and innovative solutions. Public-private partnerships can enhance healthcare services and bring new technologies and resources to the health sector.

8. Addressing Environmental Health Challenges: Algeria faces environmental challenges such as pollution, climate change, and water scarcity, which can have direct impacts on public health. Sustainable health development should incorporate strategies to address these environmental issues and mitigate their effects on public health.

9. Fostering Research and Innovation in Healthcare: Investing in health research and the development of innovative healthcare solutions is crucial for a sustainable health system. This includes research on local health issues, traditional medicine, and the implementation of modern technologies in healthcare.

10. Sustainable Health Financing: Adequate and sustainable financing for the healthcare sector is necessary to ensure its long-term sustainability. This involves diversifying funding sources, improving the efficiency of healthcare spending, and addressing financial barriers to access for the population.

11. Strengthening Governance and Health System Management: Effective governance and transparent management of health systems are key to ensuring that resources are used efficiently and that health policies are implemented effectively. Good governance supports accountability, reduces corruption, and ensures that health services are available and accessible.

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