

**Encouraging Local Population Participation as a Means of Achieving
Development
– A Case Study of a Local Project in Rabia Taher District, Bab Ezzouar
Municipality, Algeria –**

Dehbi Wahiba

wahiba.dehbi@univ-alger2.dz

University of Algiers 02 Abou El Kacem Saâdallah, Algeria

Kennouche Maroua

University of Algiers 02 Abou El Kacem Saâdallah, Algeria

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Abstract:

Population participation plays an important role in local development, as solidarity among residents contributes to the creation of a set of local organizations for the implementation of various projects. Based on this premise, the research problem was formulated as follows: What are the factors that contribute to encouraging participatory action within the local community to achieve development? After conducting a field survey, we proposed the hypothesis that population participation is governed by two factors: the first is material, represented by the need to achieve a certain benefit, and the second is moral, represented by perceptions of the area, neighborhood relations, trust, and others. We used the case study method to examine a local project carried out by a group of residents. Finally, we concluded that these local participatory actions are determined by material and social variables, and that investing in them constitutes a means of achieving development.

Keywords: Population participation, local development, local solidarity, informal organizations.

Introduction:

The issue of population participation is considered a central topic in research concerned with social and development studies, as this approach plays an important role in shaping and building the relationship between residents and social institutions. It also significantly contributes to producing citizens with a greater sense of civic responsibility and who are more connected to the area in which they live. Therefore, most research and studies concerned with local development, sustainable development, and other related fields emphasize the necessity of involving residents in various development projects at both the local and national levels. Since the local community constitutes the starting point for achieving development, it was necessary for us, as researchers in sociology, to discover the driving force behind the process of local participation among citizens and to investigate the factors motivating local solidarity and social cohesion. The pioneers of the Chicago School consider the factor of place as the basis for the establishment of the local community. According to Park, "the local community carries purely geographical and spatial meanings and associations; even small and large cities, villages, and even the entire world can be considered a local community despite the differences that exist

between them in terms of culture, organization, and interests" (LANNO, 2004, pp. 157-158). The second perspective rejects the geographical considerations of the local community and focuses more on psychological considerations, which is the approach adopted by Tönnies in his works. He states: "The local community is one in which informal, traditional, and emotionally charged relationships between people prevail, as is the case with the pattern of human relations in an agricultural village" (TONNIES, 2010, p. 170). The third perspective, which carries a more comprehensive meaning, focuses on the idea that the local community is an integrated system of relationships among individuals who inhabit a common area. This is the view adopted by Robert MacIver, who considers the local community as the public life of a group of people sharing the same residential area. He states: "It is a social system that brings together its members through a set of common interests, where general values and a sense of belonging prevail to the extent that enables them to participate in the fundamental conditions of a shared life" (Al-Joulani, 1993, p. 160). MacIver's approach gives greater importance to the factor of interest, as he believes that this system, namely the local community, is not determined by moral factors as much as it is established upon tangible material factors, essentially based on interest. Based on the above, we formulated the following research question: What are the factors that contribute to motivating participatory action among residents in order to achieve local development? To answer this question, we proposed the following assumption: The greater the residents' need to achieve a public-interest benefit, the more this contributes to increasing solidarity-based action among them in order to fulfill that need. The second assumption included all the moral influences that contribute, in one way or another, to increasing participatory action, stating that: Individuals' perceptions of one another and of the area play an important role in motivating participatory action.

In our field study, we relied on the case study method using the interview technique with 11 families who participated in carrying out the project of improving Building 26 in Rabia Taher District, Bab Ezzouar. It should be noted that the building is inhabited by 28 families.

1. Concepts Related to the Subject:

A. Population Participation: According to the documents issued by the Associative Space, population participation is defined as: "An approach to managing development-related activities and actions based on establishing a continuous and permanent dialogue between the concerned citizens and technical agencies within a framework of solidarity and territorial proximity. It also relies on local actors in identifying and analyzing problems and finding solutions" (Baizou, 2015, p. 56). This idea clearly calls for and confirms that participatory action is fundamentally based on the idea of solidarity between certain parties in order to achieve a collective benefit or find solutions to a given problem. In another definition, population participation is considered "a voluntary process of a collective nature with a specific objective, which necessarily requires the contribution of all individuals, groups, categories, segments, social classes, and associations, with the aim of exchanging certain benefits" (Sagour, 2007/2008, pp. 130-131). It is also defined in other studies as "the set of mechanisms that allow individuals to influence the adoption and implementation of public decisions; it also means the possibility of granting individuals a certain share in the exercise of power" (Messaoudi, 2017, p. 397). The previous concepts share the belief that participation is a form of practical

interaction between individuals and groups in order to achieve a specific benefit. This interactive process also contributes to improving the prevailing living conditions at the local level. Participation in the improvement and organization of residential neighborhoods in urban areas, or villages and rural settlements in rural areas, constitutes an important factor in local community development. Some previous studies have addressed the concept of population participation as a necessity for achieving social development, including the works presented by Dr. Madani Safar Zitoun within various international programs such as PUCA and PRUD, concerning the revitalization of precarious housing and community development through involving citizens in the process of building their homes. This was presented in his article entitled: "Participatory Methodologies in Maghreb Cities: Governance 'from Below' Doomed to Failure?" In this article, he explains how the Algerian government gradually moved from the stage of being the sole actor in housing construction during the single-party era to adopting the idea of involving other actors in the housing construction process as a form of participatory democracy aimed at achieving sustainable development. In this regard, he states:

"We have witnessed a much broader opening of the field of collective action for individuals in recent years compared to the past. We have observed the involvement of many actors in the process of housing construction and distribution through the establishment of various institutional 'bridges' and the development of mediation processes, leaving local communities to deal directly with residents" (SAFAR ZITOUN, 2015, p. 12). According to him, achieving development "is achieved by opening the way for collective initiatives based on strong and organized social ties..." He provides the example of the village project of Tafilalt Tajdit located in Ghardaïa, where the Beni Isguen community, a Mozabite tribe, carried out a participatory initiative represented by the Participatory Social Housing Program, in which the state contributes between 40% and 70% of the cost of housing construction. Meanwhile, the Amidoul Association undertook the self-organization of financial resources in order to assist residents in completing the construction of their homes. The development of contemporary urban communities should move away from centralized mobilizations for various projects and invest more in solidarity resources within local communities, while encouraging traditional informal organizations to contribute to the implementation of projects and, consequently, the achievement of social development (SAFAR ZITOUN, 2015, p. 15).

B. Local Development: The concept of local development was mentioned in the programs and policies adopted by most voluntary organizations in the United States of America and Britain, which sought to improve the economic and social conditions of rural communities at the local level (Ahmed Houchat Raouf Bey, 2017, p. 271). This concept then evolved until discussions about the development and advancement of local communities in all urban and spatial studies became fundamentally associated with the ability to activate the role of citizens in the development process, as they constitute the central element around which this process revolves. The more capable citizens are of addressing the various problems faced by residents, the greater their contribution to enhancing the ability to achieve local development.

In this regard, Ibrahim Baizou points out that: "Development is the active participation of various groups within society in order to achieve two fundamental benefits: assisting experts and technicians in preparing and providing solutions to problems in a way that does not conflict

with their customs and aspirations, while also contributing to making the project focused on the real and priority needs of the population" (Baizou, 2015, p. 68).

C. Informal Organizations:

By informal local organizations, we mean the various relationships that emerge as a result of social interaction among residents of the same area in order to achieve a specific objective. According to Ahmed Zaki Badawi's definition, they are: "A system of non-personal relationships that develops spontaneously as a result of the interaction of individuals within the formal organization. Every formal organization also has an informal aspect related to its social organization, which is not mixed with or officially established, and it also includes social norms, traditions, feelings, and sub-groups that influence the functioning of the formal organization but are not recognized by it" (Badawi, 1982, p. 200).

They therefore refer to all interactions that occur spontaneously among groups, where practices are not subject to formal laws and legislation, but rather governed by general principles established by residents among themselves.

D. Local Solidarity: Émile Durkheim is considered the first to use the term "social solidarity." He divided it into two types: organic solidarity and mechanical solidarity. The first is prevalent in traditional societies governed by kinship relations, whereas the second refers to the solidarity that results from the social division of labor among individuals in local communities and modern cities. It represents a moral bond that unites individuals as a single group and is also considered the foundation of social cohesion (PRADES, 1993, p. 22). This concept will be examined in greater detail in our research paper.

2. Field Investigation:

A. Spatial and Temporal Framework: Our fieldwork was conducted in Rabia Taher District, Bab Ezzouar, Algiers, after it was selected by the services of the Wilaya of Algiers as a model neighborhood for implementing a selective waste-sorting project. During our investigation, we noticed the presence of a building in the neighborhood that differed from the surrounding buildings, namely Building No. 26.

After conducting an initial survey, we found that the residents of the building had been working for seven years on renovating various facilities related to the building. At the beginning, residents cooperated among themselves to complete and repair damaged basic facilities such as staircases, the electric elevator, drainage systems, and others.

The project then continued to include other works that had not been initially planned, such as decorating the interior and exterior halls, preparing the road leading to the building, planting vegetation, and so on. The fieldwork process lasted approximately eight months, during which we conducted 11 recorded interviews.

We selected Mrs. Ben Mesbah Farida, the project manager, and her first and second assistants for the first three interviews, while the remaining nine interviews were conducted with neighbors who either participated or did not participate in the monthly solidarity contributions, under the supervision of Professor Dr. Madani Safar Zitoun from the University of Algiers 02.

A. Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Sample: (See Appendix No. 01)

The table shows that the gender distribution of the respondents was almost equal, with 6 females and 5 males out of a total of 11 respondents. Regarding the respondents' age, we find that most

of them are concentrated in the age group of 56 years and above, with a rate of 4/11. This is followed by the age group of 26–36 years, with 3/11 cases, while the remaining respondents are distributed between the two age groups of 36–46 and 46–56 years, with a rate of 2/11 for each age group.

The third section presents the educational level of the sample, most of whom are concentrated at the university education level, with 8/11 respondents, while the secondary education level represents 3/11 cases, and the primary education level represents only one case. The fourth section presents the marital status of the respondents, where we find that the majority are married, with a rate of 7/11, while 2/11 are single and 2/11 are widowed.

B. Social Characteristics: (See Appendix No. 01)

This section provides a comprehensive view of the respondents' housing conditions, based on four housing characteristics: the floor, apartment number, nature of housing, and date of first residence in the dwelling. We observe that most respondents are distributed across all floors of the building, as we deliberately ensured that the study included all residents of the building without excluding any resident.

The third section indicates that the majority of building residents are homeowners, with a rate of 8/11, while 3/11 of the respondents are tenants (renters).

The fourth section represents the date of first residence in the dwelling, where we find that most respondents belong to the category of those who have occupied the dwelling for more than 10 years, with 8/11 cases, whereas the remaining respondents have occupied their dwellings for less than 10 years, with 3/11 cases.

C. Professional Activity: (See Appendix No. 01)

The majority of the sample belongs to the category of employed individuals, with 7/11 cases engaged in various occupations. Two respondents out of 11 are retired, while 2/11 are unemployed (not working).

D. Monthly Contribution to the Building Project: (See Appendix No. 01)

The section related to respondents presents those who contribute to paying the monthly or annual expenses for the renovation of the building. We observe that 9/11 respondents pay the required financial contributions continuously, while 2/11 do not pay these contributions, meaning that they do not participate with the other residents.

E. Type of Contribution: (See Appendix No. 01)

The final section explains the type of activity or contribution carried out by residents, whether financial, manual, or both. We observe that respondents contribute financially through paying the monthly subscription fees, or manually through participating in maintenance and construction works.

Here, the rate is equal between those who participate financially only and those who participate in both forms: 4/11 contribute financially and manually, while 4/11 contribute financially only. One case (1/11) contributes manually; it should be noted that this respondent is a young person whose head of household contributes to the monthly subscription. The remaining two cases do not participate in the project.

3. Results:

A. Population Participation is Subject to Need:

What is distinctive here is that the neighborhood relationship constitutes the primary link among residents, as they share the same residential space and benefit from the same services. They are therefore subject to the necessity of sharing public services such as the electric elevator, water network, building hall, and others.

Therefore, we attempted to ask the respondents some questions in order to identify the most important works that were carried out through their local solidarity and that received the greatest appreciation from them. Their positions were as follows:

Table No. 01: Shows the Works Most Appreciated by Residents

Response	Respondent
The electric elevator, water	Respondent01
The electric elevator, water	Respondent02
The staircases, cleanliness of the neighborhood outside	Respondent03
The staircases, water network	Respondent04
The external fountain	Respondent05
Planting vegetation, cleanliness, strengthening neighborhood relations	Respondent06
The spirit of community, improvement of the building's condition	Respondent07
Not concerned with the question	Respondent08
Not concerned with the question	Respondent09
The cleanliness of the building, the electric elevator, water	Respondent10
Everything, especially the electric elevator	Respondent11

Most respondents tend to appreciate projects of a material nature that they participated in carrying out. The question aimed at investigating the main objective behind their collective solidarity clearly shows the respondents' high degree of satisfaction with everything material, without taking into consideration the symbolic meaning of collective action.

The majority of respondents expressed their appreciation of service-oriented projects as a form of meeting their needs. Since this need was of a public nature, as it could only be achieved through cooperation because it existed within a space benefiting all residents of the building, it was necessary for them to come together and work on fulfilling that need. Examples include the electric elevator, which was mentioned at a rate of 4/11, the water network, also mentioned at a rate of 4/11, and the staircases, mentioned at a rate of 2/11.

In this context, one female respondent expressed this by stating: "I suffer from diabetes, and I was very happy when they installed the l'ascenseur (elevator) for us. I felt relieved because I suffered a lot when climbing the stairs. Sometimes my blood sugar would drop, and I would even feel embarrassed to knock on the neighbors' doors to ask them for help. Now, thank God, I can go up to my apartment easily."

On the other hand, we notice that residents did not express the symbolic aspect of the project, such as cooperation, mutual support, and the expansion of social relations among them, except in only two cases, when two respondents expressed their appreciation of the idea due to the growth of the spirit of community and the strengthening of neighborhood relations. One of the female respondents, the initiator of the idea, Mrs. Ben Mesbah, stated: "We did many things, but what I liked the most was that we started to understand each other. Honestly, when I tell them to come after Friday prayer, they all come. You feel that these neighbors really want to help each other."

In another question addressed to the respondents, we sought to identify the main reason that motivated them to attend the meetings: Was it their desire to exchange ideas and build new relationships, or was it merely to achieve a personal benefit? The answers were as follows:

Table No. 02: Shows the Reason behind Participation

For Paying the Financial Contributions	For Consultation and Exchange of Ideas	Respondent number
×		Respondent01
×		Respondent02
	×	Respondent03
×		Respondent04
×		Respondent05
×	×	Respondent06
×		Respondent07
Not concerned		Respondent08
Not concerned		Respondent09
×		Respondent10
×		Respondent11
08	02	Total

The previous table shows that 8/11 respondents expressed that the main objective of attending the meetings was only to provide the financial contributions. Meanwhile, 2/11 of them considered that the reason motivating them to attend the meetings was, on the one hand, the desire to express their opinions and exchange ideas, and on the other hand, to pay the financial contributions. The remaining two cases were not concerned with the answer because they were not involved in the contribution.

It can be said that the respondents' reference to material needs is strongly evident at the expense of the symbolic and moral aspects of participation. They are not greatly interested in getting to know each other, becoming closer, or exchanging ideas, despite their participation in the same project, as much as they are interested in achieving material needs. This is also confirmed by the statement of one of the female respondents (R01), who expressed her opinion in this context: "Sister, we do not interfere in what she is doing as long as Ben Mesbah is in charge. She knows what to do. They tell us about the money and what they want to do, and our role is to pay. The important thing is that this thing benefits all of us... I take money from my children's expenses

to pay, and I do not want to remain in a difficult situation... You know that the authorities do nothing..."

All of this once again indicates that need is an important factor in carrying out such projects, especially when we observe, through field observation, the complete absence of the concerned institutions. What matters to residents is only improving the services of public facilities in the building, such as lighting, water, staircases, and others. It should be noted that the two respondents who stated that the purpose of their meetings was the exchange of ideas are the managers of the local project. In this regard, the initiator of the idea stated: "I gather them in order to explain what I want to do. I tell them so that they are aware of the situation. Whoever wants to add an idea, or feels that we are not working properly, can tell me. I have no problem; I would like them to help me with ideas..."

After examining the extent to which the factor of need influences the motivation for participatory action, we found that the local solidarity established by the residents of the building emerged as a strong desire to achieve material needs. The fundamental factor behind the formation of various local organizations is need. Residents are compelled, due to the absence of specialized bodies and institutions responsible for maintaining the public space and neighborhood facilities where they live, to cooperate in order to improve their living conditions. This pushes them to form and create organizations among themselves aimed at improving the general situation of the neighborhood and its various facilities. Therefore, the need to achieve a benefit of a public nature contributes significantly to increasing solidarity and cooperation among residents in order to achieve it.

B. Neighborhood Relations, Residential Space, and Time as Factors Enhancing Participatory Action:

In this approach, we will attempt to measure the extent to which moral factors influence the encouragement of participatory action among residents, such as neighborhood relations and perceptions of the residential space. Does a strong neighborhood relationship really contribute to making neighbors cooperate with each other in order to achieve local development?

Durkheim is considered the first to use the term "social representation," dividing it into two types: "individual representations" and "collective representations." This concept was later developed through studies concerned with social psychology, including the studies conducted by S. Moscovici, who considers social representations as the various perceptions created by the human mind regarding a particular subject. He states: "It is a structure located between the concept and the perception, contributing to the formation of behaviors and the orientation of social knowledge. It is characterized by focusing on social relationships and the pressure towards discoveries. It takes shape through different forms of communication: dissemination, assertion, and rumor, reaching the processes of objectification and classification" (Aqis, 2013, p. 41).

Therefore, representations cannot be conceived without specific objects. Denis Jodelet defines them as: "A form of socially developed knowledge shared among members of a group, having a practical purpose in coordinating a common reality. From this perspective, the group gives a specific symbol to a certain object, making this object carry the same meaning within their collective perceptions" (D. Jodelet, p. 36).

Another definition of social representations considers them as: "The mental activity carried out by an individual or a group in order to construct a reality toward a certain object by giving it a specific meaning" (Jouet, 2006, p. 13).

If we refer to Louis Wirth's statement in his book *Urbanism as a Way of Life*: "You are my neighbor because you live near me" (L. Joseph, 1979, p. 113), we cannot deny the role played by sharing the same space in creating different forms of neighborhood relations in terms of strength. Depaule states in this regard: "The thresholds of the dwelling, its windows, doors, and location are all important points through which the relationship between the resident and others is formed" (Soualmia, 2013, p. 182).

Accordingly, if we apply this idea promoted by Depaule and others to our field study, we observe that all the actors involved in this project live in the same building. The respondents' answers to our question concerning the nature of their relationship all indicated cohesion, solidarity, and unity. One of the female respondents stated: "Look, I always tell them that here in the building we are like relatives... like one big family home... one door brings us all together, and everything in the building benefits all of us."

It should also be mentioned that the neighborhood relationship characterizing the residents of the building is marked by a long-term continuity. The data obtained through fieldwork indicate that the participants in the process have been living there for many years and share long-lasting relationships. Among them are Mrs. Ben Mesbah, the initiator of the idea, and her first and second assistants, who have lived in the building since 1981. Therefore, they know all the neighbors according to their statements. One of the women, answering whether she knew all the residents of the building, said: "Bien sûr, I know them all, except those who came recently; I do not talk to them."

Most respondents' answers also indicate that they have known each other for a long time; they are like a family household. One female respondent stated: "We are like a family home here... we are like one big household... the elderly man and woman... and the women of the family..." We also notice the refusal of new tenant residents to participate in this project, as they do not know the building's residents well and believe that their relationship with them will end once they leave. Therefore, they deal with others superficially. One female tenant stated: "Sister, I do not mix with them. I only talk to my neighbor who is opposite me... I only used to ask her about my mother when she was sick."

They refuse to interact with other residents and do not wish to build relationships with neighbors because, according to them, the residential space is temporary and the dwelling is merely a place to sleep. Therefore, their relationship with others remains superficial and not profound. It can be said that individuals' perceptions of each other and of the space in which they live have a significant influence on the formation and strengthening of the spirit of cooperation and collective action. We did not find a single case among the project contributors who lived outside the building; all participants were residents of the building and lived there permanently. Even residents who owned apartments in the building but did not reside there permanently refused to participate. The head of the group stated in this regard: "Sister, there are many who do not pay while they have apartments here... There is a neighbor here, a doctor, he is well-off but he does

not pay... He told us: I am not always here, I have closed my apartment, I do not need anything here..."

C. Individuals' Perceptions of the Dwelling and Its Role in Influencing the Enhancement of Population Participation:

The concept of the dwelling carries a broad and interconnected meaning with the concept of residence. The word habitat in Latin (habitalum) refers to the organized place that allows individuals to fulfill their physiological and emotional needs (ROBERT, 2007, p. 622). Frédéric Engels defines habitat as: "The entire environment in which humans live; it is the space that develops through a specific social group. As for the dwelling (l'habitation), it carries, according to him, a dynamic and evolving character that includes shelter and the family occupying it" (Engels, 1974, p. 192).

Mohamed Al-Suwaidi also defines it as: "A necessary need like clothing, food, education, and health. In addition to being a shelter, it is the place where the individual seeks warmth and through which they are able to express their personality and inclinations by creating and arranging objects within the home according to a specific style" (Al-Suwaidi, 1985, pp. 23-24). Thus, the dwelling is the place through which the self is constructed. It is also considered a social mechanism for ensuring psychological well-being, as well as the place that protects us from external dangers. In this regard, Bachelard states: "The inhabitant experiences relationships of love and hatred toward his dwelling, toward those who share this dwelling with him, or toward what surrounds it. The dwelling is connected to the identity of its owner, who is in turn connected to the group" (SEGAUD, 1998, p. 32).

In this part of the research, we attempted to establish the relationship between the nature of the dwelling and participation in order to determine the extent to which the nature of housing influences collective action. This is illustrated by the following table

Table: Shows the Influence of the Nature of Housing on Participatory Action

Subscription		Nature of Housing		Type of Housing and Participation Respondent
non shared	shared	rented	owned	
	×		×	Respondent01
	×		×	Respondent02
	×		×	Respondent03
	×	×		Respondent04
	×		×	Respondent05
	×		×	Respondent06
	×		×	Respondent07
×		×		Respondent08
×		×		Respondent09
	×		×	Respondent10
	×		×	Respondent11
2	9	3	8	Total

The previous data, through which we assess the relationship between the nature of housing and residents' participation in the building project, indicate that all homeowners participate in the collective solidarity process for the development of the building (8/11), whereas among the three tenant households, only one contributes. This demonstrates that the nature of housing, whether ownership or rental, significantly affects residents' participation and local solidarity, because the resident of the building, as an owner, develops the idea that the building is part of his/her home, while tenants perceive their presence as temporary (non-permanent). They lack this sense of belonging because they will eventually leave the building sooner or later. This makes them less willing to contribute with the other residents and leads them to consider their apartments merely as places of rest. One of the interviewed women, respondent No. 04, states: "Sister, I go to work and come back only to sleep; this is a dortoir for me."

It should be noted here that respondent No. 04 does not reside there permanently; she lives in her brother's house and states: "I am living with my brother; he is the one who pays... Yes, it is my mother's house, but he is the one living there. When my mother died, I will take my children and leave... I only help from time to time." All these factors lead them to perceive that they are not obligated to participate with the neighborhood community in any project whatsoever. Respondent No. 08 states in this regard: "Sister, why should I pay with them while I am renting? I already pay a lot for rent. Normally, the person who rented the house to me should pay... This is not my house."

We can therefore conclude that residents' need to benefit from the various facilities within the neighborhood is formed through permanent ownership of the dwelling and disappears when they do not own the dwelling.

.Trust and its role in increasing local solidarity:

In this section, it is necessary to refer to the meaning of trust in order to enable the actual application of this concept in our study. Trust is the positive image that an individual forms of another person. Anthony Giddens considers it "the credibility of a person or a specific system" (Fukuyama, 2015, p. 31). Thus, trust is the construction that emerges in the social individual's mind towards a specific person, group, or organization.

Trust is built within individual imagination according to certain criteria determined by the nature of the relationship between individuals and groups. It is also characterized by two fundamental features: measurability and life cycle. This means that, as individuals, we can trust to a high degree, which is referred to as absolute trust, or we can trust to a lower degree, that is, trust with caution. As for the life cycle, it represents the trust placed by the trusting person in the trusted person, who faces two options: either maintaining it with all its social requirements, or losing it by violating the social norms that should govern it.

Therefore, we observed that the various projects established between individuals or groups are initially based on trust, and the absence of this factor constitutes an obstacle to establishing any partnership relationship or leads to its termination if it already exists. When we raised the question regarding the actual existence of trust among the respondents, their answers were as follows:

Table: showing the impact of the trust factor on participatory work

I do not trust	I trust with reservations	I strongly trust	Respondent
		×	Respondent01
		×	Respondent 02
		×	Respondent 03
		×	Respondent 04
		×	Respondent 05
		×	Respondent 06
		×	Respondent07
Not concerned	Not concerned	Not concened	Respondent08
Concerned	Not concerned	Not concerned	Respondent 09
		×	Respondent10
		×	Respondent11
0	0	07	Total

We observe through the table that the highest rate is 07/11, representing the category “I strongly trust,” followed by a rate of 0/11 of respondents who consider that they trust the representatives and main organizers of the building project but with reservations. We also did not record any case, also 0/11, among the respondents who do not trust the organizers of the project. This indicates that all the neighbors participating in the campaign within the building have confidence in those managing the building project; therefore, they preferred to grant all the powers to Mrs. Ben Mesbah.

It should be noted that this project was suspended for one year due to the desire of some young residents of the building to manage it. However, according to their statements, the neighbors asked Mrs. Ben Mesbah and her assistants to take charge of the process again because she is a trustworthy woman who worked diligently. One of the women states: “...Poor thing, they talked badly about her; they accused Mrs. Ben Mesbah of stealing... Some young people from the building took control of it, but they made a mess, so we removed it from them... We contacted Madame Ben Mesbah again so that she could return... because, in reality, she worked and knows her work well, and we trust her.”

Another woman states in this regard: (Do you trust the parties involved in the project?) It should be noted that this woman is an unstable resident in Algeria (she resides in France): “Of course, I trust them. It’s not that I don’t pay or don’t contribute money... I saw with my own eyes that the other buildings are disgusting... When I come, I find that the work is visible.”

The trust factor is considered a fundamental and essential factor in building participatory relationships between individuals; there is no partnership without trust. Likewise, participatory relationships disappear with the disappearance of trust. This is what led the neighbors to dispense with the services of the young residents of the building and to reassign the management of the project to its first coordinator, Mrs. Ben Mesbah, due to their great confidence in her.

Finally, it can be said that neighborhood relations, representations of space, trust, and the nature of housing are all factors that have significantly influenced the encouragement of participatory work among residents and their local solidarity in carrying out several projects inside and outside the building to improve services and facilitate their daily lives. After studying these factors through direct observation of the research field and oral interviews with respondents, it became evident that the more the following factors are available: spatial proximity, neighborhood relations extending over time, and trust, the more this contributes to increasing local solidarity and cooperation among residents.

Conclusion:

Participatory actions among residents at the local level emerge due to several factors, including those related to the need to achieve material benefits as a result of the neglect of local authorities regarding residents' needs. This contributes to creating the idea of local solidarity as a means of developing and improving the prevailing lifestyle within the local community. Other factors arise from moral dimensions, represented by the nature of neighborhood relations, representations of the residential space, trust, and others. All these factors develop the idea of cooperation among residents through a sense of belonging and local rootedness, making them more united and more concerned with improving and developing the area in which they live, thereby achieving local development.

Finally, residents' participation can be considered a form of practicing democracy, as this process contributes to building a fundamental basis for model urban areas that take into account the social dimensions of urban space. The concept of participatory democracy emerged as a critique of legal and technocratic urban planning, which had dominated the field of urban development and did not take into consideration the social aspect of urban planning and development. For example, the project studied in this research paper demonstrates the role of citizens at the local level. The building improvement project carried out by residents played an important role in increasing local solidarity among the population. This experience also took on other dimensions, as residents of other buildings began to follow the same approach adopted by the residents of Building 26 without involving local authorities.

Such solidarity practices among residents contribute greatly to strengthening the social awareness of managing local affairs and determining the future of their community by themselves, as they are social actors. Moreover, the communication that occurs between neighborhood residents as a result of these projects contributes to the exchange of knowledge and experiences, the strengthening of social relations, and the increase of civic awareness among residents.

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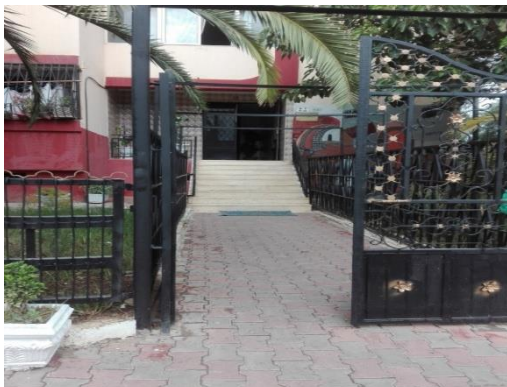
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Appendices:

Appendix No. (01): Table showing the characteristics of the research sample

Its type	Participation	Job	Date of residence	Type of housing	Marital status	Education level	Age	Gender	Number
Material	Shared	Army employee	1990	owned	married	university	45	F	Respondant 01
Material	Shared	Housewife	1982	owned	married	secondary	57	F	Respondant 02
Material + Manual	Shared	Retired	1981	owned	married	primary	65	M	Respondant 03
Material	Shared	Teacher	2015	rented	married	university	36	F	Respondant 04
Material + Manual	Shared	Employee	1980	owned	married	secondary	59	M	Respondant 05
Material + Manual	Shared	Retired	1981	owned	single	university	69	F	Respondant 06
Material	Shared	Manager of a company abroad	1995	owned	married	university	45	F	Respondant 07
/	Non shared	Accountant	2018	rented	married	university	40	F	Respondant 08
/	Non shared	Doctor	2018	rented	married	university	55	M	Respondant 09
Manual	Shared	Daily worker	2000	owned	single	secondary	26	M	Respondant 10
Material + Manual	Shared	Architect	1985	owned	single	university	30	M	Respondant 11

Appendix No. (02): Building Entrance

Appendix No. (03): Photograph of the building's exterior fountain constructed by the residents.



Appendix No. (04): Two photographs showing the members participating in the building project and the method of participation.

