

The Productive Women's Contribution to Promoting Local Economic Development in Southern Algeria

Imane BEBBA

University Center of Illizi
Airport Road, 333 00 Illizi, Algeria
ORCID No. 0000-0001-7973-9622; imane.bebba@cuillizi.dz

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Abstract

The present study aims to investigate the degree to which productive women contribute to promoting local economic development in the desert areas. The study focuses on productive women in these areas in particular because they are among the most vulnerable groups in society, face social and economic obstacles, have limited access to resources, and are less aware of the economic opportunities in desert areas. To achieve the study's goal, a questionnaire was distributed to a purposive sample of 101 women who own a private enterprise, work in seven southern Algerian states, and are active in various economic fields. After analyzing and interpreting the results and testing the hypotheses, it was concluded that the prominent feature of women's projects in southern Algeria is traditional crafts and industries. The findings also revealed a strong correlation between the status and role of productive women in their local community and the extent of their contribution to local economic development, as well as significant differences in the extent of productive women's contribution to local economic development across the nature and location of the project.

Keywords

Productive Woman; Private Project; Economic Potential, Local Community; Local Economic Development; Desert Areas.

Introduction

Economic, social, cultural, and environmental factors are all part of the multidimensional concept of development. Every stakeholder in society must work together to successfully complete the complicated and challenging process of development in all of its forms. As a result, attaining local economic development in each of the nation's regions is the only way to accomplish the more challenging but important objective of achieving comprehensive and equitable economic development.

Moreover, in light of government policies and development programs by international entities, women are recognized as an important part and effective partner in the process of economic development, through increased investments in women's productive roles and the establishment of income-generating microenterprises. Women in desert areas resort to setting up private projects in crafts, traditional industries, agriculture, trade, etc., as well as fulfilling their household chores, yet their contribution to economic activities that drive local economic development is neglected.

In order to determine the extent of women's contributions to the growth of their local community, particularly in desert regions that have the human potential and material resources necessary for successful investment, the following issue must be addressed when studying how to increase women's productivity levels: What is the degree to which productive women contribute to promoting local economic development in desert areas?

To answer the question raised, we opted to raise the following sub-questions:

- Do productive women contribute to local economic development in the states of southern Algeria?
- What is the relationship between the status and role of productive women in their local community and the degree of their contribution to local economic development?
- Does the productive participation of women in the local community differ according to their educational level, the status of their project, and the nature of their activity?

In order to answer the previous questions, the following initial hypotheses were put forward:

- Productive women contribute greatly to local economic development in desert areas.
- The contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development is closely related to their position and role in the local community.
- There is no difference in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas, depending on the project's location or activity.

Objectives of the study

The study aims to achieve the following:

- Analysis of the current situation of productive women in the states of southern Algeria;
- Identify the level of economic empowerment of women in the states of southern Algeria;
- Measure women's orientation toward establishing private projects in southern Algeria, and monitor the nature of these projects;
- Determine the role of local economic development in supporting and formulating effective programs to reduce the main problems that productive women face at present;
- Expose the indicators through which it is possible to assess the status of productive women and measure the capabilities of the local community to empower women economically;
- Provide suggestions to improve the overall situation of women's projects in southern states to promote local economic development.

Literature review

In this section, the author provides the theoretical background, explaining the state of the art in the field. Significant and recent sources must be cited, and working definitions of the main concepts used in the paper shall be provided. The literature review helps the author reveal the research gap and advance a new perspective or model.

The concept of the productive woman

The productive woman was not specifically and properly defined in the research literature. Numerous studies on women's economic engagement highlighted education and employment as fundamental factors in determining how well-off or underprivileged women are in society.

Studies have also shown that employment and education improve women's status in society, their decision-making capacity, their sense of empowerment, and their efficiency in the personal, social, and economic spheres. Women can have greater control over their lives when they receive a formal education, enroll in college, work in public or private organizations, or launch their own enterprises (Dandona, 2015, p. 38).

However, the burden that women face as a result of their essential role in society constitutes a major obstacle to their participation in economic development through productive work. According to Fajarwati et al. (2016, p. 372), the role of women is divided into three categories (the triple work of women), namely:

- **Reproductive role (reproductive labor):** Is a role related to the care responsibilities and household tasks necessary to ensure the preservation and safety of the family, and to ensure the continuity of the family. Women's work includes reproductive work (domestic work, child care and upbringing, adult care, sick care, water and fuel work, health work, etc.).
- **Productive role (productive labor):** Is the role that men and women perform alike, in order to obtain wages in cash or to produce non-consumer goods. It includes productive work (production directed to the market, production for the family, including work in formal and informal sector institutions such as agriculture and trade, whether at home or in the neighborhood, etc.).
- **The role of public and political administration (community administrative work):** It is a role linked to women's assumption of community management roles (social activities), which are

activities that have been implemented as an extension of the reproductive role. It includes community administrative work (solidarity among community members, maintenance of community needs as a social grouping, voluntary work, and unpaid activities). While political administration (political activity) is carried out at the community level, the formal political role aims to make decisions that affect people's lives, such as women's candidacy for local elections or other government positions.

Coordinating the reproductive role (reproductive labor) in the first article is time-consuming for the woman and limits her productive role (productive labor) to working in formal-sector institutions or to establishing her own mini-project aligned with her reproductive role, preventing women from taking risks and from establishing large-scale economic projects. This propagated the idea of designating the domestic realm as a space for women to execute their traditional tasks and pursue their own interests.

According to available evidence, women tend to run smaller, less dynamic businesses than men, and some gender differences in entrepreneurial appetite are explained by institutional barriers that constrain women, such as family beliefs and tax policies that discourage their participation in businesses. The labor market, the establishment of entrepreneurship, and negative social attitudes towards women entrepreneurs (OECD/European Union, 2017, pp. 55-56). Women entrepreneurs are more likely to run smaller, less productive, and less profitable businesses than men when starting a formal or informal business to increase their income or achieve flexibility in their home and professional schedules (Purnamawati & Yuniarta, 2020, p. 2).

Relationship between “Productive Women” and “Female Entrepreneurs”

Many studies on women's participation in economic life focused on education and employment as key determinants of women's social and economic status. The research literature did not clearly and explicitly define the entrepreneurial woman; many studies discussing women's participation in economic life emphasized education and employment as primary determinants of women's social and economic situation. Other studies focused on defining the entrepreneurial woman by clarifying the fundamental differences between entrepreneurial projects managed and owned by men compared to those owned and managed by women.

An entrepreneurial woman can be defined as any woman who has the desire to venture into entrepreneurship, whether alone or with a partner or a group of partners, who has established her own project or acquired an enterprise through inheritance, purchase, or transfer, thus becoming responsible for it administratively and socially, and contributing to its ongoing management (Bebba, 2012, p. 58). In the absence of a comprehensive definition, the productive woman can be defined as follows: every woman owns and manages a private project, either individually or collectively, within a formal or informal framework, and the outputs of this project generate cash income, a portion of which contributes to the development of the local community, as long as it is available. A productive woman possesses the skills and resources required to compete in markets, has fair and equal access to a variety of resources, and can make economic decisions, act on them, and control resources and profits.

Based on the above, it is clear that the productive woman is part of the entrepreneurial woman and an active partner in achieving local economic development.

The concept of local economic development

The definitions of local economic development varied across the research literature. Defining the local community, local development, and economic development, in order to derive from it the concept of local economic development that serves the objective of the current study.

Definition of a local community

The term community is often used to describe the common place or location of a group of individuals, and it is also used to refer to groups that are not geographically defined but share common

characteristics or interests. According to the previous definition, the idea of community falls into two main classifications: one is a territorial concept of community based on geographic location, and the other is a relational concept of community based on social network relationships (Aref, Gill, & Aref, 2010, p. 157).

Accordingly, the community as a relational concept represents the individuals who reside within the same geographical boundaries and are divided on the basis of local, political, ethnic, resources or industry located in the mother area; These individuals are linked to each other through intermarriage and friendship and the formation of groups and gatherings linked by the same goals and interests, and the local community plays an essential role in the lives of its various members by promoting their health, social, psychological and spiritual well-being.

Definition of local development

Based on the definition of the local community, we opted for two definitions of local development that serve the objective of the current study. According to Kisman & Tasar (2014), it may be seen as a method that helps improve the quality of life, supports or accelerates the empowerment of ordinary people, develops or preserves local assets, addresses market failures, strengthens cohesion, and defines and delivers grassroots development projects. Local development can be characterized as a dynamic process along three main lines: inputs, outputs, and outcomes.

The keywords associated with each are: (Kisman & Tasar, 2014, p. 1690)

- **Inputs:** area, sense of belonging, community, bottom-up, partnership, endogenous potential, and proximity.
- **Outputs:** local beneficiaries, self-help, increased incomes and revenues, access to services, quality, efficiency, relocation, diversification, new methods, and increased local value.
- **Outcomes:** collective and common goods, development, strategy, regeneration, effectiveness, future, social innovation, empowerment, legitimacy, well-being, amenities, and collective intelligence.

Local development can also be characterized by a clear interpretation of its components, so that the local is the location where we live and want to reach a level of living that allows us to express ourselves and feel like we belong there in reaching and meeting the necessities that provide a good life for every member of the local community (Alouni, 2019, p. 62).

The two previous definitions indicate that local development is a continuous, escalating transformation to meet the renewed needs and desires of the local community. The success of local development policies in any region is based mainly on the extent to which the indigenous people of that region are aware of their effective role in preserving and exploiting its natural and human resources, provided that they are supported financially and morally by the government authorities.

Based on the aforementioned, we can say that the foundations of local development are built through awareness of the components of the local community and are based on two main elements:

- popular participation in local development efforts. This is achieved through people's participation in all efforts to improve their standard of living and the quality of their lives, relying as much as possible on their own initiatives.
- Providing various services and local development projects in a manner that encourages this initiative, self-reliance, and participation.

Definition of economic development

Economic development is defined as the process by which society moves from a state of underdevelopment to a state of progress. This transition takes place by making radical changes in the structure of production, the quality of goods and services produced, and the structure of income distribution for the benefit of people experiencing poverty. Economic development aims to devise new production methods, develop skills, and expand production capacity by focusing on agriculture and

industry. That is, it is the process by which a continuous increase in the average per capita share of the real national income is achieved during a specified period of time by raising the average per capita productivity by using the available resources to increase production during that period (Ajamiya and others, 2008, pages 81-82).

Additionally, it defined economic development as a comprehensive, civilized process linked to the creation of new and developed conditions. Economic development is heavily dependent on the seriousness of the state's economic and political decision-makers, their commitment to achieving change from a backward to an advanced reality in all economic, social, and cultural fields, and their conviction that development occurs in people and for Humanity (Badran, 2014, p. 15). Based on this, it can be said that the main objective of economic development is to reduce income inequality within society.

Definition of local economic development

From the 1970s, the idea of local economic growth has evolved. The numerous advancements are illustrated in Table 1, which links them specifically to development theory, the means of implementing the local economic development strategy, and the party responsible for its execution.

Table 1. Evolution of the concept of local economic development

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Local development thinking</i>	<i>Authorities responsible for local economic development</i>	<i>Methods of implementing the local economic development strategy</i>
The seventies to the eighties of the twentieth century	- Mobile investments in manufacturing industries from outside the local communities; - Attracting foreign direct investment; - Making investments in physical infrastructure.	- Public sector - private sector	- Giving large grants, tax incentives, and subsidized loans to investors in manufacturing industries; - subsidized investments in physical infrastructure; - Reducing production costs through methods such as low-paid labor.
The eighties to the mid-nineties of the twentieth century	- Maintaining and growing local business activities; - Continuing focus on attracting inward-oriented investment, but targeting specific sectors or coming from specific geographical areas.	Public sector only	- Directing payments directly to individual business activities; - Finding workplaces for the establishment of business activities; - Providing advice and training for small to medium-sized private projects; - Providing technical support; - Supporting newly established business ventures; - Investments in both hard and flexible infrastructure.
Late nineties and early twentieth century	-Making business environments as a whole suitable; - making flexible investments; - making public sector investments work towards the public interest; - Improving the quality of life and security for the people of local communities and for potential investors; -Attracting inward-directed investments, building on the competitive advantage in the local area.	-Partnership between the public and private sectors -Local and global partnerships	-Developing a holistic strategy to provide a competitive local business environment and encourage growth for local companies; -Establishing networks of cooperation between the actors in development; -facilitating clusters of economically interdependent business activities; - workforce development; -Encouraging the maintenance of the level of quality improvements.

Source: Houssin, 2018, p. 137

We can confirm the Mandisvika (2015) concept of local economic development as a process that encourages partners from the local community, the public sector, the private sector, and non-governmental sectors to work cooperatively to create conditions for Better economic growth and job generation to improve the local economic future and quality of life through Table No. 01, which shows the development of the concept of local economic development from the 1970s until today (Mandisvika, 2015, p. 198).

To improve a local area's economic future and overall standard of living, the World Bank also thinks that local economic development should focus on boosting local businesses. It is a procedure in which partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors collaborate to improve the environment for economic growth and job creation (World Bank and Bertelsmann-Stiftung, 2004, p. 9).

In short, we define local economic development as a sustainable process in which all actors in the local community, whether public or private, participate in the presence of an appropriate work climate to stimulate economic activities, use the resources available in the region, and achieving rates of economic and social development.

Relationship of productive women to local economic development

Since the eighties, the trend towards discussing issues of gender equality and its relationship to economic growth and social and economic development has begun, with economic empowerment as the term most recognizing the role of women as important agents and partners in achieving economic development.

Whereas the idea of economic empowerment refers to the process of transforming the economic power structures in which people live, it also means that the person must have confidence in his or her own abilities, capabilities, and psychological readiness to choose among several options (Bebba, 2011-2012, p. 17). As for the economic empowerment of women, it means increasing the participation or contribution of women in economic activity by removing all obstacles that prevent them from being able to exercise their economic role and their interaction with the economic policies in the country, and one of its most important elements is equality in access to economic resources and the availability of training and knowledge that enhances their economic status. In Society (Bajwi, 2019, p. 112).

The goal of women's economic empowerment is to enable women to make decisions and choices that impact society, either individually or collectively, and to provide people with the freedom to think and act as they like. As a result, its empowerment is crucial for the local community's growth.

According to Bhoganadam et al. (2014), there is a direct correlation between women's empowerment and economic growth. They have two different effects on one another. In the first, development alone can significantly reduce social and economic disparities between men and women; in the second, empowering women as an essential component of economic growth may improve the development process. (Bhoganadam, Malini, & Srinivasa Rao, 2014, p. 100). In the same context, Duflo's (2012) results indicate that access to women's empowerment leads to changes in decision-making, with a direct impact on development (Duflo, 2012, pp. 1051, 1076).

The transformations resulting from the active participation of individuals in society, including the activities of women, lead to transformations in local economic development and create new values in the local community, the most important of which are the following (Sekula, 2002, p. 61):

- products, goods, and services meant to satisfy internal and external needs;
- employment, new companies creating new jobs;
- non-material values, such as: human capital, knowledge, higher qualifications and skills;
- attractive location proposals consisting of "hard" elements, such as buildings and technical infrastructure, and "soft" elements understood as excellent natural.

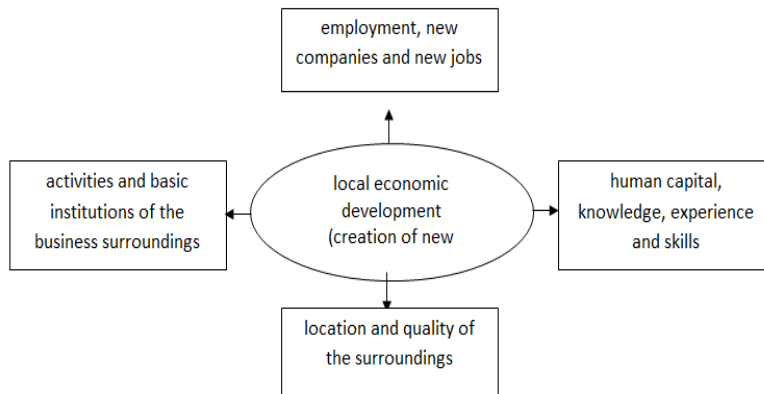


Figure 1. Local economic development and Economic empowerment

Source: Sekula, 2002, p. 61

According to Bhoganadam et al. (2014), there is a direct correlation between women's empowerment and economic growth. They have two different effects on one another. In the first, development alone can significantly reduce social and economic disparities between men and women; in the second, empowering women as an essential component of economic growth may improve the development process. The results of the same study also confirmed that the problem of promoting development in Africa is not due to the size of women's economic participation, as the rates of production and employment for females in Africa are relatively high, but the problem lies in the failure of females to achieve full empowerment, and the required levels of productivity as a result of economic and legislative obstacles in particular. related to obtaining productive assets, as well as an interest in building and strengthening their capabilities by providing equal opportunities to obtain the education and training necessary to raise their productivity (El-Bajwi, 2019, pp. 109-140).

In light of the aforementioned, it is obvious to us that enhancing the local population's quality of life through economic empowerment is essential for local economic development. The exploitation of local resources and indigenous knowledge is at the core of local economic development. Assessing women's capacity to overcome challenges and impediments also involves economic empowerment. That is, the process of economic empowerment can improve their skills, facilitate access to productive resources, and enhance their quality of life, dignity, and work in the local community, thereby contributing to local economic development.

Methodology

To achieve the study's objective, the theoretical aspect relied on a descriptive approach to present the most important findings from the research literature on productive women and local economic development. The case study approach was used in the practical aspect, and data were collected using a questionnaire.

Design of the research tool

The study questionnaire was developed based on findings from prior research on the same topic. Following the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, the necessary changes were made, and the final questionnaire was developed, which consists of two axes, namely:

- The first axis: includes the personal information of the owners of private projects, including (age, marital status, educational level, family income, number of family members, place of residence, nature of the project, the source of the project idea).
- The second axis: includes 15 statements divided into two parts. The first part included 08 statements that reflect the opinions of the study sample members about the first variable represented in the position of productive women in the local community, that is, the level of

economic empowerment that women have in the desert areas; As for the second part, it includes 07 statements formulated in order to measure the second variable represented in the role played by productive women in order to achieve economic development in the local community.

Research population and sample

Selecting a suitable sample is among the most basic and important factors in ensuring the validity and accuracy of the study's results. Based on the study's primary objective, the study population comprised all women who own projects in desert regions; that is, each woman owns and manages her own project in southern Algeria. The non-probability (non-random) sampling method was used, relying on deliberate (intentional) sampling, because it accurately represents the study population. On this basis, 120 questionnaires were distributed to a sample of the following private entrepreneurs: liberal professions, handicrafts and traditional industries, commercial and service projects, industrial projects, and agricultural projects; these entrepreneurs work in the following states of southern Algeria: Oued-Souf, Oued-Righ, Ouargla, Ghardaia, El Menia, Adrar, Tamanrasset, and Illizi. Furthermore, 101 questionnaires were retrieved from the 120 distributed questionnaires. After collecting data from the study sample, the statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS version 22.

Results and discussion

In pursuance of the study's aim, which is to investigate the extent of productive women's contribution to promoting local economic development in desert areas. The questionnaire was used as a research tool to collect data from a sample of female entrepreneurs in southern Algeria to answer the research questions. The questionnaire statements were formulated using a triple Likert scale with three options (disagree, neutral, agree). We considered score (1) as the lowest score and score (3) as the highest score. The arithmetic mean is then calculated using the weighted average categories of the Triangular Likert scale. Following that, the trend is determined according to its values shown in the following table:

Table 2. Categories and Classifications of the Weighted Average of the Triple Likert Scale

<i>Option</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>
disagree	1	From 1 to 1.66	Low
neutral	2	From 1.67 to 2.33	Average
agree	3	From 2.34 to 3.00	High

Designed by the researcher based on Ezz Hussein (2008, p. 541).

Furthermore, 101 questionnaires were retrieved from 120 distributed questionnaires (84.17%), all of which are subject to statistical treatment, and 19 forms were excluded (15.83%). The following table shows the distribution of women's projects by desert region (Southern Provinces).

Table 3. Distribution of the sample members according to the project area

<i>The place in which the project is managed</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Oued Souf	15	14.9
Oued Righ	19	18.8
Ouargla	29	28.7
Adrar	11	10.9
Tamanrasset	13	12.9
Illizi	11	10.9
Ghardaia and Menia	30	3.00
Total	101	100.0

Source: Designed by the researcher based on the results of the SPSS 22 program.

Description of the distribution of the sample members based on the personal variables

As previously stated, the first axis of the questionnaire contains eight questions that reflect the basic personal variables of productive women in desert areas. Education, family income, number of family

members, project nature, source of the project idea, and the state in which the project is located are all factors to consider. All of this has been clarified in Tables 4 and 5.

Distribution of the sample members according to age, family status, and educational level:

Table 4 shows the percentages and frequencies of the distribution of productive women in the states of southern Algeria by age, family status, and educational level as follows:

Table 4. Distribution of the sample members according to the variables of age, family status, and educational level

		Place in which the project is managed							Total	
		Oued-souf	Oued-righ	Ouargla	Adrar	Tamanrasset	Illizi	Ghardaia and Menta	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Less than 30 years	6	5	2	6	2	1	1	23	22.8 %
	From 30 to 40	7	9	19	3	3	7	2	50	49.5 %
	From 41 to 50	2	5	8	2	5	3	0	25	24.8 %
	More than 50 years	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	2.9 %
Total		15	19	29	11	13	11	3	101	100 %
Marital status	Single	2	13	14	1	3	7	2	42	41.6 %
	Married	13	5	10	9	6	4	1	48	47.5 %
	Divorced	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	5	5.0 %
	Widowed	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	6	5.9 %
Total		15	19	29	11	13	11	3	101	100 %
Educational status	Without a university degree or training	6	1	1	0	6	0	0	14	13.9 %
	With a university degree or training	9	18	28	11	7	11	3	87	86.1 %
Total		15	19	29	11	13	11	3	101	100 %

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS 22

According to the descriptive statistical analysis results in Table 4, half of the study sample members are between the ages of 30 and 40, and 50 women own a private project, a rate of 49.5%. While there are 25 female entrepreneurs aged 41 to 50 years, they account for a quarter of the sample (24.8 %); 22.8 % of the study sample is under 30 years old, with 23 women; and 2.9 % are over 50 years old, with only three women out of the total women of the study sample.

Regarding the family situation, Table 6 showed that most of the study sample members are married (47.5%), followed by the single group (41.6%). The remaining percentages are estimated at about 10.9% of the study's total sample, distributed between divorcees and widows.

As for the educational level, the study divided the study sample into two groups based on their level of education. The above table shows that the majority of private entrepreneurs hold university or training certificates (86.1%), while the percentage with non-university or training certificates was estimated at only 13.9%.

Through the results of the descriptive statistics of the personality variables of the members of the study sample, it became clear to us that women in the states of southern Algeria are at the appropriate age to assume responsibility, especially since the ratios of married and single women indicate that the

reproductive role of women is not an obstacle to their productive role. They have the educational level to set up their own businesses.

Family income, number of family members, and the nature of the project:

Table 5. displays the percentages and frequencies of the distribution of productive women in the states of southern Algeria based on their income, the number of family members they have, and the nature of the project they own, as follows:

Table 5. Distribution of sample members according to family income, the number of family members, and the nature of the project

		The location of the project							Total	
		Oued-Souf	Oued-Righ	Ouargla	Adrar	Tamanrasset	Illizi	Ghardaia and Menia	Frequency	Percentage
Family income	Low	1	6	11	5	5	1	0	29	28.7%
	Average	12	13	18	6	8	10	1	68	67.3%
	High	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	4.0%
Total		15	19	29	11	13	11	3	101	100.0%
The number of family members living with you	4 people or fewer	2	4	5	1	0	1	0	13	%12.9
	From 5 to 7 people	10	12	20	9	13	4	2	70	69.3%
	More than 7 people	3	3	4	1	0	6	1	18	17.8%
Total		15	19	29	11	13	11	3	101	100.0%
Nature of the project	Commerce and services	3	4	8	4	3	2	2	26	25.7%
	Crafts and traditional industry	5	10	12	5	8	7	0	47	46.5%
	Agriculture	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2.1%
	Free professions	7	5	9	2	0	2	1	26	%25.7
Total		15	19	29	11	13	11	3	101	100.0%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS 22

The study sample's income level was divided into three categories. Table 7 shows that 68 women had a medium income of 67.3%, while 29 private entrepreneurs had a low income of 28.7%, and women with high incomes were fewer than that. Frequently, the rate was estimated at only 4 %. Moreover, the results of Table 5 also indicated that 69.3% of women entrepreneurs live in families with 5-7 members, and 17.8% live in large families with more than 7 members.

The results of the nature of projects owned and managed by women in the states of southern Algeria showed the dominance of projects in the field of crafts and traditional industries by 46.5%, and 51.4% were divided equally between private women's projects in the field of liberal professions (25.7%) and trade services (25.7%), and only two projects (2.1%) in the agricultural sector, with a complete absence of women's projects in the industrial sector (0.00%).

Based on the results of the descriptive analysis of the family income variable, the number of family members, and the nature of the project, it is clear that most of the women producers in the southern Algerian states under study live in families with medium and weak incomes, and this may push them to establish their projects in order to help improve family income. If we consider women's

contributions to the combined economy, we find that their projects are confined to handicrafts and traditional industries, followed by trade and services.

Even though only a small portion of them come from wealthy families and are driven to launch their own projects for self-actualization, especially given that these projects are in the liberal arts and sciences, which are fields where women's credentials in these fields are largely dependent on their university degrees (law firms, medical clinics, private schools, offices, consulting services, etc.).

The validity of the research tool

One of the most important steps before distributing the questionnaire to the study sample is to ensure the questionnaire's validity, to assess its accuracy in measuring the dimensions of the phenomenon under study. Among the most common types of honesty is structural consistency validity. To ensure the questionnaire's structural validity, the correlation coefficient between each dimension's total score and the total score for the second axis was calculated, yielding the results shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Correlation coefficients of the degree of dimensions with the total degree of the Axis

	<i>correlation coefficients</i>		
	The first dimension: the position of the productive woman in the local community	The second dimension: the role of productive women in the development of the local community	The second axis: the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas
The first dimension: the position of the productive woman in the local community	1	0.282**	0.752**
The second dimension: the role of productive women in the development of the local community	0.282**	1	0.844**
The second axis: the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas	0.752**	0.844**	1

**The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (bilateral)

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS 22

It is evident from the results of Table 6, that there is a strong positive correlation at the level of significance of 0.01 between the total score of the first dimension and the total score of the axis as a whole with a percentage of (75.2 %), and the total score of the second dimension with the total score of the axis as a whole with a percentage of (84.4%).

The Reliability of the research tool

The reliability of the questionnaire is the consistency of the results, with no significant changes when it is redistributed to the same sample members several times over different time periods, and it is verified using a set of tests. Using the SPSS Statistics program, we calculated Cronbach's Alpha for each questionnaire dimension and the questionnaire as a whole; the results are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Reliability measurement using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient

	<i>Number of statements</i>	<i>Cronbach's Alpha Value</i>
The first dimension: the position of the productive woman in the local community	08	0.879
The second dimension: the role of productive women in the development of the local community	07	0.858
The whole questionnaire	15	0.804

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS 22

According to the results shown in Table 7, the values of Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient for the content of each variable of the study are: (the position of the productive woman in the local community = 0.879, the role of the productive woman in the development of the local community = 0.858), which are very acceptable reliability coefficients because their values Positive and high, while the value of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for all paragraphs of the questionnaire was 0.804, which is a very high value, which indicates that the questionnaire is characterized by a high degree of reliability, and is suitable for the application, analysis of results, answering study questions and testing hypotheses.

Hypothesis testing, analysis, and interpretation of results:

To answer the main hypothesis of the study, we divided it into the following sub-hypotheses:

- **H1:** The productive women contribute to the local economic development in the desert areas to a large extent.
- **H2:** There is a positive correlation between the contribution of productive women in promoting local economic development and the status and role of productive women in the local community.
- **H3:** There are no statistically significant differences at the level of significance α less than 0.05 in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project and the nature of the project's activity.

Testing the first sub-hypothesis

We can interpret the values of the questionnaire's arithmetic averages based on the categories and weighted-average classifications shown previously in Table 2, which reflect the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas.

Table 8. Evaluation of the importance of study variables

<i>Study variables</i>	<i>Arithmetic mean</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Rank</i>
The position of productive women in the local community	2.60	0.30	Agree	High	1
The role of productive women in the development of the local community	2.37	0.42	Agree	High	3
The contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development in desert areas	2.49	0.28	Agree	High	2

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS 22

The results of the general evaluation of the study variables are shown in Table 8, where all study variables were rated "Agree," and their evaluation was "High," with arithmetic averages greater than 2.33 and all standard deviations less than 1, reflecting the high degree of consistency between the answers of the sample members. This indicates that productive women in southern Algeria are of great importance in their local communities, and their position in society enables them to promote local economic development, underscoring the great role productive women can play in the development of their local communities. This supports the first sub-hypothesis, which states that "productive women contribute to local economic development in desert areas to a large extent."

Testing the second sub-hypothesis

Pearson Correlation coefficients were calculated between the total scores for the main study variables to test the second hypothesis, which states that "there is a positive correlation between the contribution of productive women to promoting local economic development and the status and role of productive women in the local community." It was concluded that the value of the Pearson correlation coefficient between the total degree of the variable of the productive woman's position in the local community and the total degree of the productive woman's contribution to promoting local economic development is $r = 0.752$ at a significance level of $\text{Sig} = 0.000$, which is a strong positive correlation at a significance level α less than 0.01.

The Pearson correlation coefficient between the total degree of the productive woman's position in the local community and the total degree of the productive woman's contribution to promoting local economic development equals $r = 0.844$ at a significance level of $\text{Sig} = 0.000$, indicating a strong positive correlation at a significance level of less than 0.01. In addition to the statistically significant positive correlation between the position of the productive woman and her role in the local community, the value of $r = 0.282$ is significant at $\text{Sig} = 0.004$.

The findings explain the existence of a direct relationship between the study's main variables: raising the role and status of productive women in the community leads to a greater contribution to promoting local economic development, and vice versa, thereby proving the validity of the second sub-hypothesis. The findings also show a positive relationship between the productive woman's role and her position in her community.

Testing the third sub-hypothesis

To test the third sub-hypothesis, parametric tests (T-test and ANOVA) were used, after confirming that the study data followed a normal distribution using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. To facilitate the analysis of testing differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas, statistical hypotheses for the third sub-hypothesis have been developed based on the project's place of residence and the nature of the project activity. These are the hypotheses:

The null hypothesis H_0 : There are no statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project.

The alternative hypothesis H_1 : There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the place of establishment of the project.

The null hypothesis H_0 : There are no statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the nature of the project's activity.

The alternative hypothesis H_1 : There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in the desert areas, according to the nature of the project's activity.

The results of the differences test shown in Table 9 were interpreted according to the following:

- If the level of significance (Sig) is greater than the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$), we accept the null hypothesis H_0 and reject the alternative hypothesis H_1 .
- If the level of significance (Sig) is less than the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$), we accept the alternative hypothesis H_1 and reject the null hypothesis H_0 .

Table 9. Testing the differences in the degree of women's productive contribution to local economic development in desert areas

Contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas	Test value (F)	Sig value	Interpretation of test results
Differences according to the location of the project ANOVA test	3.409	0.004	There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development across desert areas, depending on the project's place of establishment. That is, there is a significant discrepancy in the degree of participation by women producers across the southern Algerian states under study.
Differences according to the nature of the project ANOVA test	30.719	0.000	There are statistically significant differences in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas, depending on the nature of the project's activity.

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS 22

The third sub-hypothesis was rejected by interpreting the results of the apparent differences test in Table No. (09), that is, there are differences in the levels of productive women's contribution to local economic development in the states of southern Algeria, that is, the degree of productive women's contribution to local economic development in "Ouargla" which is distinct from the results of "Oued-Souf". This disparity can be explained by differences in population density and the ratio of women to men in each southern state, as well as the nature, components, and resources of each southern state and how they are exploited.

Given the nature of the project's activity, the large disparity in the contribution of productive women to local economic development in desert areas is caused by the dominance of craft and traditional industry projects in the southern states and their adoption as areas that enable women to highlight their position in the local community.

Conclusion and the main results of the study

Three hypotheses were tested using data from 101 productive women in a project across seven southern Algerian states to clarify the relationship between women's productive roles and their contributions to local economic development. Our particular focus was on the differences between the project's location and its nature. The study's findings revealed a strong relationship between a woman's status and role in a private project and the degree to which she makes a significant contribution to economic development in her community. The findings also revealed differences in the extent to which the project contributed to local economic development, depending on its nature and location.

The interest of governmental and non-governmental support bodies in investing in women's capabilities and productive roles by creating opportunities for establishing private micro-enterprises and supporting women's entrepreneurship is one possible explanation for the existence of a significant relationship between the productive role of women and their position in the local community, as well as the high degree of their contribution to local economic development especially since the policies and programs of local development in the Algerian state tend to consider women as a new partner in the economic take-off and an integral part of the process of economic and social development.

After demonstrating the validity of the hypothesis that productive women are an effective and necessary component in promoting economic development, work should be done to increase women's participation in local economic development in southern Algeria and to encourage them to become entrepreneurs in areas far from traditional crafts and industries. They should receive services such as training on industrial, agricultural, and income-generating business activities.

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