



Sociological View On Readability Phenomenon Within The Students' Community And Its Impact On Human Development Empirical Field Study

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Received: 28/12/2023

Published: 11/05/2024

Abstract:

The development issue is considered one of the most important topics that sociology is concerned about because of its importance in individuals life and society. Development fields and their types vary; there are social development, economic development, human development and others local ones. And what concerns us in this study is human development with its aspirations of living a relatively long and healthy life while obtaining the necessary resources for an adequate standard of living, as well as having access to knowledge and learning.

Of course, talking about knowledge and learning leads us to raise the problematic of reading or documenting that we linked to human development in general and cultural development in particular. Talking about cultural development cannot be achieved in the absence of its conditions and the lack of an appropriate atmosphere for it, as cultural development cannot be achieved within of a society that does not read, a society that interrupts reading and abstains from it because culture can only be obtained with knowledge, and knowledge can only be obtained through reading and learning.

Therefore, so there is an existing relationship between these foundations or facts that must be taken into consideration by giving priority to the cultural dimension of development at the expense of other dimensions, especially in light of the developments experienced by Western societies, and the emergence of new concepts, such as cultural policy, cultural economy, cultural society, and cultural human being. And all of these concepts lead us as sociology researchers to focus in this study on the most important obstacles to cultural development, which is the phenomenon of reluctance to read, especially among the elite (university students), and the impact of this reluctance on the individual and Algerian society.

The study focused on the reasons that drive the student to reading abstentions, and they varied from economic, to social, to financial, and to technological reasons, and then the study tried to provide mechanisms to promote reading for the student and the pupil who will be the citizen of tomorrow and who contributes to building a developed society

aware of its reality and the preservation of its identity, a conscious society that can see itself and the surrounding world.

Keywords: Human development, Cultural development, Self-development, Reluctance to read, Readability.

Introduction:

The subject of human development is considered one of the important issues due to its close connection with the human being, where many studies have recently appeared that are concerned with human beings and comprehensive development, so that establishes the conviction that the main axis in the development process is the human being and that the progress of societies is only made by investing in individuals by paying attention to the means of learning, education, civilizing and cultivating, these means can be the individual, the educated society and the reading generation, and so it can be said that human development has two dimensions: The first concerns the level of human development at various stages of life to develop human capabilities, mental, psychological, social and spiritual skills, while the second dimension is related to investing the resources, inputs and economic activities that generate the revolution.

In this research paper, we will try to address the first dimension of development, which is concerned with developing individual's abilities and his rational capabilities by linking it to an important topic that constantly presents itself, which is the subject or phenomenon of readability in Algeria that remains one of the most important problematics that continue to be discussed, especially after its decline in the seventies. Reading is of great importance, as it plays an influential role in spreading consciousness among people, directing their social behavior and deepening their awareness of the true potentials of life within them. And Reading has become a necessary component and has a direct social impact in spreading ideas and influencing public opinion (Ahmed Mustapha and Abbas Ibrahim, dt, p.204) and It is a critical issue that must be taken more seriously.

Since ancient times, the Arab world has realized the importance of reading and its role in creating what has become known today as the society of knowledge" (Turkmani, p.24). As the Abbasid state's encouragement of the translation actions, and the emergence of intellectual and literary movements throughout the history of the Arabs, are all factors that gave the Arabs the opportunity to communicate their culture to other peoples, but the observer of what is happening in the Arab area realizes that the Arab countries today are becoming more backward and illiterate. This may be due to the reluctance to read, as the Arab citizen does not read and does not practice the hobby of reading as it should be done.

UNESCO provided some statistics on the reading rate in the Arab world, according to An-Nahar newspaper published on April 23, 2008. (An-Nahar newspaper, 2008). The average reading rate in the Arab world is six minutes per year, and one book is published

per quarter of a million people per year in the Arab countries, and the same statistics indicate that the Arab world publishes two books for every six books published in Western European countries and the reading time per year is 36 hours in the West (An-Nahar newspaper, 2014). In front of these statistics, there are those who questioned their validity, as the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, in partnership with the United Nations Program, stated that there is a demand from the Arab citizen to read, in contrast to the statistics presented by UNESCO, These statistics were based on a huge electronic questionnaire in which more than 148,000 citizens from all Arab countries participated. The questionnaire revealed that the average Arab reading rate per year is 3,524 hours per year. These figures do not negate the fact that there is a reluctance to read in the Arab world.

After talking about the reluctance to read in the Arab world, it is worth referring to Algerian society, the question raised is what is the Algerian per capita share of reading, especially Algerian students?

The answer to this question makes us move to study Algerian society, in which the problems of readability remain one of the topics on the discussion table to search for solutions and mechanisms that contribute to the activation of reading. The reluctance to read towards the lack of desire to read or lack of tendencies to read and and the choice of another way to avoid reading, therefore it can be said that reluctance to read is the avoidance of members of society, regardless of their level, from practicing the act of reading to varying degrees, each according to his circumstances, desires, and personal inclinations.

Official statistics revealed by the Algerian Ministry of Culture in 2009 (An-Nahar newspaper, 2014), have confirmed that the Algerian per capita share of books per year is half a book, which is a number that is still far from the high rate that determines the reading ratio of four books per person per year, also, according to the expert in library science, Kamal Battous, the reading rate does not exceed 0.0003% (Hanaa Sidhoum, p.26). This amount of indicators confirms that there is a reluctance to read by the Algerian individual, and this is what makes us search for the reasons behind this reluctance and what is the impact of this reluctance to society in general and on the Algerian individual in particular?

Before addressing the reasons for the reluctance and the dire effects resulting from it, it is necessary to adjust some of the concepts that we relied on in our study.

A theoretical view of some of the concepts of the study:

Firstly: Reading definition:

Linguistically: It is to understand the written text and can be done silently and is called silent reading or pronouncing the written text and is called oral reading and does not require understanding.

Lexically: It is that interaction between the reader and the writer, and it is considered an activity that entails the acquisition of a set of information, at the condition that supportive skills are available, such as the skill of writing, speaking and listening, and which is pronouncing, understanding symbols, analyzing, criticizing what is written, interacting with it and take benefit from it in solving problems (Mussa Al-Sharif, 2004, p.23).

Secondly: Reading reluctance definition:

It is a psychological and personal state at the same time, by which it means the lack of desire to read, or the lack of tendency to read, and choosing other ways to avoid reading, such as relying on modern technological means (Wataq Ghazi, dt, p. 4).

Thirdly: Self development definition:

It is the effort that an individual makes in order to develop his mental capabilities, such as developing data, and developing self-confidence through various methods:

- To Work on areas of internal change and learn new and useful experiences and ideas for the individual.
- Setting personal goals and work towards achieving them.
- Amplifying the individual's ambitions.
- Reading books: Reading books: Books are considered as a source of information and as reference that an individual uses to develop himself and nourish his mind.

Fourthly: Cultural development:

It is the process of enabling cultural activities in order to achieve the desired future, by setting development plans aimed at enhancing cultural richness and vitality, and Ali Khasban defines it as the methodology that accommodates all the products of society, to eventually turn it into social activities that are practiced in society to represent at the end for the individuals an essential element for their understanding and awareness of their social reality. (2011, p.1).

Reading is of great importance in the development of the individual and the development of society, and refraining it and abstaining from it is what made us write on this topic as researchers in sociology, we must point out the danger of reluctance to read because it is the basic foundation of the process of acculturation and knowledge acquisition, It is a means that gives the reader the ability to understand, analyze and evaluate and increases the individual's intelligence, which is the nourishment of the mind that maintains his health and protects him from diseases. By reading, the individual gets rid of anxiety and psychological stress, which is the greatest self-esteem.

Despite the extreme importance of reading, statistics indicate that the Algerian individual does not read and is not interested in reading, as the reality of reading in Algeria is living in continuous decline, and the most dangerous of these is that the reading crisis has affected researchers and doctors.

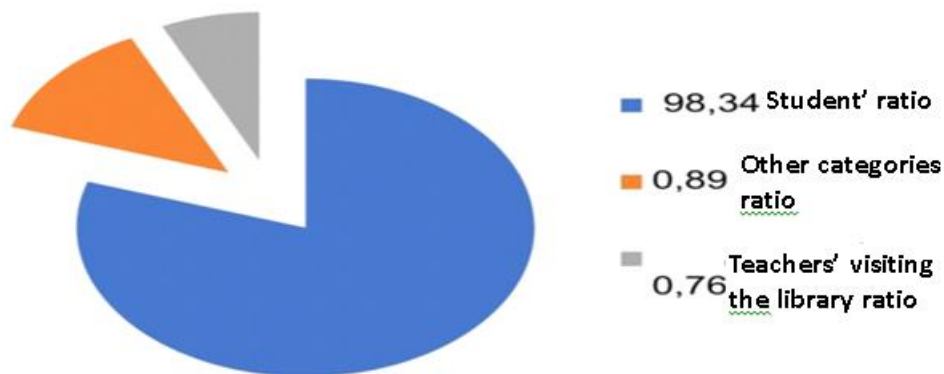
The readability crisis is a civilizational crisis and requires a great effort to fix it, and this effort begins from childhood up to the universities, and in the context of talking about the university, we can point out that the reading crisis is also widespread in the university community, as the students themselves, who are students of knowledge, do not read, and this is what makes us activate the alarm, because the indicators that we obtained through the field study that we carried out as sample at the level of one of the state libraries, that is described in the next table:

Table(1): The number of readers who visit the library per month and year

Months Slides attracted by the library	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	T O T A L S
Students	3570	660	773	902	664	30	26	28	98	200	584	2099	9904
Teachers	20	9	2	1	4	6	0	10	4	0	6	15	77
Others	10	6	25	7	2	4	4	12	0	0	0	20	90
Totals :	3600	675	800	910	670	310	30	50	102	200	590	2134	10071

* Table representing the results obtained from the field study held at the Library of the House of Culture, Kateb Yacine, Sidi Bel Abbes.

* Proportional circle representing the percentage of groups that visit the library.



The results in the table indicate that the library attracts 10,017 readers per year, including 9,904 student readers, 77 professor readers, and 90 readers belonging to different social segments, meaning that the student category is the most frequenting the library compared to the category of professors and other social segments, although the library opens its doors to all segments of society and despite the fact that it also has all the means convenient for the reader in addition to valuable and abundant books, as their number reached 40,000 books covering all specialties.

If we try to stand at the percentage of students who visit the library, which is 98.34% per year. It is high and it is indicating that the student is reading, but if we try to compare the number of students who visit the library in the month of January, which reached the highest level, and then begins to decline, starting from the month of May until the end of July, so that the rate of polarization in July and August becomes almost non-existent, as if the library is on vacation although the library doors do not close throughout the year.

These indicators indicate that reading for the Algerian student is only an assignment or a task for academic achievement or research preparation, and this contradicts the concept of readability, which means an adherence to a certain habit associated with the act of reading a book away from coercion and being obliged.

For the Algerian student, this concept does not fulfill the required purpose as a result of emptying it of the basic content of the act of reading, otherwise how do we explain the students flocking to the library during the university season, especially in December and January until the month of May, and then the decline in the rate of polarization from May to the month of October, the student does not read during the holidays, as the study also revealed that university students read only the book that falls within the framework of their specialization, most students borrow books to complete the research required of them, otherwise, how can we explain the low rate of borrowing general culture books and novels to one book per month?

Abdullah Hammadi, a professor, university researcher and translator, tries to explain the university student's reluctance by attributing it to frustration, from his own point of view, the student does not read because he is disappointed, as the professor goes further when he admits that the majority of the university community is seeing science and study as something like a waste of time, rather it is an unprofitable bet in life and does not provide a person in Algeria with a decent living, and in front of this dreadful reality of reading in Algeria, we wonder, at whom can we point the finger of blame?

We cannot in any way direct the fingers of accusation to the State, there are indications that the State is seeking through appropriate mechanisms in carrying out projects to promote readability in Algeria and is the project of former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who called for each municipality to have a library, which we see being effectively achieved day after day (Ali Hussain, 2010). In the year of 2005, eight annexes to the National Library were established in accordance with a series of efforts that the State has been seeking to implement since the beginning of the millennium, so about 32 annexes were established in various Wilayas of the country, in addition to the opening of local libraries in each municipality to form the national network, where the number reached what compares to 289 municipal libraries (Toumi, 2007, p.1).

In light of all these projects and possibilities, the reality of readability in Algeria is still a terrifying reality, this makes us believe that the reading crisis is not the result of the economic situation of the Algerian individual and the high prices of books, or it is a production crisis, but rather a crisis that lies in the nature of the Algerian individual. This

is due to the lack of conscious will that wants to achieve its goals with the capabilities and potentialities, and lacking that conviction that we can rebuild our reality, the will that overcomes all obstacles to raise the reading rate in Algeria. And from my own point of view, the individual is the first responsible for this reluctance, and he alone can remedy this delay by starting reading, so it does not matter if he reads a book or article on the Internet, the important thing is to read and get used to it, by so acquires new knowledge and is convinced that the more his ignorance increases, the more confusion, devastation, pain and injustice his reality becomes. And be also convinced that reading is the only way to rid society of its deadly illiteracy and terrible backwardness and thus its slavery, so the individual must make reading a daily practice, because there is no goodness in a nation that does not read.

Reasons for reluctance to read in Algerian society:

Specialists and scholarly researchers of the phenomenon of reluctance to read have concluded that there is a crisis experienced by Arab youth, who represents the basis Nation's future, which is his reluctance to read and his boycott of it, of course, we cannot generalize, but the majority of Arab youth boycotted the book and the newspaper, and went to the virtual world, which took up most of their time. There are many reasons that met, and their consequences were the youth's abstention from reading and their boycott of it, among the most important of these reasons, we first mention the causes of subjectivity, such as the absence of awareness of the importance and the status of reading, the absence of the concept of self-education, not giving the individual priority to reading and his preoccupation with his daily affairs and the most important thing that makes the individual interrupt reading is the lack of adults who set the good example, care about reading and encourage for it. The subjective reasons are not the only ones responsible for this reluctance, but even educational reasons have an important part of the responsibility, such as the weakness of school curricula for the encouragement related to reading and documenting and this is due to the replacement of masterpieces of thought and literature with superficial writings that create boredom, which makes the reader to completely move away from the book. This is what makes generations deviate from the brink of politeness and good morals, and slip into random pitfalls that replace tolerance and love that should prevail in society and the State. (<http://-ebiblio-univ-mosta.dz//handle>).

In addition to the inability of the educational system to instill a passion for reading in the hearts of children by assigning the student to read and teaching students reading strategies, or the establishment a book club in order to share with students their ideas to make reading more enjoyable and to carry out activities for students in class in order to encourage them to read and assign them to write on various topics. As for the social reasons, they also played an important role in this abstention because of the Algerian society represented by the family, does not stimulate reading, just as most Algerian homes do not have a reading corner, in addition to the deteriorating and unprestigious position of the Algerian intellectual, that does not motivate him to start reading. This position has killed the enthusiasm in the hearts of our students in seeking knowledge as

they lost hope for the future.

The digital technology of communication has led to the opening of other horizons for humans, and has become more connected to the means of communication, and thus the digital revolution, led by the Internet, represents a tool and a scene for an intense migration to the virtual world, with the phone and the computer, it has become difficult for an individual to sit with a book for a specific period of time, as the person became locked in the phone and the computer and no longer had time to read. In addition to the problem of the book industry, this concerns the real publishing houses, the problem of censorship and freedom of expression facing the book and its manufacture, adding to this the problem of the high cost of books matched by the weak income of the university youth.

The economic situation and in light of the low ability purchasing power of the citizen and the high cost of living, all that affects his interest in reading, as the Algerian individual is still immersed in his daily needs and borrowing or buying a book is considered a luxury and the last of his interests. The Lack of expositions and lack of privileges for the writer encouraging him to write and publish.

These and those other reasons do not negate the absence of individual responsibility and the state of unconsciousness that young people live in.

Mechanisms for activating and encouraging reading in Algeria:

In front of these alarming statistics that indicate reluctance to read, it requires all State or private bodies, whether associations, cultural clubs, educational institutions or literary clubs, to work together to rise to the challenge and raise the reading rate in Algeria, and make it a daily habit. (Hamada, 144).

Using the media in order to eliminate this aversion, the media has a major role in treating this phenomenon, by broadcasting educational programs, talking about the importance of reading, and presenting authors to the public and this is what makes the audience tend to read.

Setting-up a cultural project to promote readability as an integral part of any development project.

Inviting universities to organize study days and forums to raise awareness of the role of reading in the promotion of society and the modernization of the State.

Calling on associations and civilian society institutions to raise awareness of the importance of reading and instill a culture of reading by creating an atmosphere of competition that links reading to reward.

Restoring the reputation of the intellectual and trying to improve the image of this intellectual in society, which has come to view him as he is wasting his time reading.

Review the educational curriculum in its relation to reading practice.

Organizing national competitions to encourage reading.

Make reading one of the customs that characterize Algerian society.

Finally, there must be a political will to encourage reading and generalize it to all.

As for encouraging the individual to read himself, we can point out a number of points:

The individual should identify the reasons that drive him and the purpose of it.

Providing suitable places for reading that have good lighting and calm.

Organizing time for reading, such as setting a time for reading, which may be in the morning, evening, or before bedtime.

Creating a competitive atmosphere for reading, such as the individual competing with his friends over the quality and quantity of books he reads in a month or a year.

Conclusion:

The phenomenon of reluctance to read is considered one of the pathological diseases that afflicts society, and therefore the efforts of researchers and specialists should converge to treat this disease, especially when it affects the elite of society. The question that arises from our side as researchers in sociology is: why the reluctance to read is among the elite and how can this reluctance be eliminated? It is also worth noting that reluctance to read may affect the society. As a society that does not read does not progress or develop and does not realize its reality and is unable to preserve its identity and define it through its publications. A society that does not read is a society that does not have a cultural capital, a society that cannot see itself and the world surrounding it, all researchers and specialists must contribute to instilling the culture of reading in the mentality of the pupil and the student who will be the citizen of tomorrow. Raising awareness and guiding the Algerian family on the importance of reading and providing all assistance to develop reading abilities and skills for all segments of society.

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