

The Reality of Governance in Rural Communities: Case Study Gatherings: Boumaiza, Manzel El Abtal, Said Bousebaa, Kasaba Skikda State

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Abstract

The reality of governance in rural groupings has demonstrated a range of gaps in the application of good governance and effective democracy. Perhaps the most important of these gaps is the lack of transparency standards, participation and equity among members of society, as well as the vulnerability and vulnerability of civil society and the private sector. This reality requires the adoption of a strategic vision of rural groupings that requires the effective reflection of the principles of the Government, which is manifested only by the exercise of participatory authority among the various actors and acting in accordance with the policy of proximity and responsiveness, because it is considered to be more successful to make the voice of the rural citizen heard.

Keywords: Governance - Rural Groupings - Development - The Reality of Governance

INTRODUCTION

A Nation's reality is a mirror reflecting how far its interior system succeeded in general and administrative one in particular. Successful States, including their constituent bodies and institutions, have the distinction of embracing governance and its various principles, such as transparency and equality... Because they have a positive and effective impact on achieving development, Algeria, like other States, is endeavoring to implement the principles of governance, especially in view of the development problems and differences experienced by the country's regions in general and rural areas in particular. Holding such a concept is essential for shaping a sound base, creating the ideal environment and providing adaptive conditions for the specificities of rural areas that will drive development to ultimately benefit rural people's sustainable enjoyment. To see the reality of governance in selected rural groupings, (rural communities) we relied on the use of field data collected through the form where two models of the form were designed:

- ✓ **The First Model:** 390 forms were distributed through a random sample representing 10% of the total housing population of 3110. Accommodation for pupils of educational institutions, the sample unit was the head of the family (father)
- ✓ **The second Model:** A random sample was distributed to mayors in addition to some direct dialogues with neighborhood committees and chiefs.

Finally, the results of the form were unloaded into tables and represented in formats to give a larger dimension to the topic.

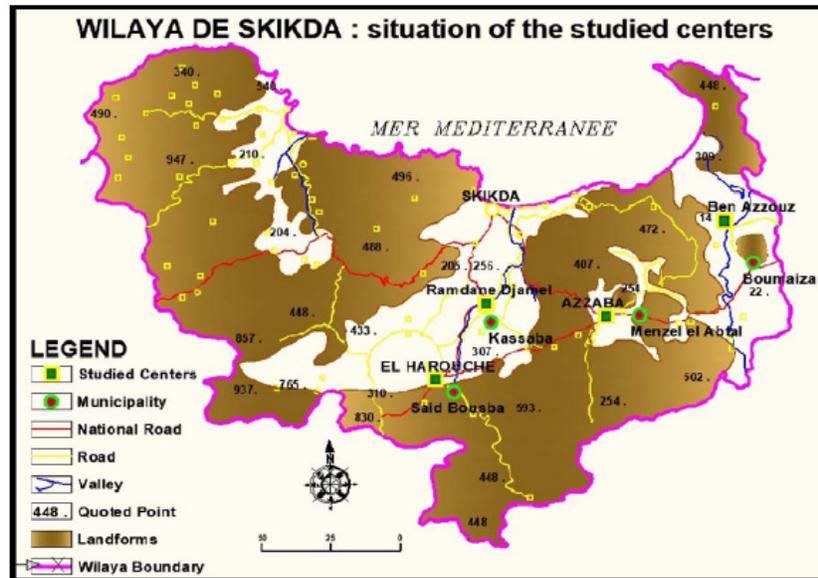
Features (Characteristics) of the Natural Environment of Selected Rural Communities:

Geographical Location

The State of Skikda territory is characterized by the homogenization between East and West, which has two ranges. Mountain range featuring the first two chains overlooking the sea and the interior; the range of plains and basins, such as the plain of Ben azouz Safsaf and Azzaba. The Territory forms the basis for the placement of gatherings: Boumaiza, Manzel Al abtal, Said Bousbaa, Kassaba

Administrative location

The study area comprises four rural communities that belong administratively to Skikka State, in the north-east of Algeria, spanning four municipalities, respectively: Ben Azouz, Azaba, Al-Harouche, Ramadan Jamal and map N° 1.



Definition of Term governance:

The term governance translated into many meanings, including good management, good governance, governance, but the term put forward by international institutions, governance [1], is often adopted. “ It is used in different fields of knowledge and areas of work and in various regional and social issues.[2]

There are several definitions presented by international institutions, including:

International Bank definition

Governance is the exercise of political, administrative and economic powers to manage society’s affairs at all level [3]

The Environmental and Economical Cooperation Organization Definition

Governance is the use of authority and control in society in the management of the State’s resources with a view to achieving social and economic development [4]

Definition of United Nations Development Program

The exercise of economic, political and administrative powers to manage public affairs at all levels. Mechanisms include procedures and institutions through which citizens and groups express their interests, exercise their legal rights, fulfill their obligations and accept mediation to resolve their differences [5]

Governance of rural society

The governance of rural society means the whole range of institutions, customs and processes that define a particular form of power, organization and decision-making power to exercise various rural issues [6]

Governance components

Governance is reflected in three different fields: (State, private sector and civil society).

The State: regulating the general principles of individuals and groups and establishing political and legal reference.

The private sector: is the total of enterprises and companies of various sizes and activities.

Civil Society: is a channel for the practice of participation and citizenship.

Governance Principles

There is a set of principles and standards that embody governance and have been adopted as indicators to measure governance. They vary from state to state and from level to level and even within the same state [7] (participation, transparency, equity, response. Efficiency and effectiveness...)

Field study

Before addressing the reality of governance in rural agglomerations, it is necessary to learn about the examples of the study by studying the following elements: location, upbringing, and urban development.

The Reality of Governance in Rural Communities

Defining the Study's Examples

• Boumaiza Group (Municipality of Ben Azouz)

Boumaiza is a semi-rural secondary gathering in the municipality of Ben Azouz that dates back to the colonial period Community of Boumaiza in the south-east of the municipality of Ben Azouz 7 km from the main headquarters of the community on plain plain lands with large valley unions and some reefs, which have led to the formation of the phenomenon of immersion and swamps in the south and even the middle of the gathering; In contrast, the rally occupies an important position in the node of the transport network on national road No. 44 between the cities of Annaba Skikda, the municipality of Ben Azouz and this made it a transit point to go from Constantine to Annaba or Skikka to Annaba population of 694 to 4,876, according to the latest 2008 census, 905 dwellings in 2008 and 109.10 hectares [8]

• Manzel el abtal (House of heros) Group (Azaba Municipality)

Manzel el l abtal is a semi-rural secondary gathering in the municipality of Azzaba, which was a socialist village created on an area of 1.5 hectares and is an extension of the first nucleus of the gathering. The Heroes' House is located on the eastern side of the municipality of Azzaba, bordered north by National Road 44, south by woodland and the highway route East West (East West), East and West of Peasants' Land, the congregation rose to a secondary concentration in 1987, with a population of 2,374 to 5,278, according to the 2008 census, and 937 dwellings in 2008, characterized by a dense and varied texture in its urban composition, estimated at 55.70 hectares [9]

• Said Bousbaa Group (Al-Harouch Municipality)

Said Bousbaa as a semi-rural secondary gathering in the municipality of Al haroush was a Colonialist farm known as FERME DE BOISSON relative to the French centenarian JAQUIS ELBASSO aggregation ", highlights a fabric block surrounded by fertile agricultural land, fields of wheat and vegetable crops, This gathering is located in the southern part of the municipality of Al-Harouche and is 4 km from the municipality's headquarters and 39 km from the city of Skikda State Road No. 33, towards the municipality of Zardaza, rose to a secondary concentration in 1977, with a population of 1,441 to 8,054 in 2008, and an accelerated pace of growth during the three periods population ", which almost 6 times the number, as recorded 288 dwellings in 1977, bringing the number to 1092 by the 2008 census, the global area was estimated at 76 hectares in 2017 [10]

• Kassaba Group (Ramadan Jamal Municipality)

Kassaba is a rural secondary gathering located southwest of Ramadan Jamal Municipality, bordered by the north of the Kassaba dispersal, from the south of National Road No. 3 and some agricultural land, from the east of the Sheikh Guest Tower and some of the highlands of the Halaleh Mountains. Surrounding the railway line from Skikka heading towards Annaba, the gathering rose to a secondary level in 2008, with a population of 1,250 and 176 dwellings, estimated at 28.50 hectares [11].

Analysis of population outcomes

• Population's level of satisfaction with their marital status

The sample data indicated through figure (1) that the population is not satisfied with their social situation and destroys them from the dire conditions in which they live. 88,89%, 66,76%, 77,99%, 88,23% each in Boumaiza, manzal al abtal, said bousbaa, and kassaba. This depends on the ability of the local authorities to provide a social climate capable of fulfilling individuals' needs, satisfying their desires and raising their standard of living by making them more interested in participating in social organizations that provide them with direct channels of communication with local bodies and thus the possibility of participating in various development policy-making based on engagement and effective contribution to a better situation.

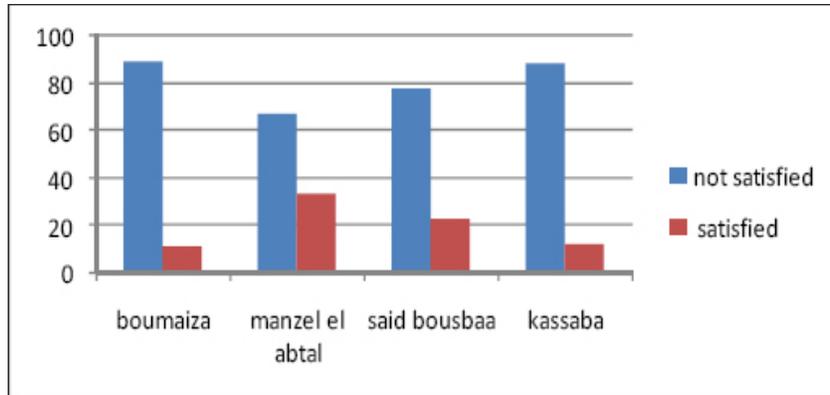


Figure 1. Population's level of satisfaction with their marital status

• **People's knowledge of projects**

Figure (2) data show that the majority of the sample population is not aware of the projects completed or will be completed at the level of the areas where they live, as the percentage of the answer "NO was 71.11% 65.60%, 77.99%, 88.24%, in Boumaiza, Manzal al abtal, Said bousbaa, Kassaba respectively, This means that information is not given to all citizens and is given based on mediation, patronage and sometimes bribery.

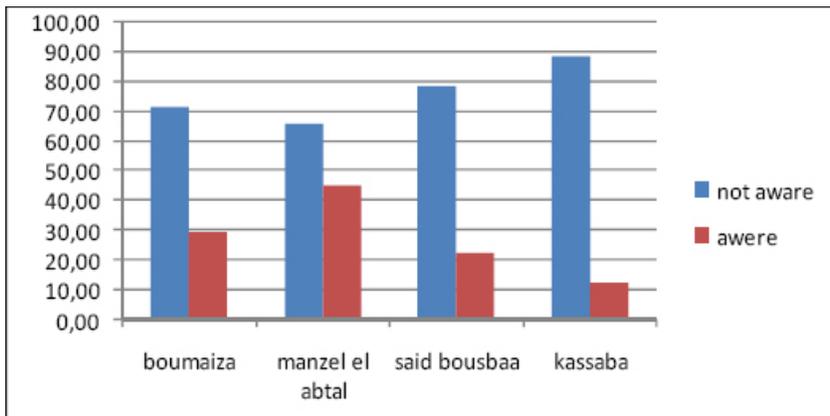


Figure 2. People's knowledge of projects

• **The means used to obtain information**

The remaining department with a knowledge of the projects has a background to obtain information. It heard the idea from a citizen. The results shown in figure (3) show the ratios 23.33%, 21.50%, 13.76%, 5.88%, at Boumaiza gathering, Manzal al abtal, Said Bousbaa and a Kassaba respectively, while other sources of information (Means of communication and advertising in the municipality) they are very weak to suggest the absence of an awareness and sensitization factor by the department whose functions are to communicate information.

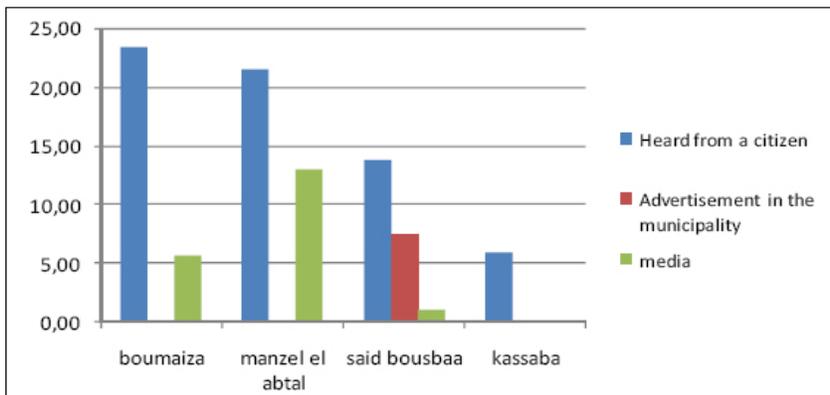


Figure 3. The means used to obtain information

• **Knowledge of the terminology of preparation and reconstruction PDAU, POS**

The majority of the population of the sample, as illustrated in figure (4), is not familiar with the terms pdau and pos and has no knowledge of the content and the overall meaning of these terms. It has recorded more than 94% at the gathering of Boumaiza, Manzal al abtal, Said Bousbaa'. This suggests the distance between the citizen and the administration and the absence of educational sensibilisation by the reconstruction actors. These tools are an effective management method for organizing urban tissue cells for rural agglomerations, They also set the basic guidelines for preparation and set the prospects for reconstruction that permits the use of land [12], after, of course, rationalizing citizens' awareness of the importance of these schemes in accordance with a set of principles and laws that ensure their effectiveness. The remaining ratios that I knew of the terms PDAU and POS 4.44%, 3.66%, 4.30% at the gathering level of Boumaiza, Said Bousbaa, Manzel Al Abtal respectively, are very weak, showing that there is a small class of awareness and culture, just what the population of the sample showed about their knowledge of these two mechanisms is their friction of these terms in both.

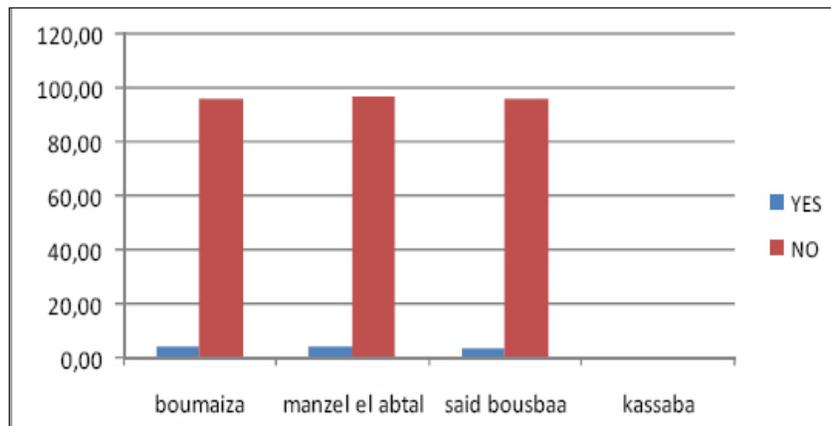


Figure 4. Population’s knowledge of pdau and pos terms.

By informing us of the content of the outline for the preparation and reconstruction of the municipalities of the study areas, we have noted the latter’s utilization of land occupancy schemes, which ensure the completion of various offices [13]. However, these schemes, including projects and programmers, have not been reflected in the field and have not adhered to the timelines and calendars set out in the outline for the development and reconstruction.

Projects that were not completed over the two years until 2018 were: Public Library, Garden, Multi-sport Hall, Covered Market, Passenger Transport Station and Playground Programmed on 1000m with Boumaiza Gathering, School, Sports Hall, Green Space, Playground Programmed on 6.74m, programmed houses estimated to 370 houses in Said Bousbaa Gathering, High school, Multi Sports Hall, youth house in the gathering of Manzel Al Abtal and School, Middle School, Postal Branch, Health Centre, Youth House and Multi-Service Hall in the gathering of Kassaba, the latter lacks equipment.

• **Associations**

Societal action is the non-profit volunteering that a human being does within his community voluntarily aims to achieve the public interest [14]. The field reality through the forms shows that most gatherings contain associations Yes, the response rates were more than 63% at both Happy Gathering as a finger and a gang, A contradiction was noted in the respondents’ response at the level of Boumaiza and Manzal al abtal Some answered yes, while the majority of 77% answered no. According to the researchers’ opinions, these associations do not contribute to decision-making and their participation in development programs is completely absent if we do not say that there is no. For example, these statistics do not reflect the real number of associations, but provide a rough picture of their presence in the study areas.

• **Elections**

Elections are one of the successful mechanisms for achieving democracy and enshrining the rule of law through citizens’ participation in the selection of their representatives and their clear contribution to the conduct of local affairs [15]. The results of the research sample confirmed that a large proportion of the population does not contribute to the fulfillment

of their electoral right and figure No.(5) The convergence in turnout differentials is allowed to be read. The turnover rates were 85.56% by Boumaiza, 72.06% by Manzal al abtal, 57.80% by Said as a Sur and 52.94% by Kassaba. The reluctance of residents of rural groups to participate in the elections was due to a lack of confidence in elected councils because of their lackluster performance of their absent roles and false promises, which had a significant impact on them. The population was frustrated, which led them to resort to protest movements as a means of expressing their demands, such as the protest movement at the Boumaiza assembly level in September 2013 [16]. The manzal el abtal gathered in January 2012 by blocking Route No. (44) Because of their dire conditions (marginalization and exclusion from housing projects) [17]. The residents of Said Bousaba also demanded their share of the development projects they blocked State Road No. 33 in May 2011 and September 2013 [18].

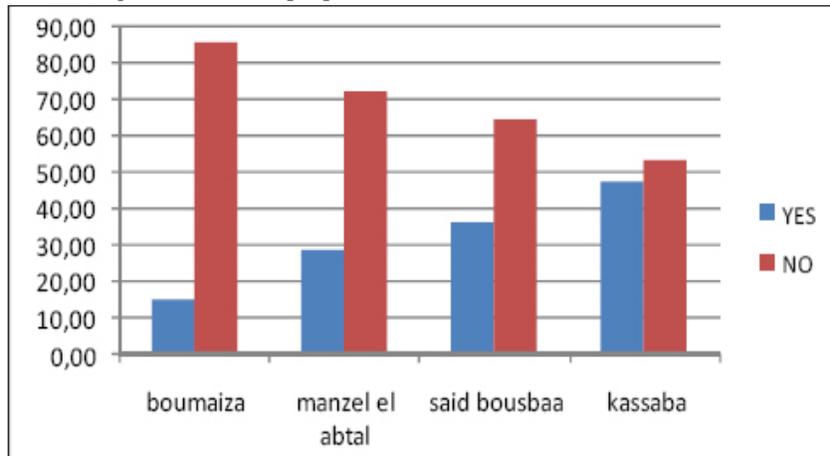


Figure 5. Participation in elections.

• Transparency in decision-making

Transparency: means that decisions made are legal and systemic and also mean that information is freely available to the persons concerned [19]. Through the criterion of the population’s satisfaction with the municipal application of the principle of transparency, especially with regard to decision-making, the results of the field investigation described in figure No (6). A negative picture of the application of this principle. More than 60% expressed dissatisfaction with the failure of the municipality to make its decisions clear, transparent and, according to them, because of the lack of clarity of the procedures and the failure to publish and suspend administrative decisions in public places and in institutions and to make them accessible to all.

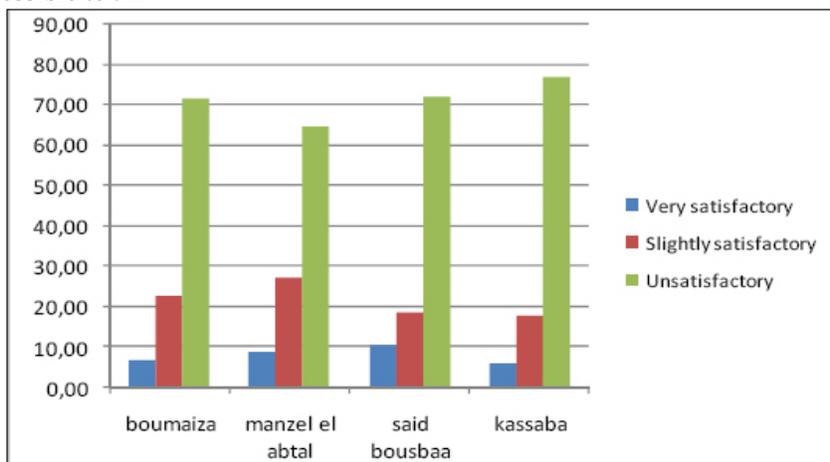


Figure 6. Transparency in decision-making.

• Justice and Equality Application of Laws

Justice and equality: means mechanisms that define and respect the fundamental rights of all and secure the means of review and treatment guaranteed by the rule of law and that citizens have equal rights before the law and have equal opportunities to exercise these rights and to participate in the administration of governance [20] In view of the results

shown in Figure No. (7), the majority of the sample expressed dissatisfaction that the municipality was not working to enforce the laws and achieve justice among members of the community, registering the following ratios: 60%, 54.84%, 66.97% and 58.83%, in Boumaiza, Manzal al abtal, , Kassaba, respectively.

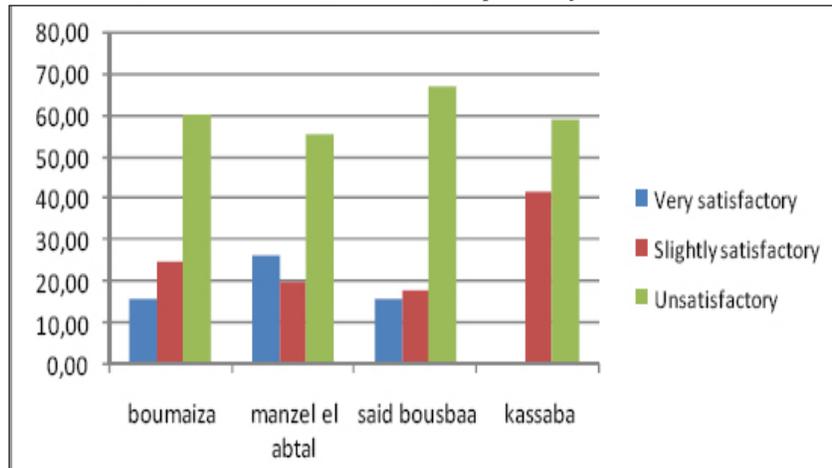


Figure 7.Equal application of laws.

• **Quality of services provided to citizens by the Department**

The term “public service” refers to that association, which brings together public administration and citizens at the level of satisfying the wishes and needs of individuals by administrative bodies and public organizations [21] in order to improve their relationship with the citizen. Algerian law stipulates that:

“The Administration must arrange for citizens to be confronted in their endeavours and rationalize the procedures to be followed. It must receive the best reception.” In the area of the permanent improvement of the service [22], article 21 of the Act stipulates that: “The Administration must be careful to continuously improve the quality of its services and to improve its public image as an expression of public authority.” [23] In this context, a question was posed to the research sample about their satisfaction with the quality of services provided to them by the Department. The ratios were 63.33%, 58.07%, 68.80%, 70.59% in Boumaiza, Manzal al abtal ,Said Bousbaa , Kassaba respectively. as shown in Figure No (8)

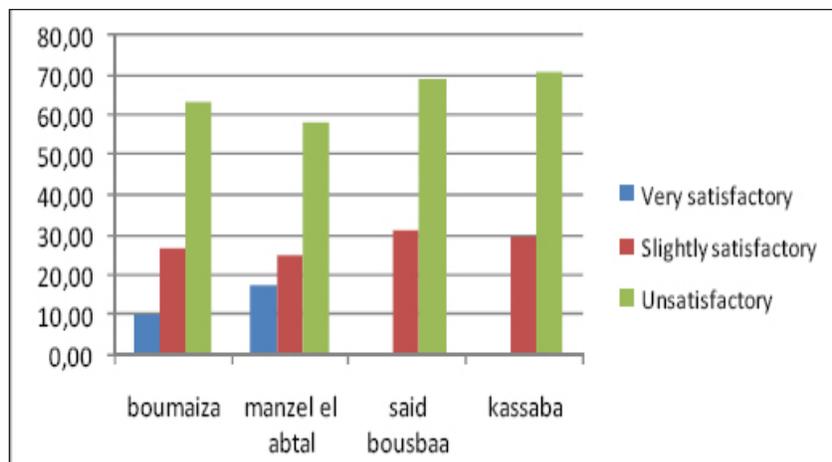


Figure 8.Quality of services provided by the Department.

According to some of them, the administration often ignores citizens’ wishes for service and sometimes even ignores applications by citizens.

• **Private sector**

The private sector is an actor in governance [24]. It works to connect the local population with local economic units and opens them up through the creation of positions of employment, despite the importance of economic units. However,

the area is not known to have an impact except in Boumaiza, which benefited from an area of activity containing a number of economic units, As a 3.62 hectare tomato laboratories production unit employing 60 workers and units for the production of corrugated carton 2.63 hectares and employs 57 workers, a wage and brick production unit on 2.70 hectares with 103 workers and a soft drinks production unit consisting of 6.21 hectares plus two poultry meat production units.

This industrial fabric has begun to crystallize its features on the horizon so it needs the support of local authorities.

The Analysis of the Questions Addressed to Presidents of Municipalities

For the purpose of a better understanding of the subject of governance, we have decided to raise a number of questions addressed to the Presidents of municipalities, considering that the mayor is the first responsible for decision-making, protecting citizens' rights, implementing projects and establishing the principles of government

We have focused on these questions and summarized them in the following points

- As an elected and a facilitator, do you believe that associations are able to contribute with local communities to improving citizens' lives? An official believes that associations may be the appropriate framework for achieving this objective provided that there is effective participation of the population In the view of another official, the degree of contribution of civil society associations is meager and unregulated and does not serve the population of rural areas, Another refrained from answering, while another official believed that the laws on associations existed but that they were misinterpreted by representatives of associations, Gen deviated from her fundamental role for which she was found.
- Policies on urban and rural governance attempt to place the element of participation (citizen's participation) as the main focus of their strategies. Participation is an absolute necessity.
- Do you think this is necessary or not?

No answers are received to this question except one answer by an official who considers that participation is through associations. The non answer to this question by the authorities may be translated into the fact that the majority of the local representatives did not accept the idea of involving the citizen in the conduct of the local matter, as this constitutes an obstacle to the exercise of their functions and interference with their authorities.

Do not you think that systems of representation that are somehow incompatible with good governance should be reviewed? And will the situation improve or stay the same?

We have not received an answer to the first part of the question.

We received only one answer from one of those officials for the second part of the question, which was that the situation would inevitably improve because we have young energies, with strength and will improve the situation.

Ignoring the answer to the first part of the question is due to the fact that the subjects of governance and participatory democracy are sensitive and sometimes worrying on the one hand. On the other hand, there is little attention on the part of the officials who have assured us through this question that they represent only themselves.

CONCLUSION

By investigating the reality of governance in rural communities, we have concluded:

- After the distance between the inhabitants of the rural communities and the administration.
- The Administration's failure to apply the principle of justice, equality and transparency among citizens in terms of communicating information that enables them to make decisions of local interest.
- Lack of knowledge and knowledge of the content of certain urban terminology related to management and urban planning.
- Citizens' lack of confidence in State institutions and reluctance to participate in elections.
- Weak and fragile fabric of the association movement and the private sector

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