

Civil Society Organizations and their Role in Confronting the Coronavirus Pandemic, Field of Study the Tebessa City Associations

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Abstract

The epidemiological conditions resulting from the Corona pandemic have necessitated an intensification of research in the field, particularly studying how various social systems, especially civil society organizations, are responding to it. This study aims to examine the role played by civil society organizations in confronting the Corona pandemic, focusing on a sample of associations in the state of Tebessa. Utilizing a questionnaire distributed to six randomly selected associations, the study concludes that these associations have played a significant role in alleviating the health, economic, and social effects of the pandemic on society.

Keywords: Civil Society Organizations, Corona Pandemic, Society, Associations, Tebessa.

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1. Introduction

Civil society organizations constitute a pivotal element of Algerian society, crucial for fostering collaboration in managing crises, including the current challenge of the coronavirus pandemic. In such situations, these organizations typically play a facilitative role in government activities. They engage in awareness-raising and mentoring processes, offering assistance that aids citizens in understanding, evaluating, and adhering to decisions and policies designed to benefit both the state and society. Moreover, civil society organizations empower citizens with skills to express their concerns and collaborate effectively.

The necessity for transparent information about government actions and the freedom to act without harassment or interference from the state becomes even more pronounced during crises. While crises, whether stemming from natural disasters, epidemics, or man-made disasters, necessitate immediate action to alleviate suffering and hardships, they also present an opportunity for positive historical change. These critical moments allow for a reset in policies, economic

structures, and public health systems, fostering greater societal cohesion and fortifying measures to prevent or mitigate future crises.

The economic and health sectors, not only in Algeria but worldwide, have been significantly impacted by the virus. However, the psychosocial well-being of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and chronically ill individuals, has also been notably affected. Despite various initiatives, some in coordination with the state's social efforts, civil society organizations in Algeria have launched online campaigns to raise awareness about the pandemic threat.

During the coronavirus pandemic, civil society organizations in Algeria have played a significant role in providing remote psychosocial support. Specialists and counselors in clinical and social psychology, as well as special education, have actively participated in this initiative, primarily through social media. The use of social media has garnered substantial attention from the community members, with Algeria experiencing a high demand for such services. This demand is supported by the state, which provides resources and support to these organizations.

Key issues arising from the pandemic, such as domestic violence, anxiety, fear, tension, and obsessive concerns, particularly among vulnerable groups like women, children, the elderly, and the disabled, are being addressed by these organizations. Associations are crucial in supporting collective action, responding to and recovering from crises. They mobilize around urgent needs, including public access to information, food assistance, shelter, and medical supplies. Civil society organizations also play a central role in fostering community cohesion and mutual assistance. They work to protect civil space and ensure an appropriate and comprehensive response to crises by collaborating with the government.

The proximity of associations and their direct contact with people gives them a unique advantage, particularly in urban areas in Algeria. On the ground, this has translated into positive outcomes, with numerous impactful campaigns aligning with WHO health standards. Associations have distributed awareness materials and masks directly to passers-by, promoting health standards and social distancing. Some associations have also endeavored to meet the food needs of families with limited daily incomes directly affected by the pandemic. However, the scale of the need often surpasses the physical and moral capacities of these organizations, limiting their ability to enforce strict health standards.

Despite the extensive efforts of associations, they face challenges in encircling all members of the community to limit gatherings and curb the spread of the coronavirus. The methods used for awareness-raising have not always been effective. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the characteristics, functions, and responsibilities of these associations. They undertake large-scale social campaigns, reflecting a commitment to humanitarian and social objectives rather than personal or self-serving goals. This highlights the altruistic nature of civil society.

Given the recent heightened focus on combating the coronavirus, there is an opportunity to rebuild an effective social system that fosters healthier human relationships across different social groups and organizational levels. To explore this, the study can be centered around a key question: What

is the role of civil society organizations in confronting the coronavirus pandemic? This main question can be broken down into sub-questions, such as:

What is the preventive role of associations in confronting the coronavirus pandemic?

What awareness work is carried out by associations to cope with the coronavirus pandemic?

2. Building and defining concepts

- Civil society organizations are entities that enjoy the freedom of self-formation and voluntary establishment within the state, focusing on economic, social, cultural, and political matters. They constitute a set of freely formed organizations that operate in the public sphere, bridging the gap between the family, society, and the state. These organizations aim to serve the public interest, providing services to citizens and engaging in various humanitarian activities.

These entities adhere to values and standards such as respect, consent, tolerance, participation, and the proper management of diversity. They are often referred to as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and remain integral to civil society. Notably, the core activity of NGOs is grounded in volunteerism.

Procedurally, civil society organizations are independent entities with a voluntary nature, dedicated to humanitarian cooperation for the betterment of society. Their mission is to serve the community without pursuing profit, emphasizing transparency and integrity in society. Through their establishment, these organizations seek to defend the interests, rights, and gains of the community.

- Coronaviruses constitute a large family of viruses capable of causing diseases in both humans and animals. The novel coronavirus is known to primarily target the respiratory system and has been linked to severe conditions such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). A recent variant of the coronavirus has emerged, resulting in a global pandemic that continues to impact people worldwide.

Referred to as COVID-19, this infectious disease is caused by the latest strain of the coronavirus. The virus was initially identified in December 2019 following an outbreak in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Before its emergence, there was no prior knowledge of this specific virus and the associated illness. COVID-19 has since escalated into a pandemic, affecting numerous countries across the globe, as declared by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic, caused by the COVID-2 virus, is characterized by the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The virus was first identified during the initial outbreak in Wuhan in early December 2019.

- Associations, according to Saaduddin Ibrahim, are a collection of freely formed voluntary organizations that operate within the public sphere, bridging the gap between the family and the state. These entities work in the interests of their members, adhering to values and norms such as respect, consent, tolerance, and the peaceful management of diversity and differences.

-Associations:

Legally defined from a legislative and constitutional perspective, an association is an agreement wherein several individuals commit permanently to share their knowledge and material resources

to work toward a progressively defined objective. Procedurally, a group of individuals comes together on a contractual basis for a specific period, pooling their material and moral capacities to promote the public good within society. The primary purpose is not material profit but rather the pursuit of strategies and plans contributing to societal welfare.

- Prevention:

"Prevention" refers to a set of measures taken in anticipation of a problem or complications arising from specific circumstances, including existing issues. The goal is to fully or partially eliminate the possibility of the problem or its complications. According to the American Society for Quality (ASQ), prevention is an action or measure taken to halt the development of any operation, preventing future incidents that may deviate from required health specifications.

Procedurally, the concept of prevention encompasses actions, including medical, social, educational, psychological, and rehabilitation strategies, plans, and services. These efforts aim to contain the virus without inducing general human morbidity or vulnerability, preventing the development and overcoming of disability. The preventive approach prioritizes both the well and the unwell, aiming to prevent problems and disorders from occurring.

-Volunteerism:

Volunteerism is defined as the conscious and voluntary effort to perform a social duty driven by a desire to contribute without the expectation of a financial reward. It encompasses the selfless actions of individuals, groups, or organizations aiming to provide free services, or a category of services, without seeking material compensation in return for their efforts.

Procedurally, volunteerism involves organizations and associations dedicated to offering physical and moral support to members of the community, all while eschewing any material exchange for their endeavors.

3. Methodological procedures for the study

In this section, how sampling and study participants as well as data collection techniques and analytical tools used were discussed.

-Study Sample Identification

The study community comprises associations of civil society organizations in the city of Tebessa. The city hosts a diverse range of associations, with a total estimated number of.

Given that the study focuses on individuals engaged in Tebessa City Associations, the Stephen Thompson equation was applied to determine the sample size. Consequently, the selected sample size is estimated at 90 individuals, distributed across 6 associations chosen through a simple random preview Study Tools.

The technical construction of research is the second phase of scientific research after identifying the research problem, followed immediately by the data collection and analysis phases. In this

regard, humanities, like nature's, provide many concrete means and techniques to investigate reality.

The study relied on identification as a key tool for obtaining the necessary data and information and covered 30 questions divided into two main sections:

Section I, this section consists of one axis representing the initial data of the researchers, and contains 6 questions, starting from question 01 to question 06.

Section II of the Section contains two main pillars: the second, which contains data on associations. This section relates to the role of associations. It consists of 14 phrases divided into two dimensions: the first dimension, the preventive role, and consists of 07 phrases. Second dimension, volunteerism consists of 07 phrases. The third, which includes data on the coronavirus pandemic, is part of the study's measurement of the impact of the pandemic on society, consisting of 10 phrases.

-Results of the study

•Study Tool Validity Test

The Alpha Kronbach coefficient was used to test the health of the study tool, worth 0.823, which is,

•Descriptive Statistics

Computational average, normative deviations and variability were used for all study variables, the first one on the characteristics of the study sample, the second one on the role of civil society organizations and the third one on the impact of the pandemic on society.

Study sample characteristics:

➤ Table No. (01): Distribution of study sample by gender:

variables	Repetition	percentage	Arithmetic average	standard deviation
Male	45	50,0	1,5000	0,50280
Female	45	50,0		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that the proportion of female and male researchers in the sample is as high as 45 males and 45 females, through which the role of the genders in associative activity can be inferred.

➤ Table No. (02): Distribution of study sample by age:

Variable	Repetition	percentage	Arithmetic average	standard deviation
Less than 25 years	11	12,2	2,4667	0,95046
From 25-35	41	45,6		
From 35-45	26	28,9		
From 45-55	9	10,0		
55 years and above	3	3,3		
Totla	90	100,0		

The table indicates that the majority of the sample's members are young people between the ages of 25 and 34, with 45.6% and the pro-35-44 age group.

➤ Table No. (03): Distribution of study sample by social situation:

Variables	Reputation	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Single	42	46,7	1,6556	0,73685
Married	40	44,4		
Divorced	5	5,6		
Widow	3	3,3		
Total	90	100,0		

The table indicates that the majority of single members of the sample is 46.7%, followed by the marital group at 44.4%.

➤ Table No. (04): Distribution of study sample by educational level:

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation

High school	50	55,6	1,4889	0,58530
University	36	40,0		
Graduate of Higher School	4	4,4		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, the majority of the sample's members are secondary education at 55.6%, followed by undergraduates at 40%.

➤ Table No. (05): Distribution of study sample by seniority in association work:

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Less than 05 years	42	46,7	2,2111	1,48016
From 05 to 09 years	19	21,1		
From 10 to 14 years	13	14,4		
25 years and above	16	17,8		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that the majority of members of the sample have less than 5 years' experience of associative work than 46.7%, followed by 21.1% of those with associative work experience ranging from 05 to 09 years.

➤ Table No. (06): Distribution of study sample by position:

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
President of the assembly	6	6,7	3,5333	1,06212
Vice- president of the assembly	12	13,3		

Treasurer	9	10,0		
Member	54	60,0		
Secretary	9	10,0		
Total	90	100,0		

The table indicates the distribution of the sample's 99 personnel by position occupied within the Assembly, with 54 members divided into 6 associations, while the remaining 36 are distributed among the management positions indicated in the table.

Second axis:

➤ Table No. (07): Question 7:

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	7	7,8	4,0778	0,87702
Neutral	10	11,1		
Agreed	42	46,7		
Strongly agreed	31	34,4		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that 46.7% of the study sample individuals confirmed that the societies in question are raising citizens' awareness about the seriousness of the epidemic by conducting sensitization processes.

➤ Table no.(08): question 8:

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	2	2,2	3,9444	0,72455
Neutral	20	22,2		

Agreed	49	54,4		
Strongly agreed	19	21,1		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that 54.4% of the study sample members confirmed that the societies in question are sensitizing members of society to adhere to the safety distance in public facilities.

➤ Table no.(09): question 9

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	6	6,7	3,6778	1,00368
Neutral	28	31,1		
Agreed	39	43,3		
Strongly agreed	17	18,9		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 43.3% of the study sample individuals confirmed that the societies in question distribute masks to citizens to ensure compliance with preventive measures.

➤ Table 10: Question 10

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	7	7,8	4,1000	0,80797
Neutral	4	4,4		
Agreed	52	57,8		
Strongly agreed	27	30,0		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that 57.8% of the study sample individuals confirmed that the societies in question distribute volunteers to provide subsidies under the supervisory authority's control.

➤ Table 11: Question 11

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	8	8,9	3,8556	0,94288
Neutral	23	25,6		
Agreed	33	36,7		
Strongly agreed	26	28,9		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that 36.7% of the study sample individuals confirmed that the societies in question are recording and reporting imbalances and abuses.

➤ Table 12: Question 12

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	3	3,3	3,9556	0,80603
Neutral	13	14,4		
Agreed	56	62,2		
Strongly agreed	18	20,0		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 62.2% of the study sample individuals confirmed that the societies in question contribute to the development of environmental protection and waste disposal programs during the coronavirus pandemic.

➤ Table 13: Question 13

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagree	5	5,6	3,6444	0,99788
Disagreed	4	4,4		
Neutral	24	26,7		
Agreed	42	46,7		
Strongly agreed	15	16,7		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 46.7% of the study sample individuals confirmed that the societies in question participate in media events on the coronavirus pandemic.

➤ Table 14: Question 14

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagree	3	3,3	4,0556	0,91628
Neutral	17	18,9		
Agreed	39	43,3		
Strongly agreed	31	34,4		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 43.3% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question participate in voluntary work in community service during the coronavirus pandemic.

➤ Table 15: Question 15

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
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Strongly disagreed	7	7,8	3,3889	1,12873
Disagreed	17	18,9		
Neutral	8	8,9		
Agreed	50	55,6		
Strongly agreed	8	8,9		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 55.6% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question provided material support to elderly orphanages during the pandemic.

➤ Table 16: Question 16

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	2	2,2	4,0889	0,86951
Disagreed	2	2,2		
Neutral	12	13,3		
Agreed	44	48,9		
Strongly agreed	30	33,3		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 48.9% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question provided material support to the poor during the pandemic.

➤ UTable 17: Question 17

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	3	3,3	4,0333	0,81351

Neutral	10	11,1		
Agreed	55	61,1		
Strongly agreed	22	24,4		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 61.1% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question provided moral support to all members of the community during the pandemic.

➤ Table 18: Question 18

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	3	3,3	4,3000	0,64390
Neutral	/	/		
Agreed	54	60,0		
Strongly agreed	33	36,7		
Total	90	100,0		
Second axis	/	/	39,3222	5,29326

According to the table, 60.0% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question are paying emergency benefits to workers in the sectors affected by the coronavirus, mainly the health sector.

➤ Table 19: Question 19

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	4	4,4	4,0667	0,99210
Disagreed	5	5,6		
Neutral	2	2,2		

Agreed	49	54,4		
Strongly agreed	30	33,3		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 54.4% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question provided meals for patients undergoing home isolation.

➤ Table 20: Question 20

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	7	7,8	3,8556	0,80114
Neutral	15	16,7		
Agreed	52	57,8		
Strongly agreed	16	17,8		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 57.8% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question provided oxygen tubes for patients in need who undergo home isolation.

Third axis:

➤ Table 21: Question 21

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	10	11,1	3,7667	0,90006
Neutral	19	21,1		
Agreed	43	47,8		
Strongly agreed	18	20,0		

Total	90	100,0		
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According to the table, 47.8% of the sample members confirmed that the societies in question were conducting intensive awareness-raising activities during the pandemic.

➤ Table 22: Question 22

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	3	3,3	4,0222	0,73405
Neuy	14	15,6		
Agreed	51	56,7		
Strongly agreed	22	24,4		
Toty	90	100,0		

According to the table, 56,7% members of the sample confirmed that the pandemic had adversely affected family relations.

➤ Table 23: Question 23

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	4	4,4	3,9889	0,89310
Disagreed	3	3,3		
Neutral	3	3,3		
Agreed	60	66,7		
Strongly agreed	20	22,2		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 66.7% of members of the sample confirmed that the associations' plans were being implemented during the pandemic are realistic.

➤ Table 24: Question 24

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	3	3,3	4,2667	0,80448
Neutral	2	2,2		
Agreed	50	55,6		
Strongly agreed	35	38,9		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 55.6% of members of the sample confirmed that the associations are keen to devise working methods consistent with security to promote a positive image within the community.

➤ Table 25: Question 25

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	3	3,3	4,0778	0,76772
Neutral	5	5,6		
Agreed	61	67,8		
Strongly agreed	21	23,3		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 67.8% of the sample members confirmed that the associations support voluntary youth initiatives during the pandemic.

➤ Table 26: Question 26

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	7	7,8	3,8000	1,12380
Disagreed	3	3,3		
Neutral	16	17,8		
Agreed	39	43,3		
Strongly agreed	25	27,8		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 43.3% of members of the sample confirmed that associations are keen to use social media sites to communicate their messages regarding the pandemic.

➤ Table 27: Question 27

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	4	4,4	4,2111	0,69500
Neutral	2	2,2		
Agreed	55	61,1		
Strongly agreed	29	32,2		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 61.1% of the samples confirmed that the pandemic contributed to bringing the samples closer together.

➤ Table 28: Question 28

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
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Strongly disagreed	10	11,1	3,7556	1,26590
Disagreed	3	3,3		
Neutral	16	17,8		
Agreed	31	34,4		
Strongly agreed	30	33,3		
Total	90	100,0		

The table shows that 34, 4,100 members of the sample confirmed that the pandemic contributed to reducing drug use.

➤ Table 29: Question 29

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Disagreed	4	4,4	3,8889	0,60790
Neutral	10	11,1		
Agreed	68	75,6		
Strongly agreed	8	8,9		
Total	90	100,0		

According to the table, 75.6% of the sample confirmed that the pandemic had contributed to raising food prices and creating a crisis within the community.

➤ Table 30: Question 30

Variables	Repetition	Percentage	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation
Strongly disagreed	10	11,1	3,5444	1,24667
Disagreed	6	6,7		

Neutral	21	23,3		
Agreed	31	34,4		
Strongly agreed	22	24,4		
Total	90	100,0		
Third axis	/	/	55,0444	6,64495

According to the table, 75.6% of the sample members confirmed that the associations respect the criteria of transparency in their media statements in all matters related to the pandemic.

Binding coefficient:

Coefficient analysis is the primary statistical technique used to analyze the correlation between independent and dependent variables. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to study the correlation between the axes of the questionnaire.

➤ Table 31: Linkages between study variables

		Second axis	Third axis
Second theme	Pearson Binding Coefficient	1	0,662**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0,000
	N	90	90
Third theme	Pearson Binding Coefficient	0,662**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0,000	
	N	90	90

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

The table shows a statistically significant correlation between the study's variables, the role of civil society organizations and the impact of the pandemic on society, as the morale ratio will rise to 0 (below 0.01).

Results of the study:

By analysing the responses of the sample study regarding the role of civil society organizations under consideration in confronting the coronavirus pandemic, the following results were reached:

- In terms of the characteristics of the sample study, it is shown that there is equality in the sex of employees of the societies studied, and that the majority of individuals are single or married young people with secondary or university education with years of employment ranging from one to 9 years.
- The societies studied are conducting sensitization campaigns to raise citizens' awareness of the seriousness of the pandemic, taking advantage of social media sites.
- The societies studied participate in HIV prevention campaigns by sensitizing members of society to adhere to the safety distance in public facilities, distribute masks, record and report imbalances and abuses, and develop environmental protection and waste disposal programs during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Thoughtful associations are involved in mitigating the health, economic and psychological effects of the pandemic by providing material and moral support to members of the community.
- The societies studied support voluntary youth initiatives to cope with the pandemic.
- The pandemic has negatively affected family relations and caused an economic, social and psychological crisis within the community, but in contrast, home quarantine measures have helped to curb the spread of drugs, strengthen ties between members of the community who have joined hands during the pandemic, and thoughtful associations have played a role in limiting the effects of the pandemic.

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- Tob Regul Sci.*TM 2023;9(2):2603 - 2623**