

## The impact of the population problem on school dropout in Algeria

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### Abstract:

Education is one of the major aspirations that the individual seeks, as it is a turning point in building his professional project, in addition to the state that has made education one of its major priorities to achieve development, and if we want to realize this value that education represents for the individual, the family and society as a whole, we must notice how the family becomes, during exam times, to serve one project, which is the success of the student, while for the state, the amount of financial spending, allocations and resources from the state budget available to the education sector are sufficient to answer the extent of the importance of this value.

However, this privilege that education has monopolized has been facing many obstacles, especially in recent years, as it has been increasing more and more from one year to the next, the most prominent of which is the problem or phenomenon of school dropout, and the resulting great educational waste, the consequences of which are borne by the state budget and the student's family with bitterness and great regret, a phenomenon that observers believe has been caused and exacerbated by multiple and intertwined factors, including the population problem that Algerian society is facing, especially in recent years.

The population problem resulting from the rapid and unplanned increase in the population has a great impact on the size of the educational phenomenon, because adopting the principle of quantity and neglecting quality, with overcrowding of classrooms to meet the increasing demands for education, in addition to the social problems of the Algerian family, which also have the population problem as one of its causes, has forced some students to drop out of school and work to meet the social and economic requirements of the family, and other problems of the population crisis and the unplanned demographic transformation have constituted a factor that has an impact on the spread of the phenomenon of school dropout, and have exacerbated its severity.

Through this research paper, we sought to highlight the impact that the population problem that Algeria suffers from plays in the exacerbation and spread of the phenomenon of school dropout.

**Keywords:** school dropout, students, education.

### Introduction:

It took more than 50,000 years for the world population to reach one billion people, but since 1960 our population has increased by several billion every decade or two, with the world population reaching 3 billion in 1960 and 6 billion around 2000. The United Nations projects that it will pass 9 billion by 2037, but the annual population growth rate has slowed from its peak in the late 1960s when it reached more than 2%, declining to about 1% today, and falling again to half that level by 2050.

Although global per capita income more than doubled, life expectancy increased by sixteen years, and nearly all children worldwide were able to attend primary school during the period 1960–2000, rapid population growth poses many difficult challenges for individuals and societies, as these challenges include the need for more food, clothing, housing, education, and infrastructure, as well as the need to absorb large numbers into the productive workforce, and to do more to protect the environment. Although the global population explosion has become relatively less severe, the increase is still significant, starting from higher initial levels than before, and previous fears of a worldwide population explosion have receded to concerns about rapid population growth in specific countries and regions. (Bloom, 2020, p. 6)

Among these regions and countries that are facing the risk of a population explosion today, leading to a population crisis or problem, is Algeria, as a result of the steady and large increase in the number of births compared to the decrease in the number of deaths due to the improvement of the health and economic conditions of the country, especially during the seventies and early eighties due to the rise in hydrocarbon revenues, as the main source of income in Algeria. This explosion soon had multiple effects that Algeria is no longer able to overcome easily today, including the exacerbation of the phenomenon of school dropout due to the inability of the Algerian school to accept or continue these hordes of students annually within its

walls, which is the phenomenon that we tried through this research paper to explore and track its factors and effects and the extent of its relationship to the population crisis that Algeria is witnessing, and how this demographic crisis was able to influence the factors causing the phenomenon of school dropout.

### **First - The population problem**

The harsh years of war that Algeria fought to gain its independence and freedom had a major impact on Algerian society, especially on its demographic composition, where large numbers of people were lost due to the policies of barbaric killing, genocide, and ethnic cleansing, especially the scorched earth policy, the destruction of villages and hamlets, and forced displacement to distant countries such as New Caledonia, where the population of Algeria decreased to reach 10.04% (ONS, 2015, P32.)

The Algerian state faced development challenges immediately after independence, including the significant shortage of labor in various fields and areas, which necessitated encouraging increased fertility and trying to increase the offspring, especially with the improvement of living conditions for families, the implementation of health care policies and programs, and the development of isolated and poor areas in the deserts and plateaus, thanks to oil revenues and resources after the nationalization of hydrocarbons. However, this demographic situation soon became an abnormal situation, constituting a major demographic transition as a result of the rapid growth of population numbers that was not compatible with the country's needs, reflecting in all honesty the Malthusian theory in demography, moving Algeria from a state facing a deficit in human resources to a state facing a major population explosion, reflected by large and increasing demands for education, health, housing and work among the youth, which is the most represented group in the Algerian population density scale, which constitutes a real challenge for those in charge of the country's policy.

### **1- Definition of the population crisis:**

The population crisis is defined as the imbalance between the increase in population and the development in the size of resources and services (Saour, 2013, p. 2), which means an imbalance between the mouths searching for food and the hands capable of working.

### **2. Factors affecting population growth:**

#### **2.1. Social factors affecting population growth:**

- **Education:** The level of education, especially among women, is linked to the level of fertility and its change, because it delays the age of marriage, especially among women who miss years of their fertility period without marriage or childbirth, which reduces their desire for it and increases their acceptance of the labor market, and this is accompanied by increased awareness of reproductive health issues and birth control and its methods.
- **Age of marriage for women:** The limited period of fertility in women makes the age of marriage a reproductive limit, as early marriage extends the period of marital cohabitation during the period of fertility and increases the likelihood of pregnancy and having a larger number of children.
- **Development of social security systems:** The development of these systems that provide the necessary care for people in old age reduces reliance on the presence of children as an invested asset for old age, and thus reduces the desire of spouses to have a large number of children.
- **Religious commitment and adherence to customs and traditions:** The impact of social and religious values in determining the behavior of the individual and society is linked to the level of commitment to the teachings of religious belief, the cohesion of families and their ability to impose their behavioral pattern on their children, which is clearly observed in rural areas more than cities.
- **Development of health care and improvement of nutrition:** The impact of the positive development of health care is evident in reducing infant mortality by increasing the average life expectancy of the individual and improving the health of the mother and child.
- **Population targets and relevant laws and legislation:** The presence of clear population targets contributes to changing the demographic reality of the population, such as its growth or geographical distribution, etc., using various methods such as plans and programs or necessary laws and legislation, such as laws on compulsory and free education, etc.
- **Political and security situations:** The population is affected by the fluctuations of political and security conditions, and behavioral patterns develop among them that take on a continuous nature the longer the fluctuations last and the more severe they are on them. The increase in deaths and migration cases in wars is accompanied by a decrease in births due to violence.
- **Spreading awareness among women:** The rise in women's educational level, their entry into the labor market, and their awareness of many issues, especially the spread of media, communication, and transportation, increases women's awareness related to childbirth, birth control and its means, the risks of

early marriage, repeated pregnancies, etc., which contributes to reducing high fertility, deaths, and disease (Saqour, 2013, p. 26)

- **Migration:** Migration is considered one of the determinants of population growth, and affects it and its economic and demographic characteristics, customs, traditions, etc. As a result of the migration factor, the population distribution in a place is reshaped, and migration varies into temporary migration and permanent migration, according to the continuity criterion, and it can be classified into international migration and internal migration according to the direction of migration, and there is forced migration represented by the displacement of individuals from their homeland due to wars and conflicts, and migration rates are measured using some quantitative measures, including the rate of incoming migration, the rate of outgoing migration, and the rate of net migration... (Falfoul and Djelloul, 2019, p. 118)

## **2.2 Economic factors affecting population growth:**

- **Women's contribution to the labor force:** Women's work time outside the home is added to the time spent caring for the family and housework, which constitutes a heavy burden on them, especially if their family is large. Therefore, as a natural reaction, women's desire to have a larger number of children will decrease in order to be able to achieve a balance between different tasks, as a smaller family requires less time to take care of it.

- **Type of profession and economic activity of the individual:** The type of profession or economic activity is reflected in several social and economic aspects that affect population growth, such as determining the level of available health care, educational level, desired number of children, and mortality levels resulting from practicing professions with degrees of risk associated with working conditions, which may lead the injured person to premature death.

- **The cost of raising and caring for a child:** The material and moral cost that the couple bears after making the decision to have children plays a role in thinking about having children.

- **The disparity in the level of development between the countryside and the city and different regions:** The economic and social differences, services, education and health, and the fluctuations in the conditions of rural residents, push many of its inhabitants to leave it in search of better incomes, which leads to a change in the demographic structure in areas with weak development, which reduces the category of producers and expands the category of children and increases reliance on them to work as sources of income for the family, which encourages the concept of the extended family. (Saqour, 2013, pp. 27-28)

## **3- Population growth in Algeria:**

The period 1966-1987 in Algeria witnessed significant demographic growth, exceeding 3% per year, which led to the population doubling within 20 years from 12 to 23 million during the years 1966 and 1987 respectively, after it was estimated at approximately 3 million people at the beginning of the French occupation of Algeria in 1830, was about 4 million people, with a low natural growth rate, and then it began to accelerate to reach 2.68% on the eve of the outbreak of the revolution Editorial.

After independence, Algeria worked to lower the marriage age to increase childbearing to compensate for deaths, which led to an increase in fertility to reach its peak in the early seventies, this increase was accompanied by a decrease in deaths, which caused the problem of the population explosion in the eighties, after which the birth rate decreased, but the natural growth remained above 3% until 1985.

Later, deaths witnessed a decline with the rapid decrease in births and the natural growth rate, which did not exceed 1.86% in 2007, so that the growth rate reached 2.07% in 2013 (Qura and Al-Sha'ubi, 2015, p. 83), to exceed 31 million people at the beginning From the third millennium, and continues to rise, where it was estimated in 2016 at more than 40 million people. (Falfoul and Djelloul, 2019, p. 123), and population in Algeria, as announced by the Algerian Statistical Office, reached 43.9 million at the beginning of 2020, compared to 43.4 million at the beginning of 2019.

According to what was reported by the official news agency, from the Statistical Office, according to this rate of demographic growth, the population of the country will reach 44.7 million people at the beginning of January 2021, and according to the same source, the population of Algeria is expected to reach 51.3 million people in 2030, and 57.6 million people in 2040. (Abd Erazzaq Ben Abd Allah, 2020)

## **4. Stages of population growth in Algeria:**

Blacker identified five stages of demographic development, which differ in birth and death rates. According to this classification, Algeria falls into the second stage, which Blacker calls the stage of great expansion, and is also called the stage of population explosion, and characterized by rapid population growth, due to high birth rates and decreasing death rates as a result of health and cultural development. In this regard, countries in this stage are characterized by an increase in the proportion of young people, and this stage includes most developing countries (Falfoul and Djelloul, 2019, p. 119)

## 5. Effects and repercussions of rapid population growth:

**1- Economic effects of population growth:** The economic effects of the steady population growth are represented in several effects, as follows:

- Increased consumption among individuals, and consequently a reduction in their savings for investment purposes, which leads to a reduction in the possibility of raising the level of national income for individuals, as the national income becomes less than its previous rates, and consequently the standard of living decreases.
- Increased state spending on basic services such as education, health, transportation, protection, security and housing, as the increase in population leads to a shortage in supply and an increase in demand, so that this consumer spending is at the expense of development expenditures and funds allocated to investment projects such as industry, agriculture and trade, which leads to the depletion of resources.
- The spread of the phenomenon of unemployment, especially among the educated, which leads to the migration of scientific competencies abroad.
- The clear decline in the wage rate in the private and government sectors due to the availability of a large number of workers. In addition, the population increase may lead to an increase in the prices of goods and services as a result of the increase in demand for them in a manner that is not proportional to the wage rate, which leads to a decrease in the standard of living of individuals.
- The high prices of housing units due to the difficulty of providing the necessary numbers to meet the needs of new families, in addition to the fact that the population increase leads to urban encroachment on agricultural lands and a decrease in agricultural production, thus affecting the state's economy.
- The collapse of public facilities due to increased pressure on them and the insufficient investments needed to renew and expand them. (Iman Mustapha, 2020, p. 144)

### Second - School Dropout in Algeria

School dropout represents a problem for education systems worldwide, as if young people do not complete their education, they will not be qualified to participate in the social and economic development of their families, communities and countries, and it will be difficult for them to achieve their full potential. President Obama stated in an eloquent statement that dropping out of school is not only abandoning yourself, but also abandoning your country. (Creative Associates, 2015, p. 8)

#### 1. Definition of school dropout :

The concept of school dropout varies from one educational system to another according to the specific educational conditions and policies of countries. The concept of school dropout in a country may mean that a student leaves school before starting the stage in which he is studying, while some educational systems consider a student who leaves school after completing the stage in which he is studying a dropout, and other systems consider him a school dropout if he has not yet completed the compulsory educational stages. UNESCO defined a dropout as a student who leaves school before the last year of the educational stage in which he is registered (Al-Othman and Al-Salman, 2018, p. 189).

#### 2. School dropout factors:

##### 2.1 Family environment factors:

Family factors clearly contribute to the child dropping out of school, and may be the most decisive of all factors.

**2.1.1 Social status and economic level of the family:** Poor social and economic conditions prevent and hinder parents from sending their children to school from the beginning, or they drop out of school in the first years of schooling, because education requires spending and costs that exceed their financial capabilities, which contributes to pushing many children to search for an economic activity that guarantees them financial resources instead of continuing their studies. (Majadi Lamia, 2002, p. 80)

**2.1.2 Family cultural level:** The family cultural level, especially the parents' level, plays a prominent role in shaping the child's personality and determining its features and characteristics in the future, because the family is the first cultural framework in which the individual's culture is determined, and his behavior and attitudes towards various ideas and situations in life are formed, and it is also viewed as the cell that performs the function of transmitting positive culture and motivating values to children to help them achieve psychological and social compatibility in various areas of life, and from this perspective, the high cultural and educational family environment helps in achieving compatibility and is one of the factors for achieving academic success.

Accordingly, the family climate is considered an important factor in achieving academic success for children, because the lack of stability within the family, its disintegration and the absence of emotional relationships, leads to bad results on the children's academic future, and when the family atmosphere is dominated by

feelings of hatred, conflict and cruelty, this is reflected negatively on the child's personality and reduces his chances of success and social and psychological excellence.

## **2. Educational factors:**

**2.1 School climate:** The school climate, due to the interactive relationships it includes between students, teachers, administrators, and other workers in the institution on the one hand, and the shared values, perceptions, and attitudes of employees on the other hand, represents one of the aspects that influence students' achievement and determine their academic success or failure. (Al-Ajez and Al-Hajar, 2007) indicate that "the positive school climate has a clear impact on the outcomes of the educational process, as it affects students' achievement, behavior, values and attitudes, and is considered one of the basic important factors for the success of any educational program, as through it, cases of good coordination in the school's functions and operations can increase".

While Janus and his colleagues believe that the school climate is mainly due to the values, attitudes and emotions prevailing in the environment, and they give a general indication of the style and atmosphere that controls social relations, values associated with individuals, the educational tasks of the school, and the institution as a place of life.

The student, as the focus of the educational process, is affected by the nature of the school climate prevailing in the institution, because a good climate provides him with the appropriate conditions for studying and makes him more comfortable inside the classroom, as proven by many studies (Zakawa, 2014, p. 52).

**2.2 Educational programs and curricula:** A good and effective curriculum is one that can unleash the student's creative energies and instill positive educational values in his life, to make him imbued with the love of knowledge as a value in itself, and enjoy his achievements and successes, while a failed and ineffective curriculum relies on coercion and traditional methods of indoctrination, proceeding from the fact that the student is a machine capable of stuffing his mind with information and retrieving it later, and these are the characteristics of educational curricula in developing societies that are based on coercion, exploiting the desire of a students to succeed and obtain certificates that crown each stage of education, which are used as a pressure tool to obtain the desired activity, as the majority of educational institutions teach their students to fear failure more than they teach them to love learning (Gheyath, 1984, p. 57)

Among the components of the objectives that have an impact on the occurrence of the phenomenon of school dropout is the lack of clarity of educational objectives, as the lack of clarity of the objectives of education and the objectives of school curricula in general in the minds of teachers and parents in particular affects the dropout of students, because talk about developing the environment, respecting manual work and moral values, raising the standard of living and forming sound trends does not find a place within the school, and the main objective that dominates the school atmosphere and the family atmosphere remains learning to read, write and count, which means that the lack of clarity of objectives and not working to achieve them directly affects dropout. (Sayed Mohamed Ali Al-Hamim, 2010, p. 16)

**2-3- School administration:** The school is responsible for the success, failure, or failure of students, and it has a major role in keeping students in their school seats, because its primary mission is to facilitate, develop, and improve educational systems, not to commit mistakes that cause students to drop out, such as not introducing modern technological educational tools to the school to attract students' attention, make them love studying, and facilitate the teacher's task, which leads to a decline in their educational level.

- The absence of serious supervision by some school administrations over the teacher's performance and behavior.

- Poor distribution of students in the class, which leads to a lack of proper adaptation to the teacher, and the latter can't follow up on the students' progress or backwardness, which makes the student feel uninterested, so he eventually resorts to leaving school.

- Negligence in following up on students' absence from school, (Aaskar, 2005, pp. 66-67).

**2.4 The teacher:** He may have a major and effective role in the student's acceptance or rejection of school, through:

- Not taking into account the individual differences of students.

- Exhausting students with a lot of homework, and linking excellence and distinction to the ability to perform those homework assignments.

- Adopting the method of physical and moral punishment.

- **The subject matter and exams:** They may be a strong reason for the student's hatred of school and absence from it and thus dropping out of it, due to the weak connection of the curricula to the lives of students in their present and future, and their lack of connection to the environment in which they live (Chali Hadjer, 2018, p. 44)

**2.5 Disruption of educational planning:** If it is not based on a correct scientific basis, it can be considered one of the motives leading to school dropout, because any educational system cannot succeed unless it is built in its community by educational specialists, with all the characteristics of their community, and the same applies to educational systems that take into account their authenticity and modernity in the quest to keep pace with scientific and global development (Jab Allah Zahia, 1992, p. 74)

**2.6 School guidance criteria:** School guidance is a fateful process according to which the academic and professional field that the student follows is determined, and therefore any error in the guidance process leads to difficulties that the student faces in his studies after his guidance. Incorrect guidance appears in several forms, the most important of which is guidance that does not primarily care about the student's inclinations and abilities, but rather aims above all to achieve the requirements of the school map according to the quantitative and proportional criteria determined in advance. (Nagaz, 2011, p. 12)

### **3. Social factors:**

**3.1 Poverty:** It is considered one of the most influential factors in the occurrence of the phenomenon, as the widespread poverty pushes children to participate with their families in spending and filling the deficit. (Ala Mustapha and Azza Karim, 1996, p. 291)

**3.2 Customs and traditions:** Some rural areas are generally characterized by a type of wrong trends that still affect the educational situation, such as considering education as alien to their values and traditions.

**3.3 Social environment:** The social environment is the place where the individual lives from the family to the community and its socialization institutions, and since the individual is a product of his environment, the child will inevitably be affected by it and its ideas and values.

### **4. Political factors:**

**4.1 The impact of government policies:** Government policies affect decisions related to school dropout, as policies may lead to reducing or increasing the phenomenon of school dropout, for example, compulsory education, especially if supported by educational grants or subsidies, may lead to the student remaining in school, while determining the school year in a way that conflicts with the harvest time leads to an increase in the rate of student absence, which may lead to them dropping out of school. (Cretif, 2015, p. 24)

### **5. Effects and repercussions of the phenomenon of school dropout:**

#### **5.1 On the social level:**

**5.1.1 The spread of the illiteracy problem:** School dropout is an effective factor in the rise of illiteracy in society, and negatively affects the educational process as a whole through the imbalance that school dropout causes between the educational inputs represented by the number of students who have enrolled in school, and their numbers when they complete a prescribed educational stage. It is noticeable that their numbers at the time of their graduation from school are much less than their numbers when they enroll in school. (Al-Nawajaa and Abu Samra, 2019, p. 03)

#### **5.1.2 The spread of deviance and crime:**

A study conducted by the regional group of the National Gendarmerie warned about the phenomenon of school dropout, stating that school dropout causes murder, theft and drug crimes among minors during the three years (2011-2013), considering that those involved in it are children who have left school.

**5.1.3 The complexity of the unemployment phenomenon:** The current market is no longer a normal market as before, but has become dependent on skilled and technical hands and only believes in modern studies, and muscle power is no longer the main driver of the industrial structure, but rather mechanization and advanced and smart devices such as robots have become, which makes these numbers of energies that have dropped out of schools undesirable energies in the labor market, and thus face the risk of unemployment and the inability to obtain job opportunities.

**5.2 Educational level:** The astonishing increase in the school dropout rate makes education face accumulations with difficult effects that raise the issue of continuous cultural and educational backwardness, and school dropout represents a failure of the educational goals that the educational system seeks, a great disappointment for the family project, and an educational waste for the state, given the large amount of financial spending on education and its various requirements.

**5.3 Economic level:** School dropout has serious economic damages, as the dropout begins the journey of searching for work as soon as he stops studying to obtain an independent income, and falls into the trap of exploitation without obtaining his rights (Al-Khabar newspaper, issue 3062, issued in 2002), and school dropout has an impact on increasing the financial burdens on the state, as the state spends huge amounts of money on education, and as a result of dropout, the return after spending it becomes wasted, therefore, the presence of large human energies that are not qualified for the necessary conditions for production leads to an economic deficit with a highly negative impact (Al-Nasser, 2014, p. 31).

**5.4 Personal level:** It is directly related to the individual and is directly reflected on him, as the dropout of large numbers of students before completing the educational stage causes many of them to descend to the level of illiteracy, and it may be difficult to eradicate their illiteracy, because failure in school is reflected in the psychological state of the child, which may push him to deceive and steal or show anti-social reactions (Mohamed Arzeqi Berkane, 2006, p. 31)

#### **6. School dropout in Algeria:**

Among the challenges facing the educational system in Algeria is the increase in dropouts, according to official statistics, half a million students left school in 1999. Aisha Barki, head of the Algerian Association for the Eradication of Illiteracy (Iqra), revealed in a phone call with (Al-Hiwar) that more than 700 thousand Algerian children did not attend school in 2008 due to their dire social conditions, which is the same number confirmed by the International Labor Organization in its annual report on (the reality of childhood in the Arab world), the association's president confirmed that 200,000 children are not registered in schools annually, and another 500,000 children leave school due to social circumstances.

The number of children who drop out of school annually in Algeria is estimated at more than 200,000 students, according to statistics revealed by the interventions of teachers in a scientific symposium organized at the main library "Moulay Belhamitsi" in Mostaganem on the phenomenon of school dropouts in Algeria, on the occasion of the International Day of the Arabic Language, which falls on December 18 of each year (Al-Jumhuriya newspaper: Wednesday issue, June 16, 2021)

Mustapha Khayati, head of the National Organization for Health Protection and Research Development, stated that the phenomenon of school dropout is getting worse in Algerian schools day after day, and he stated also to the national radio that the phenomenon of school dropout in Algeria has become very dangerous even if it is ignored, explaining in the same context that the Ministry of National Education spoke about 9% of students who left their school desks at a time when it announced that only 4% of students enrolled in primary schools were able to obtain the baccalaureate certificate.

Mr Khayati explained also that the figures of the Algerian High Schools Council revealed the number of 500,000 students who leave their school desks annually, which is equivalent to 10 million students during the past 20 years, and he insisted that the large overcrowding recorded in the classrooms of most Algerian schools increases the complexity of the phenomenon, as only 10% of students succeed in absorbing and understanding the lesson. (<https://www.ennaharonline.com>)

In a statement by Mohamed Ouadjaout, Minister of National Education, he did not deny the school dropout rate in primary and middle school for the 2019/2020 academic year, as the minister stated in his response to questions from members of the National Assembly that the school dropout rate in primary school reached 0.11%, adding that the dropout rate in middle school reached 2% (Aimad Eddine, 2021).

#### **Third - The impact of the population problem on school dropout in Algeria**

Algeria, as we indicated in the first part of this study, is located within the third stage of population growth, which is the stage of explosion and great expansion in population numbers, as we explained that it was not an expansion and increase that coincided with economic development and growth in Algeria in general, which made observers and researchers hint that Algeria is actually experiencing a population problem, the indicators of which appear in various fields, reflecting its effects on social, economic and political aspects.

These are the repercussions and effects that education and the educational system have clearly suffered from (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2003, p. 1), and among these demographic affects that have had an impact on the occurrence of the phenomenon of school dropout, we mention the following:

- The success of the educational process, especially in this era, which is based primarily on human competition and the ability of each country to exploit the human being and explode human energies, requires the allocation of large financial resources in order to meet the requirements of the quality of the educational process from training trainers to building institutions with modern equipment, which is the reality that the Algerian school and those in charge of it collide with, as despite the increasing financial allocations, especially in the field of equipment, building institutions and employing the human framework, it finds itself facing a large and increasing demand for education, as a result of the steady increase in population numbers, especially within the category 8-15 years.
- This pressure on education leads to the problem of overcrowding of classrooms, which reduces the degree of absorption and optimal achievement among students, making it difficult for teachers to achieve the specifications and characteristics required for the quality of modern education, such as taking into account individual differences between students and implementing active, cooperative and interactive education and other types of education that require small classroom environments.

- In addition, the great pressure on educational institutions as a result of population demand leads to the occurrence of many abnormal social phenomena within these institutions, which reduces their efficiency and makes them environments for crime, such as the spread of violence, drug abuse and various forms of deviance resulting primarily from the pressure on these educational institutions.

These effects that we have referred to, which make population growth impose severe pressure on modern education services with Western school specifications, which makes race difficult and even impossible in many countries that suffer from limited resources, and an increasing demand for education on the other hand, whether this demand is driven by the social demand for teaching seats or the economic demand for competencies and graduates, make their educational system throw large numbers of students outside the school walls, thus contributing to the continuation of the state of illiteracy and the deterioration of the relationship between education and society and its economic needs. (Mohamed Adnan Wadih, p. 21)

Khalida Delhoum's study on the demographic variable in Algeria showed that the state has devoted a huge budget and great effort to developing education and eliminating illiteracy left behind by the colonial period, but compared to the population growth rate, it is not enough, because the increase in the population growth rate is evident in the dependent category (0.15), which needs a larger portion of education and health services. In contrast, the compulsory education for this category and its high percentage, it puts pressure on these limited services that cannot accommodate this increase, so the educational situation begins to deteriorate, and the following table shows the development of the number of students according to the educational stages (Delhoum, 2017, p. 47)

Table No. 01 shows the development of the number of students according to educational stages (schooled)

Academic year	First and second primary stage	Third primary stage	Secondary stage	Total
1993-1992	777 636	30 790	-	808426
1972-1973	2 206 893	272 345	53 799	2 533 037
1982-1983	3 241 926	1 001 420	279 299	4 522 645
1992-1993	4 436 363	1 558 046	747 152	6 741 561
2002-2003	4 612 574	2 186 338	1 095 730	7 894 642
2007/2008	3 931 874	2 595 748	974 748	7 502 370
2008-2009	3 247 258	3 158 117	974 736	7 380 111
2009-2010	3 307 910	3 052 523	1 171 180	7 531 613
2010-2011	3 345 885	2 980 325	1 198 888	7 525 098

To meet the requirements of this increase in demand for education since the sixties, the Algerian government has worked to build a strong educational system to supervise these students, as it has received special attention in terms of educational structures. About 24,504 educational institutions were established in 2011 after reaching 2,666 institutions in 1962, including 17,790 primary schools, 4,901 intermediate schools, and more than 1,813 secondary and technical schools (Delhoum, 2017, p. 48), and each increase in these structures requires an increase in other services such as heating, nutrition, and transportation, especially in the primary stage, as well as for classrooms, which require more advanced equipment than the previous period as a result of the development of teaching techniques such as the use of modern information and communication technologies, and the development of virtual libraries, to complete the knowledge and achievement of the student.

The state has also continuously, to keep pace with this increasing increase, attracted, employed, and trained teachers at various levels, as the number of teachers and instructors in total reached 23,612 in 1962, to double and reach approximately 360,000 in 2011, including 144,885 primary teachers, 14,098 middle school teachers, and 74,550 secondary school teachers, and the state has also allocated large sums or a large share of the equipment and operation budgets to complete and prepare all the necessary facilities to employ and train teachers (Delhoum, 2017, pp. 94-50). Despite all these efforts made by the state to meet the aspirations of society for education, they are no longer sufficient or capable of facing the size and consequences of the population explosion that Algeria is suffering from, especially in education, of which school dropout is one of the consequences.

**- The population problem is a family problem that is reflected in education:**

One of the most decisive factors of the school dropout is family factors, varying from social to economic and cultural. In economic aspects, for example, the inability of the Algerian family to pay school fees due to the insufficiency of income to meet basic needs and bear the cost of the educational process in

general, forced some families to deprive their children of education, which was revealed by a study of Achouri Sonia (Achouri, 2017, p. 229).

Also, many journalistic investigations broadcast by some media outlets on these phenomena prove this, especially in remote desert areas and isolated areas, where nomadic Bedouins are present, as they prefer to direct their children to herd their livestock, rather than send them to schools.

Children's involvement in some activities to help with the family's income also sharply increases the likelihood of dropping out of school, as revealed by a field study in this regard (Al-Othman and Al-Salman, 2018, p. 187), and this assistance is primarily due to the difficult social situation of the family, as a result of the population explosion problem, which made it difficult to obtain resources and needs on the one hand, and the state's inability to fulfill its obligations to the Algerian family on the other hand.

In addition to the state of poverty in many Algerian families, and the bet on their hopes and future aspirations, the housing problem, which is one of the remnants of the population problem, contributes to the phenomenon of school dropout, because school success, as we explained in a previous element, is linked to the right family atmosphere, and to the extent of the positive relationship between the family and the school, and the type of appropriate care that the child receives within the family institution.

The lack of suitable housing frustrates the child, which inevitably affects his school achievement, as living in a house with one or two rooms, and among an extended family in large numbers, makes the learning process difficult, this high density within the family may lead to the occurrence of family problems and tensions, all of which are factors that contribute to the phenomenon of school dropout, and the interruption of Pupils and students from school.

### **Conclusion:**

The population explosion represents a demographic problem that worries various countries, whether they are advanced or backward, and its impact on education and development in general remains negative in most cases, however, we believe that getting out of this crisis and overcoming it, according to our belief, does not pass through birth control laws or any health programs, rather, it is more appropriate to benefit from them and meet the population explosion with a development explosion, because countries with a population greater than Algeria, such as China, India and Japan, have exceeded the barrier of one billion people, and their educational systems are the most advanced in the world, and they were able to direct this high population density through good social upbringing, in a way that made them important development resources that control global economies, even European and American ones.

Therefore, political actors, because they have the power and ability to change, must harness these young human energies in the service of development projects, through good management and planning, and transform them from groups of school dropouts who pose a threat to society, into arms of construction and development for this dear country, especially since all the elements of success, from natural and material resources, are available within this country, which facilitates the absorption of this population explosion and growth.

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