

## **THE ALGERIAN FAMILY STRUCTURES ACCORDING TO THE POPULATION CENSUS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article presents the importance of preserving the possibility of comparing phenomena over time. The historical continuity of data makes it possible to follow the evolutions that are taking place in human societies and helps prevent changes, given the interaction of phenomena with the current conjuncture and historical context.

The possibility of reconstructing the same family structures, had been derogated in the 1998 census, by establishing a double definition of the house members. The possibility of reconstruction was made by the 2008 census.

The "adopted children" modality was not present in the post censuses of 1996. This wil had a risk of having tiring phenomena in the society.

### **KEY WORDS**

Historical continuity of data, family structures, family tie, adopted children, family belonging.

**JEL CLASSIFICATION** : J11, J12, J19.

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## البنى العائلية الجزائرية عبر التعدادات السكانية

### ملخص

يطرح هذا المقال أهمية المحافظة على إمكانية مقارنة الظواهر خلال الزمن، بحيث تساعد الاستمرارية التاريخية للمعطيات على تقفي أثر التغيرات التي تعرفها المجتمعات البشرية والتنبؤ بالمستجدات، لارتباط الظواهر وتفاعلها مع عوارض التاريخ والأوان. أخل تعداد 1998 بإمكانية إعادة بناء نفس البنى الأسرية، لتخليه عن ثنائية تعريف أعضاء الأسر وجاء تعداد 2008 ليبعث الأمل من جديد، غير أن التعدادات التي أنجزت بعد 1966 أغفلت كلها ظاهرة التبني.

### كلمات مفتاحية

الاستمرارية التاريخية للمعطيات، التراكيب العائلية، صلة القرابة، أسرة الانتماء، الأبناء بالتبني

تصنيف جال: J19, J12, J11.

## **LES STRUCTURES FAMILIALES ALGÉRIENNES A TRAVERS LES RECENSEMENTS DE POPULATION**

### **RÉSUMÉ**

Cet article présente l'importance de conserver la possibilité de comparer les phénomènes dans le temps. La continuité historique des données permet de suivre les évolutions qui s'opèrent dans les sociétés humaines et permet de prévenir les changements, vu l'interaction des phénomènes avec la conjoncture du moment et du contexte historique.

Le recensement de 1998 a dérogé à la possibilité de reconstruire les mêmes structures familiales, en renonçant à la double définition de membres de ménages. Celui de 2008 est venu rétablir la possibilité de les reconstruire.

Les recensements postérieurs à celui de 1966 ont tous délaissé la modalité 'enfants adoptifs'. Cette volonté risque de masquer des phénomènes nuisibles à la société.

### **MOTS CLÉS**

Continuité historique des données, Structures familiales, liens de parenté, famille d'appartenance, enfantant adoptif.

**JEL CLASSIFICATION :** J11, J12, J19.

## INTRODUCTION

Census is a process of observing that has a reference of, at least, three points:

The observable behaviour;

The social establishments of the information collecting;

The ideological constructions allowing the information explanation.

The census data have reflected the human societies experience because of summarising the changes history that have been occurring during the time. This is how (Smith, 1992) studied the meaning of family and household in the US census, in the light of historical changes, feminist movements and the balance of power in society.

Also in the United States, sex and age ratios have been used to compare behavior by ethnic group in American censuses.

The notion of patriarchal model was also attributed to the US Census Bureau in its formulation of questions on the roles of men and women by Nancy FOLBRE and Marjorie Abel (Nash, 1979) Analyzing the New York Census of 1737, Gary B. Nash (Philip, 2004) discovers anomalies in the distribution by age and sex due to a smallpox epidemic that is said to have spared people over 10 years of age.

For England and Wales, by being based on the gender reports, Philip Redfern analysed the 2001 census to detect the bias of the method of evaluating the male gender omission in comparison to the female one (Philip, 2004).

The difficult question of ethnicity is also identified in the environment of Manchester where more than 100 different nationalities coexist and the choice was left to the respondent to define his own ethnicity.

For Algeria under colonial domination, Sahraoui (2012) notes the fact that the two censuses (1948 and 1954) suffered from errors in the opposite direction. "The rationing in force in 1948 led to the overestimation of the population, while the opposite happened in 1954, with an underestimation of the population, caused by the classic omissions of elderly women. Over 40 and children under five".

"To the problems of imprecision, due to successive annexations and counting errors, we must add the refusal of the populations to be

enumerated, as was the case with certain populations after the uprising of 1871" (SAHRAOUI, 2012).

An attempt to evaluate the historical continuity of the Algerian data census was done about the internal migration (2014، أوطاب). The author had to highlight the comparisons difficulties. The structure of the questionnaire changes with each population census, depending on the interest of the moment.

Is this question of historical continuity of data kept in relation to our subject of interest (family structures)?

For different reasons (differences in the documents and questions involved in the collection operations, the reference dates in the same operation, etc.), today we are faced with the impossibility of constructing a structure by comparable age from the data from colonial times.

Do the data for independent Algeria escape this observation?

In terms of data collection, Breil (BREIL, 1951) has summarized in a very objective way the imperfections of the data of the colonial period, by retracing its evolution since the first years of occupation.

United Nations recommend, for making data studyable, observable, comparable, and programming and planning tool, the respect of four characteristic principles (Nations Unies, 1992):

The individual counting

Completeness

Periodicity

Instantaneity of observation (unity of reference date).

When one or more of these characteristics are deviated from, it is recommended to preserve the aspect of historical data continuity. In other words, the recommendation is to keep a reference structure when introducing topics of cyclical interest.

We examine the question of data continuity by attempting to reconstruct the same typology of households and the same family structures, using data from censuses conducted in Algeria

When we were not able to have methodological documents of a census, Mr. Souaber Hacene<sup>1</sup>, the former director of the Population Statistics National Office, was called to have an idea about the interest and the logic of the new introduced questions.

There is a big importance to the concept of the family structure while studying the behaviour and the demographic and social opinions. Fertility was highly given importance by Davis (1955) and Caldwell (1982), in the large family structures households.

Today, is it possible to explain the decreasing of fertility in relation to the decreasing of this type of family structures? Are there enough elements to explain the reduction of this type of family structures?

Our work does not concern to answer these questions. Our work's target is to highlight the data importance interest that conserve the historical continuity aspect. We must recognize that we are faced with the difficulty of comparing data relating to the same concept (phenomenon) defined in different ways.

## **1- TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY**

Our work has been determined by a short and historical reminder of the data collecting process, it's been limited by the enumeration and the achieved censuses in Algeria.

In this regard, we will underline the most important changes made to the structure of the questionnaires engaged in the collection operations, compared to the standard of comparison. We will also examine the question of the conformity of censuses with the characteristics recommended by the United Nations and we will end by evoking the question of historical continuity of the data, taking the reconstruction of the same typology of family structures as a practical example.

The population question was a main concern from the earlier years of colonisation. This was justified by the interest perspective and exclusively related to the statistics aspect.

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<sup>1</sup> Former Director of Population at the National Statistics Office. We thank him for his valuable contribution and for making the 1998 general population and housing census methodological report available to us.

Even before the colonisation of the whole Algerian territory, the Algerian population data were regularly published. Under the coloniser administration, twenty-two enumerations (between 1833 and 1948) and two censuses (in 1954 and 1960) were executed. Three of them were mentioned by Gendreau Francis (1991) in accounting the enumeration of 1948 among this category of operations (GENDREAU, 1991).

Between 1833 and 1851, the settlers were only accounted. In the table 1, this population has been distinctive par the label (non-muslims). Well-known, it could be distinguished according to nationality and according to other analysis variables introduced in the individual count slips.

Clearly, in fact, the presented evolution of the population of settlers and that of the Algerians.

Difference of the coverage levels;

Difference of the life conditions.

The Algerian population was slowed down by the colonisation (bad coverage, pandemics, massacrs ...) and the emigration of the European settlers who represented, during the period 1886-1948, around 7-13.7% of the society.

In 1948, the Algerians, it was allowable to talk about an exhaustive enumeration, were estimated about 90.9% of the society.

Between 1856-1936, the Algerians exceeded the 1948 nominated part. The estimations were not real because were dependent on underestimated totals.

On the other side, the achieved collecting operations, after 1948, were limited to global municipal inventories. It was not allowable to distinguish the individuals according to age, gender, and the individual situation. This kind of data, is not useful. It cannot be engaged in building an age structure. We are more limited when it's related to the most detailed concepts, such as the family structure.

The data in table 1 denounce the desire of the coloniser authority of bringing more Europeans. This policy formed two societies ethnically and religiously. The Algerians were given importance just for military and taxing issues. The Algerians were implicated in wars which did not concern them either far or near.

During the period 1954-1962, a large rural population was gathered, under military control, in camps, surrounded by barbed wire and under military control.

**Table 1.** The enumeration in Algeria.

Enumeration Year	Municipale population				Separated Counted		Total
	Non- muslim staff	%	Muslim staff	%	Population staff	%	
1833	4334						-
1836	32061						-
1841	55374						-
1845	114011						-
1851	152283						-
1856	180330	7,22	2307349	92,44	8388	0,34	2496067
1861	220843	7,44	2732851	92,11	13142	0,44	2966836
1866	251942	8,62	2652072	90,79	17232	0,59	2921246
1872	279691	11,58	2125052	87,95	11482	0,48	2416225
1876	344749	12,02	2462936	85,89	59941	2,09	2867626
1881	412435	12,46	2842497	85,87	55480	1,68	3310412
1886	464820	12,18	3287217	86,11	65269	1,71	3817306
1891	530924	12,87	3577063	86,72	16745	0,41	4124732
1896	578480	13,06	3781098	85,36	69843	1,58	4429421
1901	633850	13,37	4089150	86,28	16331	0,34	4739331
1906	680263	13,00	4477788	85,59	73799	1,41	5231850
1911	752043	13,52	4740526	85,20	71259	1,28	5563828
1921	791370	13,63	4923186	84,82	89719	1,55	5804275
1926	833359	13,74	5150756	84,91	82265	1,36	6066380
1931	881584	13,45	5588314	85,27	83553	1,27	6553451
1936	946013	13,08	6201144	85,71	87527	1,21	7234684
1948	922272	10,62	7679078	88,45	80435	0,93	8681785

Source: *Statistical Results of the Population Enumeration, vol. 1, Legal population or population of habitual residence, Directorate General of Finance, p. 3*

The Algerian population increasing (Table 1) was due to an improvement in the coverage rate, which means annexation of land and its inhabitants.

The 1954 census confirmed the data failure. It was noted that it was impossible to compare the data from this census with those from previous enumerations. Changes in administrative boundaries have been mentioned as a disruptive phenomenon (Délégation Générale du Gouvernement en Algérie, 1958).

Ethnicity has been retained as the main criterion for distinguishing categories of the population.



The 1954 census proved the inefficiency of data. The impossibility of comparing the data of this census and the previous ones, was revealed. The administrative limits have been presented as bothering phenomenon.

Ethnicity has been kept as a factor of distinction between categories of population.

The 1960 census was without any result. Its data were partially studied. In fact, in a note (without date and signature) we find this saying: this census reached a weak part of population that was living in Algeria that time, total: 487274 persons, 434698 Algerian, and 52576 foreigners (CNRP, non datée).

## **2- DATA**

We will devote our work to reveal the main modifications on the questionnaire structure. Our target is the related questions to the characteristics of the household members in order to generally show the historical continuity of data and particularly the topic of our interest. The test limits were the achieved censuses since the independence.

We needed to check the six achieved censuses since the Algeria independence: 1966, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2008 and 2018. Unfortunately, the last census will not be found at the scheduled date.

### **2.1- The 1996 Census**

This census was prepared and done by the National Commission of the Population Census. The enumeration started on 1st January in the two southern wilayas. On 4th April, in the thirteen northern wilayas (CNRP, 1972).

The particularity of this census is to have formalized the various stages of data collection and processing by means of methodological documents. Indeed, the methodological report, devoted to the condition and structures of families, makes it possible to retrace the different stages of work, the main definitions and the phases of operation.

This census offered a particular interest to the Algerian household structures to find solutions to the data shortcomings. "The latest and

most recent data on households and families were presented in 1948" (Commissariat National aux Recensements et enquêtes statistiques, 1972).

The 1966 household sheet had a total of 19 questions. The individual situation was engaged as a factor of differentiation of individuals. There was an attempt to observe the internal migration, taking the independence date as a reference. As an independent question, the mother language was present.

The main limit was the population enumeration on two different dates. The simultaneousness characteristic was derogated. Observation was present during the prior enumeration.

## **2.2- The 1977 Census**

It was totally an Algerian achievement; this has been its first distinction. It was also prepared and done by the National Commission of the Population Census. The collection lasted fifteen days (from 12th to 15th February 1977).

Twenty-one questions made up the questionnaire. Considerable progress had been made in terms of form. The boxes reserved for coding will appear on the questionnaire grid. A name and an address were identifying each variable (columns and number of positions). This shape made the computing exploitation operation easy.

The enumerated persons followed a particular hierarchy, the households were divided and distinguished according to the biological family belonging.

The questionnaire more or less retains the questions introduced in 1966. A part of this questionnaire was for all the people. The other part was just for the births of 1970 and before this year. In other words, people aged 6 and over.

The individual situation distinguishes this questionnaire from the comparison standard. It will be preserved in the structures that followed. It allowed to introduce new criteria of identification of population (student, housewife, partially employed woman ... etc.).

The professional activity, working time and duration of unemployment are also newly introduced issues.

The main profession is differentiated according to the level of qualification of the employed and the legal sector to which they belong.

Given its magnitude, the issue of migration has become explicit. The problems associated with the rural exodus largely justified the interest of the moment. We will use four questions to capture and attempt to describe the events of the phenomenon.

Compared to previous questionnaires (1960 and 1966), the content of the instruction module was reduced in number of questions and in terms of response modalities. Use of the language will be limited to reading and writing and reduced to Arabic and French.

Tamazight will no longer be considered a language of use.

According to the 1998 methodological report, the control survey could not determine the coverage rate of the enumeration (Office National des Statistiques, 1998). The report mentions a problem of drawing sample districts and a problem of training enumerators.

### **2.3- The 1987 Census**

It was prepared and realized by the National Office of Statistics from 20th March to 03rd April 1987. Twenty-five questions made up it in Arabic and French. There was not any methodological report for it.

Controlling the demographic growth was the concern of 80ies. That's why this census offered a particular interest to the fertility. Each non-single woman was asked about the number of living and surviving births.

Conversely, this census will see the disappearance of the questions targeting the migratory movement, introduced in the 1977 census. The rural outflow did not become a priority. Our limit was the residency of the previous censuses.

On onther side, the questions which should characterize the qualification of employed persons, the durations of unemployment and of work and the place of work have been eliminated.

Unlike previous censuses, the parents link was requested, in relation to the heads of families and households (Table 3).

#### **2.4- The 1998 Census**

The fourth general population and housing census was realised in a very specific context. Several constraints interfere to postpone its execution date. Scheduled for 1997. This census was courageously carried out in 1998, between June 25 and July 9.

This census had a particular interest about nuptiality, the non-single people were asked about the date of their first marriage.

The timing of first marriage delays considerably, in both sexes. Moreover, the intercensal period (1987-1998) revealed an imbalance in the marriage market to the detriment of women. Men will tend to marry women who are always younger than their own generation. The upheaval in the marriage market very objectively justified the introduction of this question. Census data largely confirmed the finding.

For men and women, in the first nuptiality calendar, are considerably late. The intercensal period (1987-1998) revealed an unbalanced matrimonial market to the detriment of women. Men have had tendency to get married to younger women; not for their generation belonging.

The matrimonial market upheaval objectively justified the introduction of that question. Data census largely confirmed the report.

Handicap people were appropriately targeted by classifying them according to their disability.

In 1987 census, this category was generally recognised from the individual situation.

Tamazight is once again reintroduced as a language of communication. Questions relating to the place of work and the duration of unemployment have also been reintroduced. Actually, unemployment had become a particular concern.

## **2.5- The 2008 Census**

The fifth one occurred in a context very favorable to quality data collection. Twenty-seven questions formed the traditional structure of questionnaire. Other axes of interests were targeted.

There are four positions for entering the year of the event (birth, death and marriage). The adopted codification in practice resolves the problem of dating events definitively.

Depending the residency place in the central year of the intercensal period, the 2008 questionnaire brought much accuracy of relative data of the internal migration and offers better possibilities of analysing. This datum will stay but global and censurial. The 2008 census has notoriously been distinctive of that question.

On the other side, the conjuncture attached a particular importance to the international migration. This census devoted six questions for it. Indeed, the phenomenon level, among young people, has been a concern.

In a retrospective period of 60 months, the overseas departures were enumerated according to the departure year, sex, age, educational level and the individual situation at migration.

Perhaps for the sake of calculating current life tables, the 2008 census looked at deaths that occurred during the twelve months preceding the date of observation. These events are distinguished by gender, date of birth and death. In the event of maternal deaths (women born between 1958 and 1993), the cause of death was asked. There will be a need to reorient the policy to combat maternal and infant mortality.

In the 2008 census, the relative question of the read and written languages was replaced by the spoken language fluently, that was a part of questionnaire from the 1960 census. This reform would satisfy both aspects.

**Table 2.** Structure of the questionnaire in the different censuses.

Number	Question  Formulation	General Population and Housing Census					
		1960	1966	1977	1987	1998	2008
1	Number order	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	Name and first name of the person	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	Residence status	-	-	x	x	x	x
4	Family relationship with the head of the family (household)	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	Family number	-	-	-	x	x	x
6	Sex	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	Date of Birth	x	x	x	x	x	x
8	Place of birth	x	-	x	x	x	x
9	Marital status	x	x	x	x	x	x
10	Date of first marriage	-	-	-	-	x	x
11	Nationality	x	x	-	x	x	x
12	Number of live births	-	-	-	x	x	
13	Number of survivors	-	-	-	-	x	
14	Date of last live birth	-	-	-	-	x	
15	Place of residence between	-	x	x	x	x	x
16	Place of residence in May 2003						x
17	Language (s) spoken fluently	x	x	x	x	x	-
18	Language (s) read and written	x	x	x	x	x	x
19	Last class followed in general education	-	x	-	x	x	x
20	Last class followed in the prof.						x
21	Mother tongue	x	x	-	-	-	-
22	Continuation (past or current) of an f. teacher. ?		-	-	-	x	
23	Highest diploma obtained	x	-	x	x	x	-
24	If the person is disabled, nature of the disability?	-	-	-	-	x	-
25	Individual situation	-	x	x	x	x	x
26	Main profession	x	x	x	x	x	x
27	Status in the profession	x	x	x	x	x	x
28	Legal sector		x	x	x	x	x
29	Activity area	x	x	x	x	x	x
30	Workplace	-		x	-	x	x
31	Main means of travel						x
32	Travel frequency						x
33	Exercise of an activity (RGPH week)						x
34	Job search (RGPH week)						x
35	Duration of unemployment	-		x	-	x	-
36	Place of stay for RAT and EMIG and place of residence for visitors	-	-	x	-	-	
37	Year of installation in the municipality of residence	-	-	x	-	-	
38	Where did you live before living in this town?	-	-	x	-	-	
39*	Previous occupation for unemployed people who have already worked	-	-	x	-	-	
40	Duration of occupation	-	-	x	-	-	

Source : The different census questionnaires.

### **3- RESULTS**

In the following part, we discuss the historical continuity of the data in relation to the characteristics of censuses, in comparison to the perspective of preserving the general structure of the questionnaire during the time and to the reconstruction of the same typology of households and family structures.

#### **3.1- Universality**

The census is universal when it covers all the inhabitants and dwellings of a particular territory (the total of a territory a country or a perfectly delimited part of this territory). This characteristic can change because of an omission of a segment, of any surface, of the area to observe. In other words, the collecting must be done in a systematic way without double counting.

This characteristic was severely flouted in the first achieved enumerations in Algeria. The coverage changed according to the colonisation. In addition, between 1833 and 1851, the datum focused on the settlers only.

The 1948 enumeration was the first truly complet operation of collecting. Universality was newly unsettled in the 1960 census. In contrast, it was largely seen in the censuses of the period from 1966 to 2008.

#### **3.2- The Individual Enumeration:**

Censuses are extremely expensive. Therefore, these operations must provide as precise information as possible on the population studied. The list of variables and phenomena of interest is carefully chosen.

When the individuals and dwellings are registered in a systematic and individually, the collected datum offer a rich possibility of analysing. There is a possibility of well knowing the observed population in clearing its specifications and particular characteristics.

Until 1886, the datum of population was global, Breil (1951). Since then, the individual count has gradually been replaced by the summary count. Since 1948, the individual enumeration became the characteristic of enumerations.

### **3.3- Instantaneity**

Simultaneity possibly pushes to register the concerned territory units in a nearer period than a determined date. We will talk about the reference date of a census.

At the same time, the Europeans and the Algerians were enumerated since 1856, but according to different modalities (global or individual enumerations). This method of work lasted until 1886. The blame on this method has been the spreading out of the collecting period in many months (Breil, 1951).

Since that census, the referential date determination principle has been introduced. It was applied in 1948. The referential period was preferable in accordance to the municipal spatial extent. That period could sometimes last one month in relation to the zone.

This characteristic was not respected until 1966. Then, the census referential date was related to the first day night of its execution. The collecting operation lasted 15 days.

### **3.4- Periodicity**

Being independent of the datum quality, in three times the enumeration chronology was unsettled. The enumeration of 1871 was postponed to the following year. (Breil, 1951). According to the historical context, the enumerations of 1916 and 1941 were obligatorily suspended.

The censuses of 1954 and 1960 were, in follow a periodicity somehow quinquennial, realised.

The same periodicity was maintained between the last census of the colonial period and the first census of the independent Algeria. Since the 1966, the periodicity has become decennial. The 2018 census was postponed, damaging an already fragile periodicity.

### **3.5- The Questionnaire Structure**

The United Nations manuals (1992) recommend to use reduced support in a set of questions to conciliate the data and quality needs. For that reason, the manual listed four landmarks of orientation (Nations Unies, 1992).



The necessity of a particular population datum deliverance, that the country needs;

The comparability to the previous censuses;

The necessity of a good progress of operations with reasonable cost;

The possibility of assuring the comparability regionally and internationally.

When a country decides to introduce topics of national interest, the recommendation is to preserve the historical continuity aspect of datum.

The simple fact of keeping the same definition of concepts is able to reconcile these two requirements.

A simple reading of the questionnaires (Table 2) reveals a change in structure from one census to another, both in relation to the number of questions and in relation to the number of topics of interest. In fact, technological progress prompts us to hope for more.

Taking in consideration the immediate needs modify the questionnaire structure, in being faithful to the UN manuals recommendations.

Ultimately, the 2008 census was the most voluminous, in terms of the questions number, and the exploitation axes. It had a radical coding of the events dating and double identification of the household members.

Despite the modifications of the conjuncture moment, the questionnaires have generally conserved the referential structure of 1966.

### **3.6- The Historical Continuity of Data**

The results presentation ends up at the point of view of the historical continuity of datum by examining the question of being able to reconstruct the same typology of households and family structures during the time, using census data.

On the proposal of the National Population Committee, the 1966 (OUALI, 2010) typology has been reproduced using data from 1998. Whereas, ten years later, the 1987 datum offered the possibility of setting up a more detailed typology.

Ouali (2010) enumerated the different household typologies developed in Algeria, recalling the extraction data (censuses and socio-demographic surveys).

The 2008 census and the multiple indicator survey (MICS\_2012-2013) reproduced the 1987 typology.

The parent's link and the household head are considerably the main criteria of a typology construction of households. (Table n° 3). In reality, the parent links define the family structure inside the houses.

We can also combine other criteria to define a family structure. Marital status, family affiliation, gender, as well as other control variables are able to distinguish family specificities that only the family link can not identify.

**Table 3:** The family number, the parent's link with the family head, the parent's link and the household head.

Year	Parent's link with the family head	Parent's link and the household head	Family number
1966	1 CM,		
	2 Wife of 1		
	3 Wires 1x2		
	4 Mother of 1		
	5 Father of 1		
	6 CF brother of 1		
	7 Wife of 6		
	8 Girl 6x7		
	9 Adopted child 6x7		
	Specify the link between the CF and the CM		
1977	1 CM		
	2 Wife		
	3 Son / Daughter		
	4 Father, mother		
	5 Brothers, sisters		
	6 Other parents		
	7 Servants and boarders		
	8. Isolated people		
9 Not stated			
0 Collective household			
1987	1 CF	2 CM spouse	
	2 Spouse of the head of the family	3 Children (any marital status of CM	
	3 CF single children	4 Grandchildren (all marital status) of CM	
			x

	4 CF single brothers and sisters	5 CM Ascendants	
	5 Ascendants of CF	6 Brothers and sisters (all marital status) of the CM	
	6 Isolated people	7 uncles and aunts of the CM	
	7 Unmarried children of the CF	8. Other parents of the CM	
	8. CF non-celibate collaterals	9 Not related to the CM	
	9 Not stated	0 Collective household	
	0 Collective cleaning 1 CM	White missing data	
1998	1 CM		
	2 CM's wife		
	3 Children of 1 and 2, 1 or 2		
	4 Grandsons of 1		
	5 Ascendants of 1		
	6 Brothers, sisters of 1		
	7 Other parents of 1		
	8 Not related to CM		
	9 Not stated		x
2008	1 CF	1 CM	
	2 Spouse of the head of the family	2 CM spouse	
	3 CF single children	3 Children (any marital status of CM	
	4 CF single brothers and sisters	4 Grandchildren (all marital status) of CM	
	5 Ascendants of CF	5 CM Ascendants	
	6 Isolated people	6 Brothers and sisters (all marital status) of the CM	
	7 Unmarried children of the CF	7 uncles and aunts of the CM	
	8 CF non-celibate collaterals	8. Other parents of the CM	
	9 Not stated	9 Not related to the CM	
	0 Collective household	0 Collective household	
	White missing data	x	

Source: The respective codification manuals.

In 1966, the question of the parent links with the household head proposed a typology of three types of biological families (couple with children, couple without children, and one partner with children). This datum allowed to define twelve types of households by interfering the household size (Commissariat National aux Recensements et enquêtes statistiques, 1972), the type and the number of families and living with persons without a parent's link to the main family nucleus. In a precise way, the data of the proposed typology were manually treated and the first achieved typologies in Algeria. This construction was again produced in 1977.

In the 1966 census, the questionnaire took in consideration the adopted children. They were newly related to the adoptive parents (table n° 03). This questionnaire did not provide neither the category of isolated people nor the children of other parents.

The parent's link was known by only one position on the questionnaire grid. The recording and the construction of the typology are described in the devoted methodological report for the state and structures of families in Algeria.

The enumerator is required to "keep the different families within the household well informed and to highlight them by skipping a line each time after each family" (Commissariat National aux Recensements et enquêtes statistiques, 1972). On the same document (document n° 10), the census enumerators are asked to specify the family relationship of the different heads of families in relation to the head of household.

This same structure of household members is reproduced in all subsequent censuses, with some adaptation, however.

The enumerator is required to "keep the different families within the household well informed and to highlight them by skipping a line each time after each family". In the same document (document n° 10), the census-takers have been asked to precise the parents link of different family's heads in relation to the household head.

This same structure of household members has been reproduced in the following censuses with certain adaptation.

In 1977, many parent links were presented: the category of other parents, the domestic and isolated people. The collective household members were known by the modality (0). The missing datum were represented by the modality (09). The adopted children have become undistinguished since this census.

In 1987, each person was doubly identified on the grid of questionnaire in relation to the family head and the household head. The parent's links change in accordance with the referential person. There are ten modalities of responses in taking in consideration the family head eleven, in relation to the household's head (Table 3).

The domestics and pensioners categories disappeared in relation to the coding of 1977. The category of the other parents, in contrast, was well explained in 1987.

The integration of the family number has made it possible to better distinguish between family structures.

In 1998, the two variables (family relationship and family number) were used again to rank the members of the households. We limited ourselves, unfortunately, to family ties with the head of the household (Office National des Statistiques, 1996). We therefore lose the double precision acquired in 1987.

The number of possibilities of response has also been reduced. In fact, we will no longer distinguish the uncles and aunts from the other parents of the head of the household, compared to the 1987 codification.

In 2008, we faithfully reproduce the questions relating to family ties and the codification initiated in the 1987 census.

## CONCLUSION

Since its independence, Algeria has continued to strengthen the statistical apparatus gradually put in place. This body supplies all sectors with data, essential for planning and programming.

Breil 1951 allowed us to follow the demographic collection of datum under the colonial authority. In contrast, the National Office of Statistics did not provide, for the readers and the specialised people, the methodological reports, the descriptive documents of different operations of censuses of the population, those were realised since 1987.

There are not allowing works to follow the trace of the methodological foundations and justifications of the change's origin on the questionnaire structures.

The difficulty to access to the National Office of Statistics datum and documents, (the general code, for example) has severely penalized national production in terms of collection. As a result, any possibility of correcting deficiencies and overcoming deficiencies which may affect the quality of the data has been curbed.

In Algeria, there are very few studies dealing with the question of collection. It does not mean the interests absence because the reality is totally different. The main reason is the datum and documents inaccessibility.

For example, the question of the historical continuity of datum in relation to the households and family structures typologies has never been discussed in Algeria.

The works of the family structures, based on the census's datum, are easily countable. The oldest source of publication is the 1966 census. Ouali (an old high ranked employee of NOS) could have the access to the 1987 census datum (survey on 1/30th). He offered a very varied typology of households to be a landmark of comparison. At this moment, the co-author of this article ends up a thesis about the same topic, in resorting to the RGPH datum of 2008 and the ones of MICS-4. Many other academic works have been achieved, but datum supports are stastically less available.

The mentioned works have given priority to the quantitative aspects and to the evolution of some family structures (the enlarged families structures households and the nuclear households structures). The lack of data largely justifies this concern. There is exclusive priority to the methodological aspects in our article: the possibility of setting up the same typology of households and the same family structures during the time. For that, our concentration has been on the achieved questionnaires of datum collection in the different censuses of population.

From the methodological report of NOS, an instructive work has devoted about the census collection of 1977 (HARCHAOUI, 1980). In its monograph, Harchaoui (1979) described the collection support without highlighting and justifying the changes of the questionnaire structures.

The censuses structures of 1998 had an attentive exam (SAADI, 2009). The diagnosis targeted all the variables of the ordinary and collective household file's member. The expertise touched on several aspects relating to data quality: the characteristics of a population census, the bound coding, the missing datum, the likelihood and validity tests of the field and the problem of definition.

Reminding the taining main limits of the census's datum (Administrative limits change, problems of definitions), Outaleb (2014) faced the problem of being able to compare, for the questionnaire structure change.

Listening to the findings formalized in the context of this type of work can be constructive. For example, we could definitely remedy the incuracy risk during the demographic phenomena calander

determination. In 2008, four positions were provided to determine the year event.

In relation to our topic, it is so important to follow the evolution of family structures during the time before its usage as a factor of explanation and differentiation. Indeed, its evolution can reflect the social policy effects. More generally, family structures express in some way the impact of living conditions.

The number of offhand structures released when building a typology depends on the number of modalities imposed by the control factors. Theoretically, there will be as many family specificities as there are proposed response modalities. Each targeted family structure has legitimacy in the parent's links, in taking in consideration the cultural aspects of the referential society.

The typology is therefore constructed by imposing control and selection criteria. The criteria choice is justified by the hypotheses of research and the comparison strategies.

Although the working documents (the census takers guide of 1978 and 1998) keep the same instructions and the same principal of coding, we do not arrive at the same typology of families (precisely, because of the modalities number of responses). This limit was mentioned by Ouali (2007) (OUALI, 2010).

A simple comparison of the questionnaires structure shows that the 1987 census offered a numerous variety of parent's links, in comparison to previous censuses and even compared to that of 1998.

In comparing the offered set of family structures by the parent's links of each census of population (table 3), it's easy to comment in favor of datum of the 1987 and 1998 censuses. These two censuses offer more combinations of responses, comparatively to the offhand modalities number in the other three censuses. Though two, among them, proposed a new facilitator element of construction (the family belonging number).

By exploiting the 1987 census datum, Ouali counted thirty-eight significant relationships in relation to the heads of families and households (OUALI, 2010). Surely, the addition of other criteria increases the combinations of responses and the family specifications.

Finally, the numerous variety of kinship ties initiated in 1987 and 2008 offers multiple choice in proposing family's typology. Moreover, the same datum can be synthesized to provide in any imaginative structure of the three other censuses. The converse is not true.

For constructing a typology, it is enough, in a series, make the list of the members of each household on the same line. Each person is introduced in accordance to their parent's links in relation to the chiefs of family and family belonging. It is possible to insert other variables in the typology.

By this way, each line represents a household. The line is divided in equal number of columns to the household person's number. The frequency of these chains of characters give all the combinations of household structures in the observed society, in taking in consideration the offhand factors construction.

The new tracks exploration of research justifies the new nucleus families imposed by the social change, the moment's conditions and the historical context. The give importance to divorce has pushed us to follow the progress of households and the one person composed family and the reconstructed family ... etc.

The 2008 census remedied many deviations by re-inserting the double identification of the households members, validating the the proposal of the demographic events dating without ambiguity and adopting the family belonging number (proposed in 1977 and 1987).

By preserving the historical continuity of the data compared to the 1987 census, we offer sociologists valuable lines of research. Many recent questions are to be answered: family solidarity, the mutual aid and the taking in charge of the aged and vulnerable people. Actually, the questions are numerous in face of a mutating society. The Algerian family is under the impact of different factors.

We deplore the fact that the "adopted child" method has been censored since the 1977 census. The scale of the phenomenon is unknown today, while suspecting high levels of illegitimate births and unmarried mothers.

Solutions to serious societal problems cannot be found without assessing their importance and debating them publicly.



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