

Determinants of the recreational orientation of the Algerian family in light of contemporary social changes

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Abstract---This article aims to analyze the determinants of the recreational orientation of the Algerian family in light of contemporary social changes, through a sociological approach that highlights the interaction of economic, cultural, demographic, and technological factors in shaping family leisure patterns. The article is based on the fundamental assumption that family leisure is no longer a secondary activity but a social practice that reflects the structural transformations affecting the Algerian family within the context of urbanization, globalization, and digitalization. The study found that the shift from extended families to nuclear families, the increasing participation of women in the labor market, the development of digital media, as well as socio-economic inequalities, have all contributed to reshaping leisure patterns within Algerian families. The results also show that family leisure has become a field of interaction between traditional values and modern patterns, between collective and digital leisure, and between economic capabilities and cultural choices. The article concludes that the recreational orientation of the Algerian family is the outcome of complex and evolving social dynamics, which calls for more comprehensive public policies to support family leisure and enhance its role in strengthening social bonds and improving quality of life.

Keywords---Family leisure, Algerian family, social transformations, cultural change, digital leisure.

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Introduction

The family is considered the primary social institution within which individuals' value and cultural frameworks are formed. It also represents the fundamental space where various social activities are practiced, contributing to the psychological and social balance of its members. Among these activities, leisure stands out as a human and social need that helps renew physical and mental energy, strengthen family cohesion, and promote social integration. In contemporary societies, leisure is no longer merely a secondary activity or a means of filling free time; it has become an indicator of prevailing lifestyles and of the transformations occurring across economic, social, cultural, and technological dimensions.

Over recent decades, Algerian society has witnessed profound social changes affecting the structure, functions, and interaction patterns of the family, as a result of urban expansion, rising levels of education, increasing female participation in professional life, as well as the rapid development of information and communication technologies and the spread of digital media. These transformations have significantly influenced the daily lifestyles of Algerian families, including their leisure practices, which have become more diverse and increasingly intertwined with both local and global cultural influences.

In this context, new patterns of recreational orientation have emerged within the Algerian family, gradually shifting from traditional practices based on family visits, social gatherings, and local collective activities toward more individualized and digitalized forms of leisure relying on electronic media, social networking platforms, and various modern entertainment tools. Moreover, family leisure choices have become subject to a set of interconnected determinants involving economic, social, cultural, technological, and spatial factors, making the study of these determinants an important entry point for understanding the transformations affecting the Algerian family in light of contemporary social changes. Accordingly, this article seeks to analyze the determinants of the recreational orientation of the Algerian family and to identify the main factors influencing its leisure choices, through a sociological approach that links current social transformations with patterns of leisure behavior within the family, in order to better understand the nature of changes affecting Algerian family life and to anticipate the future development of leisure culture in Algerian society.

1. The Concept of Leisure and Its Social Dimensions

Leisure is considered one of the social concepts that has gained increasing importance in contemporary sociological studies due to its close connection with modern lifestyles and the transformations affecting various aspects of human activity. Leisure is no longer merely a means of spending free time or escaping daily life pressures; rather, it has become a social and cultural phenomenon that reflects the nature of society and its level of economic and cultural development, as well as revealing the system of values and norms that govern the behavior of individuals and groups within different social environments (Dumazedier, 1967). From this perspective, leisure has evolved into an independent field of study concerned with its forms, functions, dimensions, and its relationship to the social and cultural structure of societies.

In its general meaning, leisure refers to a set of activities that individuals voluntarily engage in during their free time in order to achieve psychological relaxation, personal enjoyment, and mental and physical renewal, away from professional, family, or academic obligations (Kelly, 2012). This definition highlights that leisure is associated with freedom of choice and the individual's subjective desire to engage in activities that provide psychological and social satisfaction. However, the sociological approach goes beyond this individual understanding, viewing leisure as a social practice that reflects prevailing social relations and contributes to the reproduction of cultural values and social norms within society (Rojek, 2010).

Transformations associated with industrial and post-industrial societies have expanded the scope and diversity of leisure activities, which now include cultural, sporting, touristic, artistic, media-related, and digital practices. Dumazedier argues that leisure performs three main functions: rest, which helps individuals recover from work-related fatigue; entertainment, which provides temporary relief from daily pressures; and personal development, which contributes to enhancing knowledge, skills, and capacities (Dumazedier, 1967). This perspective highlights the vital role of leisure in maintaining balance between social demands and individuals' psychological and cultural needs.

The importance of leisure is not limited to the individual level; it also extends to the social sphere by contributing to the strengthening of relationships between individuals and groups. Leisure activities constitute spaces of social interaction that enable the exchange of experiences, the building of social networks, and the reinforcement of feelings of belonging and solidarity. They also promote social integration by facilitating communication among different social and cultural groups, making leisure an important mechanism for enhancing social cohesion and maintaining societal stability (Putnam, 2000).

From a cultural perspective, leisure reflects the cultural and value-based specificities of different societies, as leisure practices vary according to social, cultural, and economic environments. Individuals' leisure choices are closely linked to their level of education, class affiliation, and cultural capital. This led Bourdieu to consider cultural and leisure practices as indicators of social differentiation and forms of expressing social status within society (Bourdieu, 1984). Thus, leisure is not merely a consumptive activity but a form of social practice that reveals cultural and social inequalities among individuals and groups.

Leisure also holds particular importance within the family, which is the primary social framework in which individuals' personalities, attitudes, and values are shaped. Family leisure activities contribute to strengthening interaction among family members and reinforcing emotional bonds, while also providing opportunities for communication and dialogue in an atmosphere of cooperation and harmony. Many studies indicate that regular participation in family leisure activities is associated with higher levels of family cohesion and life satisfaction, as well as the development of children's social and emotional skills and their sense of security and belonging (Shaw & Dawson, 2001).

With the rapid development of information and communication technologies, the concept of leisure has undergone profound transformations affecting its forms, functions, and domains. The spread of the internet, smartphones, and social media platforms has led to the emergence of new forms of digital leisure, through which individuals can access diverse entertainment sources without temporal or spatial constraints. These transformations have also generated new leisure practices that have reshaped patterns of social interaction within the family and society, directly influencing how free time is used and how contemporary social relations are structured (Castells, 2010).

In Algerian society, leisure practices have likewise been shaped by various social, economic, and cultural transformations experienced in recent decades. Urban expansion, improvements in education levels, and the spread of digital technologies have contributed to the diversification and expansion of leisure activities, making leisure an essential part of the daily life of many Algerian families. Leisure choices increasingly reflect the influence of social, economic, cultural, and technological factors, which makes the study of the concept of leisure and its social dimensions a key step toward understanding the recreational orientations of Algerian families in light of contemporary social changes.

2. Recreational Orientation as a Pattern of Family Behavior

Recreational orientation represents an important dimension of family social behavior, as it reflects how the family perceives leisure activities, sets priorities, and chooses forms of practice in light of its cultural, social, and value system. Leisure behavior does not develop spontaneously or randomly; rather, it is shaped by a set of factors related to the social, economic, and cultural environment in which the family

is embedded, making recreational orientation a reflection of the prevailing social structure and lifestyle patterns adopted by individuals within society (Kelly, 2012). From this perspective, leisure is part of everyday practices that reveal patterns of thinking, social interaction, and time use within contemporary families.

Recreational orientation refers to the set of tendencies, attitudes, and preferences that determine a family's choices in leisure activities, whether cultural, sporting, touristic, media-related, or digital. It includes interconnected elements such as the perception of leisure importance, patterns of participation, and the material and temporal resources allocated to it. Thus, recreational orientation does not only concern the activity itself but also includes the social attitudes and cultural values that give leisure its meaning and function within family life (Roberts, 2016).

From a sociological perspective, recreational orientation is shaped through the process of socialization through which individuals acquire societal norms, values, and behavioral patterns. The family is the primary institution where individuals learn how to manage free time and determine socially acceptable and culturally preferred activities. Educational institutions, media, and reference groups also contribute to shaping recreational attitudes and guiding related choices (Parsons & Bales, 1955). Therefore, leisure practices vary across families according to their social, cultural, and economic characteristics.

Family recreational orientations are influenced by structural factors that determine the opportunities available for leisure. Household income directly affects access to leisure services and facilities, while parents' educational level influences the type of leisure activities chosen. The residential environment also plays an important role, as opportunities differ between urban and rural areas in terms of the availability and diversity of recreational infrastructure (Rojek, 2010).

In this context, Bourdieu argues that leisure practices are closely linked to individuals' economic, cultural, and social capital, as tastes and leisure choices reflect social status within the social structure. Families with high levels of cultural capital tend to favor cultural and intellectual activities such as reading, visiting exhibitions and museums, and attending intellectual events, whereas other families may prefer different forms of leisure that correspond to their resources and social conditions (Bourdieu, 1984). Thus, recreational orientation becomes an indicator of social and cultural inequalities within society.

Recreational orientation is also reflected in how time is allocated among daily activities. Families that consider leisure a basic need often dedicate time to collective activities that enhance communication and interaction among members, while other families may prioritize economic or professional obligations at the expense of leisure activities. This reflects differing social perceptions of the importance of leisure in achieving psychological and social balance within the family (Iso-Ahola, 1999).

Contemporary social transformations have reshaped patterns of recreational orientation within the family. Technological development and the spread of digital media have created new leisure opportunities, but they have also contributed to more individualistic forms of leisure. Each family member may now have a personal digital space through smartphones, computers, or social media platforms, which has sometimes reduced shared family leisure activities (Castells, 2010). Nevertheless, many families continue to maintain various forms of collective leisure as a means of strengthening family bonds and promoting social cohesion.

In the Algerian context, family recreational orientation reflects the transformations experienced by society in recent decades. Economic, cultural, and technological changes have diversified leisure choices, combining traditional practices based on family visits and social gatherings with modern forms relying on digital media and new commercial and recreational spaces. Leisure choices are increasingly linked to income level, education, place of residence, and family values, making recreational orientation

an important indicator for understanding the social transformations affecting contemporary Algerian families.

3. The Algerian Family Between Social Stability and Change

The Algerian family is considered one of the most important social institutions that has maintained, throughout different historical stages, its central position in organizing social life and transmitting cultural values and norms across generations. The family has always constituted the primary framework for socialization, social solidarity, and the construction of individual and collective identity, which has granted it a strong capacity for continuity despite the multiple transformations experienced by Algerian society. However, this institution has not been immune to the social, economic, and cultural changes that Algeria has witnessed in recent decades, as its structure, functions, and internal relationships have been affected by a set of transformations that have reshaped many of its traditional characteristics (Addi, 2002).

The traditional Algerian family was characterized by a set of features associated with the agrarian and local nature of society, where the extended family constituted the dominant form of family organization. Relationships within it were based on familial solidarity, clear patriarchal authority, and a division of social roles among members according to a value system grounded in customs and traditions. Kinship relations also represented one of the most important sources of social and economic support, reinforcing the family's role as an integrated social and economic unit (Bourdieu, 1977).

With the transformations that Algerian society has undergone since independence, particularly in the fields of education, industrialization, urbanization, and administrative modernization, the family has gradually experienced changes affecting different dimensions of its structure. Urban expansion and internal migration from rural areas to cities contributed to the decline of the extended family model in favor of the nuclear family, which became more widespread in urban settings. Moreover, improvements in education and rising schooling rates have led to new patterns of thinking and behavior within the family, affecting parent-child relationships, socialization processes, and decision-making within the household (Lacoste-Dujardin, 1995).

One of the most significant manifestations of change in the Algerian family is the increasing participation of women in education, work, and public life, which has gradually contributed to the redistribution of family roles. Women now play increasingly important economic and social roles, which has influenced family relationships and daily household management. This shift has also led to the emergence of new forms of negotiation and consultation within the family, compared to the traditional model that was more strongly based on patriarchal authority (Mebtoul, 2013).

Despite these transformations, the Algerian family still retains a set of traditional characteristics that reflect the strength of cultural and social references in Algerian society. Values such as family solidarity, mutual respect, and intergenerational support remain strongly present across different social contexts. Kinship relations continue to play an important role in providing social, psychological, and economic support, especially during times of crisis and social pressure. This reality reflects the family's capacity to adapt to change while preserving a significant part of its cultural and social specificity (Addi, 2002).

Furthermore, cultural globalization and the spread of modern media and communication technologies have deepened patterns of change within the Algerian family. Families have become more open to global lifestyles and to values associated with individualism, consumption, and digital culture, which has influenced individuals' aspirations, interests, and patterns of social interaction. As a result, differences between generations have emerged regarding values, perceptions, and leisure practices, turning the family into a space of interaction between traditional references and modern orientations (Castells, 2010).

In this context, the Algerian family can be understood as living in a state of balance between stability and change. On the one hand, it maintains many traditional values and functions that ensure continuity and stability; on the other hand, it is influenced by social, cultural, and economic transformations that impose new forms of organization and interaction. This duality is clearly reflected in various aspects of family life, including leisure practices, which now combine traditional forms based on family and social relations with modern forms linked to technology and contemporary cultural consumption. Therefore, understanding the recreational orientations of the Algerian family requires first understanding the nature of the transformations affecting this social institution and its position between cultural continuity and adaptation to contemporary social change.

4. Structural Transformations of the Contemporary Algerian Family and Their Implications for Daily Life

The Algerian family has undergone profound structural transformations in recent decades, affecting its organizational, functional, and relational dimensions, as a result of a range of social, economic, and cultural changes experienced by Algerian society within the context of modernization and global interconnectedness. These transformations have significantly influenced family daily life and patterns of interaction among members, as well as socialization practices, consumption patterns, and time use, including leisure practices, which have taken on new forms adapted to changes in family structure (Addi, 2002).

One of the most prominent structural changes is the decline of the extended family and the rise of the nuclear family model, which has become the dominant form, especially in urban areas. This shift is linked to urban expansion, internal migration, changes in housing patterns, and rising living costs, which have encouraged families to seek residential independence and reduce household size compared to traditional society. As a result, many functions previously performed by the extended family have been transferred to other social institutions such as educational, health, and recreational institutions (Lacoste-Dujardin, 1995).

The Algerian family has also experienced significant changes in the distribution of social roles due to rising education levels and increasing female participation in the labor market. Women now assume growing economic and social responsibilities alongside their traditional family roles, contributing to the restructuring of family relationships and the emergence of new forms of cooperation and shared responsibility between spouses. This transformation has influenced daily family life through the reorganization of time, redistribution of tasks, and changes in decision-making processes related to various aspects of family life (Mebtoul, 2013).

Another important structural transformation concerns intergenerational relations within the family. With expanded educational opportunities and the spread of modern media and communication technologies, children have become more exposed to diverse sources of knowledge and culture, giving them greater autonomy in shaping their opinions and attitudes compared to previous generations. This has led to new forms of family relationships based more on dialogue and negotiation, although sometimes accompanied by tensions resulting from differences in value systems between parents and children (Giddens, 2006).

Daily family life has also been affected by economic transformations, as economic factors have become more central in shaping lifestyles, consumption patterns, and household resource management. Many families have been forced to reorganize their priorities in line with their economic means, which has affected education, health, leisure, and cultural consumption patterns. Decisions related to leisure time and recreational activities are now strongly influenced by the family's financial capacity (Roberts, 2016). At the same time, modern technology has played a key role in reshaping Algerian family life. The widespread use of smartphones, the internet, and social media platforms has transformed communication patterns within the family, making digital media an essential part of daily routines.

These tools have created new opportunities for learning, entertainment, and communication, but have also affected direct interaction within the family and redefined the boundaries between private and public life, as well as between physical and virtual spaces (Castells, 2010).

Despite these rapid structural transformations, the Algerian family continues to play its central role in providing social and emotional support to its members and in preserving the continuity of many cultural and social values. Rather than leading to the loss of its core functions, these changes have contributed to redefining the ways in which these functions are performed in line with new social conditions. The contemporary Algerian family can therefore be seen as an institution in a state of continuous adaptation, combining elements of continuity and renewal.

These structural changes have clearly affected daily life, particularly in terms of time management, family relations, consumption patterns, and leisure practices. Family members have become more connected to digital spaces and more diverse in their interests and activities, while leisure choices are increasingly influenced by education level, income, place of residence, and family value systems. Thus, studying structural transformations in the Algerian family is essential for understanding changes in recreational orientations under contemporary social conditions.

5. Structural Transformations of the Contemporary Algerian Family

The Algerian family has undergone profound structural transformations in recent decades affecting its structure, functions, and internal relations, as a result of the social, economic, cultural, and technological changes experienced by Algerian society in the context of modernization, globalization, and technological development. The family is one of the social institutions most affected by social change due to its direct connection to broader societal transformations (Giddens, 2013; Castells, 2010).

One of the most prominent transformations is the gradual shift from the extended family to the nuclear family, where the family is now typically composed of parents and children only, after previously including several generations living within a single social and residential framework. Urbanization processes, internal migration, changes in housing patterns, and shifts in work organization have contributed to this transformation, leading to a reconfiguration of family relations and role distribution (Bourdieu, 1977; Cherkaoui, 2006). This shift has also influenced leisure activities, which have become more closely associated with the nuclear family and less dependent on the wider kinship network.

The Algerian family has also experienced changes in women's roles and social status due to rising education levels and increased participation in economic and professional life. This has contributed to the restructuring of family relations and the modification of traditional gender role division between spouses, affecting decision-making patterns related to leisure time and recreational choices (Giddens, 2013; Boudon, 2002). Many studies indicate that women's participation in the workforce has encouraged more participatory forms of family management compared to earlier traditional models (Kerrou & Kharoufi, 2015).

Furthermore, changes in socialization patterns and intergenerational relations have emerged due to the widespread use of modern media and communication technologies. Children are increasingly exposed to diverse cultural and social influences outside the family, leading to the emergence of new values and interests that may differ from traditional Algerian family references (Castells, 2010; Appadurai, 1996). This has directly influenced young people's preferred leisure activities and family interaction patterns.

Structural transformations in the Algerian family have also been linked to the emergence of new consumption patterns resulting from economic changes and improved living standards among certain social groups. Leisure has become part of broader consumption practices associated with modern lifestyles, including spending on tourism, entertainment, technology, and cultural activities (Baudrillard,

1998; Lipovetsky, 2006). However, access to these activities remains dependent on families' economic resources, explaining disparities in leisure practices across different social groups.

At the same time, technological development has profoundly reshaped family life through the widespread use of smartphones, the internet, and social media platforms. New forms of digital leisure have emerged based on virtual interaction and digital content consumption, altering time-use patterns and reshaping social relationships within the family (Turkle, 2011; Castells, 2010). Technology has thus become a key determinant of contemporary family recreational orientation.

Accordingly, the structural transformations experienced by the Algerian family are not merely changes in form or size but involve deeper shifts in values, roles, social relations, and daily life patterns, which are directly reflected in the recreational orientations and leisure practices of Algerian families (Giddens, 2013; Bourdieu, 1977).

6. Urbanization and Its Impact on Shaping Family Leisure Patterns

Urbanization is considered one of the most important structural transformations experienced by contemporary Algerian society, as the expansion of cities and the increase in the urban population have led to a reconfiguration of lifestyles and social relations within the family. This shift has had a direct impact on leisure practices and the use of free time, given that the urban space provides leisure opportunities and resources that differ fundamentally from those available in traditional rural settings (Giddens, 2013; Castells, 2010).

With the increasing rural-to-urban migration toward major cities such as Algiers, Oran, and Constantine, new patterns of family life have emerged, characterized by speed, time pressure, and multiple professional and educational commitments. This situation has led urban Algerian families to favor leisure activities within limited spaces and time frames, such as public parks, shopping centers, cinemas, and family cafés, instead of extended collective activities that were typical of traditional rural contexts (Wirth, 1938; Simmel, 1903).

Urbanization has also contributed to reshaping the spatial structure of leisure, as cities now provide what can be described as "institutionalized leisure" or "commercial leisure," referring to activities carried out within structured institutions such as large shopping malls and modern recreational facilities. This has led to the transformation of leisure from a spontaneous social activity into a regulated and organized practice, often closely linked to the family's purchasing power (Baudrillard, 1998; Lipovetsky, 2006).

Moreover, the urban lifestyle has contributed to increasing levels of psychological and social stress resulting from the intensity of work, study, and daily commuting. This has made leisure a functional necessity for restoring psychological and social balance within the family. Consequently, leisure is no longer a secondary activity but a means of regenerating social energy and maintaining equilibrium within the family system (Giddens, 2013).

Urbanization has also facilitated greater exposure to new leisure patterns imported from global contexts, due to the high level of cultural and media interaction within cities. Algerian urban families are increasingly exposed to global culture through media, the internet, and modern commercial spaces, leading to a significant diversification of leisure tastes, especially among young people (Appadurai, 1996; Castells, 2010).

However, this urban openness is not evenly distributed, as clear social differences persist among families within the same urban environment in terms of access to leisure spaces. High-income families benefit from a wider range of leisure options, including domestic and international travel and tourism

activities, while low-income families remain more dependent on home-based leisure or low-cost activities, reflecting the persistence of social inequality within the same city (Bourdieu, 1984).

Thus, urbanization in Algeria has not only transformed the spatial structure of family life but has also reshaped leisure culture itself, turning leisure into an urban practice associated with regulated time, institutional spaces, economic capacity, and cultural openness. Therefore, understanding the recreational orientation of the Algerian family cannot be achieved without examining the urban dynamics that now constitute the main framework for the reproduction of everyday life patterns (Castells, 2010; Wirth, 1938)

7. The Impact of Media and Digital Technology on the Recreational Orientation of the Algerian Family

Media and digital technologies have become among the most important determinants of leisure patterns within contemporary Algerian families, as rapid technological transformations have reshaped how leisure content is consumed and how free time is organized within the household. Leisure is no longer confined to physical space; it has increasingly shifted into the digital sphere, which offers diverse and easily accessible alternatives (Castells, 2010; Turkle, 2011).

The widespread use of smartphones and internet connectivity in Algeria has made digital leisure an essential part of daily family life. Platforms such as social networks, video-sharing websites, and online gaming have become primary sources of entertainment for many individuals, especially youth and children, leading to a fundamental shift in family interaction patterns and time-use behaviors (Livingstone, 2009; Castells, 2010).

One of the most notable manifestations of this shift is the decline of traditional collective leisure activities within the family in favor of individual digital activities, such as watching videos separately or each family member using their own smartphone independently. This has led to what can be described as the “digital fragmentation of family interaction,” where family members share the same physical space but engage in separate digital worlds (Turkle, 2011).

New media have also expanded the cultural sphere influencing Algerian families, as leisure content is no longer limited to local or national productions but has become global and transnational. This has resulted in a significant diversification of leisure preferences, particularly among adolescents and young people who are increasingly exposed to global culture through digital platforms (Appadurai, 1996; Jenkins, 2006).

On the other hand, the positive role of digital technology in enhancing certain forms of family leisure cannot be ignored, such as watching films together via streaming platforms, playing online family games, or using social media to maintain relationships with distant relatives. Thus, technology does not only lead to fragmentation but also creates new forms of family interaction (Livingstone, 2009).

However, this digital transformation has also generated challenges related to excessive screen use, social isolation, and weakened face-to-face communication among family members. Many sociological and psychological studies have raised concerns about the impact of intensive technology use on family relationship quality and child socialization processes (Turkle, 2011; Putnam, 2000).

In addition, the digital divide among Algerian families remains an important factor explaining differences in leisure patterns, as access to modern technologies varies according to economic level and geographical context (urban/rural). This makes digital leisure unequal in terms of access and impact within Algerian society (Castells, 2010).

Thus, media and digital technologies have become a key determinant of the Algerian family's recreational orientation, not only by providing new leisure options but also by reshaping family relationships and redefining the very concept of leisure in the contemporary context.

8. Economic Determinants of the Recreational Orientation of the Algerian Family

Economic factors are among the most influential determinants shaping the recreational orientation of Algerian families, as leisure patterns are closely linked to living standards, household income, and internal consumption priorities. Higher income levels increase access to diverse leisure activities, while limited economic resources restrict leisure options and encourage low-cost or simple forms of recreation (Bourdieu, 1984; Becker, 1991).

In this context, leisure in Algeria has increasingly become part of household consumption patterns, included within the family budget alongside essential needs such as food, housing, and education. However, this allocation varies significantly from one household to another depending on purchasing power and priority setting, reflecting social and class inequalities within society (Baudrillard, 1998; Lipovetsky, 2006).

High-income families tend to adopt more diversified leisure patterns, including domestic and international travel, tourism, visits to modern entertainment spaces, membership in sports clubs, and participation in organized cultural activities. In contrast, low-income families rely more on home-based or relatively free leisure forms such as watching television, using the internet, family visits, or public-space recreation (Giddens, 2013).

Unemployment, particularly among young people, also directly affects leisure patterns by reducing access to costly recreational activities and encouraging reliance on digital or informal alternatives. This situation contributes to reshaping leisure culture toward more individualistic and less expensive forms, often closely linked to the virtual world (Castells, 2010).

Economic transformations in Algeria, especially the shift toward a market economy, have widened the gap between social groups in terms of access to leisure. These changes have produced an urban middle class with greater consumption capacity, alongside lower-income groups still constrained by financial limitations (Bourdieu, 1984).

Moreover, the high cost of certain leisure activities, such as tourism, commercial entertainment, or organized cultural events, makes them inaccessible for many families on a regular basis. At the same time, the spread of relatively low-cost digital media has created widely accessible leisure alternatives, partially reducing—but not eliminating—this gap (Turkle, 2011).

Therefore, economic determinants not only influence the level of family spending on leisure but also shape the nature of leisure itself, determining the types of activities available, their frequency, their diversity, and even the forms of interaction within the family. Consequently, understanding the recreational orientation of Algerian families remains incomplete without analyzing the economic and social structure that continuously shapes and reproduces it.

9. Cultural and Value-Based Determinants of the Recreational Orientation of the Algerian Family

Cultural and value-based determinants are among the most important factors shaping the recreational orientation of the Algerian family, as leisure patterns cannot be understood independently of the cultural and value system that governs family behavior and defines what is socially acceptable or unacceptable. Leisure is not merely an individual or consumptive activity; rather, it is a social practice shaped by a system of cultural, religious, and traditional norms (Bourdieu, 1984; Giddens, 2013).

Religious values, particularly the Islamic reference framework in Algerian society, play a significant role in guiding family leisure choices. Many families tend to prefer recreational activities that align with dominant moral and social perceptions, such as family visits, meaningful cultural activities, or home-based leisure, while showing reservations toward forms of entertainment perceived as inconsistent with social values (Kerrou & Kharoufi, 2015).

Local culture, customs, and traditions also contribute to the reproduction of distinctive leisure patterns within Algerian society, where the family and collective dimension remains strongly present in organizing recreational activities, especially during social events and religious holidays. This reflects the continued strength of traditional social bonds despite processes of modernization and urbanization (Bourdieu, 1977).

On the other hand, cultural globalization and openness have introduced new leisure patterns into Algerian society through media, the internet, and cultural diffusion. This openness has created a form of value pluralism within the family, where traditional values coexist with modern cultural patterns, sometimes leading to differences in leisure preferences between generations (Appadurai, 1996; Castells, 2010).

Younger generations tend to prefer digital entertainment and global content, whereas older generations are more inclined toward traditional family- and community-based activities. This contrast reflects what can be described as an “intergenerational value tension” within the Algerian family, clearly visible in leisure choices and patterns of free time use (Turkle, 2011).

Social status and cultural capital also play an important role in shaping family leisure tastes, as sociological approaches emphasize the link between leisure, class structure, and cultural consumption patterns. Families with higher educational and cultural levels tend to engage in more “cultural” forms of leisure such as reading, theater, and intellectual activities, while other groups may prefer simpler or more digital forms of entertainment (Bourdieu, 1984).

Thus, cultural and value-based determinants do not operate in isolation but interact with economic, social, and technological factors in shaping the recreational orientation of the Algerian family. This orientation remains the result of a complex interaction between preserving cultural identity and openness to global leisure patterns, making leisure a field of continuous value negotiation within the contemporary Algerian family.

10. Demographic and Social Determinants of the Recreational Orientation of the Algerian Family

Demographic and social determinants are key elements in explaining variations in the recreational orientation of the Algerian family, as population characteristics and the structure of social relations directly influence patterns of leisure consumption and the organization of free time. These determinants include age, family size, age structure, educational level, as well as the nature of social relations within society (Giddens, 2013; Coleman, 1988).

One of the most influential demographic factors is the age structure of the family, as leisure preferences vary across age groups within the household. Children and young people tend to prefer digital entertainment, video games, and social media content, while adults are more inclined toward traditional activities such as family visits, television viewing, or direct social interaction (Turkle, 2011; Castells, 2010). This variation creates internal diversity in leisure practices within the same family.

Family size also affects leisure patterns, as larger families tend to engage in collective leisure activities at home or in low-cost public spaces, while smaller (nuclear) families enjoy greater flexibility in choosing

leisure activities, including outdoor and tourism-related experiences. This difference reflects the shift from extended to nuclear family structures in Algerian society (Bourdieu, 1977).

Educational level plays a significant role in shaping leisure taste, as sociological research shows that higher education is associated with greater diversity in cultural and leisure practices, such as reading, attending cultural events, and using knowledge-based digital platforms. In contrast, groups with lower educational attainment may be limited to simpler or more traditional forms of leisure (Bourdieu, 1984). The nature of social relations in Algerian society, characterized by strong family ties and social solidarity, also has a significant impact on leisure patterns. Collective leisure associated with extended family gatherings and social visits continues to hold a central place in Algerian culture despite urban and digital transformations (Kerrou & Kharoufi, 2015).

Geographical distribution between rural and urban areas further shapes leisure practices, as the urban environment offers more diversified leisure infrastructure and facilities, while rural areas remain more oriented toward traditional and simple social activities, resulting in clear differences in leisure patterns (Wirth, 1938; Giddens, 2013).

Changes in family structure, particularly rising rates of delayed marriage and declining fertility, also influence leisure behavior, as smaller families tend to allocate more time and resources to recreational activities compared to larger households (Coleman, 1988).

Thus, demographic and social determinants do not operate independently but interact with economic, cultural, and technological factors to produce a complex picture of recreational orientation within the Algerian family. Leisure is therefore the outcome of a dynamic social structure that evolves with changing population characteristics and patterns of social relations.

11. Challenges Facing Family Leisure in Algeria

Contemporary Algerian families face a range of challenges that directly affect the quality and nature of family leisure, as these challenges stem from intertwined economic, social, cultural, and organizational factors that make leisure practices unequal across social groups and, at times, limited in scope and function.

One of the main challenges is economic pressure and the limited purchasing power of a large segment of families, which restricts access to paid leisure activities such as travel, tourism, or institutional entertainment. This situation narrows leisure options and concentrates them mainly in home-based or low-cost activities (Bourdieu, 1984; Becker, 1991). Rising prices of recreational services further reinforce social inequalities in access to leisure.

Another major challenge is rapid digital transformation and its impact on family interaction patterns. While technology provides diverse leisure opportunities, it has in many cases reduced direct communication within the family and led to forms of digital isolation, where each individual becomes absorbed in their own device within the same household space (Turkle, 2011; Castells, 2010).

The pressures of daily life, especially in urban environments, also constitute an additional challenge, as work, study, and commuting demands reduce the time available for shared leisure activities. This fast-paced lifestyle makes leisure irregular and fragmented rather than a stable component of daily or weekly routines (Giddens, 2013).

Infrastructure limitations also represent a significant challenge, as some regions still suffer from a lack of adequate public leisure spaces such as parks, cultural facilities, and recreational centers. This shortage concentrates leisure opportunities in major cities while limiting options in rural areas and smaller towns (Wirth, 1938).

Cultural and value changes resulting from globalization and media openness have created intergenerational tensions within families, as perceptions differ regarding acceptable and appropriate forms of leisure. These differences may sometimes lead to internal conflicts or reduced consensus on leisure choices (Appadurai, 1996; Castells, 2010).

Institutional support for family leisure also remains insufficient in some contexts, as public policies do not always adequately develop organized and sustainable family leisure sectors. This gap limits the availability of structured cultural and recreational programs specifically designed for families, particularly in public spaces (Kerrou & Kharoufi, 2015).

Thus, the challenges facing family leisure in Algeria are interconnected and result from a complex interaction of economic, digital, urban, and cultural factors, requiring a comprehensive approach that considers the multiple dimensions shaping Algerian family life.

12. Prospects for Developing the Recreational Orientation of the Algerian Family

The development of the recreational orientation of the Algerian family represents one of the key dimensions for understanding the future of family life in light of ongoing social, economic, and cultural transformations. Leisure is no longer a secondary activity; it has become a fundamental component in strengthening family cohesion and improving quality of life, which requires developing it in ways that respond to the needs and challenges of Algerian families (Giddens, 2013; Bauman, 2007).

One of the most important prospects in this field is the strengthening of recreational infrastructure at both local and national levels through the expansion of public spaces dedicated to families, such as parks, cultural centers, and sports facilities. This approach contributes to providing safe and affordable leisure spaces that enable regular family recreation, especially in densely populated urban areas (Wirth, 1938; Kerrou & Kharoufi, 2015).

Supporting family-oriented digital leisure is also a key future direction, particularly by encouraging the production of meaningful local digital content that combines entertainment and education while reflecting Algerian cultural specificity. This can help reduce dependence on foreign content and promote a balance between cultural openness and identity preservation (Castells, 2010; Appadurai, 1996).

Another important prospect involves strengthening public policies related to culture and leisure by integrating family recreation into social development programs and supporting cultural and artistic activities targeting families. Partnerships between the state, private sector, and civil society can also contribute to creating sustainable leisure projects accessible to different social groups (Putnam, 2000). Raising family awareness of the importance of shared leisure is also essential, as recreational activities can strengthen family bonds and improve intergenerational communication. This requires awareness campaigns and educational programs that highlight the psychological and social dimensions of family leisure beyond its consumer aspect (Turkle, 2011).

Investment in domestic tourism represents another major driver for developing family leisure in Algeria, given the country's rich natural, geographical, and cultural diversity. Promoting family tourism can create diverse recreational alternatives and strengthen national belonging (Bauman, 2007). Reducing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to technology can also make digital leisure more inclusive across families, enhancing the positive use of modern media in both entertainment and education within the family context (Castells, 2010).

Thus, the prospects for developing the recreational orientation of the Algerian family are based on a comprehensive approach that integrates economic, cultural, technological, and institutional dimensions

in order to build a balanced leisure model that enhances family well-being and strengthens social cohesion in the context of contemporary transformations.

Conclusion

The analysis of the determinants of the recreational orientation of the Algerian family in light of contemporary social changes shows that family leisure is no longer a marginal or secondary activity but a complex social phenomenon reflecting deep transformations in the structure, functions, and daily life patterns of the Algerian family. The study demonstrates that recreational orientation is shaped by the interaction of economic, cultural, social, demographic, and technological determinants, requiring a comprehensive sociological approach (Giddens, 2013; Castells, 2010).

Structural changes in the Algerian family—particularly the shift toward the nuclear family, changes in women's roles, and transformations in intergenerational relations—have directly contributed to reshaping leisure patterns within the family in terms of activities, spaces, and levels of participation (Bourdieu, 1984; Kerrou & Kharoufi, 2015).

Urbanization and spatial expansion have also shown that leisure spaces have become more diverse and organized, yet remain strongly linked to economic and social structures, leading to inequalities in access to leisure across social groups. This reflects the continued influence of class structure in shaping leisure taste and practice (Wirth, 1938; Baudrillard, 1998).

Moreover, media and digital technologies have emerged as decisive factors in reshaping family leisure, contributing to the emergence of new virtual leisure patterns while simultaneously reorganizing family relationships—sometimes enhancing communication and at other times weakening it (Turkle, 2011; Castells, 2010).

Economic, cultural, and demographic determinants further demonstrate that family leisure is not a uniform practice but a direct reflection of inequalities in economic resources, cultural value systems, and the diversity of age and social structures within the Algerian family. Therefore, the recreational orientation of the Algerian family can be seen as a dynamic field reflecting the ongoing interaction between tradition and modernity, local and global influences, and economic necessity and cultural aspiration. This makes the study of family leisure an important entry point for understanding broader transformations within contemporary Algerian society.

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