

INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF FAMILY RESOURCES ON THE DIVISION OF DOMESTIC CARE IN THE ALGERIAN FAMILY

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Abstract:

The study addresses the issue of the influence exerted by familial resources on the division of household caregiving responsibilities within Algerian households. This examination encompasses two distinct dimensions: **internal and external domestic tasks**, alongside **childcare duties**. The principal objective of this investigation pertains to discerning alterations in spousal roles. Employing a social survey approach, the research was conducted among urban couples, comprising 500 respondents from the localities of Blida, Mostaganem, and Naama. The data underwent quantitative analysis. The findings reveal that despite transformations encountered by the familial institution and conjugal life, these changes exhibit minimal impact on the gendered (spousal) division of domestic caregiving responsibilities. Noteworthy advancements in female education and professional engagement have yielded marginal influence on the apportionment of household responsibilities encompassing culinary activities, provisioning, laundering, and domicile cleanliness. This outcome endures, despite the mounting integration of technological innovations within the domestic sphere.

Keywords: Algerian family; social change; family resources; domestic care tasks; children care tasks.

1- Introduction:

During the twentieth century, significant economic and cultural transformations were experienced within the familial context. The shift from a predominantly artisanal agricultural economic framework to an industrialized economy precipitated a disjunction between productive realms and domestic spheres. This shift culminated in the establishment of a marital model grounded in the division of labor predicated on both domestic duties and paid employment. This development prompted scholars to address the intricate dynamics linking the public domain to the private sphere (**Chantal, 1989, p57-58**). Departing from the initial sociological perspectives that attributed the sexual division of familial roles to inherent biological predispositions, researchers embarked on an exploration of these dynamics that transcended natural and biological determinism.

Following the integration of mothers into the workforce during the mid-1960s, a dynamic interplay emerged between occupational commitments and familial engagements, engendering a conflict between work-related hours and familial temporal demands. Consequently, the conundrum of simultaneously managing the demands of dual roles gained prominence. Nonetheless, scholarly investigations have indicated that despite the extensive societal upheavals, the foundational structure of

marital unions has remained largely unaltered. While women's participation in the workforce has intensified compared to prior periods, they have emerged as a prominent instrument for harmonizing the interplay between familial obligations and occupational pursuits (**Chantal, 1989, p.58**).

Men and women still play different roles in the household within the integration framework. The phrase "*assistant wage*" is still frequently used to describe the pay received by women. Women have particular difficulties balancing jobs and families, and these issues are only resolved to the best of their abilities.

Feminist-oriented anthropologists contend that the sexual demarcation between the public and private spheres constitutes an inherent and formative principle evident across all human societies. This division fosters an ongoing interchange between these two realms, engendering the contours of a society's social, economic, and political tapestry. Comprehending the operational significance and symbolic underpinnings of gender-based differentiation is pivotal, as they serve as fundamental organizational constructs that shape the entirety of societal frameworks. This comprehension underscores the culturally constructed nature of women's affiliation with the domestic and private sphere, elucidating that such alignment emerges as a consequence of a set of contrasting dichotomies (such as nature/culture, private/public, woman/man) that characterize each distinct social configuration. Anthropological inquiry has illuminated that the partitioning of labor and social functions along gender lines represents an acquired construct within human culture, rather than a natural occurrence (**Laufer (Jacqueline) et al, 2002, p.358**).

Consideration is given to the family's financial, labor, and educational resources. For example, elements that are relevant to the study of the family in particular as well as those that are researched as effective factors in explaining social change in countries generally involve women's admission into the labor force.

Therefore, our endeavor within this study is directed towards the examination of the resource theory, positing that the allocation of responsibilities concerning household maintenance is contingent upon an individual actor's capacity to exert influence over the conduct of another individual, specifically the husband and wife in this context. This influence is dictated by the array of resources at the disposal of the said actor.

With the intent of examining the aforementioned hypothesis, this article has undertaken a series of inquiries, aiming to explore the ramifications of spousal familial resources on the intricate task division associated with household upkeep.

→ What is the effect of the change in the pattern of organizing family roles that occurs through the change in our resources represented in education, work, and income?

→ Are the resources sufficient to drive the process of social change without a new culture?

→ How do these variables interact to produce the social reality we live in?

→ How do the spouses' resources (education, work, and income) affect the division of domestic care within the Algerian family?

→ Does the increase in the resources of the spouses lead to a flexible and unconventional sharing of household tasks and childcare?

To answer these questions, we made the following hypotheses:

- The higher the educational level of the accession, the more this leads to a more flexible and unconventional division of household tasks and childcare.
- The work of the spouses leads to a more flexible and non-traditional division of household tasks and childcare.
- The greater the couple's economic resources, the more flexible and non-traditional division of household and childcare tasks will lead to.

To address these hypotheses, our approach hinged upon the empirical findings derived from a field study conducted as part of the doctoral research endeavor. The study adopted a social survey methodology, employing a purposefully selected sample of 500 married couples drawn from the locales of Blida, Mostaganem, and Naama. A quantitative analytical framework was employed for data evaluation, adhering to the methodology outlined by (Mecheri, 2014).

2- Study Concepts:

Conceptual analysis is an abstract method for rendering the concepts we intend to perceive as real. This analysis proceeds as the researcher attempts to extract concepts from the hypothesis he has developed, and the process continues as each concept is dissected down to extract dimensions, which are subsequently separated into a set of indicators that represent observable phenomena in reality through accumulating a number of indicators (Quivy, 2006, p.138).

1.2- The independent variable (family resources):

The division of household maintenance responsibilities is explained by the family resources theory. It demonstrates that family resources influence the division of domestic responsibilities within a household. According to this hypothesis, the divide will be more equitable the more resources a family has (greater levels of education for both couples, higher professional standing, and higher incomes for both spouses).

Therefore, we decided to include the income of both the husband and the wife, the educational level variable for each of the husband and their spouse, as well as the professional status of both the husband and the wife as fundamental resources that comprise the family's resources.

Table (01): *Re-coding the family resource variable*

FAMILY RESOURCE VARIABLE	The original coding on the form	The new coding after re-coding
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	5 educational levels	With educational level = 1 Without educational level = 0
ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK	7 attitudes towards work (from employees to unemployed)	working = 1 Not working = 0
MONTHLY INCOME	7 categories from without income to 72,000 DZD	1= HAS A MONTHLY INCOME OF LESS THAN 36,000 DZD 0 = INCOME OF MORE THAN 36,000 DZD

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

2.2- Dependent variable (a division of domestic care tasks):

Table (02): the re-coding of the household chores variable and the construction of the new four-step ladder

The ladder of equality in domestic work tasks (internal + external)							
Totally unequal division "1"		Unequal division "2"		more or less equal division		Equal Division 4"	
Always the wife	always the husband	Mostly the wife	Mostly the pair	Sometimes the wife	Sometimes the husband	Neither the husband nor the wife'4	

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

Table (03): the re-coding of the childcare variable and the construction of the new ladder with four steps

Ladder of equality in childcare							
Totally unequal division "1"		Unequal division "2"		more or less equal division		Equal Division 4"	
Always the wife "1"	Always the Husband "7"	Mostly the wife "2"	Mostly the husband "6"	Sometimes the wife "3"	Sometimes the husband "5"	Neither husband nor wife'4	there are no children"8"

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

3. Study literature:

This progression facilitates the researcher's transition from isolated observations toward a broader conceptual understanding. Existing theoretical frameworks and abstract concepts are employed to provide coherent significance to these observations. However, a quandary emerges as prevalent theories and established concepts were originally formulated to elucidate distinct observations dissimilar from those under current examination. Thus, adaptation becomes necessary, tailoring theories and concepts to harmonize with the newly encountered observations. Yet, an additional quandary arises: the researcher's adherence to a specific theoretical stance might predispose them towards selecting a theory aligned with their preexisting inclinations—be it *Marxism, feminism, critical theory, or vocational frameworks*—potentially at the expense of congruence with empirical realities. This predicament can only be resolved by subjecting the chosen theory, intended to explicate the observed phenomena, to rigorous examination and validation against empirical evidence. This precise course of action was undertaken in my investigation of the sexual division of domestic labor.

1.3- The family resources theory:

The revolutionary investigation into family dynamics and the conduct of domestic duties was conducted by **Blood and Wolfe in 1960**. Both researchers formed the

erroneous assumption that the majority of labor done within the household is by not educated and not eligible for any specialized knowledge or expertise. subsequently is not deserving of any praise. Considering most housekeeping duties are repetitive, the only resource needed for this activity is time (**Ahlander and Bahr, 1995, p.57**).

According to resource theorists, power is acknowledged as legitimate and rationally justified after a comparison between spouses, which leads to the pattern of family interaction, or the division of chores and the exercise of power. As a result, people focus on the jobs for which they have the best preparation and the most resources (**Chantal, 1989, p.60**).

The core problem with resource theory is the manner in which the apparent function of a resource, particularly income, determines its relative strength. The two academics concentrated on the notion of a sensible application of power imbalances. They accept that a partner should hold greater influence if they have more financial, professional, and educational resources. It comprises the capacity for decision-making. According to this hypothesis, a person will engage in less housework the greater their wealth.

Based on the aforementioned, resource theory pioneers hold that productive activity is most important in the first stage. Home care is a component of the second stage (**Ahlander and Bahr, 1995, p.57**). This leads to an underestimation of its value. As a result, women work. Similarly, in the case of the job offering and the measure of effectiveness for specialists in housekeeping, there is little interest in the family environment as an ethical one. Or as a group that differs from other social groups (**Ahlander and Bahr, 1995, p.57**).

On the contrary, supporters of the resource theory contend that fertility rates have decreased despite advances in the standing of women in society, such as their increased access to education and the labor force. Unpaid family work, however, continued to go unnoticed, particularly by the majority of its workers—women. Here, the spouses' particular values and views play a part in influencing how they will divide the domestic work, whether in a way that promotes task equality or creates inequality within the family.

2.3-Change of marital structure in the Algerian family:

Algeria has undergone notable socioeconomic shifts following the colonial upheaval. The dissolution of established material frameworks has been paralleled by the emergence of novel structures. Subsequent to attaining independence, the pace of social transformation intensified. This trajectory was propelled by urban migration, a deceleration in birth rates, a notable rise in female education rates, and the substantial ingress of women into the workforce. Collectively, these factors have significantly contributed to the evolutionary dynamics within the Algerian familial context.

These shifts have found manifestation at the individual level, evidenced by the heightened acquisition of resources among married women, encompassing both educational attainment and income levels. In the sphere of marital quotidian existence, employed women embarked upon an ongoing process of negotiation with their spouses. This negotiation pertained to the optimal division of familial responsibilities, a configuration carefully attuned to the occupational commitments of

the wife. The objective of these deliberations is to establish mutually agreed-upon arrangements concerning the apportionment of household tasks and childcare duties. These initiatives, which enacted the admission of women into the development project, were faced with a number of challenges, including social and cultural barriers, the stress of managing household duties in addition to providing for and raising children, and others (CENEAP, 2001, p.9).

Nonetheless, the swift economic and familial evolutions were not concomitant with the establishment of commensurate supportive frameworks tailored to the needs of employed mothers. The prevailing societal ethos concerning gender roles persisted, perpetuating the conventional ideals of the male as the primary provider and the female in the domestic sphere. This juxtaposition engendered inherent inconsistencies between the practical fulfillment of familial roles and the prevailing attitudes and cultural perspectives toward these roles.

The alteration in the allocation of familial roles among family members at large, and between marital partners specifically, is contingent upon the societal transformations encountered by Algerian society consequent to the post-independence developmental strategies. This modernization trajectory, underpinned by industrialization and wage-based employment, facilitated the swift escalation of rural migration and the concomitant emergence of novel residential communities. However, the social metamorphosis experienced by both Algerian society as a whole and, more specifically, the Algerian family, transpired at an accelerated pace. This accelerated pace led to incongruities between the material shifts and the symbolic and ethical dimensions within society.

4- Results of the study (family resources and domestic care tasks within the Algerian household):

The binary tables that connect the aforementioned family resources with the two aspects of home maintenance—internal and external—are the subject of this discussion.

1.4-. Family Resources and Division of Domestic Tasks:

Table (04): The relationship between the educational level of the spouses and the division of internal household tasks in the studied families

Share internal household tasks Educational level for the couple	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
Both spouses without education	158	91.3	15	8.7	173	100
At least one of the spouses is educated	295	90.2	32	9.8	327	100
the total	453	90.6	47	9.4	500	100

The calculated chi-square value: 0.165 is smaller than the tabulated chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is non-functional at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1.

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The presented table demonstrates that within families where one spouse lacks education, a proportion of 91.3 percent do not engage in collaborative domestic responsibilities. A comparable figure of 90.2 percent pertains to families where at least one spouse possesses an educational background, indicating a similar absence of

involvement in female-oriented household tasks. A differential pattern emerges in families where both spouses lack education, with 9.8 percent showing equitable engagement in internal domestic chores. This contrasts with 9.4 percent in families where a minimum of one spouse is educated, participating equally in internal household tasks.

The observed chi-square value is lower than the critical chi-square value, leading to the conclusion that a significant association between the level of education and the division of female-focused indoor household tasks cannot be established.

In conclusion, the analysis yields no discernible impact of the educational attainment within the studied families on the equitable sharing of internal household responsibilities.

Table (05): The relationship between attitude towards work and the division of female internal domestic tasks in the studied families

Share internal household tasks position toward work for a couple	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
One of the spouses works	247	93.9	16	6.1	263	100
The couple is working	206	86.9	31	13.1	237	100
the total	453	90.6	47	9.4	500	100
The calculated chi-square value: 7.165, greater than the tabulated chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is a function at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1. Correlation coefficient 0.10.						

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The provided table illustrates that households in which one spouse is not employed or neither spouse works, exhibit an unequal division of female-focused domestic duties, encompassing 93.9 percent of cases. In contrast, families, where both spouses are employed, showcase an uneven sharing of these domestic tasks, comprising 86.9 percent of occurrences. Conversely, households where one spouse is not employed or neither spouse works demonstrate an equitable division of female internal domestic tasks in 6.1 percent of instances. In families where both spouses are employed, a balanced sharing of external household tasks is observed in 13.1 percent of cases.

Given that the computed chi-square value surpasses the critical chi-square value, it is deduced that a significant association exists between the work-related status of spouses and the equitable division of internal household responsibilities. The Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.19+ signifies a positive correlation between the spouses' employment statuses and the fair allocation of internal domestic tasks. This indicates that a tendency toward equitable sharing of internal household tasks is more pronounced when both spouses are engaged in work, with both variables moving in the same direction. The correlation between these variables is moderate.

In conclusion, the study discerns a discernible influence of spouses' employment status on the equitable division of internal household responsibilities.

Table (06): The relationship between household income and the division of female internal domestic tasks in the studied families

Share internal household tasks female household income	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
The income of the spouses is less than 36,000 DZD	381	92	33	8	414	100
The couple's income is more than 36,000 DZD	72	83.7	14	16.3	86	100
the total	453	90.6	47	9.4	500	100
The calculated chi-square value: 5.771, greater than the tabulated chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is a function at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1. Correlation coefficient 0.10						

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The tabulated data discloses that in families where the combined income of spouses is below 36,000 DZD, an unequal division of internal household tasks prevails in 92 percent of cases. In contrast, among households where the combined income exceeds 36,000 DZD, this unequal division constitutes 83.7 percent. Conversely, in families with an income below 36,000 DZD, an equitable division of these tasks is evident in 8 percent of cases. This is juxtaposed with households surpassing the 36,000 DZD threshold, in which 16.3 percent exhibit parity in the division of internal household tasks.

As the computed chi-square value surpasses the critical chi-square value, a significant relationship between household income and the equitable sharing of female-oriented internal household tasks becomes evident. The Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.10+ signifies a positive correlation between household income and the division of female internal household tasks. This denotes that a higher household income is correlated with a greater propensity towards an equal division of internal domestic tasks, with both variables demonstrating congruent movement. The correlation between these variables is categorized as weak.

In conclusion, the analysis reveals a tenuous influence of household income on the balanced sharing of internal household tasks.

2.4-Family Resources and Division of External Domestic Tasks:

Table (07): The relationship between the educational level of the spouses and the division of external household tasks in the studied families:

Share external household tasks Educational level for the couple	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%

Both spouses without education	152	87.9	21	12.1	173	100
At least one of the spouses is educated	226	69.1	101	30.9	327	100
the total	378	75.6	122	24.4	500	100
The calculated chi-square value: 21.559, the largest scheduled chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is a function at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1. Correlation coefficient: 0.20.						

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The table above reveals that households in which both spouses lack education display an inequitable division of external household tasks in 87.9 percent of instances. This stands in contrast to families where both spouses are educated, or at least one of them is educated, where a similar uneven division of external household tasks is observed in 69.1 percent of cases. In families with both spouses lacking education, an equal division of these tasks is found in 12.1 percent of cases, while the corresponding figure for households with educated spouses stands at 30.9 percent.

With the computed chi-square value surpassing the critical chi-square value, a significant correlation between the educational level of spouses and the equitable division of external household tasks is affirmed. The Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.20+ indicates a positive correlation between the educational level of spouses and the balanced allocation of external tasks. This signifies that higher family education levels correspond to a greater inclination toward an even division of external tasks, with both variables moving in the same direction. This correlation between the two variables is deemed moderate.

In conclusion, a moderate impact of the educational level of spouses on the equitable division of external household tasks is apparent.

Table (08): The relationship between attitude towards work and the division of external household tasks in the studied families:

Share external household tasks position direction of work	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
One spouse or none working	213	81	50	19	263	100
Both spouses are working	165	69.6	72	30.4	237	100
the total	378	75.6	122	24.4	500	100
The calculated chi-square value: 8.734, the largest scheduled chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is a function at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1. Correlation coefficient: 0.19.						

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The provided table demonstrates that within households where one or neither spouse is engaged in employment, an unequal allocation of external household tasks prevails in 81 percent of cases. Conversely, in families where both spouses are employed, this unequal division constitutes 69.6 percent of cases. Moreover, among households where one or both spouses are employed, a balanced division of internal household tasks is observed in 19 percent of instances. This figure contrasts with 30.4 percent of households where both spouses are employed, showcasing an equal division of external household tasks.

The computed chi-square value surpasses the critical chi-square value, establishing a significant correlation between the work-oriented status of spouses and the equitable sharing of external household tasks. The Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.19+ indicates a positive correlation between the spouses' employment statuses and the balanced division of external tasks. This suggests that a heightened engagement of both spouses in employment corresponds to a stronger inclination towards a fair division of external tasks, with both variables aligned in the same direction. This correlation between the two variables is categorized as moderate.

In conclusion, a moderate influence of the spouses' work-related status and orientation on the balanced sharing of external household tasks is discerned.

Table (09): The relationship between household income and the division of external household tasks in the studied families

Share external household tasks family income	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
A family with a monthly income of less than 36,000 DZD	374	76.3	116	23.7	490	100
Families with a monthly income of more than 36,000 DZD	4	40.0	6	60.0	10	100
the total	378	75.6	122	24.4	500	100
The calculated chi-square value, 7.011, is greater than the tabulated chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is a function at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1. Correlation coefficient 0.12.						

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The presented table highlights that within families with a monthly income below 36,000 DZD, an unequal sharing of external household tasks is observed in 76.3 percent of cases. In contrast, among families with a monthly income exceeding 36,000 DZD, this uneven division characterizes 40 percent of occurrences in relation to internal household tasks. Furthermore, households with an income below 36,000 DZD demonstrate an equal sharing of these tasks in 23.7 percent of cases, whereas those with an income surpassing 36,000 DZD exhibit parity in the division of external household tasks in 60 percent of instances.

As the calculated chi-square value exceeds the critical chi-square value, a substantial correlation between household income and the equitable division of external household tasks becomes evident. The Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.12+ indicates a positive correlation between household income and the division of external tasks. This indicates that a higher household income corresponds to an increased propensity for an equal division of external tasks, with both variables exhibiting a congruent direction. The correlation between these two variables is classified as weak.

In conclusion, the analysis demonstrates a weak influence of household income on the equitable division of external household tasks.

3.4- Family resources and the division of child care tasks in the Algerian family:

In addition to the family income dimension on providing for children in the examined households, this issue encompasses tables that depict the relationship between family

resources, which covers the following dimensions: the educational attainment of the spouses and their employment position.

Table (10): The relationship between the educational level of the spouses and the division of childcare activities in the studied families:

Sharing babysitting activities Educational level for the couple	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
Both spouses without education	128	74.0	45	26.0	173	100
At least one of the spouses is educated	269	82.3	58	17.7	327	100
the total	397	79.4	103	20.6	500	100

The calculated chi-square value: 4.736 is greater than the scheduled chi-square value of 3.841, so the relationship is a function at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1. Correlation coefficient: 0.10

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The table illustrates that within families where both spouses lack education, an unequal division of childcare responsibilities prevails in 74 percent of cases. In contrast, among families where both spouses are educated or at least one of them is educated, this uneven division characterizes 82.3 percent of occurrences. Additionally, in families with both spouses lacking education, an equitable sharing of these activities is observed in 26 percent of cases. In contrast, among families with both spouses educated, this equitable division pertains to 17.7 percent of instances in relation to childcare duties.

The calculated chi-square value surpasses the tabulated chi-square value, signifying a significant correlation between the educational level of spouses and the equitable sharing of childcare responsibilities. The Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.10+ indicates a positive correlation between the spouses' educational levels and the division of childcare work. This implies that higher educational attainment within the couple is associated with a greater propensity for an equal division of childcare activities, with both variables displaying congruent movement. The correlation between these two variables is categorized as weak.

In conclusion, the analysis reveals a weak influence of the educational level of spouses on the equitable sharing of childcare activities.

Table (11): The relationship between the professional (work) status and the direction of the division of childcare activities in the studied families:

Sharing childcare activities professional (work) status	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
One spouse or none working	208	79.1	55	20.9	263	100
Both spouses are working	189	79.7	48	20.3	237	100
the total	397	79.4	103	20.6	500	100

The calculated chi-square value: 0.33, is smaller than the tabulated chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is non-functional at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1 .

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The provided table indicates that in households where one or neither spouse is employed, childcare responsibilities are unevenly distributed in 79.1 percent of cases. Conversely, among households where both spouses are employed, this unequal division characterizes 79.7 percent of instances. Additionally, families in which one or neither spouse is working display an equal division of childcare tasks in 20.9 percent of cases, whereas those in which both spouses work exhibit a similar equal division in 20.3 percent of instances concerning childcare duties.

Given that the calculated chi-square value is smaller than the tabulated chi-square value, it is concluded that there is no statistically significant relationship between the work-oriented status of spouses and the equitable sharing of childcare tasks.

In conclusion, the analysis does not reveal any significant correlation between the spouses' employment status and the fair division of childcare activities.

Table (12): The relationship between household income and the division of child care activities in the studied families

Sharing childcare activities family income	Unequal sharing		equal sharing		the total	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
A family with a monthly income of less than 36,000 DZD	389	79.4	101	20.6	490	100
Families with a monthly income of more than 36,000 DZD	8	80.0	2	20.0	10	100
the total	397	79.4	103	20.6	500	100

The calculated chi-square value: 0.002 is less than the tabulated chi-square value: 3.841, so the relationship is non-functional at the significance level 0.05, degree of freedom 1.

Source: Adapted from SPSS results

The presented table reveals that within families having a monthly income below 36,000 DZD, an unequal division of childcare responsibilities is evident in 79.4 percent of cases. Conversely, among families with a monthly income exceeding 36,000 DZD, this inequitable sharing characterizes 80 percent of instances concerning female indoor domestic activities. Furthermore, households with an income below 36,000 DZD exhibit an equitable division of these activities in 20.6 percent of cases, while those with an income exceeding 36,000 DZD display a comparable equal division in 20 percent of instances pertaining to childcare activities. In light of the calculated chi-square value being smaller than the tabulated chi-square value, it is concluded that there is no statistically significant relationship discerned between household income and the equitable sharing of childcare activities.

In conclusion, the analysis does not detect any influence of family income on the division of childcare activities within the studied families.

5 - Summary of results:

- The effect of the educational level of the spouses on the sharing of internal household tasks: We observe from the table that the educational level of the spouses does not affect the sharing of internal domestic tasks that women usually perform inside the home, in other words, the respondents differ in their educational levels, even if the educational level affects individual attitudes towards values Relationships between men and women Nonetheless, at the level of behavior, women still carry out most of the internal domestic tasks.

The effect of the spouse's status towards work on the sharing of internal household tasks: We observe from the table that the status of the spouses towards work affects the sharing of internal household tasks. Thus, families in which both spouses work are more inclined towards an equal division of household tasks. However, the relationship remains between the situation variable, the direction of work, and the internal household tasks sharing variable.

- The effect of family income on the sharing of internal household tasks: We observe from the respective table that there is a significant relationship between family income and the tendency towards equal sharing of internal household tasks, in other words, the studied high-income families tend to share equal internal household tasks. However, the weakness of the correlation coefficient between the two variables indicates that the trend towards equal burden-sharing does not necessarily mean the husband's participation, but may be the result of other factors such as the financial ability to hire a maid, for example.

-The effect of the educational level of the spouses on the sharing of external household tasks: We observe from the respective table that there is a significant relationship between the educational level of the spouses and the trend towards equal sharing of internal household tasks, in other words, the higher the educational level of the spouses, the more the family tends to equal sharing of tasks.external household. However, the intensity of the correlation between the two variables is medium.

-The effect of the spouses' status towards work on the sharing of external household tasks: We observe from the above table that there is a significant relationship between the educational level of the spouses and the trend towards equal sharing of internal household tasks, in other words, whenever the spouses have a higher level of education, the family tends to equal sharing in terms of external household tasks. The correlation between the two variables has a medium degree of intensity.

The effect of family income on the sharing of external domestic tasks: We observe from the respective table that there is a significant relationship between family income and the trend towards equal sharing of female internal domestic chores. Nevertheless, the correlation between the two variables is weak.

- The effect of the educational level of the spouses on the sharing of childcare activities. We observe from the respective table that there is a significant relationship between the educational level of the spouses and the trend towards equal sharing of childcare activities, meaning that the higher the educational level of the spouses, the

more the family tends to equal sharing with regard to childcare activities. Children. However, the correlation between the two variables is weak.

The effect of the spouses' status towards work on the sharing of childcare activities:

We observe from the respective table that there is a significant relationship between the status of the spouses towards work and the trend towards equal sharing of childcare activities, meaning that whenever one of the spouses works or both of them work, the family tends to share equally with regard to childcare activities. However, the correlation between the two variables is weak.

The effect of family income on the sharing of childcare activities: We observe from the respective table that family income does not affect the sharing of childcare activities carried out by women by a large percentage, whether the studied families are families with high or low incomes, but childcare remains linked to women.

3. Analyzing the results in the light of previous studies:

We evaluated the resource theory in the paper, which holds that the pattern of splitting household responsibilities is based on the actor's power to influence the conduct of the other, in this case, the husband or wife. Which do the actor's resources decide?(Kellerhals, 1984, p.45).

Blood and Wolfe's field studies draw upon the resources utilized in our investigation, specifically educational attainment, employment status, and income, which collectively represent indicators of a couple's resource variables. The researchers have applied this theoretical framework empirically within the context of power dynamics and the allocation of domestic responsibilities. They highlight that despite the stereotypical nature of household task division, which exhibits limited variability across families, the extent of the husband's involvement in household tasks and childcare is influenced less by traditional upbringing and more by the resources possessed by the spouses, as well as the time at their disposal for fulfilling these obligations (Kellerhals, 1984, p. 46).

Notwithstanding critiques leveled against resource theory, it remains imperative to subject its postulates to rigorous examination. Resources, manifested through education, employment, income, or economic engagement, persist as factors that continue to be regarded as influential determinants of societal transformation. The pivotal question revolves around the degree to which these variables exert influence on the process of socialization, predicated on the inculcation of familial roles. This question is deemed indispensable in the study of familial evolution within Algerian society.

The findings derived from the field study have led us to conclude that educational attainment does not exert an influence on the responsibilities categorized as RG, which constitute the fundamental core of home care tasks. However, a notable impact is discerned concerning external household tasks and childcare duties. Past research, endeavors have generally indicated that women with a higher level of education assume fewer domestic responsibilities. They tend to utilize domestic services to a greater extent and have children who are less involved in household chores.

Conversely, men with a higher educational background tend to be more engaged in domestic tasks (**Coltrane, 2002, p.1210**).

However, it is crucial to emphasize that the socio-cultural context within the study community plays a pivotal role in comprehending and interpreting the empirical findings. This is because the socio-historical circumstances surrounding Western women's participation in education and the labor market differ significantly from those experienced by Algerian women. The robustness of gender-based cultural norms and the concept of segregating societal domains have contributed to the manifestation of the influence of educational attainment on the equitable division of external household tasks, as well as childcare duties. This consideration underscores the nuanced relationship between sharing external domestic responsibilities and the variable of childcare tasks and the level of educational attainment.

These patterns are consistent with findings in Western studies as well. Inquiries into the correlation between resources and the allocation of home care responsibilities, particularly with regard to men, have yielded varied results. For instance, some studies have identified a positive association between a man's level of education and the amount of time he dedicates to domestic tasks.

Other research has discovered that the correlation between these variables is multifaceted. Furthermore, by including the job variable, the study revealed that the number of working hours outside the home is adversely related to the number of domestic work hours (**Kulik, 2007, p.42**) regarding men, the outcomes have exhibited less consistency when examining the connection between resources and the division of household responsibilities. For instance, certain studies have revealed a positive correlation between a man's educational attainment and the extent of time he allocates to domestic chores, while other research has posited that this relationship is more intricate and multifaceted. (**Kulik, 2007, p.42**) . .

In our analysis of the labor resource, which we gauged through the directional work status, we found that its impact on the division of home care tasks is only evident at the level of external household tasks. Specifically, the more both spouses are engaged in employment, the more inclined they are toward an equitable division of these responsibilities.

However, it's important to acknowledge that this relationship is somewhat weak, as it is influenced by additional variables that are not accounted for in the binary analysis. The intrusion of women into the public sphere, facilitated by factors like education and employment, has led to their increased involvement with their husbands in tasks related to this realm, such as purchasing groceries and settling bills, among others. For instance, in his research on the family life of working women, scholar Muhammad **Rebzani** revealed that working women are more actively engaged in activities outside the home. For example, 45.7 percent of working women compared to 22.2 percent of homemakers take care of the routine daily shopping, and 68.0 percent of working women as opposed to 32.2 percent of homemakers are responsible for purchasing children's clothing (**Rebzani, 1997, p.104**) , and given the complexity of the socio-demographic structure of the Algerian family, equality in sharing

household tasks may not only mean the participation of the husband but may also mean the participation of other individuals in these tasks.

Even in Western studies, researchers have observed that the roles of spouses do not conform strictly to *traditional family structures* when the man is unemployed and the woman is engaged in full-time employment. In such cases, there is a departure from the symbolic reflection of gender roles. Regardless of the man's professional and social category, there is a greater likelihood that he will undertake tasks traditionally associated with masculinity rather than those involving negotiation. Similarly, when both the man and the woman are employed full-time, irrespective of their social or professional background, this pattern tends to persist, suggesting a divergence from traditional gender roles within a social context (Kulik, 2007, p.36).

As the same researcher has highlighted, women engaged in full-time employment often voice discontent with regard to undertaking household tasks, especially when they have limited free time. Conversely, this phenomenon is reversed for women who stay at home. It's important to note that the subjective perception of these tasks cannot be solely attributed to "*objective time availability*." Instead, it is better explained by the individuals' "*relationship with time*." For working women, their time is often regarded as precious and constrained, whereas women who stay at home tend to perceive themselves as having surplus time. Consequently, women with limited free time at home tend to express more dissatisfaction compared to those who have more free time available to them (Kulik, 2007, p.31-32).

This explains the reason in accordance with Algerian studies, women's job outside the home inevitably leads to an increase in obligations and liabilities. Because a woman frequently finds it difficult to balance the two responsibilities, she frequently resorts to keeping her family and committing herself to her children at the expense of her work (Saadawi, 2010-2011, p. 184).

Notwithstanding the growth of women's participation in economic life, it remains weak (13.6 in 2008) and is concentrated in urban agglomerations (17.3 in urban areas compared to 7.9 in rural areas). The intensive education of girls did not go along with the intensive integration of women into the economic life of society (Benzerfa-guerroudj, 1992, p.125).

The discrepancy between these two indicators arises from the enduring and persistent societal norms that delineate women's roles, positioning them primarily within the domestic or familial sphere. This is corroborated by the findings of my study on the division of domestic labor, which underscores the pivotal role of gender culture in defining and delineating familial roles.

Furthermore, our investigation into the influence of family income on the division of domestic labor within the studied families revealed that it does have an impact on the division of internal household tasks and external household tasks. However, it does not exert a discernible influence on childcare responsibilities. A study conducted in Egypt on family dynamics corroborates this observation, as it found that husbands with higher incomes tend to be less involved in housework due to their significant work commitments. Additionally, wives from affluent households may employ domestic help to carry out household chores on their behalf, thereby assuming a

supervisory role rather than performing the tasks themselves (**Elkhouli, 2006, p. 204**).

This observation suggests that the inclination towards greater equality in household task division may be attributed to women's capacity to procure assistance for managing domestic responsibilities. This becomes evident when comparing single-income households and dual-income households in terms of the degree of stereotyped task allocation and role differentiation. It is particularly notable in households where the wife is employed, and simultaneously, the husband's income is very low. In higher-income households, it becomes feasible to utilize domestic services or modern household appliances to aid in managing household tasks. Conversely, in lower-income households, the wife typically assumes the bulk of these responsibilities, compelling the husband to actively contribute and assist his wife in these tasks (**Elkhouli, 2006, p. 206**).

Conclusion:

We can deduce from the disparity between the empirical findings and the theoretical framework, which we based on previous research, that the resource theory's underlying assumption regarding the significant relationships between the spouses' resources—represented in our study by educational level, employment status, and family income—and the equitable sharing of home care tasks, encompassing both daily household chores and childcare, holds true primarily in the context of tasks that transcend the confines of the private sphere.

The phenomenon is especially evident when considering the division of responsibilities that pertain to the public sphere. Women's participation in the workforce and their economic engagement lead them to actively partake in tasks occurring outside the home. For instance, the prevalence of women owning cars has increased in recent years, owing to the expansion of tasks that women undertake beyond the domestic realm. However, this same shift in resource allocation does not manifest in a corresponding manner for husbands concerning internal domestic tasks typically associated with femininity.

Despite the notable rise in dual-income households, it is striking to observe that the active participation of both the husband and wife in the execution of home care tasks is nearly absent, except when it comes to childcare. In this regard, many higher-income families tend to rely on external care institutions, which partially explains the trend toward a more equitable division of childcare responsibilities.

It's crucial to recognize that Algeria possesses economic and sociological characteristics that markedly distinguish it from industrialized societies. In these settings, women's workforce participation holds less prominence, and the traditional gender division of labor within the family structure remains relatively rigid. Researchers contend that in Algerian society, much like in other civilizations, men, as the primary pillars of the family, have managed to preserve their position and privileges within the familial unit. They serve as the linchpin connecting family members, relatives, and society at large. Conversely, the status and role of women

have undergone various transformations in Algerian society over time (**Rebzani, 1997, p.98**).

Despite the changes witnessed within the family institution and its dynamics shaped by marital life, it is noteworthy that these transformations did not have a substantial impact on the gender-based division of labor. This pattern is not unique to the Algerian context; similar findings have been observed in neighboring countries like Tunisia. A national study conducted by the Institute of Population Research and Studies (IREP-TUNIS) on family dynamics among 2000 Tunisian families revealed that traditional gender roles, particularly pertaining to household chores, persist, as underscored by feminist research and substantiated by empirical investigations. Furthermore, it is observed that advancements in women's education and increased participation in the workforce have only marginally influenced the division of domestic responsibilities within the family, encompassing tasks such as cooking, provisioning, laundering, and house cleaning. This tendency remains evident despite the growing adoption of technological aids within the domestic sphere.

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