

Social cohesion and stability in Morocco - Are Youth assuming the role of an actor for democratic reforms?

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Power2Youth

Youth, Education and Employment in Morocco

Consortium of research and academic institutions exploring the dynamics of youth exclusion, funded by EU's 7th Framework Program.

- First presented October 2016
- 1022 participants, 502 male/520 female

Researchers:

Azeddine Akesbi & Saloua Zerhouni

Youth, marginalization & violence in Morocco

National qualitative study by Rabat Social Studies Institute (RSSI), funded by hbs North Africa – Rabat.

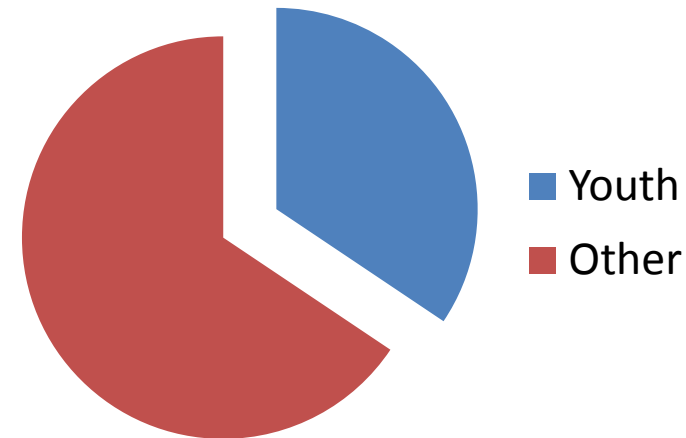
- May to July 2016
- 177 Young interviewees (34% female, 66% male)
- 19 Focus Groups and 36 interviews
- 6 Regions

Researchers:

Saloua Zerhouni, Kenza Yousfi, Saâdeddine Igamane, Nawal Mouhoute, Amal Bousbaa, Driss Maghraoui, Khalid Mouna

- Youth from 15 to 34 represent 11,6 million (census 2015)
- Pluralistic youth, facing exclusion and lack of integration on various levels
- Differing perspectives on social and ideological questions are often the source of conflict among the youth
- Youth experience violence regularly and as “normal”
- Limited opportunity for political participation, youth feel powerless

% Youth / Total Population



- 23% youth employment, existing employment marked by high degree of informality and of temporal nature
- unemployed youth holding a diploma are on average 43 months without job: feeling of personal depreciation and questioning of the utility of education
- 61% say that education system does not prepare them adequately for the labor market
- 64% are “rather and very dissatisfied” with the governments efforts to secure employment
- Precarious economic conditions is joined by feeling of systematic oppression

- Only 22% of respondents still attending school system
- 2013: 350000 abandoned schooling
- Reasons for high non-enrollment figures:
 - „not being able to pay“
 - „need to start work“
 - Cultural identities, which prevent females from attending
- Reasons for leaving school:
 - „a repetition of failures“
 - „no interest in school“

« School has become a tool that reproduces inequalities »

Azzedine Akesbi

Insufficient presence of critical thinking and social skills in educational programs

- Critical and analytical thinking considered very or fairly developed only by 35% (41 of women) of respondents
- Social skills considered enough developed only by 44% (48% of women)
- Verbal and physical violence experienced by almost every pupil and student

Trust in public sphere and public actors low

- religious persons and the army are only public actors trusted in
- family is seen as private place of protection and refuge, but:
- even here no free communication: “problems of communication”, “missing liberty” and “frustration”
- strong pressure on children to improve economic conditions and to adapt to social norms

Cultural exclusion and exclusion of women

- Dominant culture reduces the margin of expression and individual action
- Amazigh population: Face pedagogical and ideological oppression, consider themselves as completely marginalized by the Makhzen
- Access to public space is very limited for large parts of the youth – including women
- only 38% of women between 15 and 29 consider themselves to have the freedom of dress

Reduced liberty of expression and limited opportunities for political expression

- Missing trust in public institutions and politicians due to corruption and clientelism
- 69% between 15-29 believe that politicians do not show interest towards the youth

« The youth are interested in politics, but do not like the rules of the political game » Saloua Zerhouni

- Youth search for their own space and ways of expression, but experience a lack of resources and democratic space, and constant control

« Social unrest is attributed to the Makhzen who controls the liberties and society » Saloua Zerhouni

« Security approach is insufficient, need to strengthen democratic governance »

Saloua Zerhouni

Broad Marginalization of Moroccan Youth

- Insufficient development of social competencies in educational system
- Precarious economic situation
- Culturally excluded
- Normal experience of violence
- Limited freedom of expression
- Little participation in elections
- Exclusion from formulation of public policies

New forms of political participation of young people are evolving:

TAFRA: A **political think tank** using high quality evidence based research to advocate for a parliamentary monarchy

ANFASS: **Political association** with a clear vision of a modern society and an inclusive democracy

Prometheus Institute: **Political Youth collective** focusing on the evaluation of public policies affecting the youth in a participatory way

The use of social media platforms in a participative way to advocate for inclusive democracy (87% of respondents express themselves freely in the internet and social media)

New feminist groups and activists: FemRad, Eco Feminists and Feminism activists are breaking totally with the established feminist organizations approaches

In many occasions, Collectif Aswat quickly mobilized public opinion around issues related to LGBTI rights

Free space for artistic expression and debate:

“Théâtre de l’opprimé” is a theater company working specifically with and for communities facing or experiencing oppression and marginalization

Fondation Tazi : In a context lacking a public policy regarding culture, l’Uzine acts as a space for free expression and artistic transmission for and to marginalized youth in Casablanca

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