YOUTH IN ARAB MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES:  
GENDER RELATIONS  
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“Arab Mediterranean youth in 2016:  
a kaleidoscope view from the SAHWA project”  
Cairo, 6th December 2016
Youth condition: a gendered perspective

Gender differences and inequality among young people in five countries, through comparative lenses, and through a gendered/intersectional perspective:

• Attention to young women and men;
• Focus on girls’ and boys’ agency in different domains (education, work, family, civic society, migration), not just on discrimination;
• Attention to young people’s differences (gender, class, level of education, age....).
Data and methodology

• Young men and women 15-29 years, from 5 countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia).

• Mixed methods:
  • National surveys: 2,000 boys and girls in every country
  • Ethnographic fieldwork: 25 focus groups, 24 life stories, 12 focused ethnographies, involving more than 225 young people in the region.
Youth cultures and the transformation of gender norms & relations

Young people’s views on:
• Gender equality & equal opportunities in education
• Women and men in the labour market
• Women in politics
• Sexual division of work, men and women’s roles and power in the family
• Gender equality in the family code
• Models of femininity & masculinity
• Marriage perspectives
Youth cultures and the transformation of gender norms & relations (2)

• Innovation and continuity in gender relations and norms, demands for change and resistance to change, co-existence.

• Gender equality values enjoy support to different degrees, in different social domains.

• Gender gap: diverging paths of cultural change for young man and women ➔ Different youth cultures?
Level of agreement: “Education is more important for boys than for girls”
Level of agreement: “Men should be the main financial provider in the family”
Conclusions

• Understanding the complexities of social change: innovation and continuity, tensions and alliances

• The prism of gender: a powerful vantage point to grasp socio-cultural changes

• Our responsibility as youth researchers: to sustain positive dynamics of social change and youth empowerment
# Contacts

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Thank you!