

The Impact of Electoral Dimensions on the Concept of Citizenship: A Case Study of Elections in Algeria

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Abstract

This study aimed to explore the possibility of predicting the variable of citizenship through the dimensions of election. To achieve the study's objective, a citizenship and election scale comprising 22 items was utilised. The study sample consisted of 264 citizens. The results indicated that the level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among the study sample was moderate and that there was a positive correlation between citizenship and voting in elections. The results of the linear regression analysis further revealed that citizenship could be predicted through the dimensions of election.

Keywords: citizenship, elections, prediction, representation, trust.

1. Introduction

The topic of citizenship stands as one of the most prominent issues, asserting its importance in both Western and Arab thought. Many classical and contemporary thinkers have shown deep interest in the concept of citizenship, viewing it as a fundamental

instrument for understanding the true meaning of political awareness among citizens (Eugene, 2009, p. 358).

Citizenship is an indispensable foundation for ensuring the exercise of human rights, particularly political rights, as it guarantees the individual, in their capacity as a citizen, the genuine practice of constitutionally established rights and duties. Its role extends beyond the legal dimension to encompass the enhancement of social cohesion by achieving a balance between rights and obligations, as well as promoting civic awareness through respect for coexistence and the rule of law. Citizenship nurtures loyalty and a profound sense of belonging to one's community and values, transforming this belonging into a behavioural culture that reflects the individual's defence of their nation's interests and achievements (Zureiq, 2017, p. 263).

Algerian society is among those that have undergone notable transformations in its political experience, striving to embody democracy through the optimal exercise of rights and freedoms, particularly the right to vote. This political behaviour, practised by citizens within an encouraging social and political environment, allows them to choose the individual they deem most capable of representing them in political decision-making that influences both their present and the continuity of their future. Citizenship, therefore, is a value-based concept (Al-Nashar, 2020, p. 26) and a political behaviour through which citizens express their rights and duties by means of the electoral right (Khamash, 2019, p. 39).

Hence, citizenship represents a timeless yet continually renewed issue that consistently emerges in discussions related to any aspect of human-centred development, as well as reform and modernisation initiatives more broadly. On this basis, the following research questions are proposed:

- What is the level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among Algerian citizens?
- Is there a relationship between citizenship and the right to vote?
- Can the variable of citizenship be predicted through the variable of election?

To address these research questions, the following hypotheses are proposed:

- The level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among Algerian citizens is moderate.
- There is a correlational relationship between the citizenship variable and the election variable.
- The variable of citizenship can be predicted through electoral dimensions, namely, the dimension of practice and procedures, the dimension of trust, and the dimension of representation.

This study aims to measure the level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among Algerian citizens, identify the nature of the correlational relationship between citizenship and elections, and verify the possibility of predicting the citizenship variable through electoral dimensions.

The significance of the present study lies in addressing the issue of citizenship as an active variable in assessing electoral behaviour statistics among Algerian citizens, particularly in the context of presidential and constitutional elections, which represent a model case of popular participation. These elections constitute purely descriptive criteria used to classify states as democratic and mark a significant milestone in the establishment of a new republic.

2. Operational definitions of the study concepts

2.1. Citizenship:

Citizenship is a value-based concept and a political behaviour through which citizens express their rights and duties by exercising the right to vote, thereby achieving a balance between rights and responsibilities and promoting civic awareness for the advancement of both the individual and society.

Operationally, in the present study, citizenship is defined as a set of behaviours expressed by the total score obtained by participants on the citizenship scale used in this study,

consisting of 13 items distributed across three dimensions: the promotion of civic awareness, the achievement of balance between rights and duties, and the promotion of the individual and society. The total score of the participants' responses ranged from 13--65.

2.2. Election:

An election is the means by which a citizen's choice is unified with respect to a person, constitution, group of individuals, systems, laws, or procedures entrusted with the exercise of sovereignty or governance. It represents the actual exercise of all constitutionally defined rights and duties to gain trust through practice and procedures for optimal representation.

Operationally, in the present study, election is expressed by the total score obtained by the participants from the nine items distributed across the three dimensions of the electoral behaviour scale used in this study: the dimension of practice and procedures, the dimension of trust, and the dimension of representation. The total score reflecting participants' awareness ranges from 9--45.

3. Conceptual Framework of the Study

The concept of citizenship is a social, legal, and political idea that has significantly contributed to the development of human society by reinforcing the role of elections in establishing democracy and promoting transparency in the construction and evolution of the state. This is achieved through the participation of citizens in governance and the safeguarding of their rights and duties. Accordingly, this section addresses the definition and dimensions of citizenship, the definition of election, and the relationship between election and citizenship.

3.1. Definition of Citizenship

The concept of citizenship is characterised by the multiplicity of its definitions, which vary according to cultural and linguistic contexts. Nevertheless, the sociological and

political framework remains the most widely agreed-upon foundation among the various interpretations of the concept. On this basis, the present research examines the linguistic and terminological meanings of citizenship, as well as its historical dimension (Qasir, 2015, p. 37).

3.1.1. Linguistic Definition of Citizenship

The roots of the concept of citizenship in the Arabic language derive from the verb *wātana*, which denotes participation and shared living within a homeland. As a quadrilateral derivative of the root *waṭana*, its meanings are closely linked to central notions such as permanent residence (*waṭana–yaṭunu–waṭnan*), psychological settlement and readiness for a specific act (*waṭana naḥṣahu ‘ala al-amr*), and the act of taking a country as one’s homeland (*istawṭana*) (Ibn Manzūr, 1994, p. 120).

The word *muwāṭanaḥ* (citizenship) in Arabic derives from *waṭan* (homeland), which is defined as the place where an individual resides and has a permanent dwelling. The verb *waṭana* is used to express the act of making a place one’s homeland. Its plural form, *awṭān*, encompasses all places of residence adopted by a person, whether as their birthplace or as a place chosen later in life (Political Encyclopedia, 2020).

3.1.2. Terminological Definition of Citizenship

According to *Political Encyclopedia* (2020), the concept of citizenship is a social, legal, and political idea that has contributed significantly to the development of human society and the advancement of the state towards equality and justice. This is achieved by strengthening the role of democracy and transparency in state-building and development, involving citizens in governance and ensuring their rights and responsibilities.

According to *Encyclopædia Britannica*, citizenship represents the legal framework that regulates the relationship between the individual and the state, defining the rights and duties that arise from this relationship. It notes that citizenship generally confers important political rights, such as the right to participate in elections and hold public office (Al-Kuwari, 2001, p. 118).

Citizenship also refers to the status of an individual as a member of a specific state, wherein the relationship is manifested through the individual's sense of belonging and loyalty and the state's protection in return. An individual becomes a citizen either by birth or through naturalisation (Ladmi, 2019, p. 5).

Khaldi (2016) defines citizenship as "the individual's possession of a set of values, both emotional and practical, which constitute the essence of effective citizenship values such as freedom, equality, and justice. The law ensures the embodiment of these values, in addition to guaranteeing the individual's enjoyment of various political, social, and economic rights, in exchange for fulfilling their duties within a framework of shared living in a sovereign state" (Khaldi, 2016, p. 15).

In French, *citoyenneté* refers to an individual who holds membership in a given country and thereby enjoys the privileges entailed by that membership. In its political sense, citizenship refers to the rights granted by the state to individuals holding its nationality, as well as the corresponding obligations imposed upon them. It may also refer to an individual's participation in national affairs and sense of belonging to their homeland (Al-Makna, 2014, p. 388).

3.1.3. Historical development of the concept of citizenship

The concept of citizenship, both as a philosophical idea and as a social, political, economic, and legal practice, was shaped within the evolution of Western civilisation, particularly with the emergence of modernity and the profound transformations experienced in Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was founded upon philosophical and intellectual principles established by numerous Western thinkers (Al-Khaldi, 2016, p. 7).

According to *the Al-Ma'ānī Dictionary*, the term "*citizenship*" is derived from the Latin word "*civitas*," which denotes the collective body of citizens constituting a city. The same dictionary further explains that the concept of citizenship embodies the idea of rights and duties within a specific territorial domain (*Al-Ma'ānī Dictionary*, 2020).

In ancient Athens during the 7th century B.C., citizens, who represented approximately one-tenth of the population, resolved civic matters, such as war, peace, and public works, through elections. However, the Age of Enlightenment and the French Revolution of 1789 gave the concept new political and philosophical dimensions (Ferdinand, 1883, p. 619).

The French Revolution proclaimed the establishment of a new nation, detached from biological or religious reference points, and grounded instead in the free will of its citizens. This notion was inspired by Jean-Jacques Rousseau's concept of the *social contract*, which emphasised individual autonomy, personal rights vis-à-vis the state, and collective life as united citizens belonging to a nation-state and a general society, rather than to local communities, under self-imposed laws without external constraints (Idris, 2018, p. 15).

The Revolution further expanded the meaning of citizenship by transforming the status of individuals from *subjects* with mere obligations into *citizens* endowed with rights as well as duties, thereby affirming their legitimate right to participate in matters concerning the homeland, the state, and society (Al-Wafi, 2017, p. 154).

3.1.4. Dimensions of Citizenship

From the aforementioned definitions, it is evident that citizenship represents the relationship between the individual and the state, encompassing the rights and duties inherent in that relationship. Citizenship implicitly signifies a degree of freedom accompanied by responsibility and generally confers upon citizens political rights such as the right to vote and to hold public office (Al-Kuwari, 2001, p. 118). Accordingly, the dimensions of citizenship can be summarised as follows:

- The dimension of promoting civic awareness.
- The dimension of achieving balance between rights and duties.
- The dimension of freedom and responsibility.
- The dimension of advancing the individual and society.
- The dimension of political rights and the right to vote.

- The dimension of holding public office.

3.2. Election

Election constitutes the cornerstone and fundamental pillar of every sound democratic system, as it serves as the principal reference for determining the legitimacy of authority within society. It also represents the foundation for realising the concept of popular sovereignty (Shalabi, 2014, p. 7). Accordingly, the right to vote occupies a central position among political rights, holding the highest and most prestigious status. For this reason, national constitutions explicitly enshrine this right within their core provisions, ensuring its protection and enabling qualified citizens to exercise their political rights. Moreover, constitutions go beyond merely guaranteeing every citizen's right to vote; they also frame participation in public life through this right as a national duty that must be fulfilled in the most significant spheres of civic engagement, as it is directly linked to popular sovereignty, which underpins every system founded on the will of the electorate (Al-Bahri, 2014, p. 14).

3.2.1. Definition of Election

Linguistic Definition:

Ibn Manẓūr defines the term *intikhāb* (election) as deriving from the verb *nakhaba*, meaning *to choose*. The noun *nukhbah* refers to what is chosen, and *nukhbat al-qawm* or *nukhbatuhum* denotes “the best among them.” The act of *intikhāb* thus signifies selection, extraction, and choice from among the best (Ibn Manẓūr, n.d., p. 649).

Terminological Definition:

Legally, an election is defined as the means or process through which citizens choose individuals entrusted with exercising sovereignty or governance on their behalf, whether at the political or administrative level (Sharīf, 2005, p. 112).

It is also defined as the authority conferred by law upon certain members of the nation who constitute the electoral body to participate in public life directly or indirectly by

expressing their will concerning the appointment of rulers and the administration of governance (Al-Bahri, 2014, p. 15).

Therefore, elections are a constitutional procedure for selecting an individual or group of individuals to occupy a specific position. They are the formal mechanism for choosing a person for public office or for approving or rejecting a proposal or political decision through voting, thus serving as a fundamental means of political decision-making.

3.2.2. Dimensions of Election

An election is the sole democratic means by which authority is entrusted to the ruler. It constitutes a cornerstone and fundamental pillar of every sound democratic system, as it serves as the essential reference for determining the legitimacy of authority within society and represents the foundation for realising the concept of popular or national sovereignty, namely, the right of the people or the nation, which alone holds sovereignty as the source of all authority, to govern itself through representatives freely chosen to exercise political power (Al-Bahri, 2014, p. 1).

From this, the dimensions of election can be identified as follows:

a. Dimension of Practice and Procedures: Participation in the management and activation of democratic principles, confidence in the independent supreme body responsible for supervising elections, and optimism regarding electoral law representation mechanisms.

b. Dimension of Trust: The people's desire and will, along with their confidence in the electoral process and the legitimacy of authority.

c. Dimension of Representation: A positive perception of governmental representation resulting from pluralistic majorities and state appointments on the basis of proportional representation and freedom of choice.

3.3. Relationship between Citizenship and Election

On the basis of the aforementioned discussion, citizenship entails the transfer of rights from the state to individuals, denoting an individual's membership within a community, whether that membership is active or passive. This membership governs one's rights and duties, grounded in the principles of universality and equality. Al-Wafi (2017) asserts that conducting free and fair elections is an objective pursued by all states (Al-Wafi, 2017, p. 157). This indicates that citizenship possesses a legal dimension, represented by the legal organisation of political, economic, social, and cultural rights that the state must guarantee equally to all citizens without discrimination. It is accompanied by an ethical dimension, linked to the individual's feelings of loyalty and belonging to the state, the prioritisation of public interest over private interest, and voluntary respect for the law.

Citizenship, therefore, cannot be sustained merely through the recognition of rights; it is reinforced through the fulfilment of obligations such as the pursuit of understanding one's rights, adhering to them, defending them, and exercising them within the framework of the common good. This highlights the role of citizenship in activating electoral participation. Hence, a strong interconnection exists between the concept of citizenship and the electoral system: the lower the level of civic values is, the greater the tendency to abstain from exercising the electoral right.

When citizens elect their representatives democratically through a transparent electoral system, free from pressure and fraud, this generates a sense of belonging to a society in which political rights are safeguarded, one founded upon democratic principles and deeply rooted in cultural and social values. Gharbi (2020) affirms that democracy is realised through the establishment of electoral action as a decisive, constructive, and expressive tool that embodies political and institutional life as a whole, translating the concept of citizenship into practice and manifesting popular sovereignty by reinforcing the sense of belonging and confronting political forces with the reality of their representation (Gharbi, 2020, p. 36). Consequently, citizenship holds great social importance in consolidating political participation.

In this sense, the relationship between elections and citizenship is significant, as citizenship fosters national awareness and strengthens citizens' sense of belonging to an

interconnected community. This, in turn, inspires the desire and will to develop that community in pursuit of their individual and collective aspirations and interests while also enhancing incentives for national reconciliation and the achievement of security and stability. Moreover, citizenship reinforces the spiritual and moral bonds among members of society, nurtures tolerance, encourages fair intellectual competition, and promotes the acceptance of differing opinions. It also fosters mutual trust between the state and the people, promoting joint efforts to maintain stability in their relationship and seeking ways to improve it.

4. Methodological Procedures of the Study

4.1. Exploratory Study

4.1.1. Research Method

The descriptive–analytical method was employed in this study because of its suitability for the research objectives. This approach was adopted to identify the correlational relationship between the variables of citizenship and election, as well as to determine the level of citizenship.

4.1.2. Study Sample

The field study sample comprised 264 citizens selected through a simple random sampling method.

4.1.3. Study Instruments

The primary research instrument was a questionnaire comprising the Citizenship and Election Scale, which consists of 22 positive items divided into an independent variable (election) and a dependent variable (citizenship).

- **Election Variable:** This variable is composed of nine positive items distributed across three dimensions: the dimension of practice and procedures (items 14–16),

the dimension of trust (items 17–19), and the dimension of representation (items 20–22).

- **Citizenship Variable:** Composed of thirteen positive items distributed across three dimensions: the dimension of promoting civic awareness (items 1–4), the dimension of achieving balance between rights and duties (items 5–9), and the dimension of advancing the individual and society (items 10–13).

A five-point Likert scale was employed to measure the questionnaire items, which were structured as follows: *Strongly Agree*, *Agree*, *Neutral*, *Disagree*, and *Strongly Disagree*.

4.1.4. Psychometric Properties of the Study

4.1.4.1. Validity of the Citizenship and Election Questionnaire

The validity of the questionnaire was verified via two methods:

a. Expert Validity:

The initial version of the questionnaire was presented to a group of experts and specialists in administration and scientific research, comprising university faculty members, to ensure the appropriateness, clarity, and relevance of the items to the study objectives.

b. Internal Consistency Validity:

The internal consistency validity of the Citizenship and Election Questionnaire was calculated on a sample of 66 citizens. Pearson's correlation coefficient was computed via the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (*SPSS*), version 23, between the score of each dimension and the total score of the Citizenship and Election Questionnaire.

Table 1

Values of Pearson's correlation coefficients between the items and the total score of the election questionnaire

Item No.	Statement	Pearson's Correlation Coefficient	Statistical Significance
14	I am satisfied with the recent procedures applied in the elections.	0.867**	0.000
15	I am confident about the Independent High Authority responsible for supervising elections.	0.906**	0.000
16	I am optimistic about the methods of representation in the electoral law.	0.827**	0.000
17	I feel confident about the course of the electoral process.	0.872**	0.000
18	I have confidence in the legitimacy of authority.	0.907**	0.000
19	I feel confident about the current government.	0.818**	0.000
20	I have a positive perception of governmental representation as a result of exercising my right to vote.	0.878**	0.000
21	I am satisfied with the state appointments that resulted from my participation in the elections.	0.828**	0.000
22	Freedom of choice makes me feel optimistic.	0.502**	0.000

Note. All the correlations are statistically significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

It is evident from the previous table that there is a positive correlation among the nine items of the election variable, with correlation coefficients ranging between +0.502 and +0.907. The significance level equals (0.000), which is less than the significance threshold of (0.01). Therefore, none of the items of the election variable were excluded, as they demonstrated strong internal consistency between each of the nine items and the total score of the Election Questionnaire.

Table 2

Values of Pearson's correlation coefficients between the items and the total score of the Citizenship Questionnaire

Item No.	Statement	Pearson's Correlation Coefficient	Statistical Significance
1	I feel free when exercising my rights.	0.585**	0.000
2	I believe that practising democracy guarantees rights and duties.	0.592**	0.000
3	I enjoy all civil rights.	0.731**	0.000
4	I feel a sense of equality when I fulfil my obligations.	0.690**	0.000
5	I am satisfied with everyone's respect for the law.	0.410**	0.000
6	The person I choose is the most capable of representing me in political decision-making.	0.525**	0.000

7	I have the right to hold public office.	0.666**	0.000
8	I strike a balance between my rights and my duties.	0.668**	0.000
9	The development of the state depends on the effective involvement of citizens in governance.	0.418**	0.000
10	I am satisfied with the respect for coexistence in my country.	0.481**	0.000
11	I believe that justice is crucial for the advancement of human society.	0.569**	0.000
12	I believe in equality of rights without any form of discrimination.	0.576**	0.000
13	I feel a sense of belonging when I fulfil my duties towards the homeland.	0.689**	0.000

Note. All the correlations are statistically significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

It is evident from the previous table that there is a positive correlation among the thirteen items of the citizenship variable, with correlation coefficients ranging between +0.410 and +0.731. The significance level equals (0.000), which is less than the significance threshold of (0.01). Therefore, none of the items of the citizenship variable were excluded, as they demonstrated strong internal consistency between each of the thirteen items and the total score of the Citizenship Questionnaire.

4.1.4.2. Reliability of the Citizenship and Election Questionnaire

The reliability of the Citizenship and Election Questionnaire was calculated on the same sample via two methods:

a. Split-Half Method:

The items of the Citizenship and Election Questionnaire were divided into two halves, the first representing odd-numbered items and the second representing even-numbered items. Pearson's correlation coefficient was then calculated between the scores of the odd and even items of the questionnaire. The reliability coefficients for the Election Questionnaire and the Citizenship Questionnaire were 0.956 and 0.887, respectively, indicating a very high degree of reliability.

Table 3

Values of the Split-Half Reliability Coefficients for the Questionnaire

No.	Variable	Number of Items	Split-Half Reliability Coefficient	Strength of Relationship
1	Election	09	0.956	Very strong
2	Citizenship	13	0.887	Strong

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

b. Cronbach's alpha coefficient:

Cronbach's alpha method was employed as a second approach to measure reliability. The Cronbach's alpha values for the Election Questionnaire and the Citizenship Questionnaire were 0.941 and 0.863, respectively, indicating that both instruments demonstrate high reliability and internal consistency.

Table 4

Values of Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients for the questionnaire

No.	Variable	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient	Strength of Relationship
1	Election	09	0.941	Very strong
2	Citizenship	13	0.836	Strong

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

4.2. The main study

4.2.1. Presentation of the Study Results

4.2.1.1. Presentation and Analysis of the First Hypothesis Results

The first hypothesis states that *the level of citizenship among the study sample is moderate.*

To verify this hypothesis, the level of citizenship awareness was categorised into three levels (low, moderate, and high) on the basis of the method developed by Shrigley and Balla (1984, cited in Mihoubi, 2012) and adopted by Merahi (2017), as described in Maamri (2016).

Method:

Each statement in the questionnaire was assigned a score for statistical analysis as follows:

Response Alternatives and Weights

The questionnaire uses a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5, as follows:

Table 5

Five-point Likert scale for positive items

Response	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Score	1	2	3	4	5
Cell Range	1 – 1.79	1.80 – 2.59	2.60 – 3.39	3.40 – 4.19	4.20 – 5
13× Cell Limits	13 – 23.27	23.40 – 33.67	33.80 – 44.07	44.20 – 54.47	54.60 – 65

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

We previously calculated the cell range length and multiplied it by the total number of items on the Citizenship Scale, which is 13.

$1 \times 13 = 13$, then $1.79 \times 13 = 23.27$, i.e., [13–23] (very low level).

$1.80 \times 13 = 23.40$, then $2.59 \times 13 = 33.67$, i.e., [24–33] (low level).

$2.60 \times 13 = 33.80$, then $3.39 \times 13 = 44.07$, i.e., [34–44] (moderate level).

$3.40 \times 13 = 44.20$, then $4.19 \times 13 = 54.47$, i.e., [45–54] (High Level).

$4.20 \times 13 = 54.60$, then $5 \times 13 = 65$, i.e., [55–65] (very high level).

The results of these calculations are as follows:

Table 6

Results of the Level of Awareness of the Concept of Citizenship in the Study Sample

Level of Citizenship Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Very High Level	04	1.51%
High Level	16	6.06%
Moderate Level	120	45.46%

Low Level	92	34.85%
Very Low Level	32	12.12%
Total	264	100%

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

The results presented in this table indicate that the level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among the study sample was *moderate*, as reflected by a rate of 45.46%. Moreover, the *lowest* level of awareness of citizenship was estimated at 34.85%, followed by a *very low* level of 12.12%. The *high* and *very high* levels combined accounted for 7.57%. These findings confirm the validity of the hypothesis that the level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among the study sample is *moderate*.

4.2.1.2. Presentation and Analysis of the Second Hypothesis Results

The second hypothesis posits a statistically significant correlation between the variables of *citizenship* and *election*. To verify this hypothesis, Pearson's correlation coefficients were calculated, and the results are presented in the following table.

Table 7

Results of the correlation coefficients between citizenship and election

Variables	Election	Significance Level
Citizenship	0.595**	0.000

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

It is evident from the previous table that there is a positive correlation between citizenship and election, amounting to (+0.595). The significance level equals (0.000), which is less than the significance threshold of (0.01). Therefore, the null hypothesis is

rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted, indicating that the correlation between the two variables (citizenship and election) is statistically significant. The relationship is positive and direct, meaning that as the level of citizenship increases, there is a corresponding positive awareness and perception of the right to vote.

4.2.1.3. Presentation and Analysis of the Third Hypothesis Results

The third hypothesis posits that *the variable of citizenship can be predicted through the dimensions of election*, specifically the dimensions of practice and procedures, trust, and representation. To verify this hypothesis, a linear regression equation (*linear regression*) was applied via the *Enter* method, which is used to test the relationships between independent and dependent variables.

Table 8

Linear Regression Analysis – Model Summary

Model	Correlation Coefficient	Coefficient of Determination (R ²)	Adjusted Coefficient of Determination	Standard Error of the Estimate
1	0.677a	0.458	0.452	6.11143

Constant Variable: Election

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

Table 8 clearly shows that the results of the linear regression equation test were statistically significant. The correlation coefficient between the independent variables (the dimensions of election) and the dependent variable (citizenship) was 0.677. Furthermore, all the independent variables (the dimensions of election) explained approximately 67.70% of the variance in the dependent variable (citizenship), which is a statistically significant proportion. The value of the adjusted coefficient of determination (R²) indicates that the model can be generalised to another research population with an explanatory power of 45.80%.

Table 9*Values of the Constant and Regression Coefficients*

Dependent Variable	Independent Variables (Election)	Dimension of Practice and Procedures	Dimension of Trust	Dimension of Representation	Unstandardised Constant (β)
Citizenship	Coefficient Value	0.008	0.013	2.036	15.287
T Test Value	0.031	0.052	9.834	10.342	
Significance	0.975	0.958	0.000	0.000	

Source: Prepared by researchers on the basis of *SPSS* outputs.

From the table, it can be concluded that the independent variable (dimension of representation) was statistically significant according to the *t* test at a significance level of $p \leq 0.05$. In contrast, the independent variables (dimension of trust) and (dimension of practice and procedures) did not have a statistically significant effect on the multiple regression model according to the *t* test.

On the basis of the last table, the regression equations can be derived via the unstandardised beta coefficients (constant term) as follows:

Regression Equation:

$$\text{Citizenship} = 15.287 + (0.008 \times \text{Practice and Procedures}) + (0.013 \times \text{Trust}) + (2.036 \times \text{Representation})$$

4.2.2. Discussion of the Study Results

This result is consistent with the findings of Azouz Gharbi (2020), who emphasised that the electoral act is a decisive and constructive tool for embodying the concept of citizenship and expressing popular sovereignty through the activation of a sense of

belonging. This finding aligns with the findings of Sami El-Wafi (2017), who highlighted the importance of free and fair elections in strengthening democracy, the fundamental basis of citizenship.

Furthermore, it is in line with Idris Atiya's (2018) study, which examined the importance of electoral participation as a key entry point for consolidating and promoting the values of citizenship. Similarly, this result aligns with Asia Belkhir's (2017) findings, which emphasise the importance of contributing to the enhancement of democratic practices as a means to increase and strengthen citizenship values.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this scientific contribution, which aims to provide empirical data on citizenship and election and on the extent to which the dimensions of election contribute to predicting citizenship, reveals a correlational relationship between the dimensions of citizenship and those of election. The findings also indicated that the level of awareness of the concept of citizenship among Algerian citizens was moderate.

The evolution of the concept of citizenship in the Western context had a conflictual function, as citizenship emerged as a result of the social struggles led by segments of society against the state, gradually and partially. In earlier times, the term *citizenship* meant sharing a geographical space called the homeland. Citizenship was neither a privilege nor a granted right; it was achieved through struggle and historical demands. From all of this, it becomes clear that citizenship is both a concept and a practice.

On the basis of the analysis of the results obtained, several recommendations can be proposed. There is a need to establish a mechanism for monitoring any violations of citizenship rights, as individuals cannot truly enjoy citizenship rights except within a democratic system. Furthermore, it is essential to address issues related to identity and to emphasise the role of citizenship in ensuring social cohesion and mutual respect for coexistence.

Achieving balance between the individual and society requires prioritising the collective interest, as citizenship can be realised only within a democratic system grounded in the principles of authority and sovereignty. This is achieved through the active participation of citizens in the state's political life and the establishment of political and legal mechanisms that guarantee integrity, transparency, and impartiality, thereby strengthening the bonds of trust between the government and the people.

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