Title of research article

The Erosion of the Family's Role and Its Repercussions for Youth Deviance: An Analytical Sociological Perspective

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Abstract

The family constitutes the fundamental institution of primary socialization, shaping individual values, behavioral orientations, and cultural frameworks that guide subsequent integration into society. However, rapid economic, social, and cultural transformations have progressively eroded the family's educational and normative functions. This erosion has generated visible repercussions in the form of youth deviance, manifested in diminished self-discipline, normative disintegration, and the proliferation of deviant behaviors. The issue is particularly acute in the Arab world, and in Algeria specifically, where structural challenges—including family disintegration, economic hardship, technological intrusion, and weakened parental authority—exacerbate vulnerability among young people. This article provides an analytical sociological perspective on the nexus between the weakening of the family and the rise of youth deviance. Through a theoretical and contextual exploration, it highlights the interactive variables driving this phenomenon and proposes pragmatic measures to mitigate its societal impact. The family has historically functioned as the cornerstone of social cohesion and stability. It is the first institution where individuals acquire values, norms, and roles essential for societal integration. Yet, globalization, technological change, and socioeconomic pressures have undermined this pivotal role. In many societies, particularly within the Arab region, the weakening of family structures has coincided with a marked rise in deviant behaviors among youth. Algeria offers a critical case study in which traditional family bonds are increasingly challenged by economic instability, rapid cultural shifts, and new modes of socialization outside parental control.

Introdcution and Theoretical Framework

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The analysis of family erosion and youth deviance can be grounded in classical and contemporary sociological theories.

- **Durkheim's theory of anomie** underscores the weakening of social norms when traditional institutions, such as the family, lose their regulatory capacity.
- **Social control theory** (Hirschi, 1969) highlights the importance of strong familial bonds in preventing deviance.
- **Cultural transmission theories** emphasize how the family serves as the primary agent of normative reproduction, whose weakening disrupts intergenerational continuity.

By applying these frameworks, one can conceptualize the family's retreat as a central factor in shaping youth attitudes toward conformity and deviance.

3. The Algerian Context

In Algeria, several interrelated factors exacerbate family erosion and its repercussions for youth:

1. **Economic pressures** – Rising unemployment, inflation, and precarious living conditions strain household stability, diminishing the family's ability to provide consistent supervision.
2. **Technological influences** – The pervasive impact of social media and digital technologies exposes youth to alternative value systems, often conflicting with traditional norms.
3. **Parental disintegration** – Divorce rates and the absence of effective parental exemplarity weaken the family's authority and normative influence.
4. **Cultural transitions** – The tension between traditional values and modern aspirations has contributed to normative fragmentation and identity crises among Algerian youth.

These dynamics collectively create fertile ground for the emergence and normalization of deviant practices, ranging from delinquency to substance abuse.

Discussion

The erosion of the family's role has both immediate and long-term consequences. In the short term, reduced supervision and weakened parental authority correlate strongly with juvenile delinquency and antisocial behavior. In the long term, the fragmentation of familial norms undermines social cohesion, perpetuating cycles of marginalization and deviance.

Policy interventions must therefore adopt a multidimensional approach, reinforcing both familial structures and complementary institutions (schools, community organizations, and media platforms). Programs supporting parental guidance, economic empowerment, and digital literacy are crucial to counterbalance the pressures facing families and reduce youth susceptibility to deviant trajectories.

The family constitutes the first social institution within which the individual is nurtured, inaugurating the earliest phases of socialization that lay the rudimentary foundations for personality formation, value acquisition, identity consolidation, and the construction of cultural as well as social belonging. Within the family, the child acquires initial communicative competences, masters elementary principles of social interaction, and becomes acquainted with the predominant value-normative complex. Sociological paradigms—from functionalism to symbolic interactionism—concur in foregrounding the family's centrality in role allocation and behavioral regulation, positioning it as the primary mediating structure between individual and society.

Over the past few decades, family life in Algeria has been buffeted by a chain of structural shifts. To begin with, escalating living costs and the rising necessity for dual earners have, quite literally, pulled parents out of the home for longer stretches. Hence, both the *symbolic* and the *practical* dimensions of parental oversight have thinned. At the same time, cultural currents—most notably a sharper taste for individual autonomy and the slow crumbling of extended-kin routines—have nibbled away at the household's moral authority. Moreover, the spread of digital

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media has injected an army of new socializing agents into children's daily orbit; these platforms jostle with the family, and sometimes out-shout it, in shaping youthful outlooks.

Consequently, a moral and behavioral vacuum has opened up and it seldom stays empty. Unmonitored outside cues rush in, steer adolescent preferences, and, little by little, redraw their sense of self. Therefore, one now sees a mix of rule-breaking habits and a brittle, showy self-reliance—both signs that informal social control has loosened and that communal attachment is fraying. Crucially, the danger does not stop at the private doorstep; rather, it spills outward, nibbling at the shared moral order and, ultimately, at social cohesion itself.

Analytical attention must therefore pivot from diagnosis to remediation. The central imperative is to recalibrate and fortify the family's adaptive capacity within rapidly evolving structural conditions. This objective presupposes (a) the design of flexible educational models attuned to contemporary household configurations; (b) the activation of synergistic partnerships linking family, school, religious institutions, and civil associations; and (c) the deployment of targeted support and awareness programs sensitive to Algeria's dynamic socio-economic landscape.

Methodologically, the present study adopts a descriptive–analytical design. Such an approach enables the systematic delineation of conceptual parameters, the identification of causal mechanisms, and the assessment of empirical effects within the Algerian context. It maps the educational functions historically assigned to the family, specifies the empirical indicators signaling their erosion, and interrogates the statistical and experiential correlation between that erosion and emergent patterns of youth deviance. Evidence is drawn from a triangulated corpus comprising theoretical scholarship and selective field data anchored in local social reality.

First – Operational Definitions of Key Concepts

1. Family

The family is the primary social unit within which the individual is reared, typically comprising father, mother, and offspring. It constitutes the foundational agency of socialization, inculcating values, shaping personality, and directing conduct from early childhood onward.

In this article the term denotes "the educational and socio-emotional milieu that cares for the individual during formative stages, exercising a pivotal role in normative regulation and value socialization."

2. Erosion of the Familial Role

Familial erosion refers to the attenuation—or outright absence—of the family's educational and socio-regulatory functions, triggered by factors such as loosened kinship ties, parental preoccupation, economic stressors, or exogenous technological influences. Here it is understood as "a structural or functional dysfunction afflicting the family and diminishing its leverage over value inculcation and behavioral regulation of offspring."

3. Deviance

Deviance denotes any behavior that contravenes prevailing social norms, legal statutes, or customary expectations. It may manifest behaviorally (e.g., aggression), normatively (e.g., rejection of moral strictures), or criminally (e.g., theft, substance abuse). The concept is employed to mean "the cluster of negative practices into which youth drift in the wake of deficient familial guidance, such as violence, truancy, drug consumption, or affiliation with deviant peer groups."

4. Youth

It designates the age-cohort roughly spanning 15 to 30 years—a life-phase marked by psychosocial transitions and an intensified quest for identity, rendering individuals acutely sensitive to environmental stimuli, whether salutary or deleterious.

The present study concentrates on this cohort given that it bears the brunt of familial attenuation and shows heightened susceptibility to deviance when oversight and mentoring lapse.

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Sci. Educ. Innov. Context Mod. Probl.| ISSN p (e): 27900169; 27900177

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Second – Causes of Erosion of the Family's Role and Its Repercussions for Youth

1. Socio-Cultural Transformations

- **Family disintegration:** In contemporary societies, the disintegration of the family constitutes a principal gateway to understanding one of the most visible social dysfunctions, namely youth deviance. Because the family—regarded as the first social institution—undertakes the task of primary socialization, it transmits to the child the corpus of values, norms, and behavioral restraints that facilitate social adaptation. Once the family fractures, owing to divorce, chronic conflict, or the physical or emotional absence of a parent, it loses efficacy in that critical function, thereby creating a fertile milieu for deviant conduct.

Multiple empirical studies confirm a causal relationship between fragile family bonds and elevated rates of behavioral deviance among adolescents, especially within complex urban settings. One study observes that an individual deprived of emotional gratification at home, or raised amid acute family strife, often compensates by affiliating with peer clusters that—where supervision is lacking—may draw the adolescent into substance use, violence, or moral transgression (Al-Aissaoui, 2004).

A report issued by the Arab Centre for Criminological and Social Research (2019) notes that more than 60 % of cases recorded in juvenile-rehabilitation facilities derive from disrupted or unstable family backgrounds, reinforcing the premise that an inactive family is a primary driver propelling youth towards deviance (Arab Centre for Criminological and Social Research, 2019).

The absence of modelling figures within the household, coupled with weakened guidance, lax social control, and dwindling emotional fulfilment, renders the young person more prone to adopt deviant behavioral patterns—whether to assert self-worth, to fill an affective void, or under the sway of ill-disciplined peers or negative media content. Consequently, family disintegration is not an isolated issue but an explanatory key to a broad spectrum of youth-deviance phenomena. Addressing it demands a multilayered intervention—psychological, educational, and social—aimed at re-empowering the family, supporting disrupted households, and forging partnerships among educational and social institutions.

The Algerian reality diverges little from the general Arab context. In fact, certain indicators reveal a marked rise in the phenomenon owing to profound socio-economic transformations experienced over recent decades. Official statistics record more than 60 000 divorces annually in recent years, signaling widespread family dissolution and leaving growing numbers of children and adolescents in unstable domestic environments (National Office of Statistics, 2022).

These findings align with Belkacem's 2018 study on the impact of paternal absence in Algerian families, which observes that the lack—or weakening—of paternal authority deprives adolescents of a reference model, impelling them to seek alternative identities that may be constructed through behaviors contravening social norms, especially in the absence of preventive programs or supportive institutions for vulnerable families (Belkacem, 2018).

The situation further deteriorates in impoverished, marginalized urban quarters where unemployment, poverty, exclusion, and the paucity of alternative pedagogical frameworks accumulate, exposing the young person to urban violence or street- and gang-related subcultures.

Linking family disintegration to youth deviance in Algeria is no longer merely theoretical; field data and scholarly evidence substantiate the connection. The state and civil society therefore need to activate preventive and remedial mechanisms: reinforce psycho-social support schemes for fractured households, reinvigorate alternative socializing agencies—mosque, school, youth associations—and shield the rising generation from sliding into destructive behavioral trajectories.

* **Erosion of Familial Values**

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Family values set the compass: they steer children's conduct, shape their personalities, and steady their intellectual and behavioral bearings. Over the past twenty years, however, that compass has begun to wobble. Economic strain now presses heavily on many Algerian households; everyday schedules shift almost weekly, and the parental division of labor bears little resemblance to earlier decades. Consequently, the home's capacity to guide, advise, and correct has thinned. In particular, long hours spent by mothers in paid work—together with fathers either overwhelmed by breadwinning duties or sidelined by unemployment—interrupt ordinary parent-child contact. A clear pedagogical vacuum follows. Core norms such as respect for authority, self-discipline, group loyalty, and religious identity no longer move with the same ease from one generation to the next. The problem is not simply a lack of warmth or physical presence; rather, the family's moral code—once passed on almost implicitly—now stalls in transit. As a result, when oversight slackens, adolescents look outward: television, the street, and an ever-expanding digital world supply replacement value systems that compete with, and sometimes overwrite, the lessons once learned at home. More often than not, these imported scripts clash with local culture and with the community's ethical and religious foundations.

Additional indicators reinforce the thesis of attenuated family values. Across the Arab region in general, and in Algeria in particular, recent decades have witnessed an unprecedented influx of foreign cultures, propelled by the media-communication revolution and the explosion of Internet and social-network use among youth cohorts. This profound openness has reconfigured the sources from which the rising generation acquires values and knowledge; no longer does the family monopolize socialization. Young people now confront rival value references that may contradict familial and societal norms.

Within this climate, the family has ceded its primacy as an educational agent to digital media, which disseminate behavioral templates, linguistic codes, and cultural symbols frequently antithetical to local cultural-religious identity. Bouzidi (2019) observes that "the Algerian child now consumes foreign media content from the earliest years, thereby internalizing a value system distinct from the system the family attempts to instill" (Bouzidi, 2019).

Ben Zidane (2022) adds that more than sixty-five % of Algerian adolescents spend daily in excess of four hours before screens—mobile phones, computers, televisions—without effective parental monitoring, exposing them to cultures of violence, individualism, rebellion, or emulation of models alien to their milieu (Ben Zidane, 2020). Such exposure directly fractures value identity and fosters deviance, particularly in youth.

The displacement of traditional value sources yields a personality marked by value dualism, torn between the demands of local cultural belonging and the allure of Western exemplars. Absent adequate familial and school guidance, many young people drift into axiological disjunction that may escalate into deviant behaviors: rejection of authority, rebellion, violence, substance use, or attraction to virtual communities that cultivate anti-social proclivities.

The technological surge—and, with it, the rise of new media, especially the Internet and social-network platforms—has thrown Algerian youth wide open to foreign cultures. More often than not, these cultures celebrate values at odds, even in direct conflict, with local social and religious norms. Consequently, the reference points that once guided young people have been rearranged: the family and the school no longer hold a near-monopoly on guidance; instead, border-blurring digital content now fills that role.

In practice, the resulting value slippage shows up across Algerian society in several ways:

1. Rising rates of juvenile and youth delinquency, most visibly in the large urban centers such as Algiers, Oran, Annaba.

2. Widespread, uncritical imitation of Western styles—clothing, music, defiant stances toward authority, patterns of intimate relations—particularly among marginalized groups.

3. Heightened tension within the household, fuelled by an ever-widening generation gap and, crucially, the near-absence of genuine dialogue channels.

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4. Affiliation with deviant or extremist electronic groups that offer a trans-local, substitute identity.

Hence, outside cultural currents cannot be disentangled from the rise of youth deviance in Algeria; they act as one of its deep-running motors, steadily eroding parental authority and dulling the household's ability to steer or restrain behavior. At the same time, the classic roles of father and mother as everyday mentors are thinning under cumulative strain. Like many Arab households, the Algerian family has been reorganized from within, most visibly in the arena of day-to-day child-rearing. Not long ago, the home functioned as a compact unit—paternal authority was clear, duties were split, and order, along with guidance, followed almost automatically. Today, economic stress, a mother's longer hours in paid work, and stubborn unemployment among fathers have chipped away at that arrangement; close monitoring of children has become the exception rather than the rule.

Significantly, the diminished educational role of parents does not represent a chance anomaly confined to a few households. Rather, it signifies a systemic response to sustained structural pressures that now shape Algerian social life. In view of these conditions, strengthening intra-familial educational capacities ought to feature prominently in any holistic prevention framework. When the home no longer supplies a reliable normative horizon, adolescents tend to anchor themselves to external value systems which so often legitimize rebellion or pave the way to outright deviance.

2. Economic Conditions:

* *Poverty and Unemployment: Social Marginalization and the Erosion of Family Authority in Algeria.*

Economic crises stand out as a primary force pulling apart the Algerian family's functional fabric where poverty and joblessness have settled in as long-term realities, most sharply felt in marginalized city districts and in out-of-the-way rural zones. Consequently, parents—fathers above all—spend much of their energy wrestling with material pressures. Emotional availability wanes; pedagogical oversight thins; outside influences, some of them risky, slip into the empty space.

Bouchama 'Abd al-Kader (2019) drives the point home: "Prolonged economic stress and unemployment sap a father's sense of control and influence. He turns inward—or simply checks out—thereby weakening his role as the household's behavioral gatekeeper" (Bouchama, 2019). In turn, this pedagogical vacuum breeds feelings of deprivation and exclusion among children, nudging them toward alternative—sometimes deviant—routes to social recognition.

In the same vein, Ben Ghazal (2021) shows that financial instability cultivates a *laissez-faire* socialization style: norms loosen, monitoring vanishes, and the street or digital media becomes the chief socializing agent, thereby amplifying the probability of deviance, violence, or affiliation with rebellious subcultures (Ben Ghazal, 2021).

Peripheral neighborhoods in Algeria's major cities exhibit high concentrations of unemployment among both youth and fathers, producing socially fragile families. Economically deprived young people display a heightened propensity to challenge authority, repudiate traditional values, or engage in violent behavior, substance use, and petty theft as strategies of survival and recognition. Unemployed fathers, meanwhile, endure chronic stress and a sense of lost control, conditions that poison the household climate and precipitate the psychological and symbolic fragmentation of the family as a nurturing institution.

Parental Work Preoccupation: Temporal Pressures Undermining Familial Equilibrium in Algeria

With the economic and social reconfigurations that have unfolded since the 1990s, Algerian households have experienced an unprecedented expansion in off-site labor hours, especially following the broad entry of women into the paid workforce. This shift has re-scripted intra-familial relations: both parents now confront occupational demands that absorb time and energy otherwise invested in child-rearing, behavioral monitoring, and the psychosocial tracking of their offspring.

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Laouadj Samira's 2021 study reports that "the average daily span parents spend with their children in Algeria's major cities does not exceed two hours," a window rarely devoted to substantive guidance or dialogic interaction, but rather to perfunctory everyday logistics (Laouadj, 2021). Such attenuated affective and pedagogical engagement weakens children's anchorage to familial reference points and leaves them open to extra-familial vectors of influence—the street, mass media, or digital networks.

Long work shifts create an educational vacuum within the household, a void that is spontaneously populated by external actors who may be unreliable or even perilous. The risk intensifies in the absence of intermediary institutions—youth clubs, mosques, schools—capable of supplying value containment. Under these conditions, adolescents face elevated odds of adopting deviant trajectories: verbal or physical aggression, tobacco use, or compulsive internet consumption (Najafov, 2021).

Specificities of the Algerian context

- Escalating living costs compel many families to depend on dual earnings, thereby magnifying parental absenteeism.

- In large urban centers, extended commuting between residence and workplace further widens the temporal gulf separating parents from children.

- An underdeveloped lattice of alternative pedagogical infrastructures (co-curricular activities, care facilities) exacerbates the situation, producing unsupervised youth who construct their value systems in unregulated milieus and thus become more susceptible to deviant conduct in the absence of sustained guidance.

Modern Technology: Social Media and the Erosion of Familial Bonds – A Sociological Approach on the Algerian Setting

During the past two decades, Algeria has witnessed a sweeping expansion of social-media use that has recalibrated intra-household relations. The smartphone or personal computer now mediates children's primary interactions with their surroundings, while the family's traditional role as the chief locus of normative oversight has contracted. As digital immersion grows, symbolic and psychological distance widens inside the family, most sharply between parents and their children. Spending more than four hours a day online has become common among adolescents; the habit dampens both the quantity and the quality of face-to-face exchange, thereby weakening the circulation of long-standing values. Moreover, many platforms parade behavioural, linguistic, and cultural models that sit uneasily with local norms. Youth, in turn, become more receptive to adopting alternative identities that diverge from the community's own heritage (Najafov, 2024).

Patchy digital guidance at home is breeding a cohort of youngsters who feel emotionally adrift and morally fragile; a clever meme, a charismatic streamer, or an online clique can steer them with little resistance—sometimes just for laughs, sometimes with an overt ideological agenda.

- Social-media saturation. Algerian teens now spend long stretches on platforms that glorify verbal aggression, mock parental authority, and celebrate open defiance.

- Risk-laden "challenges." Closed groups invite them into dangerous dares—cyber-bullying, smear campaigns, or overtly unethical stunts—turning transgression into a badge of daring.

- A dialogue deficit at home. With kitchen-table conversation in short supply, these platforms step in as an all-day, unsupervised classroom. Identity shifts from family circle to digital tribe; unfiltered access to hate content, "digital highs," or illicit liaisons normalizes deviance and masks subtler harms such as online cruelty until they are firmly rooted.

Attenuated Educational Guidance: Absence of Family–School Synergy and the Resultant Distortions in Algerian Youth Socialization:

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Many urban Algerian households lean almost entirely on the school to supply moral direction. Yet classrooms cannot replace parental care, daily behavioural monitoring, or the steady psychological backing that a home should provide. Separated like this, the two spheres fail to reinforce one another, and young people end up with a fractured value framework—especially given that the current education system offers few effective safety nets of its own.

Lack of coordination yields not only cognitive lacunae but also identity perturbations, weakened belonging, and an attenuated sense of social responsibility in pupils, rendering them more vulnerable to peer-group influence and deviant conduct. A field study in Tipaza Province conducted by Khalfaoui Fouad (2019) found that more than 64 % of deviant youth had no regular dialogue with their parents regarding their scholastic life; some had never discussed academic or behavioral problems with either parent (Khalfaoui, 2019). Algerian schools typically exhibit a fragile liaison between teaching staff and guardians, which leaves adolescent supervision partial at best. Certain families confer unqualified authority upon the school to discipline and guide their offspring, intervening neither in truancy nor in troubling behaviors. This tendency is acute in working-class or marginalized districts where families, burdened economically or culturally, lack either the capacity or the awareness necessary for sustained educational follow-up. The resulting impression of neglect fosters indifference among adolescents, who then seek alternative loci of affiliation; the absence of family–school coordination consequently undermines the efficacy of any pedagogical intervention and accelerates pathways into deviance (Najafov, 2025).

5 –Absence of Parental Role Models and Its Impact on Youth Deviance in Algeria

Parental example stands at the center of socialization. From father and mother, children draw their first rough map of moral conduct and acceptable behavior. During recent decades, however, Algeria has undergone social and economic shifts that have unsettled this arrangement. Many youngsters now grow up in homes where both parents are perpetually occupied, locked in chronic conflict, or physically absent through divorce, migration, or death. In such settings, the child loses daily contact with a stable and positive model.

This void operates as a powerful but indirect driver of deviance. Faced with ordinary challenges, the adolescent finds no reliable pattern to imitate; decision-making wavers, norms blur, and the pull of peer groups grows stronger. In that uncertain space, street cohorts and online influencers step forward, offering themselves as substitute guides.

Third – Remedies for Youth Deviance Triggered by Familial Erosion in Algeria

1. Reinforcing the Family's Socializing Function

The most immediate route to curbing behavioral deviance is, quite simply, to restore the household to its former standing as the primary builder of a child's social and psychological formation.

- Parent-training workshops. Local social-affairs and education departments could run short, hands-on sessions for mothers and fathers. Topics would range from the principles of positive discipline to the twin challenges of adolescent mood swings and unfiltered digital content.

- Awareness media. Regional radio and television slots might lay bare the long-term cost of parental neglect while, at the same time, offering concrete portraits of families that have managed to keep both warmth and structure.

- Family-life content in the curriculum. A practical proposal is to weave basic lessons on household communication and relationship skills into existing civics periods or into co-curricular clubs, so pupils learn early how a healthy family system works.

2. Value-Centered Guidance at Home

Moral prevention begins in the living room. Thus, fostering a culture of dialogue, mutual respect, and belonging is key.

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- Shared decision-making. Involving children in small household choices nurtures their sense of responsibility.

- Weekend rituals. Joint outings, collaborative cooking, or visits to extended kin thicken emotional bonds and create a supportive climate.

2. Steering Digital Media inside the Home

Social-network sites now rival parents for influence. Total bans rarely work, yet doing nothing lets the screen win by default. A wiser path is to draft clear family pacts on screen hours and, step by step, train children to police their own online habits.

IV. Recommendations

Drawing on the foregoing analysis, the following research-based proposals target families, the wider community, and public institutions. All aim to curb youth deviance that stems from a weakened household role.

A. Recommendations for Families

1. **Strengthen parents' emotional and physical presence** by reserving daily time for conversation and psychological support, even amid work and life pressures.
2. **Restore the role of a "positive role model" in the household** by consistently demonstrating behaviors worth imitating, particularly in moral and ethical situations.
3. **Maintain continuous educational supervision** alongside school efforts, rather than treating formal instruction as the sole builder of a child's character.
4. **Boost parents' digital awareness** and accompany children on social-media platforms, setting firm boundaries and offering ongoing guidance.

B. Recommendations for Schools and Other Educational Bodies

1. **Tighten school–home collaboration.** Schedule regular parent–teacher gatherings and, at the same time, roll out simple digital platforms that let both sides track a pupil's conduct and value development in real time.

2. **Open family-awareness corners on campus.** Use clubs or parent associations to run short workshops where mothers and fathers pick up practical skills in both psychological support and digital supervision.

3. **Keep staff training alive.** Offer ongoing courses that show teachers how modern socialization works and how to engage more effectively with each learner's household context.

C. Recommendations for Civil Society and the Media

1. **Run nationwide outreach on family fragility.** Explain, in plain language and with real-life examples, how a weakened household structure feeds directly into youth deviance.

2. **Empower neighborhood NGOs.** Encourage local associations—especially in under-resourced districts—to act as go-betweens for schools and families.

3. **Produce constructive media content.** Highlight stories that celebrate traditional family values and underline the power of solid role models in shaping a balanced generation.

D. Recommendations for Public Authorities and Policy-Makers

1. **Draft family-friendly social policies.** Combine targeted financial aid, incentives that reward household stability, and access to decent housing—priority to low-income and single-parent units.

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2. **Set up counselling hubs for troubled families.** Give parents a safe place to talk, seek educational advice, and resolve conflicts before they escalate.

3. **Build family education into national schooling.** Embed the topic in curricula and require it in teacher-training programs.

Shielding Algerian youth from deviance starts with repairing the family setting and restoring its educational and moral weight. Meeting that goal demands a coordinated national effort—parents, schools, media outlets, civil groups, and government working in concert to raise a generation that stands firm against destructive influences and engages thoughtfully with the challenges of our time.

Conclusion

The family's waning influence in Algeria is no passing adjustment in lifestyle; rather, it signals a deep reworking of the traditional socialization scaffolds that once seeded values and regulated conduct. Both survey data and field studies tie this decline to sharper spikes in youth deviance, weaker moral discipline, and an unsettling rise in alienation.

Several forces converge here. Economic strain—poverty, chronic unemployment—shrinks household stability. Daily pressures, including long work shifts, sap the hours parents can spend with their children. Add an unfiltered digital sphere, and the result is clear: during the very stages when guidance matters most, the parental voice grows faint. Into that silence slip unmonitored outside influences that chip away at the young person's moral footing and steer some toward risky behavior.

Curbing this drift is not the parents' task alone. It calls for concerted action—family, school, mass media, religious and cultural bodies all pulling in the same direction. Where the household regains coherence and authority, it still offers the best shield: a setting that fosters psychological wellbeing, ethical self-control, and constructive civic engagement.

Ultimately, the crucial wager is less about drafting solutions than about mustering the political and social will to carry them out. Algeria needs a broad national agenda that fortifies the family. A society unwilling to guard its own households will find it difficult—if not impossible—to safeguard its youth, or its future.

Acknowledgment

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest related to the publication of this article.

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