

# **The INDH (National Initiative for Human Development) as Another Example of Participation in Development**

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## **Abstract**

In 2005 Morocco experienced a terrorist attack that was carried out by unemployed youth from one of the popular (sha'abi) neighborhoods in Casablanca. In response the King, Muhammad VI, decided to concentrate development efforts among the two groups that had previously been ignored, youth and women. It was announced the new effort would include active participation in of these groups to decide on what the projects were going to be and in the organization and management of them. The projects' goals were to bring about small steps in the improvement of local conditions. The idea made use of the "buzzwords" in development theory; however, in reality, the educational levels of most people in the rural areas was low and it was decided to change the participation to that of the local commune (an elected body of mainly men, not women or youth) that would pick the project for their area from a list provided by the Ministry of the Interior. These included things it was assumed women of the area already knew how to do and there would be little or no training required. In the Middle Atlas, where Al Akhawayn University is located, this usually means bakeries and weaving workshops. Although the INDH was meant for rural communes, some of the more successful ones are located in urban areas where women and youth have greater opportunities for markets. This paper will use two examples from the region of the Middle Atlas to discuss some of the strengths and weaknesses of the INDH, a bakery in the town of Ifrane and a weaving association in the village of Zawiyat Ifrane in the same province.

See for his publications, among others:

Shoup, John A. (2007). *Culture and customs of Jordan*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Shoup, John A. (2008). *Culture and customs of Syria*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

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