

Demographic and social trends affecting intergenerational relations in the MENA region ”

Abstract

This paper will focus on poverty in the MENA region and whether it can be alleviated by intergenerational support within and across households. Intergenerational relations are mediated through several institutions. The most prominent of these are households, state, civil society and market. Combinations of social arrangements, economic resources and cultural traditions govern these institutions. Whether or not family and households can provide the necessary supports for their poorer or disadvantaged members would crucially depend on household composition, its economic resources and its interaction with the institution of state, civil society and market. This paper explores the trends in family formation and composition over time and household interaction with the above mentioned institutions either, e.g. through the labour market, or as recipient of welfare. The above trends as well as migration impact the intergenerational support within households. This paper will argue for improved social support in order to complement household resources as well tackle some of the emerging issues in relation to population ageing and care economy in the region.

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