

I am Fatma Elomrani, a co-founder of Tamazight Women Movement. TWM is a feminist organization aims to research, report and advocate on the intersectional gender cultural issues amongst indigenous groups, particularly Tamazight women in Libya and Europe.

The effectiveness of teaching minority languages should be discussed more within its socio-economic medium. TWM has experience in promoting and raising awareness of Women education in Amazigh communities. We believe that the Gender inequality in Education within so called “Disadvantaged communities” has a great impact in the effectiveness of minority language education.

Discrimination on the basis of minority intersects with gender-based discrimination, especially, women belonging to a minority. TWM recommends taking social, cultural, and economic factors into account in the making of teaching methods and designing curriculums. Moreover, in some minority communities, there is a fallacy that women education is a waste of time or even brings shame to the family. Another example of the problems facing minority women is being relatively passive in producing culture and participating actively in the cultural and political life. Also, minority women in many communities have restraints in relation to marriage and social integration due to the fallacy that they cannot protect the family culture or language which minimises their role in conveying culture and language to younger generation. In addition, minority women being monolingual in many cases is a disadvantage to them, because it limit their opportunities in education although they preserve the minatory language but mainly in oral form. Thus, the relationship between bilingual and monolingual members within minority communities is an important issue that needs more research.

All in all, minority communities cannot develop in a healthy matter with internal discrimination against its own members, and in this case, women. Therefore, we recommend a greater inclusion of women in the process of minority education.

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