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# Sustainable development as a good opportunity for Tuareg women and culture in Niger

Issyad Ag Kato

Organisation Vie et Développement

O.V.D - TEDHILT

BP. 139 Agadez; Antenne de Niamey: BP. 13.651

Issyad-ag-kato@voila.fr

[www.apreis.org](http://www.apreis.org)

SD as a good opportunity for women  
and Tuareg culture

# Introduction

Women as an **important and delicate element of the society** is often in the heart of the concern in the evolution of the human societies. You should remember that we are analyzing the case of **a matriarcal society**: the Tuareg society.

# The Tuareg Woman

Tuareg woman is confronted on her everyday life to problems brought by globalization, precarious labour conditions and socio cultural mutations which those can impose. My aim today is to define **the role that the Tuareg woman would have to play in the sustainable development chain: education level, environment protection, health and food.**

# Some historical facts

- Cultural capital of the Tuareg woman and the changes which have occurred;
- The Tuareg woman is confronted to new challenges such as urban living;
- The Tuareg woman and the sustainable development

# Tuareg woman as historical matrix of the Tuareg culture

- In the Tuareg culture, woman plays a key role. She is the manager, the educator and has the full property rights on all the belongings of the family. She shares together within her family all the decisions regarding the management of the camp.
- Two important names: Kahina and Tin Hinan

# Tuareg woman as historical matrix of the Tuareg culture (cont.)

- The Tuareg society is **matriarcal**.
- A **code of conduct** has been established to preserve woman Tuareg rights: «**Asshak**».
- When she gets married, Woman Tuareg brings her belongings to her new home and build upon this capital **to fructuate the whole family capital**.

# Tuareg woman as historical matrix of the Tuareg culture (cont.)

- Tuareg woman is in charge of educating her children: teaching the writing and reading of the tuareg language: Tifinarh
- Tuareg Woman choose her husband with her family consent.

## Tuareg woman as historical matrix of the tuareg culture (cont.)

- Although muslims, Tuareg women do not accept polygamy. Taking advantage of her statut in the Tuareg society, she imposes monogamy. For her, even if Islam tolerates up to 4 spouses, **it does not constraint any husband to be polygame.**
- Tuareg women is so **adulated** that poetry is especially dedicated to her.

# Cultural capital of the Tuareg woman and the changes which have occurred

- Tuareg woman shows a very strong opposition so as to defend her acquired rights.
- There is a backlash through new mutations and the women are losing some of her acquisitions. Changes in education, colonization, economical conditions are the main reasons why the Tuareg women lose some ground.

# Cultural capital of the Tuareg woman and the changes which have occurred (cont.)

- Tuareg woman is aware that she has the responsibility to defend her rights so as to keep her statut in the Tuareg society.
- Tuareg woman are adapting to the new socio-economical context based on the sustainability and as weel as is striving to keep being a defender of her own rights and a defender of the whole Tuareg's society traditions.

# Cultural capital of the Tuareg woman and the changes which have occurred (cont.)

- The new challenges of the urban life and the sustainable development which are imposed to the Tuareg society are two folds:
  - The evolution from the nomade style of living to a sedantary style of living;
  - The influence of modernism on the traditional cultural.

# Some of the consequences of the urbanization and the change of the living style

- Change in the **male/female ratio**.
- Change in the **socio-economical conditions** such as: lost of herds, insufficient cropes, mobility to the urban center, loss of the cultural capital, languages and writing, etc.

# Some of the consequences of the urbanization and the change of the living style (cont.)

- Having made the necessary efforts to adapt, **Tuareg woman acts towards perrenity.**
- Being consciencious not only of the stakes of the globalization, but also of the precarious conditions of living in nomad milieu, **Tuareg woman chooses all actions and steps which supports the sustainability criteria in all fields of life : education, political decisions, etc.**

# Conclusion

- La femme touarègue pourrait être le **fer de lance** de ce combat de longue haleine dans tous les domaines si on prenait en compte la spécificité de la dynamique féminine ☐ **lucide, présente, résolue, engagée et combattante.**
- Tuareg woman could be the **major pillar** of this very hard combat in all fields if we take into account the specificity of female dynamic:  
Lucid, present, determined, engaged and fighter.

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