

# **Using the Local Development Model to Improve the Quality of Life of Women in Slums Area**

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**Abstract:**

This study is a quasi-experimental study to improve the quality of life of women in slum areas, and this goal is to be achieved by improving the economic and social capabilities of women in those areas, along with developing the health and educational awareness of those women. The study is applied to a sample of 120 women in Maasara area, Cairo. The validity of the study is assessed based on the main hypothesis using the expected statistically significant relationship between professional intervention using the local development model by the community organization and improving the quality of life for women in slum areas. The validity is confirmed by the essential differences in pre-to post-testing of the two previous assumptions.

**Key words:**

local development -quality of life -women -slums area.

**Introduction:**

The issue of the Egyptian woman, from various dimensions, is the concern of the entire Egyptian society. According to the social sciences rule, if you want to study the conditions of a society in a more profound and short way, then start with the economic and social conditions of the family, in the local community; rural or urban. If you want to understand the conditions of the family in a society, you must study their women status (the National Council for Women, 2017). Women issues, in general, have received great attention from various social and human sciences to know their needs, problems, and role in aspects of social, political, economic, and cultural life (Hassan, 2008, p. 2548).

Accordingly, concerns about women in slum areas have got a higher priority among women's issues. Women in slum area have constantly become neglected despite being a productive element to their families and their community. Therefore, the call to give more attention and accelerate the development of women in slum areas for more justifiable economic, social and health returns (The National Council for Women, 2010). This is a consequence of the long suffering from the economic, social, health and intellectual problems that imposed a marginalized reality on women in the informal areas of Egyptian society (Abdel-Fattah, 2005, p. 2).

Improving the standard of living is the basic pillar of human development, especially in the light of what was confirmed by the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIECS) as well, in the

light of the merge of the results of the 2018 Income and Expenditure and Demographic Survey (DHS) in which women represent the most vulnerable age group in terms of income and spending. It has to be taken into consideration that any type of deprivation including health, education, shelter, water, sanitation, and information (Human Development Report, 2019) will hinder human development through expanding the capabilities of individuals, supporting the opportunities available for them, and satisfying their basic needs. We have found that improving the standard of living is concerned with enabling vulnerable groups of different categories to avoid risks that threaten their security, meet basic needs, expand capabilities, and support opportunities to live with dignity (Raouf, 2007, p. 39).

Therefore, achieving an adequate standard of living for every individual of men, women and children is the basic rule for social peace in all nations (UNDP, 2009, p. 302). Al-Selwi (2004) detected disparities between families and repercussions on living life (i.e. living standards) an imbalance in the social structure of families when low socio-economic standards are associated. This has also been confirmed by Ahmed's study (2010) that examined the impact of Shurooq program on improving the quality of life. The program includes projects and activities implemented to improve the quality of life (i.e. standard of living) and to examine whether this improvement has occurred to higher economic levels in society.

The social work has its societal goals and objectives which aim at improving the human life, improving his living conditions in the light of his needs and helping him solve his problems. Social workers use professional methods to deal with women in an integrative manner in general and with community organization in particular to find out the needs and problems of women's society and to invest the resources and capabilities. Community organizations face these problems and satisfy the needs by creating links and partnerships with various community institutions to take care of these groups. It emphasizes cooperation and participation between these institutions to confront societal problems that women face (Abdel Haris, 2001, p. 92). This is what Montgomery (2011) emphasized on the necessity of social intervention for the social service profession to help women achieve social welfare which could be hindered by low quality of life, poor financial situation, and lack of health and social services.

This is what the Human Development Report reflects on the various aspects of the situation of women in slum areas and the problems they suffer, namely, insufficient opportunities available for them in education, health, insufficient nutrition, as well as poor working conditions that do not provide them with a decent human life. These findings are evidenced by higher rates of illiteracy among women in slum areas, low health status, low standards of living, and low political participation for them, in addition to the sense of inferiority and lack of authority reflected in carrying out their role in society (Development Report; Al-Bashriya, 2013, p. 36). Similarly, Abdul Shafi's study (2006) recommended the necessity of intervention to face various social, political, economic, and family problems of women in slum areas, and on health level as well. Brauna (2008) emphasized the importance of health needs and health care for women in slum areas represented in health insurance service increasing the availability of all doctors to improve their health status.

The report of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics called for the need to change these bad conditions for women in informal areas and to try to change negative trends and traditions, which stand against the importance of women's participation in all areas of life. This can occur through increasing their level of education in an attempt to raise their awareness about family planning and the positive effects of family planning and the advantages of small families while increasing their participation in economic activities through sustainable human development programs to improve the quality of life (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, 2013, p. 106). Abdel Moneim linked in her study between improving the quality of life for women as a basic requirement and achieving sustainable development by increasing their self-reliance, social relations, and sense of satisfaction with life. Likewise, Saleh's study (1990) dealt with indicators of quality of life, where two basic dimensions of the indicators of quality of life: the objective dimension based on the qualitative indicators in monitoring the quality of life, specifically health, education, work, and demand for goods and services; and the subjective dimension that depends on individuals' judgments and the extent of their happiness about their quality of life.

The theoretical framework, theoretical guidelines, the results of previous studies and the results of the study assessing the situation of the reality of women in the slums in Maasara area all revealed that the most important problems of women in the slums are those related to the standard of living, economic, health, and educational problems and exclusion from decision-making. Moreover, 54% of the study sample revealed their dissatisfaction with their life, and 45% of the sample are satisfied to some extent, while only 6% expressed their full satisfaction. The researcher referred to the statistics of Cairo Governorate and Al Maasara region to find out about the reality of its society, its capabilities, and women living there.

Considering community organizations, they are critical for their possession of a set of knowledge, skills, values, and ethics which enable them to achieve their goals in improving the quality of life of citizens and within the framework of the practice models that it has developed through many years of experience and practice in an attempt to change the reality and conditions of societies and residents and improve their economic, social, health, educational, political status. Otherwise, they can work to modify their attitudes, values, and behaviors achieving this by many approaches and models of practice.

The local development model, with the addition of some components of Campbell's economic and social development model, from the researcher's point of view, is considered the most appropriate professional practice model to face the problems of Egyptian women in slums in general and in Maasara region in particular. Improving the women's quality of life in slums requires dealing more with the aspects of social interaction, awareness, and trends; providing them with information, knowledge and various life experience; building and developing their economic and social capabilities; and developing their social, health, and educational awareness. This would, in turn, give them more confidence in community participation and contribute to solving their problems or their society's issues in cooperation with others which would raise their sense of satisfaction.

Thus, this study determines how to use the local development model in organizing the community to improve the quality of life of women in slums and to measure the return of professional intervention using this model in helping women in al-Maasara area to face their problems in the area and raise their level of self-satisfaction.

**The importance of this study:** The interest in the way society is organized by focusing on the developmental aspect of the different groups of society in general and women in particular. The study also stresses the importance of women in slum areas as they play the lead in the economic, social and value structure in the Egyptian society; they are the active human element leaving their mark on most aspects of life. The study of the quality of life has become one of the studies that arouses the interest of researchers from different scientific and research specialties. Such interest attempts to improve the quality of life in our present time as a general goal of national development, so the distant resignation of humankind is closely linked to a good understanding of the factors related to the quality of life.

**Objectives of the study:** This study seeks to achieve the following main objective: improving the quality of life of women in slums, which could be achieved through the following sub-goals:

(A) Improving the life capabilities of women in informal areas, represented by: - economic capabilities, - social capabilities.

(B) Developing women's awareness in slum areas, represented in: - developing health awareness, - developing educational awareness.

**Study Hypotheses:** The study hypotheses are determined in a main hypothesis: It is expected that there is a statistically significant relationship between professional intervention using the local development model in the method of community organization and improving the quality of life for women in slum areas. This hypothesis can be tested by examining the following hypotheses:

(1) It is expected that there is a statistically significant relationship between the professional intervention using the local development model in the way the community is organized and improving the life capabilities of women in slum areas. Indicators for this hypothesis are:

A- improving the level of economic capabilities, B - improving the level of social capabilities.

(2) It is expected that there is a statistically significant relationship between the professional intervention using the local development model in the method of community organization and the development of women's awareness in slum areas. The indicators of this hypothesis are as follows: A- developing the degree of awareness for education,

B- developing the degree of health awareness.

### **The theoretical part of the study:**

**A. Quality of life concept:** defined as quantitative and qualitative indicators with their implications for social, health and economic conditions, and the interaction between these conditions and their implications for the degree of acceptance and corresponding satisfaction of individuals and societies for these conditions, and the degree of their fulfillment of their goals in life (Al-Srouji, 2009, p. 16), and the quality of life is also defined as: that comprehensive structure that consists of a set of various variables aimed at satisfying the basic needs of individuals who live within the scope of this life, so that this satisfaction can be measured by objective indicators that measure the flowing values, and with subjective indicators that measure the amount of saturation achieved (Saleh, 2005, p. 91).

- Others define it as: the product of the interaction between social, economic, and environmental conditions that affect human and social development (Glenda, 2006, p.57).

#### **Improving the quality of life as a main goal in this study requires:**

1. Improving the level of life capabilities (i.e. economic and social). Economic capabilities mean the ability to improve conditions and economic impact through the establishment of small enterprises and the ability to rationalize consumption. As for social capabilities, they refer to the ability to solve societal problems and the ability to strengthen social relations and social communication.

2. Developing the degree of awareness of women in slum areas by developing health awareness and developing awareness of the importance of educating women (Mahmoud & Nagy, 2010, p. 11).

- **The importance and objectives of study the quality of life:** As a result of the connection between the concept of quality of life and different aspects of the individuals' lives, this has triggered many researchers to try to study the concept of quality of life because of its crucial role in identifying the different aspects of human life and thus determining the most important factors affecting it and the extent of progress in various fields. Therefore, the study of the quality of life reports the following (Mahmoud, 2006, p. 43):

1- Quality of life indicators provide data and information that would assist decision-makers in setting policies and plans for development because they are related to the lives of individuals and thus contribute to satisfying their needs; 2- A study of the quality of life that contributes to identify the extent of the interaction of the members of society with services provided to them and the extent of their satisfaction with those services to identify deficiencies to support them;



3- The study of the quality of life is useful in identifying the extent of community members' awareness of their lives, the extent of their interaction with their surrounding environment, and the degree of adaptation to it; 4- It is useful for monitoring the reality in which members of society live to achieve it for the better; and 5- It is useful in solving problems of vulnerable groups and finding quick solutions for them by supporting civil society organizations in planning, developing, and implementing programs to fix them (Jeseeph, 2001, p. 44).

- **Indicators of quality of life:** Farjani (2006, p. 68) defines it in the following variables:

- **Health:** represented in infant and child mortality, life expectancy and drinking water, and education spending for outcomes (i.e. spending on education as a percentage of the gross national product);
- **Education:** the education ratio for males versus females, the intake rate, the dropout rate, and spending on education as a percentage of the gross national product;
- **Political life:** represented in political freedoms, civil liberties, political participation, and societal violence;
- **Participation of women:** represented in the work of women (i.e. the proportion of women in the labor force) and their participation in public life within society;
- **Per capita product:** the gross national and local product per capita.

**B. Concept of local development model:** This model aims to stimulate self-efforts, increase the cohesion of the local community, and increase its ability to solve its problems by focusing on developing cooperative relations between citizens and on expanding the scope of citizen participation in the affairs of their community and on developing local leaders. This ultimately leads to an increase in the capacity of the local community to deal with its problems (Bushra, 2006, p. 150). Interestingly, the model of local development, i.e. "Rothman model", in addition to some help from the socio-economic development model are both the most appropriate model to deal with the reality of women in slums (Weil, 1995, p. 583).

- **The model aims at:** - Improving the economic and social life capabilities of women in informal areas; and - Developing the health and educational awareness of women in slum areas.

**Table (1) shows some of the professional efforts made during the vocational intervention program.**

Participants	Tools	The role of organizer	Tactics	Strategies	Programs and activities	Objectives of professional intervention	Circumstances that required professional intervention
Women in the informal areas of Al-Massra. - Officials of the Beautiful Helwan Gardens Association. Executives and popular leaders. - Some of the volunteers who are residents of the area. Experts and technicians.	- Training courses. - Meetings. - Interviews. - Lectures - Committees. - Posters. - Seminars. - Group discussions. - Workshops.	- The mediator. - The teacher. - Assistant. - The expert. - The guide. - facilitator.	- Community dialogue. - Open calls. - Explanation and clarification of joint work. - Cooperation. - Education. - Training.	- persuasive - Solidarity. -Capacity building.	1. Training and capacity-building activities to train and teach women in slums how to increase their income and improve their standard of living during: - their set up of small businesses. - and how to rationalize their consumption. - Building their self-ability to solve their problems. 2- Activities related to awareness and education: to give women in informal areas knowledge and information, change their negative attitudes, and modify their behavior: - <b>In the health field:</b> activities to and develop her awareness in: - How to maintain the health of her family. - Personal hygiene and environmental hygiene. - Proper nutrition. - Family planning. <b>In the field of education:</b> activities to develop her awareness: - Attention to education. Benefits from literacy programs.	The overall goal is to improve the quality of life by: - Developing health awareness and health conditions. - Developing educational awareness that concern her and her society. - Expanding women's community participation. - Improving their economic and living conditions. - Improving their social capacities and conditions.	1. Poor health conditions. 2 – Educational problems. 3-Suffering from exclusion in making decisions that concern her and her society. 4- dissatisfaction and happiness of life. 5. Difficult economic and living conditions.

**Methodology:** This study is considered one of the research studies that assesses the return of professional intervention to test the effectiveness of the professional intervention program by using the local development model. Improving the quality of women life in slum areas is achieved by improving their life capabilities and developing their health, social, and educational awareness in a way that contributes to meeting and satisfying their urgent tangible needs.

Hence, the research is concerned with the relationship between dependent and independent variables. It determines the suitability of the professional intervention program used in achieving its objectives, where the professional intervention here is to use the local development model in the method of community organization and its indicators. This constitutes the goal of the intervention strategies, tactics, tools, and professional roles used in the professional intervention. As for the dependent variable, improving the quality of rural life, and its indicators as a level of life capabilities and developing the degree of awareness of women in slum areas.

- **Study tools:** The study relies on a basic tool, which is a measure of the quality of life for women in slum areas, as well as a set of meeting minutes, reports and records for the professional intervention program, and the efforts and activities that took place during the professional intervention and the follow-up of the changes occurred. This scale contains a set of indicators which are as follows:

- Level of life capabilities through measuring the level of economic capabilities, such as the ability to establish small enterprises, the ability to rationalize consumption. Social capacities such as the ability to solve problems and the ability to strengthen social relations, the degree of awareness of the importance of women's education and the degree of health awareness.

- **Stages of designing the scale:** This scale goes through a set of stages during preparation, where it was introduced twice to the research community: once before professional intervention and one more time after professional intervention. The first step in designing this scale was to define the concepts to be measured and the basic variables required to measure. The second step in designing the scale was to determine the community to which the scale will be applied, which was the rural community, with determining the type of respondents to which the scale was applied, namely women in slum areas, and determining the main dimensions of the scale and the expressions contained in each of these dimensions. The third step was

the actual design of the scale in which the researcher has adopted Likert scale according to the following steps: A. The researcher designed a measure of the quality of life for women in slum areas, by referring to the theoretical heritage, the conceptual framework guiding the study, and the related studies to determine the phrases that are related to each of the study variables. B. The researcher has determined the dimensions included in the scale represented in three dimensions:

- The first dimension (the life capabilities of women in slums)
- The second dimension (women's awareness in informal areas)

**- Face Validity:**

- **The apparent validity of the scale:** where the scale was presented to (10) members of the faculty of Social Service, Helwan University and the Higher Institute for Social Services, and an agreement percentage of not less than (80%) was authenticated. Some phrases were omitted, and some were reformulated. Accordingly, the scale was formulated in its final form.

- **Global honesty:** When calculating global honesty, the researcher relied on the coefficient correlation between each variable in the scale and the total degree for a sample consisting of (10) single women in the random areas of the study population. It was found that it is significant at the levels of common significance and the truth factor is acceptable as it is clear in the following table:

Table (2) shows the internal consistency between the variables of the scale and the scale as a whole (n=10)

M	Variable	Link coefficient	Significance
1	The level of economic capacities of women in slums	0.822	**
2	The level of social capacities of women in slums	0.765	**
3	The degree of awareness of women in the slums.	0.793	**

\*\* Significant at (0.01)

\* Significant at (0.05)

It is evident from the previous table that most of the scale variables are at a level of significance recognized for each statement separately, then we could interpret that the degree of expressions achieves the extent to which these scores can be accepted in terms of the level of confidence as well as in the tool and reliance on its results.

-**Reliability of the tool:** The reliability of the scale was calculated by using the stability factor (i.e. Alpha-Cronbach) for the estimated reliability values of the quality-of-life scale for women in slum areas by applying them to a single sample of (10) women in slum areas of the study population. The results were as shown in the following table:

Table (3) shows the results of the stability of the scale using the coefficient (alpha - Cronbach) (n = 10)

M	Variable	Factor (Alpha Cronbach)
1	The economic potential of women in slums	0.86**
2	The social capacities of women in slums	0.92*
3	Women's awareness in informal areas	0.79**
4	The stability of the scale as a whole	0.856**

\*\* Significant at (0.01)

\* Significant at (0.05)

These levels are considered high and acceptable and the results of the scale can be relied upon to reach more honest and objective results of the scale, and thus the scale became in its final form.

(2) **Reports, records and meeting minutes:** The study also depends on a group of meeting minutes, reports and records of the professional intervention program, the efforts and activities that took place during the professional intervention and the follow-up of the changes occurred.

#### **Fields of study:**

**-Spatial field:** The spatial domain in this study is represented in Maasara area located in Helwan city in the southern region of Cairo governorate.

#### **- Reasons for choosing the spatial domain:**

1- The researcher is an inhabitant, and he looks forward to helping the region overcoming some of its difficult circumstances, especially for women living there. 2- The multiple problems experienced by women in the slums in this region where dissatisfaction and lack of happiness were obvious. 3- The willingness of the Beautiful Helwan Gardens Association in the region to cooperate with the researcher to grow the region in general and improve the quality of a woman's life in it, and it is the agency through which the professional intervention takes place, i.e., the official spatial field for professional work, and this readiness is represented in the professional intervention contract by the system in the region.

#### **- The human sample includes:**

A – Girls and women were both considered in the sample whether educated or uneducated, working or not. The area has been divided into four parts obtaining 120 individuals from different residential communities representing all sectors of the region, so that they are the main human sphere as representatives to the three sectors of the region. A regular random sample was selected considering the following conditions: - Willingness to participate in the professional

intervention program; - Residence in Maasara area; - Diversity and differences in education levels; - Inclusion of housewives and domestic workers.

Table (4) illustrates the preview window.

Aspects of the region	East	West	North	South	Total.
Number of families	900	1320	850	1900	4160
of females Number	1859	2600	1052	3600	9111

Consequently, the data collectors were distributed to the four sides of the region after training them on data collection process. They were able to choose their starting point randomly and then select the rest of the vocabulary until 120 individuals were obtained from the total number of families residing in the area who have the desire and willingness to cooperate.

- **Time domain:** the period of implementing the professional intervention program was from 6/6/2020 until 6/12/2020.

- **Methods of statistical analysis:** Data were processed through the computer using (SPSS. V. 23.0).

### study Results:

Table (5) shows the characteristics of the study sample, n = 120.

Dimension	Frequencies	Percentage %
<b>- Age:</b>		
a- less 30 years.	23	19.2
B- 30-40 years.	76	63.3
C- 40-50 years.	21	17.5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>- Education:</b>		
- Illiteracy.	36	30
- Intermediate qualification.	60	50
a- Bachelor.	24	20
<b>Total:</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>- Work.</b>		
a- Employed.	82	68.3
B- Unemployed.	38	31.7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>- social status:</b>		
- Single	14	11.6
- Married	83	69.2
- Absolute.	23	19.2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>

**The results of the above table show that:** - Age: the age of most of the studies sample ranges between 30-40 years with a ratio of 63.3%. - Education: The highest percentage of women has an average Intermediate qualification of 50%. - Marital status: the highest percentage of women was married by 96.2%. - Work: Most of women were employed with a percentage of 68.3%.

Table (6) shows the significant difference between pre- and post-testing regarding the dimension of improving the economic capabilities of women in slum areas using the t-test (n = 120).

N	Variables	Testing	N	M	SD	DF	T	t tabulated	Significance
1	The ability to set up small businesses	Pre	120	1.36	0.23	99	57.221	2.63	**
		Post	120	3.01	0.03				
2	The ability to rationalize consumption	Pre	120	1.42	0.37	99	44.52	2.63	**
		Post	120	2.95	0.02				
	Economic capacity as a whole	Pre	120	1.39	0.3	99	50.611	2.63	**
		Post	120	2.98	0.025				

\*\* Significant at (0.01)

\* Significant at (0.05)

**The results of the above table show that:** there are substantial difference between the results of the pre-and post-testing in case of improving the economic capabilities of women in slum areas. - There is a significant difference when comparing the results of the pre-and post-testing regarding the ability to establish small projects, as it was found that the calculated value of (t) is 57,221 and is greater than the tabled value of (t=2.63 at a significant level of 0.01), interpreting a positive effect of the intervention in encouraging women to start their enterprises. - a significant difference was detected between the results of the pre- and post-testing for the ability to rationalize consumption; it was found that the value of t= 44.52 which is greater than the value of t tabulated= 2.63 at a level of significance of 0.01, which led to an improvement in the ability of women in slum areas to rationalize consumption after many seminars and workshops.

Table (7) shows the significant differences between pre- and post-testing of the dimension of social capacity development for women in slum areas using the t-test (n = 120)

N	Variables	Testing	N	M	SD	DF	T	t tabular	Significance
1	The ability to solve problems.	Pre	120	1.72	0.35	99	29.660	2.63	**
		Post	120	2.52	0.28				
2	The ability to strengthen social relations.	Pre	120	1.48	0.51	99	18.898	2.63	**
		Post	120	2.32	0.22				
	Social capacities as a whole	Pre	120	1.6	0.43	99	24.279	2.63	**
		Post	120	2.42	0.25				

\*\* Significant at (0.01)

\* Significant at (0.05)

**The results of the above table show that:** There are substantial statistical differences between the results of the pre- and post-testing of the dimensions of improving the social capabilities of women in slum areas: - There are fundamental differences between the results of the pre- and post-testing for the ability to solve problems as it was found that the t calculated =29.660 is greater than t-tabulated 2.63 at a level of significance of 0.01. We, thus, conclude that the practice of the professional intervention program and the proposal have led to a positive impact in the ability of women to solve their problems, and this result is identical to what the researcher did when organizing meetings and discussions to help women on how to solve their problems. - There are fundamental differences between the results of pre- and post-measurement for the ability to strengthen social relations as it was found that t calculated =18.898 is greater than the tabulated =2.63 at a level of 0.01 significance.

Table (8) shows the significant differences between pre-and post-testing of the dimension of improving the life capabilities of women in the slum areas using the t-test (n = 120)

Variables	Testing	N	M	SD	DF	T	T Tabular	Significance
Improving women's life capabilities in slums as a whole.	Before	120	1.49	0.36	99	14.945	2.63	**
	After	120	2.7	0.13				

\*\* Significant at (0.01)

\* Significant at (0.05)

**The results of the above table show that:** There are fundamental differences between the results of pre-and post-testing for the first dimension (i.e. improving the life capabilities of women in slum areas) in favor of the post measurement, and this may reflect the



effectiveness of the local development model in improving the life capabilities of women in slum areas:  $t$  calculated = 14.945 is greater than tabulated  $t=2.63$  at a level of significance equal to 0.01. Therefore, we can conclude that the professional intervention using the proposed model has greatly contributed to improving the life capacities of women.

Table (9) shows the significant differences between pre- and post-testing of the dimension of developing women's awareness in slum areas using the  $t$ -test ( $n = 120$ ).

N	Variables	testing	N	M	SD	DF	T	T Tabular
1	Developing awareness of the importance of women's education.	Pre	1.42	0.39	99	23.578	2.63	**
		Post	2.65	0.17				
2	Developing health awareness.	Pre	1.80	0.36	99	25.655	2.63	**
		Post	2.93	0.22				
	Developing women's awareness in slums as a whole.	Pre	1.61	0.37	99	24.616	2.63	**
		Post	2.52	0.19				

\*\* Significant at (0.01)

\* Significant at (0.05)

**The results of the above table show that** there is a statistical significance between the results of pre- and post-testing with respect to the indicators that make up this dimension: - There are fundamental differences between pre-and post-testing for the indicator (i.e. developing awareness of the importance of educating women):  $t$  calculated = 24,616 and is greater than the tabular value of  $t=2.63$  at level of significance of 0.01. - There are fundamental differences between pre- and post-measures for the indicator (i.e. developing awareness of the importance of community participation) as calculated value of  $t$  is 28,523 which is greater than the tabular value of  $t=2.63$  at a level of significance equal to 0.01. - There are fundamental differences between pre- and post-measures regarding the indicator (i.e. developing health awareness) as it was found that the calculated value of  $t=22.092$  and it is greater than the tabular value of  $t=2.63$  at the level of significance= 0.01.

**Discussion:** The results of this study indicate that the professional intervention program implemented for women in the slums in Maasara area through Helwan Beautiful Gardens Association has achieved its objectives to varying degrees. The results of the study indicate the validity of its first assumption of expected significant relationship between the intervention with the professional use of the local development model in the method of community organization and improving the quality of life for women in slums.

The professional intervention program has greatly contributed to improving the ability to understand and communicate with others, the participation of neighbors in events, the exchange of visits with people of the villages, and the ability to form successful relationships with others as these capabilities took an advanced arrangement; this may be due to the focus of the professional intervention program on strengthening women's relations in slum regions. The researcher's implementation of activities and professional intervention programs led to an increase in the ability of rural women to strengthen their relationship with their neighbors and improve their relationship with others than ever before. Her participation in small group projects to improve her income level led to cooperation and harmony with the rest of women participating with her. Additionally, discussion and dialogue between them about the success of their projects and her awareness of the importance of cooperation helped her to solve her problems and make decisions. Moreover, she was able to make her point of view and voice about her needs and problems heard and clear to the officials. Abdel Moneim's study confirmed the need of women to strengthen their relationship with others and increase their dependence. Losing her social relationships and increasing her sense of satisfaction with life will lead to an improvement in her quality of life which conforms to our study hypothesis. Besides, this agrees with Sawdon's study, which emphasized the need to implement a professional intervention program to help women solve their problems by creating social interaction and practicing various activities that help them improve their quality of life. In addition, Wilson's (2011) study stressed the need to implement an intervention program to improve the quality of life of women providing advice to them and help them make their own decisions.

This was evidenced by the results of the statements of this dimension in terms of confirmed significance with the application of the program. It was also evident from the results of the study, in general, regarding the economic capacity dimension that there are fundamental differences between the results of pre- and post-testing in relation to the dimension of improving the overall economic capabilities of women in slum areas in favor of post intervention. This may reflect the effectiveness of the local development model in improving the economic capabilities of women in slum areas. The calculated value is greater than the tabular value of (t) at a level of 0.01, which means that there is a significant difference, and a positive

impact is seen after professional intervention. As the program focused on improving economic capabilities through implementing a few small projects and helping women to save and rationalize their consumption, this is also what was confirmed by Safener (2011) study on the quality of life for women and its impact on psychological, social, and economic variables. It was found that a decrease in the quality of life for women has led to disturbances in the psychological and social aspects, a lower standard of living, and a decrease in the various capacities of women, and, thus, it was realized that professional intervention can contribute to solving those problems.

The dimension of developing women's awareness in slum areas which makes us accept the second hypothesis of the study namely, a strong relationship between professional intervention using the local development model in community organization and awareness development for women in slum areas, has also been verified based on the results of the study. The study of Montgomery which considered the necessity of social intervention due to low quality of life, low social level, and the lack of health and social services tends to help them solve their problems and satisfy their needs.

Consequently, there is a statistically significant difference detected when pre- and post-testing in relation to the second dimension (i.e. developing women's awareness in slum areas) and this may reflect the effectiveness of the local development model in developing women's awareness in slum areas. Accordingly, based on the table of the second hypothesis and its indicators, we can conclude that the professional intervention using the local development model has led to the development of women's awareness in slum areas by proving the validity and acceptance of the first and second hypotheses of the study. As a result, the following can be concluded: It is possible to accept the validity of the main hypothesis of the study, which is: "It is expected that there is a statistically significant relationship between professional intervention using the local development model in the method of community organization and improving the quality of life for women in slum areas", This can be traced back to the independent variable, i.e. the professional intervention program using the local development model in the method of community organization which is confirmed by the essential differences between the pre- and post-testing of the two previous assumptions.

**Recommendation:** The researcher would like to refer to a set of points and future visions for improving the quality of women life in informal areas and developing local communities, which are as follows: - The views of women in slums about their needs and services provided to them should be taken into account while considering their suggestions for improving them. - Women in slum areas should be provided with integrated services by all institutions in the region helping them to participate in decision-making. -There should be a better investment in loans, whether individual or collective, to improve the economic level of women in informal areas and raise their standard of living. - The concerns, needs and problems of women in slum areas, and the community in general, need to be translated into true actions to ensure that more feasible goals are reached. - The dimensions of the quality of life should be comprehensively integrated, so that it is not limited to one aspect only. Rather, it is necessary to pay attention to the subjective and objective dimensions to obtain a better quality of life. -Career efforts pay attention to self-obstructions that are due to women themselves, represented in negative feelings toward themselves and toward those responsible for such services. - The internal community resources have to be utilized seeking for the advancement of society and the improvement of the quality of life of its members. - The participation of women in the informal settlements in all political and social fields needs to be effectively considered. -It is highly important to focus on human development and intensifying attention to training and education for women in informal areas to keep pace with the developments of the times. - Social relations of women need to be supported by establishing work values and self-confidence and abandoning negativity and dependence because of their strong returns. -There should be continuous follow-up of the economic activities carried out by women in informal areas through the economic committee located in Beautiful Helwan Gardens Association in the region to help women continue to implement these activities and discuss the difficulties they face.

**There is a set of points for increasing the effectiveness of NGOs** to improve the quality of life of communities in general and women in informal areas in particular, namely: -Paying attention to strengthening the role of NGOs in helping women in slum areas needs to be a priority to improve their lives and train them on a set of programs that satisfy their needs and effectively face their problems. - The NGOs design training programs to provide women in slum areas

with the skills and capabilities needed to establish small enterprises and how to conduct feasibility studies for them to ensure their successful implementation. -It is necessary to simplify procedures within government agencies to help NGOs obtain loans available for women in informal areas whether collectively or individually. -The commitment and keenness of NGOs to continue the relationship with women in slum areas and follow up after obtaining the loans through projects field visits. -The civil societies need to give more opportunities to women in informal areas to volunteer and participate in their activities. -The keenness and commitment of civil societies and service institutions to cooperate to develop women, build their capabilities and develop their awareness in general should be counted for.

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