

**DIFFERENTIAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF RURAL AREAS  
IN DESERT NEWLY RECLAIMED AND OLD LANDS AND ITS REFLECTION ON  
PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES**

(Received: 27.1.2016)

**By**  
**M. H. A. Nawar and S. M. E. Abd El-Fatah**

*Department of Rural Sociology & Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University*

**ABSTRACT**

Agriculture in Egypt has a mixed structure. It has traditional subsector which prevails in about 5.5 million feddans in the old lands in the valley and delta in addition to another different subsector that includes modern components and some highly sophisticated technical enterprises spread over about 3 million feddans in the desert reclaimed lands. This differential characteristic of the agriculture sector in these two types of rural areas reflects dualism of the socio-economic structure of rural Egypt. The current research suggests that dualism in villages' structure between the two regions is likely to bring different responses of rural population when they are exposed to the same program or development project. This in turn should be considered when planning for development of rural areas. A series of three consequent projects that aimed to raise awareness of rural population with the population and environmental issues was implemented during the period from 1998-2007 in 75 villages in both old and desert newly reclaimed lands. In a study of the impacts of these projects, after five years of their termination, attitudes of the targeted population towards some population and environmental issues were measured. A sample of 266 respondents from 15 villages exposed to the activities of these projects was selected randomly from the projects' lists of trainees. This includes 181 respondents from 10 villages in old lands and the rest of the sample (85) was selected from 5 villages in the new lands. Data used in this paper are extracted, with permission, from field data gathered for an evaluation research project financed by the UNFAO, Cairo Office. Field data were collected using a specifically designed and pretested questionnaire applied late in 2012. A general attitude scale of 55 items with Cronbach's Alpha reached 0.842 was used. Differences of the general attitude and the specific attitudes towards population issues and environmental/economic issues between the two subsamples were found significant at the levels of 0.001, 0.010 and 0.017, respectively. Differences of farm size, age, occupation and marital status between the two subsamples were significant at 0.00, 0.03, 0.00 and 0.009, respectively. These results show that there are still real differences in many of the socio-economic characteristics of rural areas between old and newly reclaimed lands which should be fully considered when planning and/or implementing rural development projects.

**Key words:** *Egypt, rural dualism, attitudes, population, environment.*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Attitudes are always considered of utmost practical importance in very wide areas of activities whether social, economic, educational or political. They affect our daily life activities in politics, social policies, marketing of commodities and services and all other perspectives (Johns, 1996; George, and Jones 2005). For these reasons, they attract great attention of scholars as well as practitioners with different backgrounds and endeavors. The nature and types of attitudes and how they develop and change over time are some of the aspects dealt

with by several scholars. An important issue was about how attitudes affect the decision making process and the actual behavior of people (Hersey *et al.*, 2001). Yet, in spite of the extensive work on this phenomenon there are still many conceiving attitudes as ambiguous objects.

Development practitioners have interest in attitudes as significant tools in changing behavior. For instance, those who deal with the population problem and the negative impacts of its high growth rates in Egypt, consider the people's population attitudes of great importance

to deal with when they seek the change of reproductive behavior which directly affect these rates. It is one of the areas that attracted public agencies and scholars to change people's behavior towards the population issues to become in favor of positive and rational reproductive behavior. Such trend of actions was practiced through some projects that aimed to raise awareness of people with the impacts of population growth and their linkages with the economic and environmental issues. However, these projects adopted the same approaches and techniques to raise awareness and change attitudes in rural communities with different socio-economic characteristics. It is suggested that using the same approach under two different socio-economic structured communities would lead to different results in the changes of the attitudes towards the same object; *i.e.* the population issues. This is the basic assumption behind the present work.

Historically, the development policies in agriculture in Egypt have emphasized the horizontal expansion pattern of this sector through reclamation of desert lands since the forties of the last century (Fath-Allah & Ibrahim, 1998; Abdel-Salam, 1994). The policies applied for establishing rural settlements in the new reclaimed lands created dual patterns of settlements in rural areas; *i.e.* old and new lands. At the beginning of this era reclaimed lands were allocated to young graduates and landless young farmers and small, middle and lately large investors. The main difference between the two patterns is characterized by dominance of the traditional mode of production in the old lands and a tendency to modernize the production technologies in the new lands. In addition, subsistence farming is the most prevailing pattern in old lands due to the small size of farm holdings that represent now about 84% of the holders and occupies about 35% of the land (MALR, 2015). This trend of differences is supported in the new lands, in contrary, by the larger size of land holdings, in average, which was in favor of applying economic scale of production. Nevertheless, the agrarian reforms that prevailed during the period from the fifties to the nineties and limited the farm size even in desert lands hampered this trend for a while. In spite of the positive impacts of agrarian reforms on the equity issues in rural areas specially in the old lands, this situation led to stagnated land market that became idle mechanism in the rural economy until liberalization of the agricultural

sector in the nineties. The new tenancy law that was enacted in 1992 and became fully effective in 1997 affected significantly the land market which became more accessible to other categories of investors and rural settlers other than farmers specially in the old lands. Yet, it did not affect much the situation in the new lands since the tenancy relationships were more spread in old lands rather than in the new lands. Under the liberalized economy, the land tenure system diversifies and the distribution of land holdings has become more distinctive in the new land where laws allowed holding of mega farms of hundreds and even thousands of feddans, especially for big investors and companies. In the last agricultural census of 2019/2010, the holders of 500 feddans, who are located mostly in the newly reclaimed desert lands, represent now about 0.01% of the holders and occupies about 9.1% of the lands (MALR, 2015). This added to the divergence of the socio-economic structures between the settlements in the old and the newly reclaimed desert lands. These differences have become very clear when comparing between the distributions of the size of land holdings in the subsequent agricultural censuses where for the first time new categories of farm size: *i.e.* 500 and 1000 and more feddans were added.

Other aspects of the differences between settlements in the old and the new lands are the source of power and social capital in rural population. Most of the power and capital are established based on the network of family ties and kinship relationships in the old lands while they are fragile in the new lands until they accumulate over time and across generations in the new lands.

## **2. Review of Literature**

Man is born without attitudes but develop them all by learning across time (Nelson and Quick, 2002; McLeod, 2014). People's attitudes develop through direct experience and indirect observation of the behavior of others interacting in the surrounding context since their early childhood (Kiecolt, 1988). Attitudes are widely discussed throughout several disciplines such as the social psychology literature, organizational behavior and group dynamics and thus many different definitions currently exist. However, most of the related concepts describe an attitude as consisting of values, knowledge and behavior (Johns, 1996; George, and Jones 2005). Attitudes reflect a person's tendency to feel, think or behave in a positive or negative manner

towards the object of the attitude. Attitudes can be held about the physical world, hypothetical constructs and about other people. It is a fairly stable and lasting inclination to behave or respond in a specific situation in a characteristic way, whether positively or negatively, towards individuals, objects, events or institutions when they receive related stimuli. This means that this expected way of response reflects relative durability of attitude. Accordingly, attitude affects the person's responses to stimuli in the surrounding context and shapes his/her way of choosing among potential or actual alternative options of action and response.

Social psychologists have long viewed attitudes as having three interlinked components; cognitive, emotional or affective and behavioral components. This model is known as the ABC model of attitudes (Nelson and Quick, 2002). One of the underlying assumptions about the link between attitudes and actual behavior is that of consistency. It is expected that behavior of a person to be consistent with the attitudes that he holds ( McLeod, 2014).

Attitude is one of the most important aspects of individuals' personalities. It is important to link positive values and attitudes to maintain achievement spirit. The attitudes are important because they influence people's inclusion in a community. Negative attitudes toward people or other objects represent a major obstacle to successful adjustment. Various groups including, ethnic and racial minorities, people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals living in poverty, are either not fully accepted or as discriminated against and devalued by those sharing mainstream cultural perspectives ([http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM326/understand\\_a\\_titude\\_dev\\_lesson.htm](http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM326/understand_a_titude_dev_lesson.htm))

Attitudes can be changed, although it is characterized by relative stability and continuity. Changing attitude requires increased effects that support the new attitude and reduce the resistance of change or both. If effects are equally divided between pro-changes and anti-changes that lead to a state of balance and stability and not to change the attitude (Zahran, 1984). Changing attitudes is generally very difficult, particularly when the targeted person suspects that the source of change has a self-serving agenda in bringing about this change. Yet, based on the ABC model one approach is to try to change affect, which may or may not involve getting the targeted person to change his/her beliefs. One strategy uses the approach

of classical conditioning try to "pair" the change with a liked stimulus. On the other hand, people like to believe that their behavior is rational; thus, once they find their choice is favored by more or influential members they will continue unless someone is able to get them to switch. Although attempting to change beliefs is the obvious way to attempt attitude change, particularly when the targeted person holds unfavorable or inaccurate ones, this is often difficult to achieve because he/she tends to resist.

Structural context mostly affect social conditions and behavior and thus could help explanations of differential response to same conditions (Stronks *et al.*, 1996). It is reasonable to say that behavior is to some extent embedded in the environment, through aspects such as material deprivation, living and working conditions. Values and attitudes can shape behavior. Values as part of the culture affect attitudes and changing values supports the chances of changes in lifestyle for long life. It suggested by more development scholars and practitioners that to succeed in generating long lasting transformations, need to consciously and systematically incorporate a deeper and more internal as well as contextual dimensions. Velasco and Harder (2014) emphasized on the effects of the organizational and institutional context on specific aspects of the educational process. Variations in the context of interaction can then be understood in terms of varying transfer climates of development of attitudes which by definition is a learning activity. At the national level, the study of Abdel-Wahab (2004) showed that reproductive behavior of the husbands and wives in the traditional rural communities were significantly different from that of the spouses in the newly reclaimed community. This insures that the context of local community affects behavior.

### **3. The problem of study**

The researchers suggest that dualism in villages' socio-economic structure in Egypt is likely to bring different responses of rural population when they are exposed to the same program or project of development. So far, it is not clear to what extent is this hypothesis valid to consider at both the theoretical and empirical levels. Accordingly, planners and practitioners of development should consider the relationship between these two aspects, if it turned true, when planning for development of rural areas.

#### **4. Objective**

The present research aimed to investigate the significance of differences of some main socio-economic characteristics of rural settlements in the old and new reclaimed lands. Meanwhile, it tests the significance of differences of some specific attitudes of rural population in these two different kinds of rural settlements while they were exposed to specific development project with the same activities in both areas that aimed to raise awareness of population and related environmental, economic, and health issues.

#### **5. METHODOLOGY**

This part covers the methodological aspects of the research related to the problem of the study, the objectives, the sampling and material, tools and data and the variables and data analysis.

##### **5.1. Sampling**

The study adopted the sample survey to afford the data needed to test the stated hypothesis. It was undertaken in an area covered by a project targeted the population of 75 villages scattered across 10 governorates in both old and new reclaimed lands. The main activity of this project was to raise the local people awareness about some population's related issues. The project activities were applied similarly in all the 75 rural local communities. About four years elapsed between the time of termination of the project field activities and the data collection to assess stability of the changed attitudes.

A sample of 300 respondents from those who were exposed to the project's activities was randomly selected from 20% of the villages of the domain area. After data clearance only 266 cases in the 15 villages were considered valid for data analysis.

##### **5.2. Tools and Data**

The main study adopted the social sample survey of the socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries targeted by a specific long term project applied in rural settlements located in the old and the new lands.

Population attitude of the sample was measured using a scale designed based on the ABC model to cover the cognitive, affection and behavioral components of the attitudes (Nelson & Quick, 2002; Flamm, 2006; Briñol & Petty, 2012). The measure was designed to include both positive and negative statements in measuring all the three components on a three point scale.

A total number of 150 statements that cover many aspects of the attitude related mainly to the population and health dimensions, the environment and economic aspects and the project process were suggested. The attitude scale covered issues related to population growth, early marriage, family planning and reproductive health. This is in addition to the environmental/economic dimension of the attitude scale that covered issues related to the natural resources, irrigation water resources and farming practices applied in agricultural production.

After lengthy and deep discussions with a team of researchers and pretesting of the scale in the field only 55 statements were chosen. The reliability of the total attitude scale of 55 items with Cronbach's Alpha reached 0.842 while it reached 0.781 for the population attitude scale of 23 items and only 0.657 for the environmental/economic attitude that included 26 items. The other 6 items were related to the attitude towards the project. The measure was part of a schedule that included measures of some other variables related to the socio-economic characteristics of the respondent's household. A specific pre-tested questionnaire that include all quantitative and qualitative measures of the variables of study was applied with personal interviews on the selected sample in the 15 villages to collect the required field data.

##### **5.3. The variables and data analysis**

The variables considered for testing the assumption that there are differences between settlements in the new and the old lands in their socio-economic structure included; the average size of the household farm holding whether owned or leased measured by the area in Kirat for each subsample, the household size measured by the average number of members living together at the time of the study for each subsample, the average age of the responders of each subsample, the educational status measured by the average of years of the respondents' attendance in official education classes for each subsample, distribution of each subsample members on the various categories of occupation and distribution of each subsample members on the various categories of marital status. Thus, there are four variables measured by interval scales which are the average size of the household farm holding, the household size, the average age and the educational status, while

the other two variables of occupation and marital statuses were measured by nominal scales.

The variables related to the socio-economic characteristics of the rural respondents were based on the socio-economic characteristics of settlers in their local communities. Variables were measured using both qualitative and quantitative methods where both nominal and interval and ratio scales were applied respectively;

- a) The quantitative (Interval/ratio scale);
  1. Size of the household farm,
  2. Household size (number of the members of the household),
  3. Age of the respondents,
  4. The educational status of the respondents,
- b) Qualitative (Nominal scale);
  1. The occupational status,
  2. The marital status.

Measuring the variables related to the attitudes of sub-samples has reflected the ABC model of attitudes and considered all the three components of cognitive, behavioral and affection. These variables were measured by interval scales and included the following; first the attitude towards population issues, including population growth, reproductive behavior, gender preferences, preferable age for marriage, time span between delivery, balanced nutrition and preferred family size (in 23 statements). Second, the attitude towards environment/economic issues, including the use of fossil

in addition to statements related to the management process of the project and the desire of the respondents to continue similar activities (in 6 statements).

Analysis of data used both parametric and nonparametric techniques depending on the kind of data. Analysis of data used both “t” and Chi<sup>2</sup> tests to test the significance of differences of the means of variables and the distributions of the two subsamples on the variable categories depending on the type of data whether continuous or discrete respectively.

## 6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The objective of this study was achieved through testing the significance of differences of two groups of variables as mentioned above. The first includes the socio-economic variables reflecting the socio-economic characteristics the two sub-samples of settlers in old and new lands. The second group of variables is related to the attitude towards population, the attitude towards environment and economic issues and the total attitude in the old and new lands.

### 6.1. The socio-economic variables

Analysis of the data pertaining to the six variables of the socioeconomic structure is presented in Table (1). This included the use of “t test” in analysis of the continuous data of the four variables of the average size of the household farm holding, the household size, the average age and the educational status.

**Table (1): Testing significance of the differences of the socio-economic variables (continuous data) between old and new lands using t test.**

Variable	Region	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T value	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Household Farm size (Kirat)	Old lands	181	25.55	41.706	3.100	6.264-	264	.000**
	New lands	85	69.84	73.208	7.941			
Household Size (members)	Old lands	181	6.15	3.457	.257	.859	264	.391
	New lands	85	5.81	1.570	.170			
Age (years)	Old lands	181	43.6906	11.78716	.87613	2.178	264	.030*
	New lands	85	40.4353	10.40998	1.12912			
Education (years)	Old lands	181	8.73	5.298	.394	.520	264	.603
	New lands	85	8.38	5.108	.554			

\*\* Significant at 0.01 and less.

fuels, renewable energy, green economy, environment friendly practices and good agricultural practices(in 26 statements). The total attitude, including all previous aspects together

In Table (2), Chi square for testing the discrete data of the two variables of occupation and marital statuses are presented.

**Table (2): Testing significance of differences of the socio-economic variables (discrete data) between old and new lands using Chi2 test.**

Variable	Chi2 value	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Occupation	29.058	3	.000**
Marital Status	11.456	3	.009**

\*\* Significant at 0.01 and less.

Analyses in Tables (1 & 2) showed that the differences of the average size of the household farm holding, the average age, the occupational status and marital status between the two subsamples were significant at 0.000,0030, 0.000 and 0.009 levels respectively. Differences of the household size and the educational status of the members of the two subsamples were found insignificant.

These results refer to the existence of significant differences in four out of six variables related to the socioeconomic structure of the two types of settlements in the study area. Although these results cannot be generalized to the two types of settlements at the national level, but the geographical coverage of the sample could be reasonably considered in estimating the value of the indications that the results could refer to.

**6.2. The population, environment/economic and total attitudes**

Analysis of the data pertaining to the attitudes towards population issues, environment/economic and the total attitude are presented in Table (3).

As shown in Table (3), it was found that out of the hypothetical maximum score of 78 the average score of environmental and economic attitude was 53.8 and 50.9 for the new and old lands subsamples respectively. The same trend was found in the case of population attitude where out of the maximum score of 69 the average score of economic and environmental attitude was 42.8 and 40.2 for the new and old lands samples respectively. Meanwhile, the total attitude has confirmed this trend of differences where out of the maximum score of 165 the average score of economic and environmental attitude was 114.2 and 106.0 for the new and the old land subsamples respectively.

Testing the significance of these differences using t-test as shown in Table (2) has revealed that differences of the environmental and economic, population and total attitudes were significant at the level of 0.010, 0.010 and 0.001 respectively.

The above results refer to the existence of significant differences in the environmental and economic, population and total attitudes of the two types of settlements in the study area. Analysis of the data showed that in all cases the subsample of new lands' responses had higher mean values of attitudes than that of the old lands responses. The significant differences found between most of the studied variables of the socio-economic structure of the two types of settlements are aligned with similar significant differences found between the peoples' attitudes towards the population issues and environmental/economic aspects of the two types as well. This refers to a state of contingency relationships between the difference of the type of rural settlements and the

**Table (3): Test of significance of the differences in attitudes between the old and the new reclaimed lands.**

Attitude (items)	Region	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Environ/econ (26)	Old lands	181	50.9171	8.25354	.61348	-2.597	264	.010**
	New lands	85	53.7765	8.62772	.93581			
Population (23)	Old lands	181	40.2210	7.32923	.54478	-2.608	264	.010**
	New lands	85	42.8000	7.91743	.85877			
Total (55)	Old lands	181	106.0663	18.52614	1.37704	-3.300	264	.001**
	New lands	85	114.1647	18.95599	2.05607			

\*\* Significant at 0.01 and less

differences of peoples' attitudes towards the same issues regardless of exposure to same awareness activities.

However, in the case of the socio-economic structure of settlements these results cannot be generalized to the two types of settlements at the national level. However, consistency of the results of analyses and the geographical coverage of the sample together could be reasonably considered in concluding that there is a tendency to have different results of the same activity in the two types of settlements in old and new lands due to the differences of their socio-economic structures.

### Conclusion

The main hypothesis of this study derived from the research problem and related theoretical framework proved significant. This means that planning for development and implementation of related projects and programs in rural areas should carefully consider the differences of the socio-economic structure of local communities in the old and newly reclaimed lands regarding the design and implementation of development plans. This goes along with one of the main principles of rural development that emphasize on the need to avoid the design that fits all; *i.e.* the need of tailored design. We have to fully consider the specificity of each local community when planning for its development and implementing the needed projects.

### 7. REFERENCES

- Abdel-Salam M. A. (1994). Land Reclamation: The Egyptian Experiment. In Kishk, Mohamed Atif (Ed.), The Proceedings of the First National Conference of Land Reclamation and Development in Egypt, Menia University Press, Egypt.
- Abdel-Wahab M. S., (2004). A Comparative Study of the Reproductive Behavior of Rural Families in a Local Community in the Newly Reclaimed Lands and a Traditional Local Community in Saharkia Governorate. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Egypt. (Arabic).
- Briñol P., and Petty, R. E. (2012). The history of attitudes and persuasion research. In A. Kruglanski & W. Stroebe (Eds.), Handbook of the history of social psychology (pp. 285-320). Psychology Press. New York, USA.
- Fath-Allah M. M., and Ibrahim. A. I., (1998). Land Reclamation in Egypt, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Cairo, Egypt. (Arabic).
- Flamm B. J. (2006). Environmental Knowledge, Environmental Attitudes, and Vehicle Ownership and Use. Ph. D. Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, USA.
- George J. L. and Jones. J. R. (2005). Understanding and managing organizational behavior, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson Education limited, New Jersey, USA.
- Hersey P., Blanchard K. H., and Johnson D. E. (2001). Management of organizational behavior: leading human resource, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey, USA.
- Johns G. (1996). Organizational behavior (understanding and managing life at work), 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Harper Collins College Publishers, New York, USA.
- Kiecolt K. J., (1988). Recent Developments in Attitudes and Social Structure, Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 14: 381-403.
- MALR (2015). Agricultural Census 2009/2010, MALR, Cairo, Egypt.
- McLeod S. A. (2014). Attitudes and Behavior. Retrieved from [www.simplypsychology.org/attitudes.html](http://www.simplypsychology.org/attitudes.html).
- Nelson D. L., and Quick J. C. (2002). Understanding organizational behavior (a multimedia approach), South-Western, Thomson Learning, USA.
- Stronks K. V., Mheen H. D., Looman C. W.N., and Mackenbach J.P. (1996). Behavioural and structural factors in the explanation of socio-economic inequalities in health: an empirical analysis, Sociology of Health & Illness, Vol. 18 No. 5.
- Velasco I. and Harder M. K. (2014). From Attitude Change to Behavior Change: Institutional Mediators of Education for Sustainable Development Effectiveness, Sustainability, p: 6553-6575 ([www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability))
- Zahrán H. A. (1984). Social Psychology, the World of Books, Cairo, Egypt. (Arabic).
- [http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM326/understand\\_attitude\\_dev\\_lesson.htm](http://www.prm.nau.edu/PRM326/understand_attitude_dev_lesson.htm)

تباين البنية الاقتصادية الاجتماعية للمناطق الريفية في المناطق الصحراوية  
المستصلحة والأراضي القديمة وانعكاساتها على اتجاهات السكان

محمد حلمى أحمد نوار- سلوى محمود إسماعيل عبد الفتاح

قسم الاجتماع الريفي والإرشاد الزراعي - كلية الزراعة - جامعة القاهرة

**ملخص**

تقوم الزراعة في مصر على بنية مختلطة، فهي تضم قطاعاً تقليدياً يسود في نحو 5.5 مليون فدان تنتشر عبر الأراضي القديمة في الوادي والدلتا، إضافة إلى قطاع آخر مختلف يضم مكونات حديثة ومشروعات ذات تقنيات عالية تنتشر في المناطق الصحراوية المستصلحة التي تضم الآن نحو 3 ملايين فدان، ينتشر هذا التباين الهيكلي في قطاع الزراعة في نوعين من المناطق الريفية تعكس ازدواجية البنية الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لقطاع الريف في مصر. ويفترض في هذا البحث أن ازدواجية البنية الاقتصادية الاجتماعية في الريف المصري يمكن أن يترتب عليها إستجابات مختلفة بين سكان الريف، عندما يتعرضون لذات البرنامج أو المشروع التنموي، وهذا الفرض إذا تحققت صحته يترتب عليه بالتالي ضرورة أخذ تلك الاختلافات في الاعتبار عند التخطيط والتنفيذ لمشروعات تنمية الريف، ولقد تم خلال الفترة من عام 1998 وحتى عام 2007 تنفيذ سلسلة من ثلاث مشروعات متعاقبة استهدفت رفع وعى السكان الريفيين بقضايا السكان والبيئة في خمس وسبعين قرية تنتشر في كل من الأراضي القديمة والمناطق الصحراوية المستصلحة، وعند دراسة آثار تلك المشروعات بعد خمس سنوات من انتهائها اتضحت اتجاهات السكان المستهدفين نحو قضايا النمو السكاني والصحة والبيئة. ولاختبار الفرضية التي قام عليها هذا البحث تم سحب عينة عشوائية من 266 مبحوث يقيمون في خمسة عشر قرية من تلك التي تعرضت لأنشطة هذه المشروعات، وذلك من قوائم المتدربين في هذه المشروعات. وتضم هذه العينة 181 مبحوث من عشر قرى في المناطق القديمة، والباقي وعددهم 85 تم اختيارهم من خمس قرى في الأراضي الجديدة. البيانات التي تم استخدامها في إعداد هذه الدراسة تم إستخراجها من بيانات ميدانية، تم جمعها في إطار بحث تقييمي لمشروع تم تمويله بواسطة منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة - مكتب القاهرة وبموافقة من المكتب، وقد تم جمع البيانات الميدانية باستخدام استمارة استبيان، صممت خصيصاً واختبرت قبلياً لهذا الغرض في أواخر عام 2012. وأوضح تحليل البيانات أن الإتجاه العام الذي قيس بمقياس يضم 55 عبارة قد حاز على معامل ثبات بإستخدام معامل كرونباخ ألفا وصل إلى 0.842. وباختبار معنوية الفروق في الإتجاه العام والإتجاهات الفرعية نحو قضايا السكان والقضايا البيئية والإقتصادية، إتضح أنها معنوية على مستويات 0.001 و 0.01 و 0.017 على التوالي، وفي المقابل كانت الاختلافات في حجم المزرعة ومتوسط العمر والحالة المهنية والحالة الزوجية بين العينتين الفرعيتين معنوية على مستوى 0.00 و 0.03 و 0.009 على التوالي. توضح هذه النتائج أنه لا زالت هناك اختلافات واقعية في العديد من الخصائص الاقتصادية والاجتماعية بين المناطق الريفية في الأراضي الجديدة المستصلحة والأراضي القديمة، والتي ينبغي أن تُراعى بشكل كامل عند التخطيط للتنمية الريفية وتنفيذ مشروعاتها.

المجلة العلمية لكلية الزراعة - جامعة القاهرة - المجلد (67) العدد الأول (يناير 2016): 1- 8.