ERNOP Research Note

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Diasporic Philanthropy: Exploring Belonging, Identity, and Social Change

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The study examines how diasporic philanthropy among Moroccan diaspora in the Netherlands influences their sense of belonging and cultural identity, providing valuable insights for philanthropy in cross-border and migration contexts.

How does the experience of the country of residence by diasporic philanthropists influence their sense of belonging and practice of philanthropy?

Diasporic philanthropy fosters a dual sense of belonging, rooted in integration within the country of residence and the desire to create social change in the homeland. This connection highlights bicultural identities, faith-driven motivations, and the transformative impact of inclusive environments, emphasizing the role of philanthropy in bridging cultural and national divides.

#Diaspora #Biculturalism #Inclusion #Philanthropy #Senseofbelonging

- Obligation and Motivations for Giving: Diasporic philanthropy often stems from a sense of duty to those left behind, shaped by better opportunities in the country of residence. It reflects religious values, social recognition, and a desire to share knowledge, reinforcing ties to both homeland and country of residence.
- Belonging and Diaspora Connections: Diasporas maintain ties to their homeland through remittances and organized philanthropy. Belonging is fostered by community participation and self-identification. Philanthropy bridges connections, allowing diasporans to engage with both cultures and strengthen their dual identity.
- Significance of Two Homes: Both the homeland and country of residence shape diasporic identity. Philanthropy allows individuals to support their homeland while benefiting from integration into their country of residence.
- Moroccan Diaspora History: Moroccan migration to the Netherlands began with labor treaties in the 1950s. Plans to return home often shifted to family reunification, embedding later generations into European society. This history informs the motivations for diasporic philanthropy.

Background

Context







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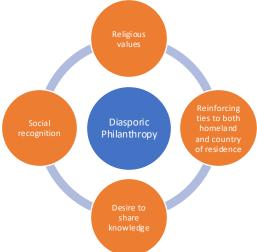
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Faith-Based Motivations: Philanthropy among Moroccan diasporans is deeply rooted in Islamic values, with participants consistently linking acts of giving to religious obligations such as zakat. This highlights how faith and cultural traditions guide philanthropic behaviors and strengthen ties to both homeland and country of residence.

Take aways & Learnings



- Role of Inclusion in Motivation: Positive integration experiences in the Netherlands significantly influence participants' philanthropic motives. Many use their country of residence as a reference for promoting social improvements in Morocco, including education, economic growth, and gender equality. This demonstrates how inclusion fosters a sense of responsibility for creating change in the homeland.
- Intergenerational Continuity: Philanthropic behaviors are passed down through generations, evolving from remittances by first-generation migrants to organized philanthropy among younger generations. This continuity reflects the adaptation of cultural values to modern contexts, ensuring sustained contributions to the homeland.
- Bicultural Identity as a Driver: Participants exhibit a dual sense of belonging, rooted in both Moroccan heritage and Dutch integration. This bicultural identity serves as a key driver for cross-border philanthropy, enabling participants to bridge cultural divides. It emphasizes how identity dynamics shape philanthropic engagement.
- Structural Social Change: Philanthropy extends beyond immediate aid to address systemic issues, such as advancing education and improving healthcare in Morocco. This focus on long-term impact highlights the potential of diasporic philanthropy to contribute to sustainable development in the homeland.



ERNOP Research Notes provide easy-to-read, practice-oriented summaries of academic articles on philanthropy and are written by practitioner experts. This ERNOP Research Note 2025/5 is published in March 2025 and has been written by Daria Rybalchenko from National Network of Local Philanthropy Development. More information can be found at www.ernop.eu.





