THE EGYPTIAN WELFARE STATE IN TRANSITION (1995-2005):
DOES IT FIT IN THE TYPOLOGY OF WELFARE REGIMES?

AHMED Ezz Eldin Mohamed
Sabanci University, Sabanci Universitesi Orta Mahalle,
Universite Caddesi No: 27 Istanbul,
34956 Orhanli Istanbul, Turkey.

ABSTRACT

This article extends the application of the typology of welfare regimes developed by Esping-Andersen (1990) to the Egyptian welfare state as an example of developing countries. The study surveys the main social welfare schemes in the period between 1995-2005 which marked the state's shift towards market-oriented economy and challenged the historical legacy of its social role. The findings suggest that the Egyptian welfare state could be best described as “conservative/informal”. The paper concludes by suggesting necessary amendments to the original typology to better reflect the realities of welfare regimes in developing countries.

Keywords: Welfare, Esping-Andersen, Political Economy, Egyptian.

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