

## Gender-related analysis in the process of diffusion of entrepreneurship in rural areas Case study: Soolaghan Dehestan

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### Introduction

Sustainable human development is possible only in case of justice being kept between the two genders. Even, it will remain incapable without the participation of women. Rural entrepreneurship, as a new approach in the development theories of empowering and capacity building of human sources, especially women in rural district, plays a crucial role to achieve sustainable development. This article will analyze conditions of entrepreneurship acceptance and its development between men and women to restore the status of women in economic activities and create an atmosphere of justice-oriented development.

In fact, as a new strategy in the development of rural areas regarding to its high capacity of employment generation, entrepreneurship can create productive and permanent job chances for villagers and temporary employment for the seasonal unemployed ones. Rural women constitute a large segment of the rural population. So, if they get pushed to the entrepreneurship as well as the improvement of their spirit of entrepreneurship, job creation, and social participation, rural development will be achieved faster as a subset of sustainable development of the country. Therefore, it is meant to examine factors affecting the inequitable acceptance and development of entrepreneurship between the two genders based on gender analysis. This study is to examine influencing factors and barriers ahead of the development of entrepreneurship between rural men and women by evaluating the process of acceptance and development of entrepreneurship between genders. In this article, we are trying to find answers to the questions that; "What causes the inequality between genders in the process of entrepreneurship development?" and "What affects the pattern of entrepreneurship development between men and women?"

### Methodology

The present study is an applied one which has done using descriptive method. Data collection was conducted by library and field methods. Data collection tools include interviews, observations and questionnaires set by Likert scale. The study population consists of men and women of 82 families as the adopters of entrepreneurship in Sooleghan village. The district contains 11 villages. Four out of this number named by Keshar-Elya including 76 adopted families as the center of entrepreneurship acceptance and development, Keshar-Sofla: 3 adopters, Sooleghan: 2 adopters, and Kan: 1 adopter, are studied here. The village is located in the North West of Tehran within the municipal zones of 5 and 22 which is 7 KMs. far from it. The obtained data were analyzed in SPSS software using non-parametric and parametric tests.

**Discussion and conclusion**

Studying the process of entrepreneurship acceptance and distribution between rural men and women led to the two questions. First, "What causes the disparity between the genders in the process of entrepreneurship development?" Second, "What affects the pattern of entrepreneurship development between men and women?" In this study, we have studied the process and pattern of entrepreneurship development. According to the questions, it was identified that geographical conditions, environmental factors, and family status are different for men and women that can lead to the inequalities of the entrepreneurship acceptance and distribution among them. Results indicate that there is a significant difference up to 99% among role, legal and judicial, and institutional factors of men and women. Such differences can be the results of other various factors, all of them together can cause faster and more complete acceptance and distribution of entrepreneurship among men and women.

Results from the gender- based analysis suggest that the social role of women in the villages is mostly confined to their home and its immediate environment. This happens because of the prevalence of patriarchal culture, beliefs, traditions and social attitudes towards women and their role in the rural environment. Gender-based discrimination of these kind have a significant impact on the direction and speed of entrepreneurship acceptance and its distribution. This means that the entrepreneurship has always been stronger among men than women. Also, women's entrepreneurship has been less during the process of acceptance. Even, in case of their presence, women's group has been counted among the Late Accept groups of the entrepreneurship. Family oriented constraints of women and their dependence on men, especially their financial dependence, some cultural and geographical factors and environmental conditions can all be counted as some other barriers in terms of entrepreneurship acceptance and its distribution against women. This study reveals that women are highly affected by their husband in their position in the labor market, home and family. In this way, the acceptance of women entrepreneurs is subject to their husband being an entrepreneur.

**Key words:** Village, Gender, Entrepreneurship, distribution, Soolghan.

## Spatial analysis of comparative advantage of major occupational groups of rural population in Iran

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### Introduction

Regarding the fact that economic activities, in particular, and resources and facilities, in general, are poorly concentrated in terms of spatial distribution, every area requires a particular program corresponding to its specific conditions. In this way, before doing everything we need to identify the past and present situation of different regions based on appropriate scientific methods. The inequality between urban and rural areas is mostly originated from the insufficient knowledge of policies applied in these areas as well as policies taken to evaluate the impact of programs on different economic variables including employment. In this article we are trying to recognize deprived and non-deprived areas to help us study current status of employment in rural areas and making a relative balance between all parts of the country. In fact we are going to find the answers to the questions that: What are some comparative advantages of economic activity in rural areas? What is Gini coefficient of economic activities in rural areas than in the country? According to the comparative advantages of employment in the major occupational groups, how can we put different provinces in order?

### Methodology

The aim of this article is to examine comparative advantages of rural areas in different provinces for every major economic area and evaluating the amount of regional balance in every economic section. This is an applied study accomplished by the use of descriptive- analytical method. Required data has been taken from the census of 1385 and 1390 in Statistical Center of Iran. Along with data processing and classification, employment status of major occupational groups in rural areas has been accounted using Lorenz curve and the Gini coefficient through Excel software. Moreover, geographical maps of comparative advantage of a variety of major occupational groups were drawn in ARC GIS software. Finally, rural population of different provinces was ranked based on different groups of economic activities, through the models of Standard factor, Topsis, factor analysis and clustering. The followings major occupational groups have been selected as Indicators for determining comparative advantage and regional balance to calculate the amount of employment in the provinces and rural areas.

### Discussion and conclusion

We have selected 85 and 90 series as samples for the spatial analysis of the employment status in rural areas. Then, we have tried some working indicators on this group and analyzed its results. Results include some spatial patterns of working indicators in rural areas of Iran. In other words, it shows that almost in all major occupational parts of the country, there is no regional balance in the

distribution of working population in rural areas: This type of inequality is more observable in the two sections of "Hospitality and catering" and "Real estate, renting and business activities". "Agriculture" is the only section containing comparative balance within different provinces.

Comparing Gini coefficient of rural population to the total number of employers of different provinces in major occupational groups, it is understood that this indicator exceeds its total number in rural areas and it's still increasing. Only in "agriculture" sector of rural areas Gini coefficient is less than its total which implies giving less attention to rural areas of the country and poor investment in rural areas comparing to the rate of investment in the entire provinces over the recent years.

Studying comparative advantages of different provinces in major occupational groups in rural population reveals the fact that there is a relatively observable advantage in 8 parts of Tehran province. After Tehran, there are the two provinces of Mazandaran and Kermanshah in 5 and 4 parts, respectively, and then Yazd, Booshehr, and Kohgilouye and Boyer-Ahmed in 3 parts of highly comparative advantages.

Among the entire provinces, Tehran and Booshehr contains the least amount of comparative advantage of employment only in "agriculture" sector.

Some provinces including Kerman in all its occupational groups, Sistan- Baloochestan in 8 parts, Kordestan in 5 parts, and Lorestan in 4 major occupational parts are among the deprived provinces in terms of job creation in major occupational groups.

Based on the results of the study, despite of lots of experimental and theoretical studies on geographical distribution of unemployment and regional employment which have been recently doing by researchers, there is still some regional inequalities. It can be deduced that Gini coefficient in rural areas has been rising from 1385 to 1390. In fact, regional differences of job creation are increasing in rural areas. Studying comparative advantages of major occupational groups in rural district of Tehran, Booshehr, Yazd, Esfahan, Khorasan-Razavi, Fars, Mazandaran, and Gilan shows observable comparative advantage of employment in these areas. Although, there is an inappropriate condition of employment in some provinces including Sistan-Baloochestan, Hormozgan, and Kohgilouye Boyer-Ahmed.

**Key words:** regional development, rural areas, occupational groups, comparative advantage.

## Investigating impacts of industrial micro plans on rural settlements Case study: Shahnjryn village in Razan County

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### Introduction

Industrialization of rural districts can be considered as one of the appropriate approaches toward the diversification of economy. In this way, the rural lifestyle can get developed through the process of job creation and the increasing of income and its balanced distribution can create a favorable environment for the achievement of sustainable rural development. Some researchers of rural development believe that the industrialization of rural districts in the framework of national master plan is inevitable in economic growth. So, in the last two decades, authorities and program makers have mainly shifted their focus of attention on the settlement of industries in villages in the form of industrial towns and areas.

Results from various studies imply the improvement of lifestyle among villagers after the establishment of industrial towns there. In spite of all the good consequences of industrial growth in rural areas, it should be noted that rural industry can cause lots of problems within rural population and its environment if they cannot be correctly controlled.

Opposing ideas like those mentioned against economic, social, and environmental interests seems common in the process of development. Environmental effects of industrial concentration in a small zone or an inappropriate area can cause serious hazards either locally or internationally. So, identification and evaluation of such problems from different aspects can help us discover the effectiveness of these programs and investigate their range of effectiveness for the purposes of local and regional development. On the other hand, it can be useful for the spatial programming of the target areas where this activities have been done or are affecting by such activities. Therefore, this study aims to study social and economic impacts of industrial micro plans on rural populations.

### Methodology

This is a quantitative study, a non-experimental type regarding the strategy used for the rate and control degree of variables, an applied one on its target, and a survey research according to the method used for collecting data. Its statistical society includes villagers above 18 in the village of Shahnjryn among them 161 members were randomly selected through Cochran formula as samples. Also, we have also made questionnaires to collect data.

Questionnaire used for collecting data in this research has been already designed in 1392 in consultation with experts. Its validity was confirmed by researchers and experts. For testing the reliability of the questionnaire a number of 30 questionnaires was done by the villagers of Shahnjryn. Results were analyzed and Cronbach's alpha was calculated 0.73 which is good for the project. Collected data have been already analyzed in SPSS .16 software. Descriptive statistics such as Frequency, percentage, standard deviation, mean variance and coefficient of variation have been

used in descriptive part of the research as well as mean comparison, correlation coefficient and factor analysis tests used for data analyzing.

### Discussion and conclusion

Lots of researches have been already done in Iran and throughout the world to find out the socio-economic impacts of industrial micro plans on rural communities. A major noticeable part has focused on the positive effects of industrial occupations on rural development. Results from the present study reveal the high economic impacts of industrial projects in rural areas as it can cause new chances of employment and economic variations that cause the development of the areas. In addition, it should be considered that in rural districts industrial activities are in rival with farming. Generally, industrial projects in rural areas have negative effects on agriculture. As, in some cases like the utilization of lands and human forces, industrial projects are precedent. Not only can industrial projects affect the economic status of rural areas, but also social consequences are possible. Prevalence of industrial projects in rural areas may lead some changes in relationships and geographical actions and trends, as well. Predictions like these have been proven to be true up to the results of the present study. Totally, based on the results from the study, there are some approaches to moderate the negative effects of industrial projects in the neighboring villages by the reinforcement of their positive effects. The followings are examples of these approaches:

- As a necessity, all the Eco environmental impacts of each industrial project must be evaluated in advance to find measures to modify its dangerous impacts on the environment.
- Industrial occupations are produced in villages mainly by the purpose of creating non-agricultural business and employments. It is obvious that such industries should not affect negatively on agricultural production. Therefore, it is necessary to pay simultaneous attention on both industrial and agricultural development. To achieve the goal, we suggest to make measures for programming agricultural growth along with the industrial ones.
- Modifying the negative effects of industrial growth on agriculture, the headquarters of the industrial activities must be located in villages with less farming capacity. Additionally, a strategy of development and implementation of industrial projects must be defined to keep villagers from leaving the village.
- In rural industries, for a more effective development process, it must be tried to use mainly from rural labor force and formations.

**Key words:** rural industries, rural development, Hegmatan cement factory, industrial micro plans, Razan County.

## The effects of economic rural-urban relations on food security of rural households Case study: Zanjan County

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### Introduction

The interaction and mutual cooperation of rural and urban areas in developing countries is different from the developed ones. The type of relations between villages and town can affect different aspects of rural lifestyle, one of them is its effect on food security. Researches show that the range of effectiveness of such relations include property, the use of new technology, supporting relatives and acquaintances, availability of local markets, pricing policy and market access, development of off-farm income, and consequently, availability of foodstuffs, and increase of food variety and consumption that can all affect food security. Due to the increasing flow of urbanization in Zanjan County, in this research we are studying the economic rural-urban relations on food security. There are two main questions mentioned here: How is the security status of food among rural households? How can we define the economic rural-urban relations on food security?

### Methodology

This is an applied study which has been done using descriptive- analytical method of research. Rural households from villages of Zanjan County contain the statistical society of the present study. In 1390, there was 97225 villagers, 26429 rural households, 13 rural districts, and 248 inhabited villages in Zanjan County. Among these, a number of 14 villages have been selected as samples using modified Cochran formula. Since it was required to select 54 out of 248 villages to study in case analysis, all the 248 villages were checked to recognize how far they are from the urban area. Then, they have classified into 5 groups. Finally, using simple random sampling, due to the frequency of each population class, 54 of them have selected randomly. Those 54 villages, contain of 11662 rural households and a population of 289547 people. Because of using the household unit as the analytical unit of the research, the required number of then for accomplishing the questionnaires has been calculated 290 households within Cochran formula. The required data has been collected by the use of library and field (for questionnaires) methods. Data have been analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (Mann-Whitney U and T groups). To calculate the amount of food security two methods of food insecurity scale and standard calories have been used.

### Discussion and conclusion

Findings from the study implies low food security within the studied rural households. Classifying food security within the rural households based on food insecurity scale indicates that only 31.1

percent of them are taking advantage of food security, the rest 68.9 % are struggling against food insecurity. The followings are reported according to the descriptive findings obtained due to the different times of rural household's visits to the town: 11.54 % visit the town once a week, 17.77% twice a week, 16.44% three times a week, 26.66% four times a week, and 27.59% five times a week or more. In other indicators, no significant effect has reported within the economic relations of villages and towns. Maybe it is because of the weak rural-urban relations within the studied areas. Therefore, the followings are suggested according to the new findings of the study:

- By strengthening agricultural infrastructures in the villages of high environmental potentials it will be possible to accelerate the process of agricultural development of the studied area, create appropriate conditions for money-making, and improve food security.
- Considering the impact of direct selling of agricultural products on food security, the government can make a vital role by its broad support of guaranteed purchase of agricultural products to increase food security and incomes of rural households.
- In the studied villages, the improvement of rural routes and shops can increase the access of rural households to food.
- Development of tourist-oriented activities in high potential villages can provide a good condition of rural-urban relation formation.

**Key words:** Food insecurity, rural-urban relations, rural economy, rural development



## The political economy of space and Iran's regional balance

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### Introduction

Countries with a rentier economy are usually dependent on the export of raw materials. Such countries have a centralized political system and inefficient bureaucracy that incorporate a broader administrative division in one or two cities. Dependence on the global economy (Endogenous Development), and the lack of a democratic political system, provides good conditions of centralization in different aspects.

In the rentier political economy, market speculation has overcome on the redistribution of wealth in society and private sectors are mostly activating in non-manufacturing areas (rent). Economic and social imbalances in these countries made the political economy of space reveal a structural model of unbalanced regional and spatial patterns through the improvement of national economy.

The mechanism of this system and the process of capital accumulation in cities and their surrounding regions is going on in a way that as Harvey (1985) believes: "Unlike the capitalist competition in which all social actors are into the rational production of appropriate physical and social prospects for the accumulation of capital", in our country, public and quasi-public economy which is based on brokerage cannot make conditions for instructive competitions. Of course, it is acting in a way that everything done for the capital accumulation and surplus value may lead into unpleasant Physical- Spatial changes.

It seems that despite all the efforts made after the revolution in Iran to remove deprivation and establish regional balance, there are still examples of regional imbalances. Finding an appropriate answer to this fundamental question of "How big and effective has been the political economic model governing our country?" we have tried to present a spatial analysis of Iran's approach to the political economy of the last decade to explain the role of political economy of space on regional imbalance as assessing regional balance of the country.

### Methodology

The survey done to get applied for observing planning and accounting systems of political economy in Iran, using descriptive-analytical and correlation methods.

In order to complete research database, the preliminary data collected by examining statistics and other statistical documents in the Statistical Center of Iran and Islamic parliament research center. The data have been sorted in the form of 28 indicators and variables. GEO Da™ software was used for drawing maps exhibiting Percentage distribution of wealth and power in different parts of the country. To determine rating and index score of the political economy of space a combined method of TOPSIS and Entropy has been used. The spatial autocorrelation of political economy and regional imbalance was calculated by Local Moran statistics in GIS 10. Estimating composite index of equilibrium level and regional inequality we have used COPRAS, a multiple criteria decision

making model. This model was offered because of the presence of some positive and negative variables. Finally, in order to investigate the presence of any relation between political economy of space and regional inequalities ruling Iran and for the identification of the types of relations, linear regression in SPSS19 has been used.

### Discussion and conclusion

Planning and decision- making are considered as systematic cause and effect of the political economy governing the implementation of space projects and programs. A question to which every restored geographical environment may confront is that "due to the time, how can the pattern and operation of political economy of space affect the structure of different areas to make them balanced or imbalanced? How much is the range of its effectiveness? And how can it change the direction?" In this way, Iran has been tested and analyzed to find a reasonable answer to this question.

Results from the analysis proved that despite the negative effects of lack of wealth on the structure of Iran geographical space, there is a limited span of attention and importance given to the more rational distributions. So far, wealth distribution and financing have been following a polar pattern. Evaluating political and bargaining power in the aforementioned space among different areas, Tehran province, as one of the 31 divisions of the country, is dedicated to the highest rank of political weight in most indicators of territory and settlement (including villages and towns). In competition with other regions this priority of Tehran in the national space and its principal role in Iranian governments during different periods led to "Tehran's hegemonic political power centered in Tehran". Those patterns ruling the distribution of power and wealth between regions caused a tendency to the unipolar construction of the political economy of space. Consequently, polar-oriented approach prevailed on space led to the formation of a regional space enjoying socio-economic benefits in the range of areas of Tehran, Alborz and Isfahan. Because of these conditions, only a few developed areas can be seen in the whole area of the country which are increasingly and strongly affected by the devastating consequences of failures of so many backward areas.

**Key words:** Wealth, power, political economy of space, regional balance, Iran.

## Study of the Impacts of Tourism on Rural Development Case Study: Ghoori-Ghale Village

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### Introduction

Tourism can be a tool for rural development; because it can be considered as a new financial resource, it can improve the economic status of local people and it can be considered as a resource that removes poverty and creates more jobs. Tourism and rural development are also two interrelated factors which have positive impacts on each other when tourism development or rural development take place. As a region that is one of the top fifty tourist attractions in Kermanshah Province, Ghoori-Ghale village is one of the most important destinations of tourists to the west of the country; annually, this region receives thousands of tourists from other parts of the country and from neighboring countries especially Iraqi tourists. Studies show that the number of tourists in this village increased considerably during the past years; so that the number of visitors has increased from 116000 people in 1381 to 418000 people in 1386 and more than 500000 people in 1391. More than natural attractions of the village and cultural values in Ghoori-Ghale, the most important tourist attraction in Ravansar County is Ghoori-Ghale Cave as a natural phenomenon and it is the second tourist attraction of the Oramanat region. Construction of more than 30 shops and stores and full-time employment of more than 30 individuals around the cave, is just one of the advantages of Ghoori-Ghale Cave for inhabitants of Ghoori-Ghale village. Base on this, some questions are raised including that "which indicators of rural development have been mostly effected by tourists' arrivals?", "at what level are the impacts of tourism on rural development of Ghoori-Ghale?" and "how many factors are defined as the impacts of tourism in rural development of Ghoori-Ghale village and what are the important ones?"

### Methodology:

This study is practical one which used analytical-descriptive researches method. For data collection documentary method and field study are used. The study population includes all heads of householder in Ghoori-Ghale village (240 people). Because of limitation of population and their availability, the sample study was chosen by complete enumeration method. The basic research tool was self-constructed questionnaire in which, after necessary modification, its validity was confirmed by university professors and other tourism experts. To examine the reliability of the constructed questionnaire, a guide study was performed out of the studied region with 30 questionnaires. Cronbach's Alfa Coefficient was obtained by using SPSS, version 0.861 and it showed the high level of reliability in using of research tool. The five-point Likert scale has been the indicators' scale for this case (very little: point 1, little: point 2, average: point 3, great: point 4,

very great: point 5) and for statistical analysis descriptive statistics (average, standard deviation and coefficient of variables) and one sample T-test have been used and also for recognizing the impacts of tourists' arrivals on inhabitants of Ghoori Ghale, regarding some limited and important factors, factor analysis technique has been applied.

### **Discussion and Conclusion:**

Because of profitability and high level of job creation for host communities, today, rural tourism can be considered as one of the most important tools for developing and following that for sustainable development of rural inhabitants especially in regions with high potential in attracting tourist. This study findings showed that most of rural inhabitants in the studied area are completely satisfied with tourists' arrival and they are ready to attract more tourists. Moreover, the results showed that tourists' arrival to Ghoori Ghale village mostly have impact on many indicators including development of employment, increase of inhabitants' income, diversity of economic activities, constructing or developing local markets, infrastructure development, increase of land value and housing, increase of purchase power and improvement of living status, decrease of rural immigration and return of immigrants to the village, increase of the constructions and diversification of domestic products. The results of studying the overall level of the impacts of tourism showed that most respondents believe that tourism has considerable impacts (average of 3.4) on development of Ghoori Ghale village. The results showed that the impacts of tourism on inhabitants of Ghori Ghale village are summarized in six main factors which on the whole, determined 82.6% of total variance of impacts of tourism regarding the target village. The recognized factors in order of their importance are as follow: economic factor, infrastructure-physical factor, social-cultural factor, health-environmental factor, involvement factor and safety factor. Regarding the high potentiality of Ghoori Ghale village and other neighboring villages, by proper management and villagers' participation, it is possible to create a tourism hub in the region in which Ghoori Ghale village is the central part and consequently, this matter can be a good prospective for development of neighboring villages to Ghoori Ghale.

**Keywords:** Rural Tourism, Rural Development, Impacts of Tourism, Ghoori Ghale Village.

## Classification of Development Level in Villages of Marhamatabad Rural District, Miandoab County

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### Introduction

Being developed or not, causes Iran's villages to face various challenges. This is so when widespread poverty and increasing lack of balance, unemployment growth, and low level of productivity are obvious in the country; Lack of balance between different regions in the process of development leads to Create gap and intensity of regional inequality which are considered as barriers for development and these issues can be seen in different countries in different levels. This lack of regional balance and unbalanced distribution of services and facilities through inappropriate ways are obvious and they are major characteristics of Iran and other third world countries. This is especially true for those countries that include vast areas of rural regions and to obtain balanced development of the regions, these inequalities are serious threats. The position of each region should be determined and without this, objectives and strategies will not be helpful in providing spatial balance in the country. Therefore, the first step is recognition and classification of the villages considering their economic, infrastructural and communicational, social-cultural, health and educational levels. By recognizing the differences in the level of regional development, it is possible to take necessary actions and to implement plans in order to decrease or eliminate the current differences. This study aims to calculate and compare the degrees of development in villages of Marhamatabad rural district according to selected indicators; and by considering its objectives, this study tries to determine and prioritize the degree of development of studied rural district and by presenting an image of inequality among villages, tries to develop appropriate policies and prevent unbalanced regional development. In fact, this study tries to answer the following question: "according to the selected indicators, how development level of each village in Marhamatabad rural district in Miandoab County is defined?"

### Methodology

This is a descriptive-analytic study and it is also a practical research. For data collection, documentary method and field study have been used. The result of national population and housing census, 1390, general census of agriculture and statistical yearbook are used as database. 7 indicators (based on population, education, transportation, economic, infrastructure, administrative and service, health) and 36 sub-indicators have been selected according to experts' opinions (professors, local and governmental managers, and so on) to describe development level of villages in this rural district. In order to give weight and importance to the indicators, AHP model has been used. For classification of development level in villages, TOPSIS approach and cluster analysis

were performed. By consulting experts, three level of development were defined in cluster analysis: developed villages, to some extent developed villages, undeveloped villages.

### Discussion and Conclusion

According to the pioneers of regional development, development should start generally in rural districts and especially among farmers, poorest regions and rural people. Therefore, studying and recognizing the regions' condition, capabilities and problems are of great importance in spatial planning. Using economic, social, cultural and health indicators are suitable criteria for determining regional position and also good factors for removing problems and failures and also goof for achieving economic welfare and social heath that together result in regional development. So, it is possible to recognize the spatial distribution of facilities and services among villages by considering their regional development condition and also it is possible to prevent unbalanced spatial development by making correct decisions and implementing necessary plans.

The study results showed the deep inequality of regional development among the studied villages. According to the results of the model which is used in this study, it was determined that Ghopchagh village is the most developed village and Mansurabad and Kordkandi are the least developed villages respectively. According to the Ci rate in TOPSIS approach, Ghopchagh village ( $C_i = 0.705$ ) is on the top as a developed village and Kordkandi village ( $C_i = 0.18$ ) is on the lowest level and it is considered as the most deprived village. In performing cluster analysis, studied villages are classified and tested in three levels: developed, to some extent developed and undeveloped villages. According to this classification, Ghopchagh village is the only village that is ranked as "developed village". 6 villages (Fasandoz, Shabanlo, Khazine-anbare Jadid, Aghdash, Firouzabad and Eslamabald) are ranked as "to some extent developed" and 7 villages (Moradkhanlou, Khazine-anbar Ghadim, Ozon Obeh, Ghare ghoulou, Kordkandy, Mansourabad ans Ebrahim Hesari) are ranked as "undeveloped villages". In conclusion, it should be admitted that although the level of unbalanced regional development in these villages are not significant according to the obtained dispersion coefficient, the first step for achieving balanced regional development is the necessity of considering unbalanced regional development among villages.

**Keywords:** Rural Development, TOPSIS Approach, Cluster Analysis, Marhamadabad Rural District.

## Spatial Analysis of Development of Boarder Regions in East Iran Case Study: Border villages in South Khorasan Province

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### Introduction

When unbalanced spatial dispersion of developmental indicators increase, unbalanced distribution of facilities and population will dramatically increase too and meanwhile the increase of centralization of indicators in regions that suffer from centralization of facilities and population will lead to population and facilities movement from deprived regions and this will increase unbalanced spatial-geographical dispersion. So, achieving sustainable development of human force is impossible. For achieving sustainable development as the ultimate goal of planning, the first step is studying and recognizing the current situation and the level of distribution of facilities in regions as a starting point for achieving development. Planning which its goal is sustainable development in settlements especially in border regions, needs spatial organization in rural regions to organize macro and national issues including national security issues more precisely and more efficiently. Therefore, in this study compatibility or incompatibility in spatial dispersion of development pattern in South Khorasan villages are evaluated and classified regarding some indicators such as infrastructure, social-economic, education and culture, and health. According to the results of this study, it seems that spatial organization in border counties and villages located in South Khorasan is extremely unbalanced and incompatible.

### Methodology

Regarding its methodology, this study is a cause and effect-comparative one and regarding its nature it is a practical study. 23 indicators have been chosen out of developmental indicators which include socioeconomic, educational-cultural, health and infrastructural ones. Data were collected through documentary research using documents of government offices in 1392, in four cities which are located in South Khorasan border (Nehbandadn, Darmiyan, Zirkuh and Sarbisheh). Statistical population includes villages located in border counties in South Khorasan province and the study samples regarding statistical population have been determined 11 villages according to the separation of political boundaries in villages. To classify border villages of this province according to the level of getting facilities according to the studied indicators, TOPSIS approach and Shannon Entropy Coefficient have been used to determine the weight coefficient of each of the indicators.

### Discussion and Conclusion

In recent years, planners and politicians are interested in studying the unbalanced spatial dispersion in different geographical areas and the existence of unbalanced conditions in different dimensions is

an important sign of undeveloped regions. This study tries to reveal the importance of getting more of economic indicators through a critical realism point of view by answering to this question that "how border rural districts of South Khorasan province are related to their socioeconomic context as an organization?" It seems that by evaluating spatial condition, it is possible to achieve to a total indicator of security status; therefore it is expected that security status will not be in a good condition when a region gets less of economic indicators. The study result showed that Mood rural district have the best condition in evaluating socioeconomic, educational-cultural, health and infrastructural indicators and as a result in final classification this rural district is the only district among border rural districts in South Khorsan province which gets the most facilities. Studies show that rural districts, Mood, Doroh, MomenAbad, Mighan and Shusf are respectively in the first to fifth grade, regarding balanced spatial development pattern. In this classification, four rural districts, Ghohestan, Miyandasht, Naharenjan, Arabkhane are deprived rural districts respectively. On the whole, in South Khorasan province among 11 rural districts as study samples, regarding social-economic, educational-cultural, health and infrastructural indicators, 6 rural districts including Doroh, MomenAbad, Mighan, Bandan, Shusf and Gezik are recognized as rural districts that get less facilities and four of them including Ghohestan, Miyandasht, Naharenjan and Arabkhane are recognized as deprived rural districts respectively.

Mood rural district is the only case that encompasses all of this study indicators, however this region is not in a desirable situation and its numerical distance from developmental indicators is almost a lot. Such pattern shows the incompatible and unbalanced characteristic of spatial construction in border counties of South Khorasan province.

**Keywords:** Development, Sustainable Security, Space Organization, Border Villages of South Khorasan.



## Study of Impacts of Various Development Capitals on Social Capital Case Study: Villages Located in Razavi Khorasan Province

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### Introduction

Common development capitals such as financial (economic) capitals, human capital, physical capital, environmental capital and social capital are considered as key elements in analyzing the potentials of development for people, organizations, societies and even governments. By presenting the concept of social capital, planning strategies are formed by cooperative, communicative and interactional planning along with an approach to people's participation and according to sustainable development framework which concentrate on some indicators such as assessment of social capital, sustainability, flexibility and participation; considering a relative advantage, every district and settlement had freedom of action in putting sustainable development policies into practice in this type of planning. From an international development perspective, social capital has a special position as a part of movement toward development using a "bottom-up" design. Regarding this, the amount of relations and impacts of different types of capitals are studied because of the great importance of different types of capitals especially social capital in rural development. The most important questions in this study are as follow:

"What is the relation between different types of capital (economic capital, human capital, environmental, and physical capital) with social capital?" and "How do different types of capitals impact on social capital?"

### Methodology

This study is conducted by a geographical approach, and a descriptive-analytic method which is based on qualitative and quantitative research method. For determining the sample population size out of 1162 villages with more than 20 households in Khorasan Razavi province, 67 villages were in accordance with all the criteria in table 2. Since these villages are homogenous in three levels, 18 villages (6 villages in each level) from 14 counties were categorized randomly in GIS environment and were chosen by Hawth's Analysis Tools. Statistical population encompasses of two grouping including local people of the village and local officials (council members and municipal official). To evaluate the validity and stability of questionnaire, SPSS software has been used. According to this method, by using KMO Test, validity of determinative indicators of social capital, economic capital, human capital, physical capital and environmental capital are 0.071, 0.72, 0.58, 0.64 and 0.57 respectively and for the whole questionnaire, this number is 0.68. According to the results of construct validity test, Cronbach's Alfa coefficient which is obtained from the designed

questionnaire for evaluating different types of development capitals in the studied villages is equal to 0.89, therefore, the validity of the questionnaire is confirmed.

### Discussion and Conclusion

Today, one of the challenges that rural development face to, is neglecting social capital; recognition of social capital leads to facilitating the process of rural development planning for experts in this field and also it is followed by rural inhabitants' contribution for better implementation of the plans. Regarding to theories and studies in this field, it can be said that different types of development capitals are interrelated and interchangeable. In pursuing development issues especially sustainable rural development, social capital is extremely focused in recent decades. Since many researchers and experts believe that social capital is subordinate to other capitals, this study aims to evaluate the impacts of different types of capitals including economic capital, human capital, environmental capital and physical capital on social capital in rural districts and also it aims to determine their relationships. Results showed a meaningful relation between economic capital, human capital and social capital and a lack of meaningful statistical relation between environmental and physical capital and social capital in studied villages. Moreover, according to the results, coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for economic capital is 0.0906 and coefficient of determination for human capital is 0.176 and these two indicators had the most impact on social capital respectively. In other words, economic capital determines 90.6 % of social capital rate and human capital determines 17.6% of social capital rate in studied villages.

**Keywords:** Social Capital, Development Capital, Sustainable Rural Development, Razavi Khorasan Province

## **The Impacts of Housing Improvement on Changes in Economic Performance of Rural Housing**

### **Case study: Shamshir Rural District located in Paveh County**

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### **Introduction**

In our country, inappropriate physical housing in villages is the result of "bad housing" that can be inferred as one of the most important challenges in rural development. This phenomenon is the result of inappropriate resilient construction, worn-out houses, pollutions because of coexistence of animals and human, sharing the living space with working place; and these issues are caused by inappropriate economic, social and cultural characteristics that govern the rural society of the country and also they are derived from lack of attention to technical obligations, worn-out houses, lack of effective supervision, inadequate infrastructural and economic provision. Therefore, to decrease the bad housing condition in rural districts of the country, some efforts have been started through improvement and renovation of worn-out texture, retrofitting of rural buildings, provision of technical and quality regulations and obligation and issuing ownership documents together with codification of second phase of development plan that provide a good condition for socioeconomic changes in rural districts. These changes have impacts on meeting the needs of the residents and their quality of life, their livelihood changes, and rural housing functions through improvement of physical environment of the rural district. So, this study tries to answer the following questions: "Dose rural housing improvement lead to changes in housing components and economic functions of the houses in the studied rural district by using house retrofit loans"? And "Do these changes have a meaningful difference among villages of this rural district?"

### **Methodology**

This is a practical study that uses descriptive-analytical methods to determine the issue and its results according to performed field studies (questionnaire, observation and interview). Shamshir rural district is located in Paveh County in the west of Kermanshah province and all the eight villages of this rural district are evaluated in this study. According to general population and housing census (1390) the total number of households in this rural district is 2593 households. 287 households are selected as sample population by using Cochran Formula and questionnaires were distributed randomly. For data analysis different statistical method have been used such as One Sample T-Test (to compare numerical mean), Wilcoxon Test (before and after rural housing improvement) and Kruskal Wallis Test (measuring current differences in the rank of diversification to economic activities in sample villages) and Spearman Correlation Coefficient Test.

### Discussion and Conclusion

The results showed that most of new housings, which were constructed by the incentives of government including its credits and supervision, have a substructure of 100 square meters. To overcome the steep slope that governs the village site and to decrease the humidity, new housings are constructed according to a two-storey building design in which the ground flood is inhospitable. Studying the impacts of rural housing improvement and renovation shows widespread differences between two periods which were before and after this process. So, these changes can be mostly considered in housing building plans and maps and extensive modelling of urban housing designs, elimination of some basic elements of old housings and also high availability of facilities and infrastructure services; the basic reasons of these changes include logging bans in forests and pastures, discontinuing traditional way of living based on livestock farming and using forests, improvement of transportation roads and turning them to highways, proximity to Paveh county, and prevalence of unofficial economy and contraband trade. According to respondents' point of view, the results show that all of the studied components have a meaningful difference in periods before and after physical improvement. The most meaningful differences are in rendering services like mechanical service, carwash service, tire mounting and balancing service (-15.002), and employment in non-agricultural activities among men (-14.883) respectively, and the least meaningful differences are reported in such components like households' needs (bread, vegetables, fruit and dairy) (-6.398) and performing economic activities inside the home by women such as handicrafts and carpet weaving (-7.228). Moreover, correlation analysis shows that there is a meaningful relation between rural housing improvement components and components of non-agricultural activities among men (0.812), designing a special place for livestock (-0.603), assigning a part of the house to rendering automobile services (mechanical, carwash, tire mounting and balancing services) (0.600) and performing economic activities inside the home by women (0.324) at a level of 99 percent. In conclusion, the result of classification of changes in economic functions of rural housings in Shamshir rural district does not show a meaningful difference among the studied villages. Therefore, according to the respondents' point of view, the most average ranks in performing the studied economic activities are as follow: non-agriculture employment among men in Shamshir village; assigning a part of the house to services in Dorisan village; performing activities related to gardening and assigning a place for production and selling the forest's products in Bandare village; and in designing a place for livestock and performing economic activities in home by women in Tazdeh, Bandare and Dorisan villages.

**Keywords:** Rural Housing, Improvement of Housing, Rural Economy, Housing Performance, Paveh County.