Full Length Research Paper

Analysis of the situation of social capital resources in rural development: A case study of the central city of Nor Abad Mamsani, Iran

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Social capital, while not all things to all people, is many things to a lot of people. Human and social capital play critical roles in rural development, in both the US and Europe, which is a key sociological approach used to study about rural development, in that the former focuses on the relational capital available to a group of actors and which can be mobilized in a development initiative. The goal of this paper is to analyze the effect of social capital resources on rural development in the visual central city of Nor Abad Mamsani, Iran. This study provides definitions of social behavioral and social capitals and their different and after discussions in a scientific framework. The results show change in social practices as resulting from a cycle of phases where the problem, its solution and the identity of the actors are constantly transformed and negotiated as represented in the Appendix. Social capital has often been attributed beneficial effects in promoting local development. Moreover, it facilitates the circulation of information and its use within the group fostering the coordination of activities.

Key words: Social capital, rural development, Iran villages, local development.

INTRODUCTION

Social capital in Iran villages is not so common among the people, and this can be as a result of several reasons such as: lack of government attention to social participation, people's unfamiliarity with their rights, and distrust in both the government and people. Our problem is the assessment of people's participation in Iran villages, which do not have any data about social capital and their government organizations which do not have enough information about it as well. Social capital has a different definition in the case study region as compared to other parts of the world. In Iran, the main concerns of rural and urban people in many cases, is to work and earn a living. For Iranian villages, social capital is defined as: Attention to people orientation institutions for better management of rural communities to provide the highest level of satisfaction to rural people by considering the unique cultural characteristics of these communities. According to the research issue, our research questions can be presented in two main alternatives: First, do Iranian villages, from the beginning, have any situation according to the terms of social people participation? The secondary question for this paper is - do Iranian villages pay most of their attention to social capital and rural development in these societies? Taking into consideration, the rural people or government, and the aforementioned questions, we can observe that this research focus on knowing if social participation in Iran villages has any effect on rural development; in other words, Iranian villages are weak in terms of low level population participation in their development, which is the main reason why they do not like to participate, because they look at government holistically. Also, in Iran, they always look at management holistically and that has an effect on rural development (Figure 1).

Participation in rural regions

Participation consists of providing local people with resource and support from internal data into programs of creative efficiency and effective impact (Lowe, 1999: 12). Also, it means a very close cultural, economical, political
Common reasons for lack of attention to social capital in Iranian Villages:

- Disregard the Government to people participation
- Lack of people awareness
- Lack of knowledge about promotion cultural collective
- Not institutionalized people participation

Figure 1. Common reasons for lack of attention to social capital in Iranian villages. Resource: Authors (2011).

process that influences people on their terms of willingness to share the power and decisions from the political system and government by the involvement of people in economical interactions (Yavar, 2001: 10). Participation in the rural region is a concept of human interaction with the geographical environment through optimal productivity of agricultural products in different levels. This is important in past periods through group collaboration systems in different fields such as social, ecological and agricultural fields. Today, for achieving an endogenous development process, a review corporation in rural areas which have their root in the geographical culture of their land is inevitable (Jomehpour, 1994: 108). Also, participation in an exact concept is the redistribution of political and economical powers to benefit the rural poor (Al Ghanmi, 1994: 64).

Social capital

Development of social capital for humans is an evolution and not a goal. It is an element, which humans find suitable according to their abilities and merits (Eftekhari, 2003: 141). Rural development improves the livelihood conditions of the low income rural inhabitants and led to them be self-sufficient (Azkia, 1998: 203). The main element in endogenous development is participation. Some theorists, like Guy, Gandhi, Julius and Friedman, by concentrating on an aspect of development and participation, defined rural development. For example, Drum Guy defines three main elements of participation: (1) division of power and scarce resource, (2) public awareness effort of social groups to control their destiny and improve their situations and (3) creating opportunity for low levels, which Guy believes is needed by the low classes of rural inhabitants to create democratic, independent and people oriented organizations (Khatonabadi, 2005: 109). Also, Gandhi in his participation theory that was based on moral and teaching principles presented his theory on two key concepts: (1) rural self sufficiency and (2) rural inhabitant’s participation. Gandhi, through the peoples’ internal development, wanted rural development to fit with growth and advance stages (Papoliyazdi, 2002: 121). Vitter, in his participatory theory, pointed out that organized farmers in their local agricultural community accepted the insight of planners on value system and people’s lifestyle to create a synergistic establishment that is proportional to the people (Papoliyazdi, 2002: 124). In the theory of justified action, where participation was looked at from behavioral and psychological perspectives, it can be said that participation is a social action and is considered to be visualized by human behaviorists who participate in development. As such, we know that action emerged every time people create a mental concept (Ritter, 1994: 105). Forie, with the present test theory, became conversant with corporation and participation. He knows that there is a need to integrate the zeal to participate in humans. Each human, according to his values and environment, has a specialized approach to participate in the rural development of social groups (Ghafari, 2001:100).

Social participation has emerged as a crucial theoretical tool with which the role of social variables in rural development was investigated (Shucksmith, 2000). More recent studies on social capital and rural development tend to reproduce the broad and loose semantic coverage given to the concept of classical sociological literature on the subject.

As highlighted by Protest (1998), in the intellectual history of the concept, different interpretations of the nature of social capital can be identified in modern sociological thought. While some authors conceived social capital as an indivisible public good which the members of a group can enjoy, others (Coleman, 1990) consider it to be more of an individual asset that actors embed in stable networks of relation-ships that can be used to give access to other resources or capitals. The former have also gave a definition of social capital as consisting of shared norms and values of trust, recipe city and solidarity, whilst the latter have placed more emphasis on individual social networks and
interactions (Islamic Republic of Iran, 1979). Moreover, some studies have used social capital to emphasize the role of strong family and community ties while others highlight the benefits mediated by weak extra-familial and extra community networks (Lerner, 1999:12). A more complex and entreating position has been adopted by Woolcock and Putnam who have distinguished between qualitatively different types of social capital: namely bonding and bridging social capital. The former concerns links found among the members of a homogenous community social group who share a perceived common identity, while the latter identifies weaker and more diverse relationships extending beyond the immediate community. Common to these various interpretations of the concept is the idea that social capital can be particularly important in engendering change, which may explain why change does not occur (Rydin and Holman, 2004: 117). In particular, social capital has often been attributed beneficial effects in promoting local development (Table 1).

As Juslen (1995) argues, for a development initiative to be successful, social capital must be deployed by the actors involved or generated by their interaction. The benefits of social capital are generally identified with its role in reducing transaction costs among actors and in helping to overcome collective action problems (Rydin and Holman, 2004: 129). This explains the fact that the networks and norms of social capital both enhance the advantages of getting together and allows soft sanctions of blame to be applied when individuals choose not to join (Effati, 1993:43). In this paper, it is important to stress that social capital was investigated mainly as a cause of the development process initiated by Iranian villages. Moreover, social capital facilitates the circulation of information and its use within the group fostering the coordination of activities (Table 2).

This discussion highlights that social capital can play a crucial role in Iranian rural programmed development, thus, in order to investigate the specific issue of such a rural development policy, a deeper understanding of social capital is required.

**IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY PLANNING FOR IRANIAN RURAL CENTERS**

Reducing rural poverty and hunger are two fundamental challenges. More than a billion people still exist in conditions of abject poverty. Most of them - more than 800 million - live in rural areas. Thus, increasing the well-being of rural people and sustaining the improvements are key goals of most countries and all development agencies. Rural communities are endowed with land and water (natural capital), but they often do not have the skills (human capital) and organizations (social capital) which are needed to turn the natural resources into

### Table 1. The main research works about the role of social capital in rural development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Criteria discussed</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zhang et al</td>
<td>China Capital Villages</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurtado et al</td>
<td>Assessment of social capital capacity in rural development</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moussiopoulos</td>
<td>The evaluation of social management in the rural region</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah et al</td>
<td>Social capital in health promotion</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakrabarty</td>
<td>Urban management</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burt</td>
<td>Structure of social capital</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klesner</td>
<td>Social capital and political participation in Latin America</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teorell</td>
<td>Social capital in Latin America</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Untangling social capital in Latin America</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resource: Authors, 2011.

### Table 2. The situation of urban and rural population in Mamsani city (1986-2011).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Living in urban areas</th>
<th>Living in rural areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>172129</td>
<td>25233</td>
<td>133216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>175315</td>
<td>51473</td>
<td>116540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>166308</td>
<td>57970</td>
<td>107027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>170412</td>
<td>62456</td>
<td>107004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resource: Census Center of Iran, 2006.
physical assets. Social capital is significant because it affects rural people’s capacity to organize for development (World Bank), and helps rural groups to perform the following key development tasks effectively and efficiently (Shahbazi, 2002:250-251):

(1) Plan and evaluate - make decisions.
(2) Mobilize resources and manage them.
(3) Communicate with each other and coordinate their activities.
(4) Resolve conflicts.

Presently, one of the most important needs of the Iranian population is food and biological needs. So, planning for management of water and soil, investment in different fields of agriculture and activities about training and distribution of the sample cases causes an increase of the product in agricultural fields. Thus, increased agricultural production, by designing of correct strategies, leads to decrease in prices and improvement in the quality of agricultural goods. Perhaps, one of the most effective contributions of social capital is conceptual because “...it adds a social dimension to the development equation of capital that has been mostly ignored in economic explorations of determinants of poverty and household welfare” (Saeidaie, 2008:9). The positive impact of social capital is now well recognized by governments and development agencies that increasingly use decentralization and participatory strategies in their rural development activities.

INTRODUCING THE STUDY AREA

Nor Abad is one of the Iranian cities in Fars province in the southwest of Iran, showing its population from 1986 to 2011. A continual increase in the urban population and a continual decrease in the rural population were observed in these periods; however, these changes were very remarkable. The highest level of those living in the rural areas at about 1986 increased to 77.4% and the lowest was in 2011 with 64.2%. Nonetheless, the rural population loss resulted from the reducing power development in rural areas. The agrarian structure in Nor Abad is based on traditional agriculture in many cases, but it has advance equipment only in some parts of this region. From past decades, an increased use of advance agrarian equipment was observed at Nor Abad, and the process came back in 1962 when an agricultural revaluation was done in Iran (Figure 2).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this study, the research type method was applied in developing and studying the subject with documentation, analytical and surveying references. For gaining access to an exact result, first class sources, such as questionnaire, were used. In the analytical level, with regards to the hypothesis, definitions of difference participations were first presented from each parameter before and after the formation of Islamic councils.

Unit and analytical level

The analytical unit in this paper is the head of the households living
Table 3. Representative of each of the components.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economical</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Social, cultural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dredging channels</td>
<td>Building public constructions</td>
<td>Participate in people’s celebrations and mourning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting, harvesting and product</td>
<td>Building bases services</td>
<td>Visual religious events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determining the kind of planting agricultural land</td>
<td>Solve the sanitation problems</td>
<td>Help poor people in rural areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine the share of water for each family</td>
<td>Presenting health advice to people in rural areas</td>
<td>Solve the challenges between rural peoples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\[
\frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} + \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} - 1 \right) = 367
\]

Figure 3. Cochran formula.

in the central part of the rural regions of Mamsani city (Table 3).

Statistical society

The statistical society consists of households residing in the central part of the rural regions of Mamsani city. According to the results of the 1986 census, the number of rural regions is 120 and the number of families is 10212.

Sampling way, sample size determination and data gathering

In determining the sample size of the households’ head in the case study region, using Kokaran Formula, 367 questionnaires were distributed and were increased to 380 questionnaires in order to obtain better results. Determination of the rural sample size with notice to the distribution and sprawl of the villages was set between these 120 villages and 30 of them were selected. For selection, the sample villages in the central part of Nor Abad was divided into five groups (0-30, 30-60, 60-100, 100-200 and +200), through the probability sampling share of each group of these villages (Ebrahimzadeh, 1998:12). According to the estimates, these shares consist of: 15 rural (0.37) areas with 30 to 60 families; 10 rural (0.28) areas with 60 to 100 families; 3 rural (0.13) areas with 100 to 200 families; 1 rural (0.11) area with +200 families. Thus, each of the groups was determined through simple probability sampling, by choosing the sample villages (Hafeznia, 2001: 117). Accordingly, with regards to each rural area and taking note of the questionnaires filled, Cochran formula was used to evaluate some sets of statistical data which have only a single aspect. It can be said that this formula is not just a way for describing statistical data (Assaiesh, 1996:1-24), but a kind of trustable and safety way to describe all kinds of data. In this formula, N is the number of variables that is related between data. However, an increase in the number of variables implies an increase in Cronbach Alpha. For these analyses, a scale was selected and analyzed in the first stage, while reliability analysis was chosen in the last stage. If the Cronbach Alpha is less than 0.7, it implies that our variables do not have enough stability for our analyses (Shahbazi, 2007).

RESULTS

The data collected from the study villages were analyzed. For confirmation of the hypothesis, the questions posed in two main concepts were analyzed. First, all the analysis parameters before and after Islamic councils formation were confirmed, while the test of the second hypothesis indicated the use of economic, social, service and cultural components investigated separately (Figure 3). The average of participation rate in all components analyzed is located based on Wilcoxon test. However, the value of the test assumptions is 0.05 in Alpha significant level (Table 4).

Test of the first assumption

For analyzing the first assumption, only the rate of the popular participation before and after the formation of Islamic councils was compared, in which the average of participations before and after the formation of this organization equals 2/34 and 2/15, respectively. Table 5 shows this very clearly. According to this test, P was calculated in ALPHA level (0.05) with 95% confidence higher than 0.05 alpha rate, and it could not be accepted that \( H_0 \) profited \( H_1 \). As a result of this, the significance of the first assumption could not be accepted, in that there is a noticeable difference before and after the formation of Islamic councils in the central part of Noor Abad, Mamsani.

Test of the second assumption

For the analysis of different participation rates in the
Table 4. Vilcaxson test for the noticeable difference before and after formation of Islamic councils in the central part of Noor Abad Mamsani.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dials</th>
<th>Calculated data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stratum average before formation of Islamic councils</td>
<td>2/34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratum average after formation of Islamic councils</td>
<td>2/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculated Z</td>
<td>-1/153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance level</td>
<td>0.249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resource: Authors, 2011.

Table 5. Vilcaxson test for the noticeable difference before and after formation of Islamic councils in the central part of Noor Abad Mamsani in dredging channels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dials</th>
<th>Calculated data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stratum average before formation of Islamic councils</td>
<td>2/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratum average after formation of Islamic councils</td>
<td>1/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units of negative strataums</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units of positive strataums</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units of inactive strataums</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculated Z</td>
<td>-8/629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance level</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rate of participation in economical ordinances

Participation in dredging channels: According to the test, calculated P is smaller than Alpha 0.05. Consequently, $H_1$ assumption can be accepted, while $H_0$ can be rejected, and this is noticed differently before and after formation of Islamic councils in the central part of Noor Abad Mamsani (Table 5).

Participation in solving rural popular problems: According to Table 6, we assume that the calculated P in Alpha level is 0.05 with 95% confidence subsidiary. We removed $H_0$ to profit $H_1$ assumption and there is a significant difference between yokels' participation in solving rural popular problems Table 6.

Mobilization of people in solving rural problems

The value of calculated P with 95% confidence was below 0.05 Alpha, and $H_0$ was rejected for $H_1$ assumption to be accepted. As such, there is significant difference between yokels' participation on mobilization of a solution to rural problems.

DISCUSSION

Ingredients of yokel's participation in rural fields from ancient periods to now are based on different dials. Accordingly, the stimulus of humans is the main factor in determining the kind and type of participations on visuals in rural areas. Reducing rural poverty and hunger are two fundamental challenges. More than a billion people still exist in conditions of abject poverty. Most of them - more than 800 million - live in rural areas. Thus, increasing the well-being of rural people and sustaining the improvements are key goals of most countries and all development agencies. Rural communities are endowed with land and water (natural capital), but they often do not have the skills (human capital) and organizations (social capital), which are needed to turn the natural resources into physical assets. Social capital is significant because it affects rural people's capacity to organize development. In between economic dials, some parameters, such as dredging channels and planting were seen. Harvesting and product determine the kind of agricultural land that would be used for planting, while the share of water for each family play a more important role in the central part of Noor Abad Mamsani. In services, dials' results show that locals would like to play a more active role in improving these services, especially sanitation services. In fact, social capital participation plays a great role in...
agrarian development in the case study region. In the past decades, the rate of these participations was very high, but was without agrarian revelation in Iran after a change in 1962. In this way, and from one decade to another, these participations decreased in high scale. H₁ assumption was accepted and H₀ was rejected, due to the difference noticed before and after formation of Islamic councils in the central part of Noor Abad Mamsani.

**SUGGESTIONS**

- Creation of local organizations for yokels’ participation.
- Rural people should easily accept surveillance systems.
- There should be a change in government and agents’ standpoint to participate, and in inviting yokels to participate in plans and projects.
- Confidence experts should be used to guide the yokels’ performance of plans.
- Social and cultural rural traditions should be considered when inviting yokels to participate in plans and projects.
- Fields of traditional participation in all regions of Iran can be seen differently, in that the yokels’ abilities are restricted in trying to solve these limitations; as such, they should improve on their rural abilities.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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Analytic the Situation of Social Capital Resources in Rural Development

Solutions

Good Relations between Governors and Social Groups

Social group and Social Network

Point on Human capitals

Assessment of Social Capital

Improve Situation of People Rural People