

Analysis of Human Development of Villages Based on Global Index, A Case Study: Kelardasht County, Chalus City in Mazandaran Province, Iran

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Abstract: In modern world and in the age of globalization, villages are safe desirable places for leisure time and relaxation. Therefore, attention to villages means life revival and return to Mother Nature. This research investigates three human development indices, namely life expectancy, literacy and per capita income. From 19 residential villages of Kelardasht County, three villages (Tabareso, Telochal and Kolmeh) were selected based on random sampling and studied. According to environmental and geographical capacities and the antiquity of these settlements, it was expected to have a high level of human development in villages, but due to the lack of management and rural planning, many changes happened in physical, economic and social structure, which made it hard to return to an optimal status. As a result, based on ecological condition of the region and national development planning, it was decided that the "multiple" rural tourism approach would be the best to promote human development. This research aims to analyze human development of the study villages according to global indices. The nature of present study is descriptive and analytical by means of library and field data.

Key words: Literacy % Rural settlements % Rural planning % Human development % Life expectancy

INTRODUCTION

In the process of globalization of villages, the third world villages are affected by internal and external factors; that is due to lack of proper management and its constituent elements [1]. The consequences were the immigration of villagers to cities, inefficiency of services and finally economic depression in rural area [2, 3]. This decline has resulted in cultural poverty, social and political restrictions [4]. It is known that in 1955, the theory of economic growth was developed by Lewis [5] who turned to rural planning and set four main goals including the creation of job opportunities in villages, the promotion of standard of living in villages paid attention to economic and social lag. Finally, destruction of beautiful and natural landscapes of the villages and preservation of the beauty of villages are prevented [6].

In the past two decades, many geographers [7-15] were interested in rural issues which have been influenced by several theories and perspectives such as behaviorism, analysis of systems, political economy, actor-network and post-structural theories. It should be noted that political economics had considerable impacts on rural developments [16].

Nevertheless, it has been proven that many of these strategies have no comprehensive application for the rural atmospheres. In order to moderate population migration, bring welfare and prevent the destruction of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources; it is necessary to set up a rural plan which can provide suitable mechanism.

In order to renovate the structures of the urban and rural societies and eliminate duality in their status quo, it is essential for the rural planning to have a thoroughly understanding of the geographical situation and its history as well as the political interventions (whether domestic or foreign) and the dominant structure in line with national development [17].

Walmsley has believed that the primitive and rural societies required opportunities to improve themselves through hard work. In many areas, tourism as a development strategy can be promoted by the societies [18].

Development can be traced in a long-term actual per capita income [19]. In the third world countries, improvement in financial condition and standard of living of the thickly populated groups may create rapid economical growth [20]. In fact economical growth improve life and boost production.

The positive growth may end up more production, increase life facilities such as housing, hygienic and educational facilities and employment [21, 22].

The most outstanding economic and social theorists who possessed some creative ideas of human development including economic growth and global and sustainable development [3, 17, 23-25].

According to Weber [26], it is necessary to extend social and cultural activities and develop the social and cultural self-governed institutions for cultural progress and promotion of human values. In the late 1990s, Huntington, *et al.* [27] followed issues of human development with democracy and people's direct involvement in politics [17, 19]. Inglehart [28], used human development as a point for criticism, evaluation and theories for development especially the human development [28].

Straussfogel [29] mentions such variables as the death rate in children, the literacy rate in adults and life expectancy from the first year of life. The common features of the definitions for economic and social development include the following indices: production growth, health and hygiene promotion, the growth rate of hope for life, expansion of literacy or reduction in illiteracy, increase in communications, promotion in the rate of per capita income and relative welfare.

The first definition given by the United Nations [30] describes human development as "a process for the extension of people's choices". Basically, these choices can be unlimited and different in different occasions. There are, however, three essentials in any level of development which are as follows:

i. Having the opportunity for a long and healthy life; ii. receiving education and iii. having access to the necessary facilities and instruments to reach the two main goals; that is, a reasonable life. If these three choices are not available, many other chances will remain inaccessible [31].

However, the mental (quantitatively immeasurable) indices of human development such as self esteem, human rights, the right to choose one's own destiny, love for fellow humans and sympathy which have been put aside these days cannot be analyzed quantitatively.

Methodology: This research is a descriptive-analytical approach by means survey in field study. The method employed in this research is based on library and field sources. Furthermore, to enhance the accuracy of findings, the interview method was also employed. The sample population includes three villages, namely

Tabareso, Telochal and Kolmeh, which were randomly selected. From each of these villages, 45 households (about 10% of village population) were chosen as the sample size for the economic index and the whole villages were selected as the index of hope for life and education. Then based on world human development index, the collected data were analyzed.

RESULTS

The study region was the central rural district of Kelardasht, which is located in Chalus County, Mazandaran Province, in north of Iran. Its coordinates are 36°29'51"N 51°8'59"E. The central rural district of Kelardasht consists of a plain which is three kilometers wide. The total area of Kelardasht is 600 square meters. The center of Kelardasht is called Kordichal village. Most of the villages are located at foot of the mountains and so are in the cold areas. According to Iranian Statistics in year 2006 [32], there is a population of 11999 including people of the urban area. It has a growth rate of 1.36 per year. The total populations of present study in the villages were 8402 with 2401 households. This district has 30 areas and 19 rural settlements [33].

The development and regional-national impacts on rural structure in this area can be categorized into 3 periods:

In the first period, in addition to Gil tribe, who were the first settlers in this region, there was a compulsory settlement of other tribes such as Kurds and Turks. Furthermore, some parts of the land were allocated to those immigrants as fief and this action resulted in intensification of exploitation of natural resources [34].

The French geographer de Planol [35] who has believed in two ever-growing pressure factors, which lead to imbalance between population and resources in this area. One of them is population and the other is the need to utilize forest [35].

The second period started from the first half of the 1960s which witnessed the global development of the villages and agricultural or green revolution. The development project in Iran was considered as one of the priorities of known as White Revolution of Pahlavi II era. The result of this political reform and agricultural revolution was large-scale planning, ignoring the principles of management and supervision in the rural level. The rights of the masters and landlords were usurped, land was unfairly divided between farmers and lack of control in preservation of the forests and ranches were other consequences.

In the third period, political changes followed by the Islamic Revolution in 1979 gave rise to a new wave for the opportunists to destroy and usurp the rural natural resources. This was followed by the propaganda of the greedy capitalists to buy and sell land and change the use of the rural productive areas. The villages near the main road were transformed into cities and other villages which were far were left unnoticed. The consequences of the farming land sale cannot be restricted to the reduction in human capitals in the region; rather than the attraction of rise in land price, doubts about the destruction of the forest and natural resources to gain more financial profits caused people to sell their land at a price of several times higher than normal value. These events resulted in the reduction of social capital indices like mutual trust, comfort, security and cultural identity in the area. Changes in culture and social relationships led to disruption of economic ties among villages and hence reduction in their usual activities [36].

DISCUSSION

To calculate the index for human development according to standards of United Nations, three indices are used: a. life expectancy at birth b. level of education, c. domestic gross production per person. There is a fluctuation between 0 and 1 for the value of human development. The more this index is near to zero, the lower is the human development and the more it is close to 1, the higher is the human development of the intended village.

The Respective Indices Include: Life span is measured based on life expectancy at birth. According to definition set by United Nations, the minimum life span is 25 years and the maximum is 85. The minimum and maximum life spans in the study villages are summarized in Table 1.

The number of deceased people (which is only available based on tombstones) is as follows: in Tabareso, 26 people; the life span was 77.5; however, women had an average life span of 53 years. In Telochal, 67 people; the average life span was 63.5 and in Kolmeh, 96 people and the average life span was 64.

Access to education includes the level of education of the adults and the rate of enrollment in all educational levels. In this research, access to education was calculated according to the ratio of school and university students to the whole population.

The reasonable standard of living is calculated according to domestic gross production per person. Table 2 shows relative distribution of the respondents in the villages from the economic aspects.

However, the data related to this index are different according to the level of analysis. It means that these data were not specifically available in the villages. Thus, the final figures were drawn based on calculation per capita income, regular and irregular incomes (derived from different activities during a year) and probable spending used with respect to genders (male or female) and diseases. In this research, instead of using this index, per capita spending was employed.

The size of each of these indicators is calculated based on following equation:

$$Xi = \frac{\text{real size of } xi - \text{minimum size } xi}{\text{maximum size of } xi - \text{minimum size of } xi}$$

After the size of each of the indicators has been calculated, the size of the index of human development is derived based on mean value of its three constituent indices:

Table 1: The life span in the study villages of Kelardasht county in the past 50 years

Villages	Number of deceased	life expectancy
Tabareso	26	77.75
Telochal	67	63.5
Kolmeh	96	64

Table 2: Relative distribution of the respondents in the villages from the economic aspects

Villages	Frequency	Relative Percentage
Kolmeh	20	44.4
Telochal	10	22.2
Tabareso	15	33.3
Total	45	100

Table 3: The index of human development in the study villages in Kelardasht rural district (2010)

Villages	Rate of life expectancy	Rate of education	Rate of per capita income	Index of human development
Tabareso	0.880	0.125	0.207	0.404
Telochal	0.642	0.205	0.324	0.390
Kolmeh	0.650	0.083	0.227	0.320

$$\text{Tabareso Village} = \frac{0.880+0.125+0.207}{3} = 0.404$$

$$\text{Telochal Village} = \frac{0.642+0.205+0.324}{3} = 0.390$$

$$\text{Kolmeh Village} = \frac{0.650+0.083+0.227}{3} = 0.320$$

Table 3 shows the value of each of the indicators of the human development index for the three villages of Tabareso, Telochal and Kolmeh in year 2010. As the table indicates, the coefficient for human development for the study villages was lower than 0.5, proving that the status of human development is very low in these villages, because its values do not reach even the normal or average level.

CONCLUSION

Like cities, in the process of globalization, villages were affected. Therefore, for the sake of preservation of villages, it is necessary to pay special attention to human development. Based on collected data; in this research and viewing the study area comparatively, it can be concluded that the highest level of human development (about 0.404) was found in the village of Tabareso followed by Telochal (0.390) and Kolmeh (0.320) having second and third ranks, respectively. If these figures are generalized to whole rural community; the mean of human development in Kelardasht County is 0.371. However, according to the statistics provided in year 2002, the mean value of the human development for Iran was 0.759.

It can be inferred that the degree of human development in the study area was lower than that in the whole country. So this requires a well-established program in the identified area to achieve development on a nation-wide scale. Based on previous studies conducted, this area should have acquired more development due to its favorable geographical position and rich human and natural resources. The index mean value for the three villages, 0.371, was lower than those of poor and weak countries such as Nigeria, (0.470), Mali, (0.380) and Guinea (0.374), but these villages can be compared with the villages in the Alps (France has an index of 0.952 and Switzerland has an index of 0.955). By

identifying the opportunities and detecting the threats, it will be possible to do planning and promote the study villages to the level of developed countries in terms of human development. At the end, it should be mentioned that using their rich potential capacities, these villages can achieve development through multiple rural tourist approach.

Further Research:

- C Management and planning should be conducted with respect to ecological conditions and natural resources.
- C The valuable and sustainable activities in the study area should be identified.
- C The division and sale of farming villages should be stopped.
- C There should be economic cooperation among villages.
- C The potentials available to each village should be identified in order to attract tourism, ecotourism and the villagers should be supported.

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