

ARTICLE

EVALUATION OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF LORESTAN PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Women have always played important vital and creative roles in every area of life such as economic, politics, religion, culture and etc. just like men. In human's civilization, we can see important signs of women and they have now shown an undeniable glitter in the world's biggest treasures in the frame of left works from prehistoric, historic and after historic areas. These guiding roles include women's presence in every art arena and handicrafts as the most original ones that are main instances of human's civilization. The goal of this paper is to rank the women's roles in economic and social developments for Lorestan province. We have used ELECTRE model and its research method is analytic – descriptive. Early results of this research show that according to the considered indexes for ranking the cities of Lorestan, Khoramabad, Borujerd and Aligoodarz have the first to third ranks. In other words, they have most of the scores.

INTRODUCTION

These days, women have an undeniable role in societies' social and economic activities. It is really important and necessary to pay attention to women's talents in developing societies and countries. The researches and investigations that have been done on the women's participation in social affairs, reveal that social and cultural factors and different expectations of societies from men and women have always considered important obstacles for women's participation in societies (Rostami, 2004). Recent studies of socialists show that getting a constant development is not possible without women's active participation in every field including family, economic and social ones (Akbari, 2012, 38) participation is a process of making decision (Khani et al, 2009) and actually means a public interference in Urban development programs that is considered an important element in social consistency since they consider people's participation important and effective in making social funds and they knew that it ends in more people's participation and finally social consistency (UNHSP, 2009). Women's situation in every society shows the improvement of that society. And this is a fact that is going to be understood more and more by more people (Mahamoodian, 2003). Researches about working women in cities and villages have revealed the importance and different productive activities of women in the economy of developing countries. However, this issue is more important for rural women. Because being woman increases the probability of being poor (Chant, 2003). Rural women's participation in working is more than men and more than urban men or women especially in developed countries. Because the production structure and work relations are traditional (Soroosh Mehr, et al, 2010). When women live in rural societies, they can experience discrimination and poverty since they are in charge of economic activities that do not end in a reasonable income (kaur, 2005). The UN's meeting on the development and environment in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 was an important happening for the women all over the world. Since they investigated the important role of women in gaining a different type of development in a constant social, economic and environmental way and they emphasized on their role in managing the environment and more environmental developments. In 21 bill of this meeting, women have been considered as a main group whose participation is necessary in order to reach developments. According to the millennium development goals, sexual equality and strengthening women have been considered as efficient ways in combating poverty, starvation and diseases and as factors that actually create developments (Pearl, 2003) (Lucas, 2001). Actually paying attention to the women's role in development process in the first 70s was because of two importance facts of failing to meet general development ideas in improving conditions in developing countries and improving unpleasant economic, social and cultural situation of women in these countries (RouhAfza et al, 2009). Although during the recent decades the emphasizes have led to attract attentions to reviewing development processes and changing the attitudes toward the women's role in society, still there are several dimensions of this affair that are not completely clear and still women have not been able to find their special situation in the process of development even in their normal daily life. In fact, women are seen as presenters of development programs that are designed and edited by men. Therefore, women's participation can be considered as a main factor in the success of the programs and in this way women must interfere in forming these programs and feel that the programs actually belong to them (Akbari, 2012) According to the present paper, we will investigate the women's role in social and economic developments.

Background of the research

Experimental researcher inside and outside the country have dealt with the women's participation and role that shows the effect of different factors on the expectations of their participation and decisions. Sarmady and et al (1994) investigated the economic and social role of women in Ahandan village. Their research indicated that in rural families although women are more active in production than men, among different groups of people, 76 percent of women were in low economic level, 74 percent in mid-level and 56

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percent of rich women were the family work force in rice and tea farms. Pourarabi (1997) investigated the women's role in rural activities of Ramsar. The results indicate that more than 96 percent of rural women have at least one economic activity that complements the families' income. However, type and amount of their economic activities was affected by a group of geographical, social, economic and cultural factors. The results also showed that active rural women were not producers themselves in their village and family economic. As a result, although they are mostly engaged in economic activities, they can't use state validities easily and face lots of abstracts. This research indicated that the motivation of more than 87 percent of the studied women was their families' economic demands. This shows the importance of rural housewives, presence in several economic activities in order to help their family's economic situation and prevent poverty for rural families Babayi (2000) did a research and distinguished the economic and social situation of 93 percent of women in Hamedan province. The findings of this research revealed that 2/52 percent were in the mid-level and only 9 percent were in high or very high levels women of Hamedan cities such as, Nahavand, Toyserkan, Razan, Bahar, Asad Abad, and Kaboodar Ahange had higher to lower level of social – economic situation relatively. Lahsayizade and et al (2005) investigated the women's role in rural economic activities and their role in the area of Fars province. The findings of this research showed that there is a reverse relationship between education and women's economic participation. Also their participation in economic activities increases as they get older. Women's participation decreases as men's education and income increases. Finally, it was shown that the strongest factor that determines the economic participation of women is actually their attitude towards their jobs. Sedka Halim (2005) did a research as "Gender and villages that have electricity in Bangladesh." The findings of the mentioned research indicates that one of the effective factors in improving rural women's decisions is the level of technology.

One of the criteria of regional planning for specifying inequalities is determining the situations of regions according to developmental indexes (Ziari et al, 2008). There is a common belief in development policy and literature that improving gross national products and high per capita income are main development axes. (Taghvayi et al, Abdolahi, 2009) development as a global project (Sarvar, 2012) is a gradual process in improving human's situation, and includes activities for reaching material improvement and social evolution. The main goal of development is actually eliminating inequalities and the best concept of development, is growth with social justice (Gharakloo et al, 2006). The Concept of development is economic growth (Ziari, 2006) and Fast and continuous growth of the real per capital accompanied with the social improvements (Ziari and et al, 2012). In order to reach a balanced development that ends in improving the lives of all people, needs appropriate national and regional planning (Kargar et al, 2011). "Economic development" is a qualitative concept that is related to changes in production capacity, production and distribution institutions, the quality of productions and also their variety. In order to judge about development or un-development or comparing different situation of different regions. We have to use some indexes to evaluate the level of development (Salamifar, 2003). Regional development is one of the subjects that has attracted the attention of programmers especially the regional ones. Key economic, social, sanitation, industrial and other indexes in different levels are also suitable criteria in determining the location of different regions, they also need attentions in regional level and determining national – regional compatibility and consistency (Hekmatnia et al, 2006).

The concept of consistent development is understood and interpreted in different ways in different countries. These difference all reflect a variety in environmental economic, social and political conditions. The term "consistent development" was firstly used in 1980 in the report of international committee about protecting natural resources. In general, constant development has got multi-dimensional interpretations (Ratner, 2004). We usually consider difference among social and ecologic goals. In the view of Seeger, one of the key roles in constant development, is public participation, information access and justice. According to this rule, people must be able to participate in the process of making decisions which is effective in their welfare and their life. Women have an authoritative role in the process of making decisions. Actually they provide opportunities for making decisions and public thoughts. They increase critical thinking. Social justice and public performance towards profitable goals for the society reveals that constant development has three prominent characteristics that are all very interesting for women. Firstly, consistent development is mostly based on distribution than production (Kolayi, 2003). The second prominent characteristic of constant development is that it is related to future not present and therefore, we can see a sort of foresight. Its third characteristic is that it is mostly related to nourishment than development (Kolayi et al, 2006).

Research method

The research method is analytic – descriptive. Some of the necessary data were collected from the statistic center. One of the most important indexes that has been used is the education of working women, the number of housewives and economic participation rate. In this research, we have rated different cities of Lorestan province such as Aligoodarz, Borujerd, Khoramabad, Dalfan, Dorood, Koohdasht, Azna, Poldokhtar and Selseleh by economic and social indexes and ELECTRA model. The method of making decisions has different indexes that each has its specific characteristics and usage condition.



Fig.1: The situation of Lorestan province

ELECTRE model is a multi-criteria method that was firstly presented by Yu in 1992, and then was improved some years later. This method is a method for making decisions. It is multi-criteria and categorizes the option based on pre-determined interval (Malekmohammadi et al, 2008). This categorization results from the comparison of each option with profiles that determine the boundaries of social levels. (Berger, 2002). ELECTRE technic was firstly offered by Benayouand then developed by Van Delft, Nijkamp, Royand his et al. The concept of this method is better rate relations (Tavari and et al, 2008). In this method, we use the concept of “domination” implicitly (Khaliji et al, 2013) in this method, options are used in an implicit way and are compared two by two. So dominant and weak options are identified and then the target weak and beaten options are evaluated (Roy, 1991). If in a multi-criteria decision issue there are N criteria and M options, we should perform the following processes by ELECTRE method in order to choose the best option:

First step: changing decision matrix to anti-scale matrix.

There are different methods for making them without units but in ELECTRE method, we usually use the following relation (Tille et al, 2003):

$$r_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m x_{ij}^2}}$$

Second step: forming anti-scale, weighted matrix, in which V matrix is the weight of indexes, diameter matrix whose only main element is non-zero and W is anti-scale weighted.

$$V = N_b \cdot W_n$$

Third step: forming agreed and disagreed collection of criteria: In this step, all the options are evaluated in ratio with all the criteria and agreed and disagree collections are used.

$$l_{ke} = \{j \mid |V_{kj} - V_{ej}|\}$$

If the considered criterion has a positive aspect: if the considered criterion has a negative aspect

$$l_{ke} = \{j \mid |V_{kj} - V_{ej}|\}$$

The forth step: calculating the agreed and disagreed matrixes. These matrixes' diameter does not have any elements.

$$C_{ke} = \frac{\sum_{j \in l_{ke}} W_j}{\sum_{j=1}^m W_j}$$

And other elements of this matrix derive from the sum of agree square $m \times m$ disagree square matrix whose diameter does not have any elements and other elements of this matrix derive from anti-scaleweightedmatrix.

$$d_{ke} = \frac{\max_{j \in l_{ke}} |V_{kj} - V_{ej}|}{\max_{j \in J} |V_{kj} - V_{ej}|}$$

Here, we should mention that data in agree matrix have main differences with the data in disagreed ones.

$$C = \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{\substack{e=1 \\ e \neq k}}^{m-1} \frac{C_{ke}}{m(m-1)}$$

The fifth step: calculating effective agree matrix by the following formula.

$$f_{ke} = \begin{cases} 0 & C_{ke} \geq C^- \\ 1 & C_{ke} < C^- \end{cases}$$

The sixth step: calculating effective disagree matrix.

$$d^- = \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{e=k}^m \frac{d_{ke}}{m(m-1)}$$

$$g_k = \begin{cases} 0 & d_{ke} > d^- \\ 1 & d_{ke} \leq d^- \end{cases}$$

The seventh step: determining a general effective matrix, the final dominant matrix it is resulted from multiplication of each entry of agree dominant matrix F to disagree dominant matrix G.

$$h_{ke} = f_{ke} \cdot g_{ke}$$

The eighth step: Eliminating less satisfactory options and choosing the best option. The final dominant matrix reveals the detailed preference of the options. For instance if he equals one means that k is better than e and it is acceptable but k can be dominated by other options. We should choose the options that are mostly dominants that beaten and in this way, we can rate the options (Atayi, 2008). Infected the preferred option is the one that has the least number 1 in the column (Mirfakhredini et al, 2010).

The ninth step: eliminating low-gravity options, general matrix shows relative order of the options. That is

$h_{k1} = 1$ indicated that A_k is better than A_1 in terms of coordination and coordination criteria A_k still can be dominated by the options of coworkers (Vahdani, 2011)

Table 1: The current situation of target cities in the used indexes of Lorestan province.

Criteria	The employees Women	The Unemployed Women	The housewives	Educated Women	The employees of Women in higher institutions
Aligoodarz	34302	9645	31891	49	25
Borujerd	88080	18376	84117	482	83
Khoramabad	132508	56404	98267	765	220
Dalfan	29865	11653	28473	16	0
Dorood	34466	17338	38999	63	22
Koohdasht	42232	28518	42951	97	4
Azna	19774	6599	16050	20	5
Poldokhtar	19792	9038	16234	36	5
Selseleh	13358	12322	13878	30	0

Resource: Statistical Yearbook of Lorestan province 2011

Table 2: The normalized matrix

Criteria	The employees Women	The Unemployed Women	The housewives	The Educated Women	The employees of Women in higher institutions
Aligoodarz	1547	640	617	0.48	0/57
Borujerd	3971	1219	1682	4/7	1/89
Khoramabad	5974	3742	1902	7/46	5/02
Dalfan	1346	773	551	0/16	0
Dorood	1553	11500	755	0/61	0/5
Koohdasht	1904	1892	831	0/95	0/09
Azna	891	437	310	0/2	0/11
Poldokhtar	892	599	314	0/35	0/18
Selseleh	602	817	268	0/29	0

Resource: Writers

Table 3: The final ranking

Cities	Aligoodarz	Brojerd	KhoramAbad	Dalfan	Dorood	Koohdasht	Azna	Poldokhtar	Selseleh
A1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
A2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
A3	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
A4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
A5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
A6	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
A7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
A9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Resource: Writers

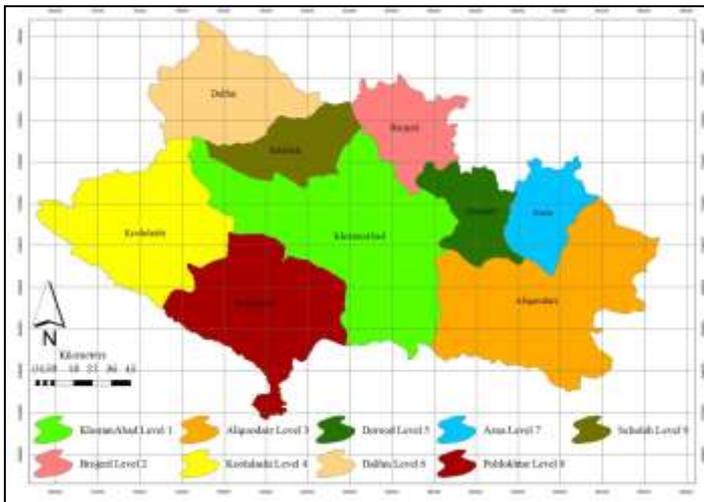


Fig. 2: Ranking women's roles in social and economic developments

CONCLUSION

Participation results in strengthening and going far from the traditional paradigm of providing by engaging people who are the subject of development (Hamdi et al, 1996). One of the most important practical strategies of the women's participation in development is their capabilities. Here we should emphasize that women's participation does not only mean taking advantage of them in the advantages and results of development programs. However, they should have active participation in performing programs and in development plans. (Sai et al, 2009) In general, women's roles in local and regional planning is neglected and their daily activities are considered a normal work that doesn't have any particular structural effect. Indeed, women are seen as independent agents in the human's changes (safari shali, 2001) since 1980 the concept of "gender and development" has replaced the terms "woman in development". Gender and development do not have anything to do with women. However, they are related to social structure of gender and the role of responsibilities and expectation that society has from the men and women (Kolayi and et al 2006) Develop men is not impartial. Infect development ignores different characteristics of women and hurts them. After two decades from the start of development programs (1960 and 1970) that was announced by the UN, the world faced stunning statistics in the early 1990s. Women did 67 percent of the worlds' working hours, and earned 10 percent of the world's income. Two thirds of women were illiterate (gender and development, 1994). Occupational participation actually reveals the women's social role and fulfils the expectations of those who have those positions. Women's occupation is one of the important elements in developing social and economic life and also shows flourishing of talents and capabilities of a great proportion of the society. We should pay attention that basically fewer women are employed in Iran compared with other countries and this few number of women are in few number of jobs. Women's social and economic role is really important in societies. Besides development goals and improvements in programming, it is necessary to have balance in development gifts among women work force. And if it is not considered, it may result in an increase in social inequalities. "Justice" is a concept which has always been the human being's concern. Therefore social growth of women in education and occupation indicates their potential capabilities. Society needs appropriate and worthy work force in different fields, and the main goal of society is also developments in social and economic growth and improvements. Therefore, women should be used in important and sensitive positions of society in order to provide welfare and calmness for different people of a society. This paper has shown that in recent decades, women have not participated a lot in Lorestan province and this can be a warning for the development of this province. Since if social justice is not visible in a society, that society will definitely face numerous problems. The results of ELECTRE technic in evaluating women's roles in economic and social developments of the cities of Lorestan province, specially the west ones (Delfan, selseleh and Koohdasht) Shows that women have little social and economic participation. One of the advantages of using this technic is that it prioritizes the cities based on their participation, specifying final weight to each criterion based on their utilitarian in a way that by means of this we can differentiate the cities of Lorestan province in terms of social and economic developments. By calculating 5 indexes of working women, unemployment rate, the number of housewives, the number of literate and working women in academic institutions and centers, it was seen that these indexes were not equal in different cities of this province. According to ELECTRE model, women in Khoramabad, Borujerd and Aligoodarz were in the first to the third grades in social and economic developments. While women in Koohdasht, Dorood, Delfan, Azna, Poldokhtar, and Selseleh occupied the forth to ninth grades. Of-course here, it is necessary to mention that cities in the center of the province have the most role however, the cities in the boundaries or the cities that are far from the center have the least role in social and economic progress of Lorestan.

Therefore, we should pay special attention to the women's role in progress of the mentioned cities in the future programming and plans.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

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