

## **Sociological Explanation of Economic Participation among Young People in Khalkhal City**

**Eghbaleh Azizkhani<sup>\*1</sup>**  
**Mahin Maleki<sup>2</sup>**

Received 25 February 2017; Accepted 28 September 2017

### ***Abstract***

The present research was conducted with the aim to sociologically explicate the economic participation among young people in Khalkhal. What is highly important in this research is the necessity to give priority to economic participation. The theories of ideologists such as Rostow, Learner, Marxist and Tok were employed to conduct this research. Meanwhile, survey method and questionnaires were used. The statistical population consisted of 3600 individuals of 18 years old (according to the figures given by the registration of personal status office) and then 380 individuals were selected as the sample in result of using multistage cluster sampling technique. In order to analyze the data, two descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized. Research findings indicated that independent variables of citizenship feeling, political alienation, social support, political trust, religiousness, mass media, group pressure, coordination, socioeconomic station are meaningfully related to the dependent variable of economic participation.

***Keywords:*** Economic participation, Citizenship feeling, Group pressure, Trust, Social support, Political alienation.

---

1.<sup>\*</sup>Department of Social Sciences, Khalkhal Branch, Islamic Azad university, Khalkhal, Iran, azizkhani\_aukh@yahoo.com (Corresponding author)

2. Department of Cultural Sociology, Central Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran, mahin\_maleki3002@yahoo.com

## 1. Problem Statement

The word *participation* has been derived from the words of part, unit, fragment, section and so on. It also means to share in something or to take a part of something. Of course the starting point of participation goes back to the first gatherings of human beings in the history, but the word *participatory* was first used in 1950s in the culture of development (Popli Yazdi & Ibrahim 2007, p. 116). Participation has different forms such as political, mental, cultural, and socioeconomic. Learner believes that real and comprehensive participation includes all forms of participation and this form of participation can contribute to sustainable development. Participation, whether cultural, political, social, economic or mental, is among primary indexes of development being used in sociological, social and psychological resources and political sciences with independent and persistent meanings. Participation in its general feature means to take part in an activity or attend in a group or organization in order to make a decision or play a role. In political-sociological context, it refers to voluntary activity of the members of a society in the affairs of their region, city, or country, whether directly, or indirectly in order to form the social and political life (Mohseni Tabrizi, 1997, p. 6). Some scholars look at participation as the prerequisite of persistent development, because in the development, the main aim is to make capabilities of people emerge in two individual and social aspects, and this will be realized only in the light of public participation (Soroosh, 2000, p. 94). In fact, the economic participation can be realized by focusing on the effectiveness on procedure and dynamism of production, relationship ruling this dynamism and material instruments for the fulfillment of material needs and increasing production level in the frame of intervention and involvement of individuals in the decision making system relative to allocation of economic resources and participation in the economic development policy (Ghaffari, 2001, p. 147). Economic participation is closely correlated with the production process and productive systems. Cooperatives are the most systematic forms of economic participation (Saeedi, 2002, p. 11).

In other words, participation is one of necessary conditions of realization of development in economic, social, and political realms, depending on the

creative and effective role of people in the development process. In fact, participation is a process encompassing all types of individual and collective actions in order to intervene in the determination of one's and the society's fortune and effectiveness on decision making in a public affair (Zahedi, 2010). The present research seeks to give answer to the major question of factors influencing the degree of inclination of young people toward participation in economic activities.

## **2. Research Objectives**

### General Objective

- Sociological explanation of economic participation among young people in Khakhal

### Subordinate Objectives

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of their use of media

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of social support

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of citizenship feeling

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of political alienation

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of political trust

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of religiousness

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of group pressure

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and the degree of coordination and

- Determination of relationship between economic participation of young people and their economic and social bases

### **3. The Importance and Necessity of Conducting Research**

In studying plans, non-existence of public participation has been considered as the major factor of failure in developmental plans. Developmental plans during recent decades indicate that they have been mainly based on 'blueprint' and 'up-to-down' planning. The insufficiency of these approaches is that the majority of people are rarely allowed to take part in the planning process of development. In fact, they didn't have an active role in it. However, during 1980s, most thinkers in the field of social planning paid remarkable attention to a new method of planning called down-to-up, (Niazi, 2002, p. 38). Investigation about participation in its extensive meaning started when researchers began to study development and reasons and impacts of evolutions on social, cultural, economic, and political changes. Thus, the concept of participation became an integral part of theories of development. Consequently, since the second part of 20<sup>th</sup> century, several conventions, organizations and research institutions began to study and identify different dimensions of participation. Paying remarkable attention to participation during the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century contributed to the extension of research in different dimensions and changes from cultural, political and economic indexes to social. In fact, during that period of time a great deal of scientific information of etiology (knowledge of causes of events), epidemiology (outbreak of events), levels, models, and types of participation was obtained (Mohseni Tabrizi, 2001, p. 12).

### **4. Research Background**

Lahsaezadeh et al., (2005) in their case study of Fars province studied the economic participation among rural women. It is based on using the theory of Collins which is based on the conflict theory in micro-level status. In that research, the practical barriers on the way of participation of women in different fields have been observed. Its important findings are the reverse relationship between the education degree of women and their economic participation. Also with the increase of their age, women's participation increases. Meanwhile, with the increase of men's education and income level, the economic participation of women reduces. Interestingly, the strongest

variable explaining changes in women's economic participation is their attitude toward their employment. Variables of the degree of mass media use, men's attitude toward women's economic role, and their self-confidence are other variables, explaining 33.8 percent of changes of the dependent variable. Zaranezhad and Montazer Hojat studied the economic participation, employment and unemployment of women during years 1976-2002.

Research results show that in spite of the relative progress during recent decades and women's employment, in Iran, the ratio of their employment is much lower than that of men. This is a fact that women's activity level has remained unchanged for forty years. Yet no remarkable attention has been paid to women's economic activity and their direct participation in national production for many reasons. According to Bamdad (1998), the improvement of socioeconomic status of the society necessitates the increase of women's employment level. Also cultural and social discriminations among men and women are serious obstacles on the way of increase of women's economic participation. Finally, he concludes that promotion of women's economic participation is a function of socioeconomic development factor. Ashraf & Ghannam (2002) attempted to explain important changes in women's role in Arabian societies, specifically in urban areas. They wanted to answer this question "What are the factors that help or prevent women's employment in all economic sections?" Their research was conducted to explain the relationship between women's activities and social, educational, cultural and hygienic factors. Research results indicated that findings are correlated with the size of families, the rate of births, illiteracy and population. In fact, those variables are effective in increasing or decreasing women's economic participation in any society. And finally they concluded that by increasing the occupational opportunities and using the economizing technology in labor force, ideal opportunities can be created for Arab women.

## **5. Theoretical Framework of the Research**

### **5.1. Rostow's Theory**

Rostow's growth stages theory was formed under the influence of evolutionary schools. It is not a mere economic and technical theory. He has

---

sociologically studied productive forces and focusing on the historical changes on productive forces. He has tried to promote the capitalistic society as a developed society (Papli Yazdi, 2011, p. 87). Rostow has classified the transition of traditional societies into industrialized societies through five stages as follows:

#### 1) Traditional Society

A traditional society is with its own restricted production and technical information. This type of society is basically an agricultural society which is organized based on the changes in family pivot and people mainly believe in some kind of chronic fatalism.

#### 2) Before-Economic-Movement Conditions

The start point of the development in a traditional society is some factors such as:

a) Prevalence of this idea that economic progress is the prerequisite of social welfare;

b) Training at least in some part of the society;

c) Employment of saving in direction of creating private or public institutions by entrepreneurs;

d) Creation of banks and credit institutions;

e) Increase in investment and extension of trade; and

f) Establishment of a central political power.

In fact, it is the transitional stage between the traditional society and the next course.

#### 3) Economic Movement Stage

In this specific stage that the difference between traditional society and developed society is clarified all factors related to movement stage should be realized to contribute to increase investment and agricultural productivity and new urban centers.

#### 4) Maturity Stage

During this stage, industrialized production becomes diverse and industry extends in new sections and more economic and effective techniques are invented.

### 5) Massed Consumption Stage

This stage is characterized by raising living level within the whole society as well as increasing number of skilled employees and employers and extension of investment level in the field of general security and hygiene.

Rostow believes that investment level should be raised so that economic growth can continue automatically after reaching a specific point. Emphasis on high levels of investment is not limited only to sociologists and many economists also consider shortage of investment as the most important factor of underdevelopment (Azkia, 2002, p. 117).

- The concept of participation culture has been broadly discussed in Parsons' '*social action theory*', according to which, personality is the product of internalization of situations with regard to the role and base. Thus, since every individual in the society plays different roles in different situations (such as his or her position in a specific organization), every role or organizational position has a series of norms, musts, and mustn'ts. Those norms gradually become internalized during organizational socialization and lead to creation of commitment of individuals to their duties (Riters, 1995, p. 123).

- Daniel Learner's modernistic study is the most important research among early studies. It is the first attempt in order to formulate the universal modernistic model. Learner put forward a general modernistic theory. His theory was based on behavioral system of living based on mutual action. He assessed his theory through a field research in some Middle-East countries. In his research he seeks an approach, by which, societies pass from traditional stage to transition stage and then to modernism. Meanwhile, Learner conducts some studies about how societies make relationships with modernism. In this framework, modernism is called a kind of "participatory style", and the modern society is considered as a participatory society. The characteristics of a participatory society are those existing in the West: People go to schools, read newspapers, get enough wages for the job they do, buy goods, vote, and can give comments on a large number of problems. Learner gives three major definitions to explain the movement of societies from traditional form to transitional stage and then to the new life style:

1) Modernism in developing countries should follow the historical model of Western development, because Western societies are still the most developed models of social characteristics (power, wealth, and rationalism), and this is just the model that Middle-East scholars introduce as their own goal and support it. Of course Learner doesn't mention who those scholars are, but it can be guessed that he is pointing to those individuals who are more or less inclined toward the West and, at present, they are predominant powers in their societies.

2) Instillation (as a dynamic part of psychology) is considered as the key of modernism. According to Learner, instillation is the capacity of putting oneself in the place of others. Then, Learner completely explains the process that changes a suggestive factor to a diehard customer and a radio listener or a voter.

3) Mass media which are considered changeable indices facilitate the modernism process. It seems that Western modernism pattern is a universal one, because it is based on a historical reality and secularism (indifference toward religion or rejection of religious considerations), should be followed like Europe and USA.

According to Learner, the Western pattern in advancing modern society passes through the four consequent stages of urbanism, teaching how to read and write, use of media, and finally integration into modern participatory society that contribute to economic and political development. Pattern of western modernism shows specific stages and dimensions with universal feature, for example; wherever urbanism has developed, it has led to learning literacy while literacy can help people better use mass media, and when people use mass media, economic participation (per capita income), and political participation (voting) are realized. Western modernism pattern is a historical reality" (Mowlana, 2008, 20-21).

Learner concludes that development in any of these realms motivates the development in other realms, and this process drives the society toward modernism. Learner believes that society should increase the feeling of suggestion. According to Learner, suggestion is a kind of imagination power, so that an individual can imagine making the desired positive change in his or



---

her social status. According to Learner, this imagination power makes moving toward modernism possible. Based on modernism pattern, moving from traditional stage toward transitional stage and then modern society has always been associated with change of "verbal communicative system" to "collective communicative system" and this change has always been a one-way evolution from traditional system to modern system and not vice versa. Learner suggests that the difference between these two systems is that interpersonal communication contributes to enhance traditional attitudes and ceremonies, while collective communication teaches new skills, attitudes, and behavior. Therefore, mass media are supporters of movement and this means that mass media have the capability of making communication with the "change type" and "change possibility". Learner believes that there is a mutual action between media modernistic index and other social institutions. Correlated growth of urbanism and learning how to read and write in the interval of 10 percent urbanism to 25 percent urbanism is in its highest point of correlation. And after this stage, the growth degree of learning how to read and write depends on the growth of mass media. It is important to mention that the idea of Learner suggesting that access to mass media is the prerequisite of social participation in the modern society. Mass media directly impacts the attitudes and behavior of individual is seriously challenged not only by critics of traditional patterns but also by those who investigate communicational patterns and liberalistic-capitalistic development.

Economic livelihood is the specific characteristic of transiting societies; they are not industrialized. Investment level is very low in them or there is no investment. According to such patterns, traditional society is politically a highly totalitarian decentralized society. In traditional societies, some people who live are villagers and illiterates. On the other hand, the modern society is entirely an urban society and able to read and write with a lot of mass media. For Learner, the modern human is a secular, educated, mentally and physically active. Meanwhile, the traditional and modern societies are completely different in their communication. Based on Liberal's capitalistic viewpoint, traditional societies depend on face-to-face communication and they seek information only to prove their own role and situation. Tok indicates that in

---

America, nothing is prefabricated; everything is made immediately when it is necessary and vanishes after meeting needs. The secret of democracy in America is just here. As all people have participation in social affairs, they consider the entire society as belonging to them and trust in each other to make the society (Tok, 1995, p. 126).

## **5.2. Marxist Ideology**

Marxist believes that economic organizations and performance in capitalist system are formative of subjugation of women in the family. The instillation of private ownership to the family represents the necessary opportunity to expand equalitarianism. Marx and Angle believe that political independence by itself cannot be the base of complete sexual equality. For this reason, they pay attention to woman's participation in labor force. Marxism rejects collectivism as the resolution of women's problem of tension in the society and suggests that giving political and economic development to women should be associated with the change of general system in the society. In fact, it considers the change in women's status as a function of an important change in the entire society (Mosaffa, 1996, p. 84).

## **6. Research Hypotheses**

1- It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their degree of media use.

2- It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and social support.

3- It seems that there is a relationship between the economic participation degree of young people and their citizenship feeling.

4- It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their political alienation.

5- It seems that there is a relationship between the economic participation degree of young people and their political trust.

6- It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and religiousness.

7- It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and group pressure.

8- It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their harmony.

9- It seems that there is a relationship between economic participation degree of young people and their socio-economic base.

## 7. Research Method

The present research is of correlational type conducted in survey form. Its statistical universe consisted of more than 18 years old youth living in Khakhal. The statistical size of population participating in this research is 36000 individuals according to figures given by the registration of personal status office, and its sample size consists of 380 individuals by employing Cookran's formula. Regarding sampling, multi-stage cluster sampling was used. To do so, first, Khalkhal was divided to five northern, southern, eastern, western, and central regions, and then from each region, two districts were selected. In this research, questionnaire technique was employed which is the most common technique to use in survey research, while face validity and structural validity were used. In order to study Cronbach's alpha, first a sample consisting of thirty questionnaires was distributed among young people of more than 18 years old who had been randomly selected.

**Table 1. Cronbach's alpha coefficient of independent and dependent variables**

Alpha degree	
0.834	Social support
0.814	Citizenship feeling
0.945	Mass media
0.712	Political trust
0.935	Religiousness
0.714	Political alienation
0.756	Harmony
0.742	Group pressure
0.711	Socio-economic station (SES)
0.701	Economic participation

## 8. Research Findings

### Inferential Findings

Hypothesis (1): It seems that there is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their citizenship feeling.

**Table 2. Pearson's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation and citizenship feeling of young people**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
citizenship feeling	economic participation	0.293	0.000

Based on table 2, the meaningfulness level 0.000 of the test is less than 0.05. Therefore, the assumption of zero is rejected, and with confidence 0.95, it can be said that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables under study. Regarding the positivity of denotation of correlational coefficient (0.293), there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables, that is, with the increase of one variable, the other one also will increase.

Hypothesis (2): It seems that there is a relationship between economic participation degree of young people and their political alienation.

**Table 3. Pearson's correlational coefficient between the variables of economic participation of young people and the degree of their political alienation**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
political alienation	economic participation	-0.178	0.000

The above table shows the meaningfulness level 0.000 which is less than 0.05, therefore; the assumption of zero is rejected, and it can be claimed with confidence 0.95 that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables. Regarding the positivity of denotation of correlational coefficient (-.183), there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables, that is, with the increase of one variable, the other variable decreases.

Hypothesis (3): There is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their social support.

**Table 4. Person's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation of young people and their social support**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
Social support	economic participation	-0.178	0.000

As the above table shows the meaningfulness level 0.000 which is lower than 0.05, so, the assumption of zero is rejected, and with confidence 0.95 it can be claimed that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables. Regarding the positivity denotation of correlational coefficient 0.178, the meaningful relationship is proved, that is, with the increase in the degree of one variable, the other one will decrease.

Hypothesis (4): There is a relationship between the economic participation of young people and their political trust.

**Table 5. Pearson's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation level of young people and their political trust**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
Political trust	economic participation	0.255	0.000

As the above table shows the meaningfulness level 0.000 is lower than 0.05, so, the assumption of zero is rejected, and with confidence 0.95, it can be claimed that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables. Regarding the positivity denotation of correlational coefficient 0.255, there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables, that is, with the increase of one variable, the other one also will increase.

Hypothesis (5): There is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their religiousness degree.

**Table 6. Pearson's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation level of young people and their religiousness level**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
religiousness	economic participation	0.228	0.000

The above table shows that the meaningfulness level 0.000 is lower than 0.05, so, the assumption of zero is rejected and with confidence 0.95 it can be said that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables. Regarding the positivity denotation of correlational coefficient 0.228, the meaningful relationship is proved, that is, with the increase in religiousness level, the level of economic participation also will increase.

Hypothesis (6): There is a relationship between the degree of economic participation of young people and their level of media use.

**Table 7. Pearson's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation level of young people and their level of media use**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
Mass media use level	Economic participation	-0.185	0.000

As the above table shows the meaningfulness level 0.000 is lower than 0.05, so the assumption of zero is rejected and with confidence 0.95, it can be claimed that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables. Regarding the positivity denotation of correlational coefficient 0.185, the meaningful relationship between the variables is proved, that is, the degree of economic participation of young people and their degree of mass media use are correlated.

Hypothesis (7): There is a relationship between the level of economic participation of young people and their degree of group pressure.

**Table 8. Pearson's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation of young people and their group pressure**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
Group pressure	economic participation	0.341	0.000

The above table shows the meaningfulness level 0.000 is lower than 0.05, so, with confidence 0.95, it can be said that there is a meaningful relationship between these two variables, because the assumption of zero is rejected.

Regarding the positivity denotation of correlational coefficient 0.341, a relationship exists between these variables.

Hypothesis (8): There is a relationship between the economic participation of young people and their harmony.

**Table 9. Person's correlational coefficient test between the variables of economic participation degree of young people and their harmony**

Variable (1)	Variable (2)	Correlational coefficient	Meaningfulness level
harmony	economic participation	0.361	0.000

As the above table shows, the meaningfulness level 0.000 is lower than 0.05, so the assumption of zero is rejected and with confidence 0.95, it can be said that there is a relationship between the variables of economic participation and harmony. Regarding the positivity denotation of correlational coefficient 0.361, the meaningful relationship between these two variables is proved, that is; with the increase of one variable the other one also will increase.

Hypothesis (9): There is a relationship between the level of economic participation of young people and their socio-economic station (SES).

First, in order to obtain the analysis of one-way variance from the relationship between the socio-economic station and economic participation, the socio-economic station was divided to three upper, middle, and lower levels. Then, in order to test the hypothesis, one-way variance analysis was used.

**Table 10. Descriptive statistics and variance analysis (ANOVA)**

Sig	F	Standard deviation	Average	Number	Socio-economic station
0.403	0.912	8.03531	54.1724	58	Upper
		7.50903	52.6281	121	Middle
		7.24393	52.8408	201	Lower

The above table shows that the meaningfulness level (0.403) of the test also is higher than 0.05; that is the degree of participation of citizens on the basis of their economic participation does not differ regarding the socio-economic station. In other words, socio-economic station of individuals doesn't impact their economic participation.

### 9. The Impact of Independent Variables on Economic Participation

Regression equation is considered in order to determine the relationship between the independent variables (social support, citizenship feeling, political trust, social trust, collective link, political alienation, social alienation, religiousness, mass media, social station, group pressure, and harmony) from one side and the dependent variable (economic participation) from the other side. The degree of determined coefficient is indicative of how many of changes in the dependent variable are explained through independent variables. The regression equation can be written by Beta coefficients.

Also standardized Beta coefficients are effective in determining the relative share of any variable based on changes of dependent variable. Any independent variable with a higher Beta coefficient means that it has a higher relative share in the changes of independent variable.

**Table 11. Summary of the model**

Correlational coefficient of R	Determination coefficient of R Square
0.562	0.316

According to the above table, the value of multiple correlational coefficient of regression model is equal to 0.562, while the value of determination coefficient is equal to 0.316. In fact, 0.316 of changes in dependent variable is explained by independent variables.

**Table 12. Variance analysis (ANOVA)**

Meaningfulness level	F -statistic value
0.000	14.117

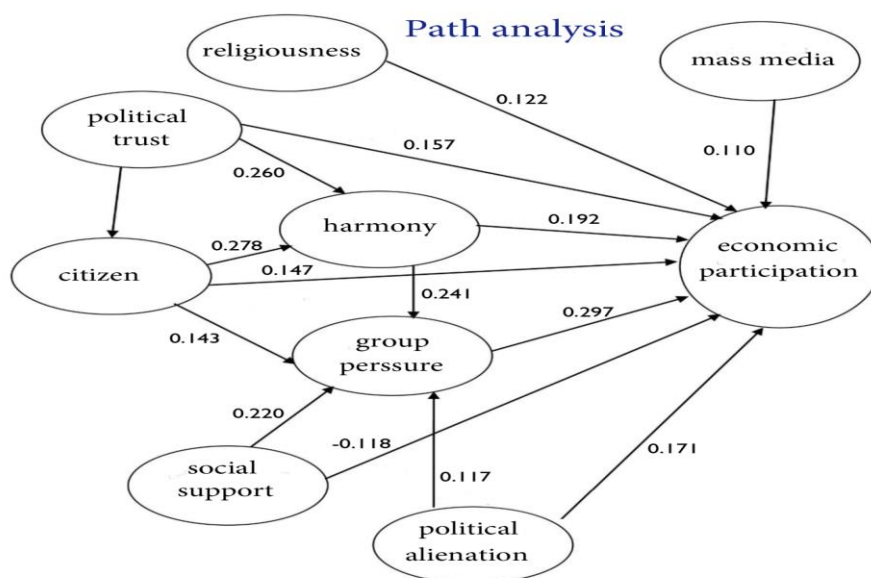
As seen in the above table, the meaningfulness level 0.000 is lower than 0.05, so the assumption of zero is rejected and with confidence 0.95, it can be said that the given fitting model is appropriate and the regression relationship is linear too.



**Table 13. Regression coefficient**

Meaningfulness level	Standardized Beta coefficient	Beta coefficient	
0.000	0.118	0.206	social support
0.013	0.147	0.241	citizenship feeling
0.003	0.152	0.221	political trust
0.894	-0.171	-0.346	political alienation
0.000	0.122	0.094	religiousness
0.025	0.110	0.386	mass media
0.015	0.036	0.363	socio-economic station
0.415	0.297	1.242	group pressure
0.000	0.192	0.690	harmony

As the above table shows the meaningfulness level of eight independent variables such as social support, citizenship feeling, political trust, social trust, religiousness, mass media and socio-economic station. And harmony is less than 0.05, so they enter the regression model, while the meaningfulness level of four variables of group link, political alienation, social alienation, and group pressure are not lower than 0.05, so, they don't enter the regression model.



**Diagram 1. The impact of independent variables on economic participation**

We investigated the impact of independent variables on economic participation by regression analysis. The path coefficient in each of the above relationships was calculated with the help of standard coefficients obtained in linear regression.

Therefore, based on obtained values through the above calculation, direct impacts of those variables on the dependent variables were represented based on standardized Beta coefficient in the separable diagram.

## **10. Conclusion**

Participation is one of the necessary conditions of realization of development in economic, social and political realms that give importance to active, creative and effective role of individuals within the process of development. In fact, participation is a process encompassing all types of individual and collective actions in order to have intervention in determining one's and society's future and play roles in decision making about a public issue. (First National Seminar of Sociological Issues in Iran, 2004, p. 499).

Daniel Learner (1964) in the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century, attempted to study reformation in six Middle-East countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria). Learner believed that elements and mechanisms produced by reformation are effective in mental willingness of individuals to accept the new factors of renovation and development. He suggests that a modernist person, enjoying literacy, urbanization, mass communication and harmony, is in the highest level of thinking and modernism, while a traditional person lacking all these variables is in the lowest level of thinking and modernism. For Learner, the central core of a reformed personality is formed by three characteristics, namely; harmony, movement, and high level of participation. He believes that reformation process will either slow down or stop without these characteristics. Among the six countries under study, he concludes that during 1960s, Turkey has shown the highest level and Iran has had the lowest level of capacity for development and modernism (Azkia, 2002, p. 108-110).

According to Learner, the Western pattern of advancement toward a modern society passes through four subsequent stages: urbanization, literacy,

media use and finally integration into the participatory modern society that is followed by the economic and political development.

The Western advancement pattern of modernism represents universal dimensions and stages. For example, wherever urbanism increases, it contributes to the growth of literacy, and in turn, the growth of literacy leads to more use of media by individuals, and when individuals use more media, the level of economic participation (per capita income) as well as political participation (voting) increases.

The Western pattern of modernism is a historical reality (Molana, 2008, 20-21). Thus, a society with low level of economic development is a society in which productivity is very low because of the sight growth of labor division. In such a society "the hard coverage of traditionality" determines manners. Conversely, in a modern and completely advanced society, characteristics are complicated division of social labor without insufficiency barriers with solvable class barriers, social roles and profit coming from economic activity basically distributed and, thus, innovation, activity and exploitation of profitable market conditions and profiteerism without observing other people's rights are completely forbidden.

As a result, the social theory of economic development should have determined some mechanisms whereby the non-developed social structure of some countries could get updated (modernized) one. It means that this structure should experience some changes so that it can use the qualities of economically advanced countries.

### **11. Some Recommendations to Future Researchers**

The following scientific research recommendations are represented to those who are interested in the realm of economic participation.

1) This research was conducted by survey and questionnaire technique to gather data. Other researchers can use other methods and techniques such as interviewing, grand theory, case study, and so on to study this social phenomenon to use many other effective variables to investigate the economic participation.

2) The present research was conducted on young people living in Khalkhal. In order to achieve wider insights, other studies can be done about women or other classes of people or in other cities or at the level of the entire country and the results can be compared to those of this research.

## References

1. Azkia, M., & Ghaffari, Gh. (2002). *Sociology of development*. Tehran: Kalameh Institute.
2. Bamdad, Sh. (1996). *The study of factors impacting the degree of women's employment in 252 cities of the country during 1996*. Tehran: Planning and Budgeting Organization
3. Tokvil, A. D. (1968). *The analysis of American democracy*. Tehran: Zavar Publication.
4. Saeedi, M. H., & Ibrahimy, M.A. (2007). *Theories of rural development*. Tehran: Samt Publication.
5. Saeedi M. R. (2003). *An Introduction to public participation and non-governmental organizations*. Tehran: Samt
6. Ghaffari, Gh. (2001). *Explanation of social and cultural factors impacting systematic, socio-economic participation of villagers as a mechanism to rural development in Iran*. Tehran: Tehran University.
7. Ritzer, G. (2007). *The theory of sociology in the contemporary time*. Tehran: Elmi Publication.
8. Zahedi, M. J. (2010). Socio-economic station and the attitude toward political participation (case study: Khorramabad City). *Iranian Sociology magazine, 11(2)* 51-73.
9. Pit, R., & Hartwith, E. (2010). *Development theories*. Tehran: Luyeh Publication.
10. Maryami, S. (2000). The comparative study of the role of factors of socialization on political participation of young people in Shiraz, *Social Sciences Magazine, 10*, 94-104.
11. Mosaffa, N. (1996). *Political participation of women in Iran*. Tehran: Press.
12. Mohseni, A. (1997). *A study of the relationship between the political-social alienation with social-political participation among family guardians in Tehran*. Tehran: Tehran University.
13. Molana, H. (2005). *Transition from modernism, communication and evolution of the society*. Tehran: Media.
14. Lahsaezadeh, A. (2005). *The study of economic participation among rural women (Case study: Fars province)*, *Iranian Sociology magazine, 6(3)*, 124-145.
15. Niazi, M. (2002). *Explanation of barriers to social participation in Kashan*. Isfahan: Isfahan University.