

## Explanation of Social Participation among Khalkhal Youth and the Factors Affecting it

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### *Abstract*

The aim of this study was to explain the sociological community of social participation among the youth of Khalkhal city and the factors affecting it. What is important in this study is the need to pay attention to the social participation of young people. Theoretical framework and theoretical model were presented using the theory of theorists such as Durkheim, Weber and Talcott Parsons. This research was done by survey method, formal and structural validity was used and reliability was obtained using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The statistical population of the study is 18 years old youth of Khalkhal city, the number of which is according to the statistics of the Civil Registration Office. Using the Cochran's formula, 380 people were selected as a statistical sample using multi-stage cluster sampling. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used to analyze the data using SPSS software. After preparing the matrix table, the information is arranged in one-dimensional and two-dimensional tables. The research findings indicate that the independent variables of political alienation, group pressure, group linkage and social support as independent variables have a significant relationship with the dependent variable of social participation.

**Keywords:** Social participation, Political alienation, Group pressure, Group transplantation, Social support.

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## 1. Introduction

The word partnership is derived from the root part, meaning part, component, and part. And it means to share something or take a part of it. Although the beginning of participation among societies should be considered in line with the history of creation and human coexistence, but participatory words entered the culture of development for the first time since the 1950s (Papli Yazdi and Ebrahimi, 2007, p. 116). Participation is a multidimensional and complex concept that each society has different levels of its consistency in different dimensions. Accordingly, different societies seek to create and increase the participation of citizens in various social fields in order to strengthen their social solidarity and social ties and prevent social collapse (Fouladian and Ramezani, 2008, p. 2).

Participation is a voluntary activity through which members of a community participate in the affairs of their neighborhood, city or village and directly or indirectly contribute to the formation of social life (Mohseni Tabrizi, 1994, p. 10). ). The phenomenon of participation is one of the most important dimensions of social development, cultural development, economic development and political development in any society, especially the growing Iranian society. What adds to the existing problems is not that neither the concept of participation nor its dimensions have been well defined in our society, nor have the factors that strengthen or weaken it in another way have been seriously considered (Mohseni, 2003, p. 11).

Participation as one of the basic concepts of sociology is one of the main pillars of any democratic system. In fact, the permanence of democracy depends on the participation of all individuals and individuals in society in matters related to their own social life. Although this concept, like many concepts of the social sciences and behavioral sciences, has a long history, it has been seriously discussed, researched and researched by experts and scholars since the second half of the twentieth century.

Research on participation has begun extensively since researchers studied development and the causes and effects of change on social, cultural, economic, and political developments. Thus, the concept and subject of participation became an integral part of development theories, and since almost the second half of the twentieth century, various associations, organizations,

organs and research institutes have studied, recognized and studied the various dimensions and aspects of participation. Attention to participation in the second half of the last century has led to a wide range of research on various aspects, dimensions, forms, including cultural, political, economic, social and the like, and comprehensive information on etiology (recognizing causes and causes). ), Epidemiology (epidemiology), levels, patterns, types and forms of participation to be achieved (Mohseni Tabrizi, 2001, p. 12). Despite traditional views on urban management, the new approach emphasizes the importance of people's role in the urban management process and with a decentralized management approach, looking at people as active and creative elements in the process of managing urban affairs. In the new approaches of public participation and handing over the work to the people themselves, much emphasis has been placed on senior urban managers, and in this regard, various projects have been considered to involve the citizens. In modern models, planning is very much based on the participatory role of people and local communities and according to characteristics such as participation, process approach to planning, increasing people's control over livelihood and daily life and presenting plans and programs that connect and depend. It is more in line with the local needs and conditions of the communities and can be considered as a desirable model in urban planning and management.

Therefore, according to the above, the main question of the research is that what are the factors affecting social participation in the study community? Third, what is the share of each of the factors influencing each of these forms?

Today, participation is seen as a fundamental and inseparable component of development. Development in the general sense is a complex, comprehensive, and planned transformation process that takes place in the socio-economic, political, and cultural life of a society and directs it from its current state to its desired state. Acceptance of the new concept of development and the effort to achieve it is the acceptance of the characteristics of the age of rationality and rationality, and in it lies rational action, accounting and planning, so that to regulate the process of any development, it is necessary to create harmony between goals and means to achieve them. And all potential natural and human resources and facilities should be used in a desirable and

calculated manner and all these resources should be valued in their various dimensions.

In other words, participation is one of the necessary conditions for economic, social and political development, which pays attention to the active, creative and effective role of people in the development process. Society and influencing decision-making is about the public "(Zahedi, 2010).

In recent decades, attention to the phenomenon of participation and emphasis on its role as one of the most important factors in development is largely due to the failure of development programs in the 1950s and 1960s. In examining programs, the inefficiency of people's participation has been assessed as the main cause of the failure of development programs. What emerges from the development of planning in recent decades suggests that the program was largely based on blueprint design and up-to-down design. The disadvantage of these approaches has been that most people have generally participated in development programs and usually did not play an active role in development programs. However, in the 1980s, many social planning thinkers turned their attention to new design entitled Down-to-UP or Participation (Niazi, 2002, p. 38).

According to the contents of this study, the main purpose of this study is to investigate the factors affecting social participation in the city of Khalkhal, and in addition to the main purpose of the sub-objectives of this study were:

The goals I am pursuing in this study are:

Determining the difference between citizens' social participation according to their level of political alienation

Determining the difference between citizens' social participation according to their group pressure

Determining the difference between citizens' social participation according to their group level

Determining the difference between citizens' social participation according to their level of social support

## **2.Review of Literature**

According to Hall, the conflict between pragmatic views and mainly philosophical views of participation has led to the concept of participation

becoming a multifaceted concept and over time with different meanings (Hall, 1988: 93). Therefore public participation in meaning the general public, like other terms in the field of social sciences and humanities under different social conditions, has found many meanings and questions such as how necessary and desirable participatory activity is, what are its goals, whether participation is in the executive or decision-making stage? It has also received various responses, depending on the definition of participation.

According to Alan Beiro, from a sociological point of view, a distinction should be made between participation as an action and commitment (participation action) and as a state or situation (participation) (Beiro, 1987, p. 275).

Public participation can be seen as a system of self-advocacy and as an integral part of a new system of representation. From the systematic and functional point of view, participation is considered as a mechanism for survival, development and excellence of the social system, which does not develop the necessary structures for participation and institutionalization leads to the extinction of the social system and its political collapse (Mardukhi, 1994, p. 71).

Participation is also considered as a kind of communication action that is based on mutual understanding. It is also a purposeful action that manifests itself in the interactive process between the actor and his social environment in order to achieve certain and predetermined goals. In its broadest sense, it means increasing people's understanding and ability to respond to development plans, as well as encouraging local initiatives. In another view, participation has been described as the conscious process of sharing power and scarce resources and providing opportunities for the lower classes to improve their living conditions (Oakley and Marsden, 1991, p. 33). When we consider participation as a process of empowerment, participation will be based on the three values of sharing people's power and authority, allowing people to monitor their own destiny, and opening up opportunities for advancement to the lower classes of society. The result will be to facilitate the hearing of a hundred others, to feel ownership, to eliminate marginalization, to strengthen the disabled, and to break the culture of silence (Tusi, 1991, p. 8).

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Gauteri said in his definition of participation: "Participation is a social, public, integrated, multifaceted, multidimensional, and multicultural process that aims to draw all people to play a role in all stages of development,"(Gauteri, 1987, p. 37).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) considers participation in organized efforts to increase control over resources and regulatory bodies in social conditions to be the effect of social cohesion on the level of participation by certain groups and movements. Exceptions have been defined. This definition is more important than other definitions provided by international organizations.

To define participation, Oakley describes three interpretations of participation: 1. Participation as a contribution that believes that the interpretation of health projects, water supply, forestry, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Third World that's right you can now become known as a Lord of the Rings. 2- Participation as an organization in which the organization is considered as the main tool and mechanism of participation in this interpretation and emphasis is placed on the formation of cooperatives, agricultural institutions, committees related to water management, etc.; 3. Participation as an empowerment that in this interpretation, the participation of technicians with skills, knowledge, development capabilities and decision-making ability is emphasized (Oakley, 1999, pp. 8-9).

Rahman said: "People's participation means collective effort within an organizational framework in which members, with a coalition of resources, seek to achieve their goals. As a result, participation is an active process in which each participant reflects and reflects on the idea," Active supervision is encouraged to participate in action"(Rahman, 1993, p. 150).

Organized economic and social participation is closely linked to the FAO's public participation programs, which aim to engage people actively in development programs and organize the lower classes of the rural population, as well as the strategy of establishing decentralized institutions as participatory institutions. He considers the establishment of the institution to create mechanisms that are continuously and sustainably available to the people to discuss the issues and problems they face. Such institutions can simply be neighboring committees, or the complexity of a cooperative bank. Social

participation refers to the development of inter-group relations in the form of voluntary associations, clubs, unions and groups that are usually local and non-governmental in nature and their goal is to involve and involve people in various social processes in the form of social policies (Mohseni Tabrizi, 1990, p. 108).

### **2.1. Jourgen Habermas (public sphere and social participation)**

Habermas distinguishes between three types of action: instrumental action, strategic action, and communication action. Instrumental action has a non-social status, and at the interpersonal level it brings with it instrumental rationality that is, the pursuit of profit and the advancement of personal interests. If we act from an angle between an identifier (subject) and an identifier (object), we have become entangled in instrumental reasoning and have resorted to instrumental action (Kreib, 2001, p. 30).

Strategic action and communication action both have a social status. Strategic action is a purposeful-rational action that involves the action of two or more people who, in pursuit of a goal, coordinate their purposeful rational action. Like the actions that take place within organizations and this type is looking for success, while in communication action people do not seek their personal success, but pursue their goals in a situation where they can coordinate their action plans based on definitions of common position and this is a rational and fundamental reaction, and attention to it will give everyone access to the tools of reason, the opportunity to participate in the discussion, to form opinions, and to participate in the final decision. This kind of action is in search of understanding. An agreement reached while communicating has a rational basis because neither party can impose it (Kreib, 2001, pp. 300-301).

Habermas calls the space in which communication takes place a public sphere. He refers to the public sphere as the realm of the social life of human beings in which they can form something in the face of public opinion. When citizens consult and explore each other's interests and public interests freely without restriction - that is, by guaranteeing the freedom of association and association, freedom of expression and the publication of dissent - in fact, as a public body. They behave. The interpretation of public opinion refers to the

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mission of criticism and monitoring that the public body of citizens unofficially applies to the ruling class (Nozari, 2002, p. 322).

Habermas considers the public sphere to be one of the categories of the modern world, the bourgeois society. He argues that the public sphere is essentially a network of communications that uses communication to create and create a social space for the exchange of meanings between individuals and groups. Unlike institutions that are dominated by foreign domination or have internal power relations, the public sphere promises the principles of democratic participation and oversight (Holab, 1999, p. 26).

The importance of Habermas's emphasis on the public sphere as a channel for the formation of collective identity and the public interest is essentially due to the fact that the continuity of society depends on the proper functioning of communication structures, which in the absence of the pervasive influence of tradition and traditional factors create social legitimacy. It makes it possible to achieve social consensus and agreement on what are called public interests and collective interests. Habermas emphasizes the relationship between the formation of the collective identity of "us" and the discussion in the assemblies, groups and associations of society and the public sphere in general, in various cases, and considers the formation of identity as essentially a collective activity and combined with argumentative discussion and adaptation. He is critical of tradition, science, and philosophy. It is collective action and speech that forms collective interests and collective identity (Rezaei, 1995, p. 62).

The main theme of most of Habermas's works is: participation in the formulation and presentation of a clear picture of a "better global society" in which more facilities and facilities are provided for the happiness, happiness, peace and solidarity of all.

In general, Habermas refers to the facilities and facilities of civil society organizations and associations; Because such organizations are the most important intermediary tools between the government and the people of the society, which are considered as the potential of the society for the realization of democracy; Because democracy depends on the participation of citizens, and the participation of citizens is possible in the form of such associations (Almond, 1965, p. 245).



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## **2.2. Alexi Dotokville**

Tocqueville emphasizes an atmosphere of community life in society and considers it to be effective in the development of a society. Tocqueville argues that one of these devices is the distribution of power between the various institutions of government (separation of powers) and the other is periodic elections. But the most important means of controlling the power of the state is the existence of social associations (Chanduk, 1998, p. 67). According to him, associations make people connect with larger groups and interests. So these associations are cohesive in public life. It strengthens civic virtues and establishes democratic values. These associations have tremendous power to control the potential excesses of governments, especially in democratic societies. In a study conducted in the United States, Tocqueville described the effectiveness and impact of associations on American social and political life.

Tocqueville says: "In the United States, nothing is pre-made, and it is made instantly and as needed to meet a need, and if it is met, it is destroyed," This is the secret of American democracy. This cooperation of the people with each other in matters related to all of them prevents power. Since they themselves are involved in building society, they see society as something of their own and trust each other in building society (Tocqueville, 1995, p. 126). Common interests link Americans together, so they work together. And they trust each other. The American person enters into small and large group discussions with enthusiasm and discusses them and works in related associations, this presence in collective values and discussions as social capital encourages him to participate in the affairs of society. And makes him interested in his community (ibid, p. 503). He sees participation as possible in the shadow of cooperation and collective trust. Being in forums and communication networks creates real people and provides the strength for any action.

## **2.3. Peter Blau**

He focused on the analysis of the social flow between individuals towards more complex social construction. According to him, people associate because they benefit from each other. According to Blau, there are four types of value, each of which performs a different function. Partial values, act as mediators of integration and solidarity. These values unite members of a group on the axis

of patriotism. At the collective level, these values extend the integrative links beyond the personal attraction. The second type of value is generalist values. These types of values are the criteria by which the relative value of the types of things that can be exchanged is assessed. The third category of values is those that legitimize authority.

That value system that empowers some people (such as presidents and presidents) expands the scope of organized social oversight. This is related to the fourth type of value, the opposite values. Opposing values allow the sense of need to change to extend beyond what is possible only through personal contact between people opposed to the established order, opposing these values (such as socialism and anarchism in a capitalist society). It legitimizes those who have power through legitimate authority. In his concept, various types of social realities take the place of the individual (ibid,pp. 441-440).

#### **2.4. Colin**

Colin, a developmental sociologist, sees development as derived from the structure of society, emphasizing mental readiness and the existence of personal motivations for participation and development. Effective participation requires personal motivation. In other words, participation is a mental phenomenon that must be sought in people's thoughts, beliefs, behaviors, and culture before it becomes objective. In order to internalize the culture of participation, many prefabricated mental forms must be transformed, and this is not possible without cultural work (Nowruzi and Bakhtiari, 2009, pp. 255-254).

#### **2.5. Background research**

In any field of research, work is usually done that has a semantic affinity close to the researcher's research. Khadijeh Safiri and Maryam Sadeghi have conducted research on the social participation of female students in the faculties of social sciences at Tehran's universities and the social factors that affect it. This paper examines and analyzes how the link between the social participation of female students and the social factors affecting it is linked to the survey method. The overall purpose of the study is to identify the status of social participation of female students and to examine the social factors affecting it. This is research. Relying on existing theories, social trust, feelings

of powerlessness and self-concept are important and effective variables in explaining the social participation of female students.

The statistical population of this study is 18- to 29-year-old female students studying in the social sciences faculties of public universities in Tehran. The research sampling was done by stratified method and using Cochran's formula, 343 female students were selected as the sample population. Pearson correlation tests show that the relationship between the three variables of social capital (social trust), feeling of powerlessness and self-concept with social participation is significant and has the greatest effect on the social trust variable on the social participation of female students. Based on the research results, the mentioned variables explained 22% of the variance of social participation (Safiri et al., 2009).

"Cultural Development and Social Development in Iran" is the title of a study conducted by Assadollah Babaeifard (2010). In this study, the relationship between cultural development and social development has been investigated using the secondary data analysis method. This research is based on Parsons' sociological approach, that is, structural functionalism. In this research, two methods of documentary research and the method of reviewing and analyzing data have been used. Statistical data of this study have been extracted from the findings of experimental research in recent years, especially the national survey of Iranian cultural behaviors in 1999 and the national survey of Iranian values and attitudes in 2000 and 2003. To measure cultural development, elements such as knowledge, awareness, and various political, social, and cultural information, which are obtained through the study or use of various communication media, have been studied, and elements such as spirituality have been used to measure social development. Participation in social groups and organizations, the realization of justice, freedom, security, comfort and well-being in society and the feeling of realization of such elements in society by members of society, loyalty of individuals to society and efforts to develop it have been considered. This study shows that cultural development in Iran faces several obstacles such as identity and cultural damage, lack of individualistic spirit, in the sense of individual originality, lack of multiplicity of intellectual and cultural conditions and weakness of intellectual and cultural capital. Certainly, such a phenomenon can play a

major role in the lack of social development. In Iran, the necessary cultural grounds for development, especially social development, have not been provided. In the realization of social development in Iran, the existence of social capital, with components such as social trust and social participation, can play a key role. While the current Iranian society suffers from a weak social capital, such a phenomenon plays a key role in the lack of social trust and social participation of Iranians in various scientific, political, economic, social and cultural fields. The result of such a process is a lack of development in various dimensions, especially social development. The results of this study show that culture is a very important variable in social change; As a result, the realization of cultural development is a basic precondition for social development. Theoretical views and findings of experimental echoes in Iran, especially the present study, have also confirmed this case (Babaei Fard, 2010: 56-7).

In the light of a review of the background of the study and the theoretical foundations and explanatory framework of the research, the following hypotheses have been set.

The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation, depending on their level of political alienation.

The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation, depending on their group pressure.

The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation, depending on their group affiliation.

The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation.

### **3. Methodology**

The present study was a correlational survey. The statistical population of this study is 18-18 year old youth of Khalkhal city. The statistical population is 22636 people according to the statistics of the Civil Registration Office. The sample size in this study includes 380 people who were obtained using Cochran's formula. In the sampling method section, multi-stage cluster sampling was used. In the first stage, Khalkhal city is divided into northern, southern, eastern, eastern, western and central geographical areas. And from

each alley, several houses and one person from each house were selected to answer the questionnaire. In this research, the questionnaire technique, which is the most common technique used in survey research, has been used. In this study, formal validity and structural validity were used and to investigate Cronbach's alpha, the present research questionnaire first distributed a sample of thirty questionnaires among 18-18 young people in Khalkhal city that were randomly selected (pre-test), then through SPSS software For social participation and independent variables, their statements were examined through Cronbach's alpha, with results above 0.70.

#### 4. Findings

According to the research findings, 51.8% of the total respondents were male and had the highest percentage. Also, 48.2% of the respondents are women and have the lowest percentage. The minimum age was 15 years and the maximum age was 29 years and older. Most respondents are in the age group of 37-28. 60.5% of the total respondents were married and had the highest frequency. Also, 0.5% of the respondents stated that their marital status is that of a deceased spouse and that they have the least frequency. 32.9% of the respondents in this study have the highest level of bachelor's degree and the highest frequency, and 1.6% of the respondents has the level of old education - literacy movement and has the lowest frequency. 49 people (12.9%) of the exemplary people are free, 6 people (1.6%) are exemplary workers and the lowest income is equal to less than 500 thousand tomans with 6.1 percent and the highest income is equal to above 3501 thousand tomans with 0.8 percent.

**The first hypothesis:** The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation, depending on their level of political alienation.

According to the, the size of T is 2.451 with a significant level of 0.016, which is less than 0.05, so the zero assumption can be rejected. That is, the variance of the two groups is not equal, and the groups differ in terms of the degree of political alienation. the average of the second group, i.e. those who do not have social participation, is higher than the average of those who have social participation, so it can be said that those who have political alienation also have lower social participation.

**Table 1: T-Test between respondents' social participation according to their level of political alienation**

variable	Frequency	Mean	standard deviation	variance	Level of significant	T value	sig
have social participation	293	29.8	3.57	0.598	0.440	-2.451	0.016
do not have social participation	87	30.9	3.92				

**The second hypothesis:** The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation, depending on their group pressure.

**Table 2: T-Test between respondents' social participation according to group pressure**

variable	Frequency	Mean	standard deviation	variance	Level of significant	T value	sig
have social participation	293	6.17	1.76	0.013	0.910	3.599	0.000
do not have social participation	87	5.40	1.73				

According to the table above, the size of T is 3/5999 with a significant level of 0.000, which is less than 0.05, so the assumption of zero can be rejected. That is, the variance of the two groups is not equal, and the groups differ from each other in terms of group pressure.

The average of the first group, i.e. those who have social participation, is higher than the average of the second group, those who do not have social participation, so it can be said that those who are under group pressure also have higher social participation.

Hypothesis 3: The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation, depending on their group affiliation.

**Table 3: T-Test between the social participation of the respondents according to their group transplants**

variable	Frequency	Mean	standard deviation	variance	Level of significant	T value	sig
have social participation	293	19.96	4.32	0.309	0.578	2.556	0.012
do not have social participation	87	18.67	4.19				

According to the table above, the size of T is equal to 2.556 with a significant level of 0.122, which is less than 0.05, so the assumption of zero can be rejected. That is, the variance of the two groups is not equal, and the groups differ in terms of the degree of group bonding. the average of the first group, i.e. those who have social participation, is higher than the average of the second group of those who do not have social participation, so it can be said that those who have a group connection also have higher social participation.

Hypothesis 4: The level of citizen participation varies according to their social participation.

**Table 4: T-Test between respondents' social participation according to the level of social support**

variable	Frequency	Mean	standard deviation	variance	Level of significant	T value	sig
have social participation	293	16.77	3.89	2.408	0.122	6.160	0.000
do not have social participation	87	13.48	4.52				

According to the table above, the size of T is equal to 6.160 with a significant level of 0.000, which is less than 0.05, so the assumption of zero can be rejected. This means that the variance of the two groups is not equal and the groups differ in terms of the level of social support.

The average of the first group, i.e. those who have social participation, is higher than the average of the second group, those who do not have social participation, so it can be said that those who receive social support also have higher social participation.

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## 5. Conclusion

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.

Participation is considered as the foundation of society's progress and a necessary condition for social development, in the absence of which development plans and programs fail. 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 social alienation, people feel that the social system in which they live is fragmented and contrary to some of their needs, so that it causes their separation and non-belonging to society and sometimes even tries to make this social system and governing rules reject it

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.

The following research suggestions can be suggested for researchers who wish to work in the field of partnership:

- 1- This research has collected data by survey method and questionnaire technique. Subsequent researchers can use other methods and techniques such as interview, research or longitudinal to study this social phenomenon. Many variables affect each other and make it difficult to analyze.
- 2- The present study was conducted in Khalkhal city. In order to achieve a broader perspective, complementary study can be conducted in other cities or at the national level and their results can be compared with the present study.



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