A Descriptive Study on the Political Participation of the Youth in Tabriz in 2017

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Abstract: *The present study aimed to conduct a sociological study on the role of socio-cultural factors on the political participation of the youth in Tabriz in 2017. The statistical population included the youth living in Tabriz at the age range 15-29. Based on the population and housing census in 2015, the above-mentioned statistical population in Tabriz was equal to 1173916 people, of whom 575219 were female and 598697 were male. Cochran's formula was used for estimating the sample size, during which the required number of samples was calculated as 384. The sampling method in this study was multi-stage and cluster. In this method, the members of the population are selected according to the hierarchy from larger units to smaller units of the population. Cultural and social actions have a very high relationship with the level of political participation among the youth.*

Keywords: *Cultural action, social action, political participation, the youth in Tabriz.*

Introduction

Todays, the subject of socio-political participation, especially in developing societies, is highly common and significant. This issue is not because participation is more effective than in the past, but because a large number of people want it to be implemented and no political regime can survive and continue its political life without the public participation. In fact, participation is one of the main elements of any democratic system and the consistency of democracy depends on participation because the cohesion of a civil society can be established through the active participation of the members of a society (Maadikhah, 1999: 3-5). Based on the special conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is necessary to identify all of the effective factors and inappropriate conditions related to political and social participation and eliminate the inappropriate factors which lead to the non-political public participation, especially the dynamic and active class of society, namely the youth because the Islamic government in Iran is a blessing which has been achieved with more than 1400 years of waiting with the suffering, affliction, martyrdom, and injury of countless people. It should be noted that the only correct and logical way for maintaining this achievement is to encounter all internal and external threats, as well as the full participation and practical support of the great nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Imam Khomeini, 1982: 259).

Despite the fact that politics has been one of the significant areas where the youth have faced many problems. Unfortunately, the political participation of the youth in Tabriz has not been seriously studied. Thus, the issue of the youth and their participation in various political, social, and cultural fields is a vital and social issue for Iran. In terms of the present and future of the society and the destiny of its

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members, it is necessary to conduct serious studies on this issue and find a solution. The present study aimed to answer this fundamental question: What is the level of political participation among the youth?

Review of Literature
Numerous studies have been conducted in the field of democracy and political participation in Iran and abroad. Reviewing different studies indicated that most studies have focused on specific aspects of democracy, especially political participation. In this section, a number of studies related to political participation and its different dimensions are reviewed. First, some domestic studies and then foreign studies are addressed.

Domestic Studies
- Taher Mousavi (1998) studied political participation and its effective factors in the form of psychological theories. The results indicated that if a person values the rewards and benefits of political participation and have a high confidence in the effectiveness of his political activity, finally if he feels that he has gained full information on the candidates, he will most likely run in the elections.
- Sarokhani and Hashemi (2011) studied the attitude of the youth in Sari to participation and their sense of social security. The statistical population of this study included all of the youth aged 15-29 in Sari. The results showed a significant relationship between participation, social relations, and the sense of social security among the youth of Sari.
- Muhammadi (2001) evaluated the relationship between the social and economic status of family contexts, and the creation of the personality of individuals with their political participation. The results showed a relationship between the variables of income, place of residence, participation in family decision-making, parents' political participation, sense of failure, gender, and socio-economic status with the level of social participation. In relation to gender, it was found that the level of political participation among men was higher than women and their socio-economic status failed to play a determining role in political participation.
- Serajzadeh (1989) in a study entitled "Public participation in elections after the victory of the Islamic Revolution" concluded that the propaganda and religious motivations of people played an essential role in their participation in the elections, so that the values, institutions, and religious attitudes were effective in politicizing the individuals in society and determined the process of participation and political life.

Foreign Studies
- In this section, the results of a study by Lipst (2014) on political activities in Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, etc. can be mentioned. The results of his study showed urban and rural differences in some political participation such as election, while it did not include others.
- In the countries with a long tradition of collective leadership, participation in rural areas is more than in urban areas. Lipst concluded that the pattern of political participation in elections is similar in different countries. Men more than women, educated people more than less educated people, those living in cities more than villagers, middle-aged people more than the youth and elderly, married people more than single people, people with high status more than those with low status and people who are members of the organization more than non-members participate in elections.
- Nobles et al. (2010) in a study evaluated the role of national independence and political participation on public health using life expectancy data. In addition, they used time series method for analyzing the data. Historical data significantly increased their ability for interpreting the health of individuals affected by national independence and political participation.
- Thus, they observed a significant positive effect on the life expectancy of Norwegian women and concluded that the useful effects are probably because of biological changes or investment in infants which is specific to the first year of life.
- Jamna and Carlero (2009) in a study entitled "Values and political participation" on a group of Romanian students indicated that the voting rate in the country's electionsis significantly higher

among the students who are interested in religious activities compared to those who have never had political participation.

Theoretical Foundations
Forms of Ppolitical behavior

Simultaneous political behavior refers to an approach, a challenge, and an order for corrective actions, a type of research, and a stimulating and activating term. In fact, there is abundant ambiguity on the use of political behavior. This term is sufficient for dealing with different types of people. This term acts as a general and umbrella-like term in political sciences, while the apparent unity is lost with the use of this term. In order to study the scope and variety of tendencies and its order, many studies should be conducted (Azizi, 2015). With the above-mentioned descriptions, political behavior can be studied in two forms of peaceful and violent.

Peaceful political behavior

It refers to a peaceful struggle for gaining power within the legal framework which will be accompanied with the least violence. The indicators and manifestations of this behavior involve voting and organizational-individual activities for candidates, holding demonstrations, and gatherings. Such behaviors can appear in the form of mass such as non-organizational and incoherent or in the form of party and group including organizational and coherent. Peaceful political behavior does not only support the government, but also many actions and behaviors can be against the government.

Violent political behavior

This behavior refers to the secret and armed struggle with illegal means. Such a behavior leads to political violence. Accoridng to Gar's definition, violent political behavior includes all mass attacks against the political regime, its actors, or its policies. The indicators of this behavior include secret gatherings, violent demonstrations with plunder and firing, guerrilla struggle, rebellion, and armed operations. Regarding violent behavior, Hannah Arendt stated: Bcause of its instrumental nature, violence is reasonable untiul it is effecrtive for acheiveing which has to justify the use of violence. Since we never know the final result for sure when we start doing something, thus violence is reasonable only if it is used for pursuing short-term goals.

Violence does not help the great affairswhether it is history, revolution, progress, or reaction, but it can highlight dissatisfactions and attract public attention. Tactics for enforcing violence and disruption may be useful for achieving short-term goals; Thus, the probability of violence to be effective for achieving long-term goals such as creating fundamental changes is weaker ”(Arendt, 1980).
In discussing violent political behavior, the questions which arise include "what is the root of political violence?", What are the causes of violent political behavior?" A number of two theories are available in answering these questions. One theory is the psychological theory, considering the source of violence as psychological causes among individuals and the internal motivation of individuals and groups. The other one is the structuralist theory, considering the cause of violence as the structure of political system and its degree of institutionalization. According to Hips, "Institutionalization reduces the probability of violence in general as well as guerrilla warfare. On the contrary, non-institutionalization increases the probability of both. (Sander, 2008)

In defending the theory of structuralism, Huntington considered the main cause of tendency to political violence in the political structure of society and emphasized the imbalance of demands for political participation and institutionalization of the governmental structure. According to Huntington:
"New-emerging groups search for the ways and means of participation to achieve their goals and if these means are not available to them, they feel frustrated and try to ask their demands from the political system, through violence, force, and other illegitimate means. The political system either indicates compatibility and provides the required tools to satisfy their demands or suppresses them and as a result, they use the subversive and revolutionary methods. (Huntington, 2013)”.
The tendency to violence in groups and parties sometimes emerges in secret and armed. According to Maurice Duverge: "Political struggles take a military form when the opposing class has no other means

and is deprived of any other means for expressing their opinions or do not consider its legal expression effective. At this point, armed resistance against power takes place in two steps of underground resistance and obvious outburst ". (Duverge, 1990:209).

Factors affecting political behavior

The roots of political behavior among the individuals of a society can be categorized into two groups: personality factors and environmental factors (Milbrath, 1981: 320). Personality factors include five groups of hereditary factors, personal needs, natural and psychological needs, beliefs, tendencies, or approaches which directly affect political behavior. However, environmental factors affect indirectly through personality. Environmental factors play a role in forming the personality and belief system of political activists gradually over time. In this analysis, none of the environmental or personality factors are independent; while the environment affects the mediation of personality in political behavior, personality factors have no decisive determinant, but are formed within the range of environmental conditions and are oriented within the structure of customs, culture, and society. (Bashirie, 1995: 139). The effect of environmental and personality factors on the political behavior of individuals in a society can be explained based on the following model (Nelson, 1998).
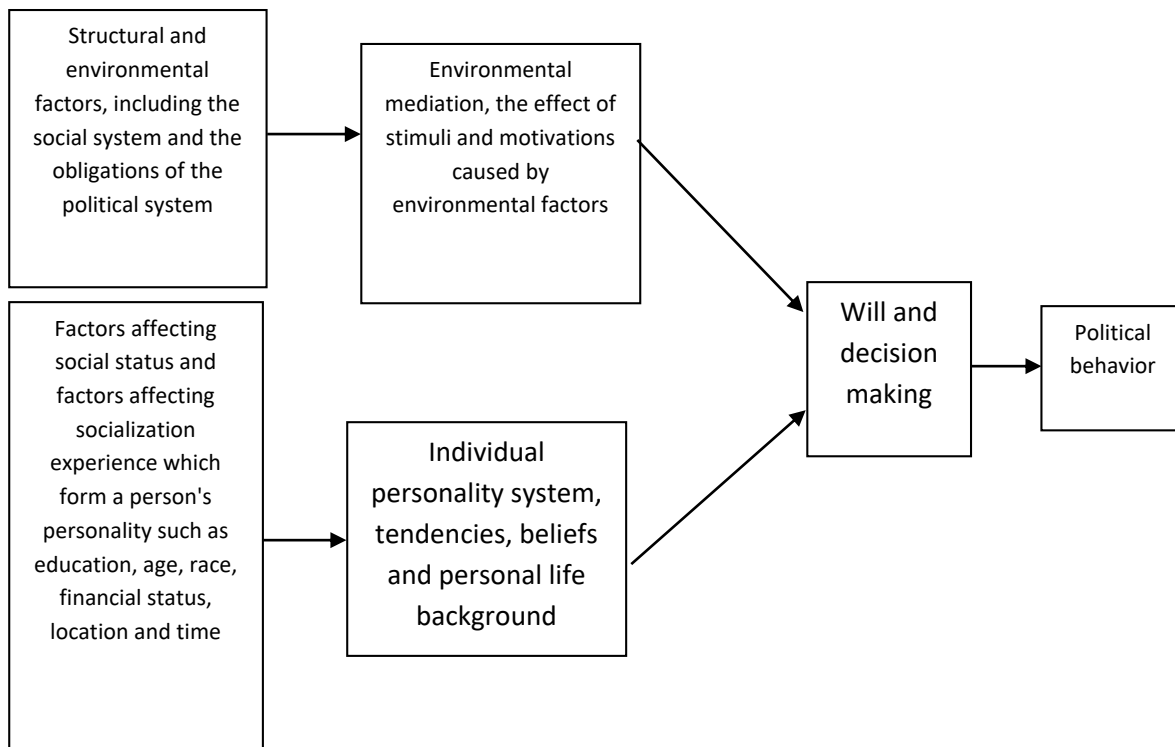
Figure (1): Factors affecting decision making in political behavior (Nelson, 1998).

Political participation, manifestation of the policy of compromise and negotiation

Perhaps it can be stated that one of the most appropriate and most interesting definitions of politics is "the art of solving disputes peacefully." According to Bernard Crick, politics refers to the conversion of confrontation into negotiation that places a human task before us on a human scale. In the modern world where the growth of urbanization is considered as one of its outstanding features, negotiation and settlement of affairs peacefully requires the mechanisms which can provide the necessary objective and subjective conditions. Granting limited and universal suffrage by creating the election approach for guiding the public opinion to results in conflict and violence has built part of the politics in the modern world. However, it should not be forgotten that the gaps in the fences are not credited on political decision-making based on the public. Ferero reminded that when universal suffrage is written, it can be seen that in all the monarchies of Europe, even in the France, the masses have taken no steps for gaining their sovereignty, which they have failed to understand. Universal suffrage has been imposed on the

masses by a minority of upper classes with the support of small groups of people. Universal suffrage has come down from the top like the monarchy (Ferero, 1991: 231). Based on the above-mentioned issues, the levels of political participation can be mentioned. The level of political participation is a wide range, including formal participation on one side and full participation on the other side. Although it seems that both ends of the spectrum have an extreme mode and may be never realized (especially full participation), the idea of such a spectrum for determining the place of political participation among the citizens of a region may make the mind clearer. Obviously, the relationship between the levels of political participation and the government system should not be forgotten. The importance of considering the levels of participation becomes even more obvious when we consider the extent to which some thinkers are pessimistic about political participation. For example, Jean-Paul Sartre's opinion on elections as one of the most obvious manifestations of political participation is as follows: "An electoral system - in any kind, is a collection of selecting individuals who are under pressure from external factors like a shapeless paste. The list of nominees represents the will of the nation as the list of song records which are sold out, indicating the taste of buyers (Shahbaz, 2001: 51). However, the results of actions have never been entirely consistent with the goals and political participation is no exception to this rule. However, the influence of people and masses in the fortress of politics became so extensive, so that political participation was raised a significant and fundamental issue in the modern state. For this reason, participating politically in societies has been recognized and accepted as one of the criteria for evaluating political development. However, this issue is not very old and as John Francopoji pointed out, in determining the types of political participation, not only the political opportunities and the guiding contexts for individuals is effective in take advantage of their political participation, the distribution of power in society is equally critical. Reviewing the existing literature on political participation clarified that researchers have paid special attention to "elections" and electoral participation despite different ways of political participation and intervention. The restrictions on suffrage were the main means of eliminating groups from the political elite whose interests could not be compatible with the success of the capitalist system during the 19th and early 20th centuries. In this regard, suffrage and assignment of positions were only limited to those who had sufficient education and asset (Puji, 1978:193).

The undeniable nature of such facts has made some researchers distinguish between two types of political participation such as guided and voluntary.

"Spontaneous political participation means the participation which naturally arises from the society, and some people gather around, form an organization, pursue collective goals, and participate in political affairs for reasons other than pursuing special interests or with different motives."

"Political, passive, or mobilized participation means a form of participation which is stimulated by governments under specific conditions at special times to simulate people to take the role of mobilization in political life." (Bakhshayeshi Ardestani, 2010)

The most significant objection to such classification is the induction of the mental conception of political participation as if the political participation and gap occur and there is always a conflict between group demands and governmental decisions, so that if a group rises with governments in certain conditions, such an act will be passive and non-spontaneous and the opposing point will be spontaneous political participation. Another point is the reliance on a unified image of citizens, considering them as a very simple and undifferentiated mass. In fact, using the word "stimulation" confirms this claim. It should be accepted that the issue of political participation is more complicated and ambiguous than it can be interpreted based on a linear model as causal analysis and intervention of citizens in politics as "stimulus-response". According to Foucault, the word "stimulation" always torments me because there is no action without stimulus. The problem is to know why someone becomes stimulated. In this regard, it should be noted that not only political opportunities and guiding platforms for individuals is effective in determining the forms of political participation, but also how power is distributed in society is equally critical; As the transformation of the distribution of power in society will have a serious effect the type of participation (Eyvazi, 2003). Approaches of explaining political participation Since the second half of the 20th century, political behavior researchers have attempted to examine the causes and motivations of political participation. In fact, different factors are involved in citizens' political participation and it

is impossible to provide a comprehensive theory for explaining citizens' political participation. Analytically, three groups of theories can be distinguished based on some methodological differences: Macro approach, micro approach, and mixed theories. Here is the description of these theories and approaches and the theorists' ideas about the factors affecting political participation re scrutinized.

Macro approach in explaining political participation
In this approach, most attention is paid to the analysis of structures and political structures provide a kind of platform for conducting political activities by individuals. Macro theories of explaining political participation involve the socio-political approach, cultural approach, political socialization approach, and the theories of individuals such as Lipst, Huntington, Andrews, and Liu. In fact, all the main social and economic roles in modern societies are somehow related to governmental regulations. Thus, citizens' participation shows how eligible citizens use the opportunities provided by the government (Almond and Powell, 2001: 51). Citizens' participation in politics can be categorized into various types based on the conditions created by governments. Based on one of the most common classifications, governments are divided into three groups of democratic, authoritarian, and totalitarian. However, each of these governments has its own types. All three types of government care about the political participation of citizens, each one having a different perspective. In order to maintain legitimacy, authoritarian governments attempt to encourage and even force people to have symbolic participations, such as voting for those they have appointed. In totalitarian governments where a ruling party normally controls all political power and supervises all activities of citizens, it is attempted to encourage people to engage in some political participation, such as formal voting. In these countries, the voting rate is usually high due to political pressure and intense political control, but neither of these two political systems demand for real, free, and conscious political participation, but consider only the controlled forms of political participation desirable (Panahi, 2007:39). One of the most significant factors affecting political participation is the type of political system and the participatory structures which provide opportunities for the participation for individuals. On the other hand, some sociological perspectives emphasize the structure of the party system, the type of electoral system in countries, the level of real competition among political parties, and other structural factors for explaining the citizens' political participation. Based on such social and structural factors which some analysts like Lawrence and Norris have concluded, the difference is in the participation of countries to each other rather than individuals. Whether the person is rich or poor, literate or illiterate, interested in politics or not, it does not matter whether he is Australian or American. These political scientists believe that if we want to increase the level of participation, it should not be the increase of the level of literacy. For example, if everyone in America had an academic degree, they would not be necessarily more active in participating in elections. However, individual variables such as education level, interest in politics, etc. are involved in the level of participation and differences between individuals (Seyed Emami, 2009).

In some other sociological explanations at the level of modernization and development, society is considered as a basis for the analysis of political participation. Some analysts such as Lerner, Inkels, and David H. Smith believed that active participation in the social and political spheres needs the formation of a modern human personality. Traditional human is always satisfied with the current status and its continuity and is skeptical of any change and has no trust in his ability for creating desired changes. On the contrary, there are attitudes in modern human, encouraging him to participate and intervene in the issues related to collective life. According to Huntington and Nelson (2002, 54), the process of social and economic development can lead to the expansion of social and political participation in two ways. One way is through social mobilization that the acquisition of higher social status creates a sense of empowerment and attitudes towards the ability to affect the decisions of social and public institutions and such mental factors can encourage participation in social activities or political affairs. In this case, higher social status, a sense of ability, and social -political effectiveness are considered as mediating variables, encouraging social and political participation. According to these researchers, a person's level of education has the highest effect on his social and political participation. The second view is the effect of economic and social development on membership participation and active participation in different groups and social organizations including occupational and trade unions as well as advocacy groups, increasing in terms of number in a more developed society. This factor is

even more significant in the societies where individual mobility opportunities are more limited. In these societies, the person works in the social organizations of political parties to achieve a better social and economic situation, as the last solution. From Huntington-Nelson's perspective, the effectiveness of these two factors on social and economic status and activity in the social organization is more significant.

Micro approach in explaining political participation

This approach, unlike the macro-centered approach which focused on structures, focuses on the individual, as well as the psychological and motivational stimuli being created in the individual. This section deals with the micro approaches of explaining political participation, such as the psychological approach and rationality theory in Anthony Downs' voting. In this section, the psychological approach is studied. Psychological explanations for participation focus more on psychological and motivational stimuli and believe that individuals are more affected by motivations such as desirability, effectiveness in the process of affairs and making changes, national or religious duties and motives in participation. (Palmer, 1997: 146). The psychological approach in Robert Dahl's model of political participation can be well observed in the book "Political Man". Dahl's model is based on the assumptions of wise choice. Robert Dahl's opinion can be summarized as follows:

- If people find that the rewards obtained from political and social participation are less than the rewards of other activities, they will certainly not be involved in these affairs.
- If a person feels no obvious differences between the cracks and does not care about them, he will participate less in politics and social affairs.
- If a person considers that his activity is ineffective in politics arena and cannot be the origin of change, he will never enter such an arena.
- If people believe that the results of political actions will satisfy them without their intervention, their chances of their participation in politics will decrease.
- If a person thinks that has no political efficiency to intervene in politics due to his limited knowledge and necessary knowledge, he will prefer to participate less in politics.

In line with the increase of the problems in entering the world of politics, the probability of participation will decrease (Dahl, 1985: 14-133). The critics of Dahl have questioned the assumptions of rational choice and the cost-benefit thinking and indicated that the expected benefit of an individual vote cannot be used merely as a basis for calculating personal gain and loss of the person who has attended the ballot box given its small effect on the overall election results. The proponents of Dahl's model argue that the expected reward of those attending the ballot box is not merely personal economic gain while the motives such as emotional satisfaction in civic tasks, support of political system, and party preferences can be the motives of participation (Dows and Hughes, 1986:293). This approach, unlike the macro-centered approach which focused on structures, focuses on the individual as well as the psychological and motivational stimuli being created in the individual. Psychological explanations for participation focus more on psychological and motivational stimuli and believe that individuals are more affected by motivations such as desirability, effectiveness in the process of affairs and making changes, national or religious duties and motives in participation. (Palmer, 1997: 146).

✓ Political effectiveness: Robert Lin defined political effectiveness as the sense of domination and control over oneself and the environment for a sense of political usefulness. Such a sense leads people towards being more aware of their political process and participating more actively in the political process.

Many researchers have regarded effectiveness as a key variable in political activity. In their studies, they have realized that the evaluation of an individual's effectiveness as well as his ability and competence in political participation affects his willingness to participate in political affairs (Palmer, 1988: 159).

Considering the rational and emotional dimensions of the sense of effectiveness, some analysts distinguish between the external and internal components in the sense of political effectiveness. External effectiveness means the person's inference from the effect of different activities and actions by the individuals in society on the decisions of officials or on the political process based on the degree of accountability among political officials in a particular political system. However, internal effectiveness, being used with political self-confidence, sense of effectiveness, and political adequacy refers to the abilities of the person and to what extent he considers himself adequate for political action (Seyed Emami, 2007: 64).

✓ Political trust: Part of the political studies in the analysis of political participation focused on political trust and considered it the vital feature of democratic governments because political trust is the link between people in society and institutions that want to be the representative of people in the social structure. In a definition, political trust is closely related to the efficiency of rulers and shows a degree of citizens' expectation of the ability and success of rulers to be commensurate with the public expectations (Khoramshad, 2006: 279).

In a more general sense, political trust can be regarded as a state of mind according to which a person in his civil and political life can rely on the words and actions of another one and see no relationship based on his exploitation.

A person who trusts feels cooperation with others and believes that other actors in political life will be his friends. In an empirical study, Panahi and Shaygan divided political trust into three components of trust in political system, trust in political institutions, and trust in political actors (Panahi, 2007: 41).

Combined theories in explaining political participation among thinkers:
 Different theorists have considered various factors at the sociological and psychological levels as an effective combination in political participation. According to Olson, many factors affect conventional participation such as:

- Political unwillingness or distrust: Lack of willingness in political affairs.
- Political effectiveness: Political effectiveness is the belief in creating changes in the political field. People more probably participate in an election when they value their votes as a result of the election.

Developing political resources: The ability of individuals or groups who can be effective in political processes. Such resources include money, time, communication skills, and personal contacts. Women and minorities normally use these resources less.

✓ Political socialization: Some people have become social in conditions to have more tendency in participating in political affairs.
✓ Mass media: Mass media encourage citizens in participation by supporting candidates. According to Olson, other factors can affect political participation such as facilitating the participation, increasing the public education and understanding of the significance of participation, eliminating legal barriers, deprivation of voting and increasing the participation of factors affecting minority political participation, distrust in the government if certain events occur, the presence of some specific conditions which encounter the totality of the society with crisis, economic issues, growth of some national budget, and devaluation.

The explanation of realities in any society such as our society should be based on the historical, cultural, political, etc. conditions. Thus, it cannot be expected that the current theories of political participation, which are mostly formed through the studies and foundations of Western thought can understand and explain all aspects of political participation in our society. However, the raised general theorems can be used and some of the theorems and principles can be studied in the form of research. Thus, this study attempted to avoid unilateralism and tendency to a particular theory, and on the contrary, a combination of opinions should be used. Many factors affect the political participation of citizens and can be classified in different ways. Based on the presented theories considering the specific conditions of

society, some of the variables which have been studied in measuring the level citizens' political participation were presented as a model in the form of a research model.

Levels of measuring political participation
Multiple indicators can be provided for measuring political participation. For example, Tajzadeh mentioned the issues such as voting, searching information, discussing and accepting new ideals, participating in meetings, helping financially help political parties or activists, communicating with representatives, enrolling in a party officially for collecting votes, enrolling voters, writing essay, making speech, competing for party and government positions (Tajzadeh 2002, 6). Mcclosy considered the issues as voting, gaining political information, discussing political issues, negotiating with representatives, membership in political parties, attending the elections, and competing for being elected for political and public positions in the country (Mcclosy, 1972:252). In addition, Rosh offered a model in which he considered all types and ranges of political participation in any kind of political system. This top-down ranking involves having a political or executive position, searching for political or executive position, active membership in a political organization, active membership in a quasi-political organization, participate in public gatherings, demonstrations, etc., passive membership in a pseudo-political organization, participating in informal political debates, little interest in politics, voting, and not getting involved in politics (Rosh, 1998, 126). Robert Dahl in his book "A New Analysis on Politics" mentioned the issues such as participation in presidential elections, participation in local elections, activity in an organization involved in problem-solving in society, activity for a party candidate during the elections (Musafa, 1996: 36). Lester Milbrath in his book "Political Participation" raised a hierarchy of political participation such as reading or listening to political news, participating in political debates, participating in elections and political struggles, making efforts for gaining political power and governmental positions, and protecting, and having political objections (Rahbar, 2001: 34).

Theoretical Foundations
Based on a classification, different theories have been raised on democracy, especially political participation, each of which refers to various levels of citizen effectiveness in the planning and decision-making process. Hugo defined participation as real effect of the group members on group decisions (Hugo, Social Science Culture: 147). Samuel Paul analyzed this concept about development at the local level. According to Paul, local participation is an active process where beneficiaries affect the prevention and implementation of development projects, rather than merely receiving a share of project benefits. (Saeedi, 2003: 131) The research by John Turner et al. on participation indicated that when the central government intervenes in the affairs of local communities, both the real needs of these communities are hidden for the central government and its power and resources are lost by excluding the local people. (Alavi Tabar, 2000: 65) According Ernstein, participation has different levels. This level is extended from pure citizenship powerlessness to citizenship control. Ernstein described citizen participation as the step which begins from the citizen powerlessness and continues to the delegated citizenship authority and power. The first two steps have no form of public participation at all and just includes the aspects of public deception and manipulation. The intermediate level which includes three steps transfers the information and receives suggestions while there is no guarantee on the comments and suggestions and is one-sided. However, the third step which includes citizenship control contains partnership, delegation, and citizenship control. At this step, citizens monitor and manage the work of city officials. The significant point is that the creation of citizenship participation is stepwise and hierarchical and being at any step is a reason for the growing movement of participatory steps. (Urban Management Reference Site)

In addition to providing conceptual theories on participation, a wide range of studies has led to the identification of barriers and strategies for promoting public participation due to the correlation between public participation and the success rate of development programs. Cautery emphasized the effect of government political will, legal tools, and appropriate social institutions on public participation (Cautery, 1996: 66). Many developing societies lack a democratic structure and cannot provide the appropriate structural conditions for people to actively participate in programs. Most planning in these societies is top-down and government officials have no deep belief in public participation. Thus, the

structure of the government and the position they consider for non-governmental organizations in development programs affect the level of public participation in these programs. (Saeedi, 2003: 132) In this field, Max Weber defined government as the monopoly of the legitimate exercise of power in a certain land. Thus, different social factions compete for the control of government but no dominant social group is found (Boshirieh, 1995: 54). Furthermore, he believed that authority in the bureaucratic style is one of the social structures of modern societies. Weber's arguments showed that he was trying to reconcile bureaucracy with democracy. Nevertheless, bureaucracies tend to focus on the power of power so much that when we talk about bureaucracy, we normally consider it as synonymous with centralized organizations. For this reason, political scientists consider bureaucracy against the growth of democracy. (Saeedi, 2003: 133) Bureaucracies which have organizational centralization become the factor of political centralization at another level and even it is the same bureaucracies which prevent the political growth of the people in a society over time because when the bureaucracy governs the society, nothing else can be performed against it (Ibid: 134). John Hick, the English theorist put an emphasis on the inverse relationship between centralization and shifting programs towards becoming decentralized and participatory because from a power-control perspective, power owners have found that it is in their best interest to prevent changes since structural changes lead to the redistribution of power (Delvi, 2000: 486)

Method

In order to select the appropriate method, the most appropriate method of this study was survey by referring to the sources and references. Not only this method can be used for obtaining facts, but also it is possible to study the facts, conduct cause-and-effect analysis, and test hypotheses. In survey method, little information is provided about the world and this method describes the characteristics of individuals or the social world. In addition, this method is used for explaining exploration (Newman, 1994: 222). Survey is one of the methods of data collection and analysis that the related data can be collected through different techniques such as questionnaire, interview, structured interview, observation, and content analysis (Davas, 1997: 16). Survey method is mainly used in the studies that the unit of analysis is the individual. This method is the best solution for the researchers interested in collecting real data for describing and measuring the attitudes, values, and orientations of individuals in a particular population in addition to the generalizations and claims made by the researcher on the results of the study on the statistical sample and population are other advantages (Davas, 2005: 61)

Therefore, the study was extensive and in terms of scope and a cross-sectional study in terms of time being conducted in 2017. The method of this study was survey and the research location was Tabriz.

Findings

A. It seems that there is a significant difference between decision-making in political behavior and gender in Tabriz residents.

Table (1): Descriptive statistics of political participation and gender (statistical sample)

total	political participation					
	high	somehow	low			
196	19	143	34	frequency	male	gender
51.0%	4.9%	37.2%	8.9%	percentage		
188	21	138	29	frequency	female	
49.0%	5.5%	35.9%	7.6%	percentage		
384	40	281	63	frequency	total	
100.0%	10.4%	73.2%	16.4%	percentage		

As can be observed in Table 1, the political participation of males in options low (8.9%), somehow (37.2%), and high (4.9%) while this value for females in low (7.6%), somehow (35.9%) and high (5.5%).

Table (2): Descriptive statistics of T-test for gender and political participation

SEM	Standard deviation	Mean	Number	Gender	
0.619	8.66	25.96	196	male	Decision making in political behavior
0.666	9.13	27.61	188	female	

T-test (mean difference between two independent groups) indicates the difference between the mean scores in two groups. Table 2 shows that the mean score of decision-making in the political behavior of females is different from the mean score of decision-making in males. The mean score of political participation for males is approximately 25.96 and its value is equal to 27.61 for females. In other words, there is a difference between these two means equal to the score M.D =1.65. However, this difference is not obvious.

Table (3): T-test of the gender of the participants' political participation

T-Test For evaluation of means					T-Test For evaluation of variances			
Deviation difference	Mean difference	Significance level of two ranges	Degree of freedom	T	Significance level	F Statistics		
0.908	-1.65	0.071	382	-1.81	1.319	0.252	Assuming the equality of variances	Decision making in political behavior
0.909	-1.65	0.071	379	-1.81	-	-	Assuming the inequality of variances	

The homogeneity of variances or F shows no significant difference between the variances, thus the variances are equal (sig = 1.319). At this significant level, H hypothesis is not confirmed with 95% confidence level and 0.05error. This level means that only five samples out of every 100 samples are randomly drawn to the relationship observed in the sample (Davas, 1997: 191).

The results of T test indicate that the difference between the two groups is not statistically significant. Thus, the gender of the respondents as an independent variable has no effect on decision-making in the political behavior of Tabriz residents.

Multivariate Regression Analysis

This section presents the multivariate regression analysis of the findings obtained from the data. This regression analysis aims to determine the contribution and effect of independent variables in explaining and predicting the changes in the dependent variable. Using the stepwise multivariate regression, the variance of the dependent variable can be explained by estimating the contribution of each independent variable. The stepwise regression method first selects the variable with the highest correlation with the dependent variable. The second variable which enters the analysis is the variable with the largest increase in R2 after separating the antecedent variable and so on. The difference between this method and the progressive method is that in the progressive method, the variables included in the analysis remain in the equation while in this method, some of the variables which had a high explanatory power in the previous step may be eliminated in next steps. In each step, each of the previous variables in the presence of the new variable along with other variables are exposed to the F or T test and if they are not significant, they will be removed from the model. This process continues until no significant variable remains outside the model. The stepwise method is a combination of the two methods of regressive and progressive and is recommended as the best method.

Social action and political action explain about 41% of political participation and about 59% is related to other variables which are beyond this study.

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Table (4): Regression model

Durbin-Watson	Estimation standard error	Adjusted coefficient of determination	Coefficient of determination	correlation coefficient (R)	Variables added to the model
1.44	7.050	.376	.378	.414[a]	Political participation

Conclusion

The participation of individuals in political affairs as a behavior first requires the acquisition of information, knowledge and learning about its significance. However, anyone with a basic understanding of political participation will not necessarily conduct it since a particular behavioral chain such as political participation requires the consideration of the skills which individuals have and the available resources. In the form of the modernization approach, Huntington and Nelson believed that political and social participation is a function of the process of economic and social development. This process affects the development of participation in two ways; first through social mobility. Gaining high social status strengthens the sense of ability and attitude towards the ability to affect decision-making. Such attitudes strengthen the field of political participation and social activities. In this case, social status affects participation through its effect on the sense of power or powerlessness. Human action is not devoid of meaning, value, and direction. Human beliefs have their own logic, power, and inner history and affect social life regardless of its relationship with the process of rationality and material interests. Political participation is a form of citizens' political action of a nation, emerging in two positive or negative dimensions while each state has several components. Political behavior can include its manifestations since it involves political participation. Furthermore, political behavior is associated with the previous intention, i.e. mental intention.

In this respect, it is related to the individual's decisions and if we talk about decision-making in political behavior, decision-making can be also considered as a mental action or objective action since some decisions may not be turned into action. On the other hand, political behavior can include its manifestations since it includes political participation. Political participation can be used if it affects the meaning of behavior or intends to affect the government outcomes. This study aimed to consider gender to investigate the political participation of the youth in Tabriz descriptively. The theoretical framework of this study was based on the approaches of political participation and political behavior. In addition, the opinions of experts in these fields were used in combination. The data indicated that 196 subjects were male and 188 were female out of 384 samples. In other words, 51% were male and 49% were female. The data related to the age of the respondents indicates that 127 respondents were at the age range 15-19 years, 166 respondents at the age range 20-24 years, and 91 respondents at the age range 25-29 years as described in the above table. The results showed that the mean score of political participation as a dependent variable was 26.76 and the standard deviation was 4.94. The minimum score of this variable was 12 and the maximum was 40 with a change interval of 28. It should be noted that in the present study, the coefficient of determination at 0.41 indicated the percentage of changes explained by the variables in the equation.

It should be accepted that the issue of political participation is more complicated and ambiguous than it can be interpreted based on a linear model as causal analysis and intervention of citizens in politics as "stimulus-response". According to Foucault, the word "stimulation" always torments me because there is no action without stimulus. The problem is to know why someone becomes stimulated. Thus, it should be noted that not only the presence of political opportunities and guiding platforms for individuals is effective to use in political participation for determining the form of political participation, but also power distribution is also significant in society; as changing way of power distribution in society have a serious effect on the type of participation.

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