

A Sociological Explanation of Different forms of Citizen's Participation in the City of Khalkhal¹

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Abstract: *This study aims to have a sociological explanation of the different forms of participation among Khalkhal citizens and the factors affecting it. In this study, the important issue is attention to dimensions of participation. The theoretical framework and model were presented by using the theory of Talcott Parsons, Lipset, Habermas, De Tocqueville, Lerner, and Rostow. This research was a survey and the structural validity and reliability were tested through Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The statistical population consisted of over 18 year old citizens of Khalkhal who were 36,000 according to the Census Bureau. Through a multi-stage cluster sampling method, 380 people were selected as a sample. To analyze the data, two methods of descriptive and inferential statistics and SPSS and Amos graphics softwares were used. After preparing the matrix, one-dimensional and two-dimensional information tables were set. This study aims to explain the different kinds of participation (social, cultural, psychological, economical and political) among the Khalkhal adult population. The results indicate that the independent variables of group bonds, social alienation, mass media and socio-economic status had significant relationship with participation as the dependent variable. Also, the results of Structural Equation Model show that all model fitness indices were over 0.90. It means that, based on the defined measures, the model has moved away from the dependent model and become closer to a saturated model. Since that AGFI=0.904, TLI=0.911 and IFI =0.915 are close to one, it shows the fitness of the model and RMSEA=0.078 shows the weak performance of the residuals in the model.*

Keywords: *Participation, group bonds, social alienation, mass media, religiosity.*

Introduction

Despite the traditional approaches to urban management, the new approach, stressing on the important role of people in the process of urban management and decentralized management approach, looks people as active and creative agents in city management affairs. In the new approach, public participation and entrusting the work of the people were emphasized by the senior managers of the cities. In this regard, various proposals have been considered the participation of citizens. In these approaches, the planning is mainly based on the role of public participation and local communities and according to features such as participation, having a process approach to planning, higher control on the people's livelihood and daily life and presenting the plans and programs related to the social needs and local conditions, they can be used as an acceptable model in planning and urban management. In recent decades and especially since 1970 onwards, due to increasing rate of urbanization and the formation of new scales of urban growth, the urban and local management have faced new challenges.

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Finding the sustainable and community-based ways, being holistic and focusing on different aspects of urban issues is inevitable in city management. Meanwhile, the emphasis on planning and management of cities, more than any other time, has been on the lower levels and tangible aspects of urban life and attracting the citizen participation (Friedman, 1993; quoted by Hachy Pour, 2006: 37). The phenomenon of social participation is one of the most important aspects of social, cultural development, economic and political development in any society, especially Iran which includes rapidly growing population. Some structural and functional problems in development programs are due to a failure in this domain. What is the problem here is that the concept of participation and its dimensions are not defined in our society. Also, the improving or suppressive factors are not considered seriously (Mohseni, 2003: 11). Since participation has different forms, including psychological, economic, political, social and cultural participation, the past studies have focused on two types of participation (political and a social participation). The study attempted to address the different forms of participation because the public participation is one of the factors affecting sustainable development. Sustainable urban development is possible only through a participatory decision-making at the local level because it is interrelated with the needs of daily living. The main task of government agencies is to offer facilities, support and remove the barriers and in the meantime should refrain from interfering in local affairs. Given the above, this research aims to answer this basic question that what factors influence different forms of citizens' participation in Khalkhal?

Major Research Objectives

- Evaluating the types of participation (political, economic, cultural, economic and psychological) in Khalkhal and the proportion of each one
- Studying the factors affecting the types of participation in Khalkhal city and identifying the proportion of each factor in these types

Minor Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Measuring the relationship between political participation of citizens and demographic variables (gender, occupation, education, income etc.).
2. Measuring the relationship between economic participation of citizens and demographic variables (gender, occupation, education, income etc.).
3. Measuring the relationship between social participation of citizens and demographic variables (gender, occupation, education, income etc.).
4. Measuring relationship between mental participation of citizens and demographic variables (gender, occupation, education, income etc.).
5. Measuring the relationship between cultural participation of citizens and demographic variables (gender, occupation, education, income etc.).

Research Background

Khadijeh Safiri and Maryam Sadeghi conducted a research called "social participation of female students in Tehran University in Social Sciences faculties and the related factors". In this article, the relationship between social participation and social factors influencing female students have been analyzed. The overall objective of this study is to identify the status of social participation of female students and social factors affecting it. To do this, understanding the appropriate context and necessary facilities and conditions to obtain greater social participation of female students in various aspects was the main objective. Relying on the present theories, social trust, sense of powerlessness and self-concept are main variables in explaining the social participation of female students. The statistical population of this study includes 18 to 29 year old female students studying at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Tehran state universities. Sampling method was stratified and 343 female students were selected as a sample of the study. The Pearson correlation coefficient tests show that the relationship between three variables of social capital, social trust, feelings of powerlessness and self-concept and social participation is significant and the most influential variable is social trust. Based on the findings, these variables could explain 22 percent of variance of social participation (Safiri and et al., 2009).

- Azita Rajabi (2011) studied the forms of citizen participation in urban development processes. In her view, in the new paradigm of global planning and urban management and project implementation, citizen participation has gained particular significance. The urban development projects is a collective activity based on the citizen participation with different patterns based on contributions of individuals, families, groups, organizations, institutions and private and public sectors. The so-called term “bottom-up development” concerns the role of public participation (individuals, groups, organizations) in the development process, including urban development, which is an indisputable fact. World experiences show that since 1980s in urban development programs, there has been increasing attention to participation. This paper examines the different patterns and models of of participatory planning and views on public participation in urban planning, theories and models of participation, the features of public participation in urban planning (Khabazi, 2013: 21).
- Lavasar and his colleagues (2016) examined the impact of social participation as a determinant of elderly health status that requires intervention and creativity. The privately help of citizens to social participation includes three hour meeting in a week for motivating the people to have social activities in leisure times. The aim of this study was to evaluate the social participation of the disabled older people. The statistical population consisted of 16 participants (11 disabled females), 66-91 years old (8.7 ± 79.4) who lived in the house. They filled out the questionnaire of functional independence, social participation, leisure time and quality of life and had semi-structured interviews. The findings suggest that the functional independence of older people ($P=0.02$), achievement ($P < 0.01$) and satisfaction ($P = 0.02$) and leisure activities ($P < 0.01$) increased with social participation. After the intervention, the participants wanted to make changes in their function ($P < 0.01$) and their leisure activity ($P < 0.01$) so that their social environment reduced ($P = 0.03$). The attitude of the respondents towards leisure time ($P = 0.04$) and also towards the health ($P < 0.01$) and mental quality ($P = 0.03$) were improved. These conditions can develop new opportunities for older people, increase the cohesion of society and enhance the social components.
- De Bruin and his colleagues (2015) examined the present value of the services in green cultivation farms (GCFs) based on the social participation of people suffering from dementia. To do this, they used semi-structured interviews with people attending in care giving center along with their family. The results of this study show that people with dementia were about 71 - 76 year old men and their wives looked after them. People with dementia in group RDCF, an average age of 85 years old, were mainly women and most of them were looked after by the nurses, not their husbands. In both GCF and RDCF groups, it was found that services provided to people with dementia considered them as part of the community. Their most important areas of social participation were social interactions and leisure activities. They also addressed the "paid work" and "volunteer works" areas. Therefore, adopting the characteristics of service centers and with the capacity of people with dementia is utmost important.
- Bobby and his colleagues (2016) examined the role of school education, role models and social participation in the wage and ethnic differences. Only a few young people responded to the recommendations of physical activity. Social protection factors such as having a role model, social participation, and adult support in school can promote physical activity among the young people. In this study, the data collected from the California Health Interview in 2011-2012 were used to assess this issue that what extent the role models, social participation and support lead to physical activity promotion among high-risk groups, inactive and obese groups, particularly the low income and colorful youth. In a model in which all young people voluntarily participating in organizations out of school had been used, some reports verified the further support of adults in the school. These reports also show that have a winning model will lead to having much more physical activity. However, the associations were different according to gender, income, and race / ethnicity. These findings suggest that some of these protective social factors, especially school support, can promote physical activity among young people, low-income African Americans who are object to risk of physical inactivity.

- Cantijoch and his colleagues (2015) were to examine the issue of whether the wide range of online political activities during election campaigns will subsequently affect the willingness to participate in a variety of online and offline political participation. Three hypotheses were raised in this regard: (1) the effort required to operate (2) type of activity (official and non-official) (3) environment in which online or offline activity is carried out. These hypotheses were tested using a panel data set with / after the UK election in 2010. The results showed that after controlling the previous political engagement, the search for online information during the campaign had a significant positive effect on further interaction in having softer participatory discussions. The findings also confirm that online political mobilization effects in "step by step" method whereby somewhat less intense activities lead people to the top of the participation ladder.
- In the study, Chris Young and Dhart (2016) a total of 4556 American students were immediately assessed after the 2012 elections to specify the predictors of psychological and behavioral factors related to social media in specific online political participation. The results of structural equation modeling and hierarchical multiple regression showed that online social capital, political efficacy, and group participation on Facebook were one of positive predictors of online political participation, while social trust had no direct impact on online political participation. General political use of Facebook and Twitter was a positive predictor of political online participation. However, the widespread use of Facebook and Twitter were negative predictors.
- Floud and his colleagues (2014) examined the relationship between participation in social activities among the British women with heart disease. They wanted to study this issue of whether participation in social activities may reduce the risk of suffering from heart disease. To do this, they used a retrospective study, including 735159 British elder women. Women participated in 8 social activities (religious groups, volunteer work, adult education, art / craft, music, dance, sports clubs, yoga, bingo) were followed up over the next 6-8 years until the occurrence of an event (hospitalization or death). Cox regression model was used to estimate the relative risk of heart disease by participating in any social activities. After adjusting the age and region, all activities, except bingo, were associated with a reduced risk of heart disease. However, after additional adjustment of 11 factors (deprivation, education, smoking, physical activity, body mass index, alcohol, marital status, self health points, joy, hypertension, diabetes), all relative risk estimates were close to one. The general results show that the relationship between participation in social activities and suffering from heart disease did not mainly refer to intervening factor in personal characteristics.
- Dimitrova and his colleagues (2014) in a study titled "Impact of Digital Media on knowledge and political participation in electoral campaigns: Evidence from panel data" that was a cross-sectional study show that while most previous research verified the positive relationship between using digital media and political participation and knowledge, most studies have focused on cross-sectional surveys and have not been able to firmly establish a chain of causality. The findings show that using the digital media has a low impact on political education, while using some digital media may have a considerable effect on political participation.

Theoretical Framework

After reviewing the theory of theorists like Parsons, Habermas, Alexis de Tocqueville, Lipset, Lerner and Rostow, they were used as a conceptual framework. The concept of "participatory culture" was extensively reviewed and discussed in the social action theory of Parsons. According to this theory, personality is the product of internalization of role and status positions and since each person has different roles in different status, the roles and status in organizations have a network of norms, Do's and Don'ts. These norms are internalized during the organizational socialization and make people to obey the norms. Accordingly, we can call participation culture as adherence of people to observe the role defined norms (Ritzer, 1995: 123). Habermas separates three types of actions: instrumental action, strategic action and communicative action; instrumental action has a non-social status and causes the instrumental rationality in interpersonal level. That is, seeking the benefits and following the personal

interests. If we do action in a situation between a subject and object, we will do instrumental action (Krayb, 2001: 30). Strategic actions and communicative action have both social status. Strategic action is a rational-strategic action and it refers to action of two or more people who follow a goal and in this way they adjust their rational actions. Such actions within the organization which follow the success, while in communicative action, people do not focus on their own success. This is a rational action in which everybody looks at rational instruments, participation opportunities, giving ideas and participation in decision-making. This type of action is to seek agreement; the agreement that was reached on the basis of rational communicative action because none of the parties can impose it (Krayb, 2001; 300-301).

Alexis de Tocqueville emphasizes on a community living space in society and calls it influential in the development of society. Tocqueville argues that one of these instruments is the distribution of power between various government departments and other instrument is periodical election. However, the most important means of controlling state power is social association (Chandhoke, 1998: 67). In his opinion, associations links people with the broader groups and interests so that they integrate the public life; strengthens the civic norms and firms the democratic values. These associations have much more power in controlling the probable exaggeration of the states, especially in democratic societies. In a study done in America, Tocqueville assessed the efficiency and effectiveness of the associations in social and political life of America. He says: in America nothing is pre-made and everything is made due to the necessity and to meet the needs and after meeting the needs, it will disappear. That is the secret of America's democracy. The collaboration of people in all matters concerning them prevents the power. Since they participate in making the society, they know society part of themselves and trust each other (Tocqueville, 1968: 126). The shared interests, links the American people together. That is why they collaborate with and trust each other. The Americans eagerly participate in small, large group discussions and they are active in the concerning associations. Being present in the discussions and collaboration, as social capital, encourages them to participate in the affairs (Ibid, 503). He knows that participation is reflected in collective cooperation and trust. Participating in forums and communication networks creates real people and provides the power for any action.

Lipset's theory, social or sociological approach, is the main approach in explaining the political participation. The most important theorist of this approach is Lipset. He examines the factors affecting the participation in various works. Lipset believes that patterns of elections in countries such as Germany, Sudan, America, Norway, Finland and some other countries are similar. In these countries, men more than women, the educated more than the illiterate, urban more than rural, married more than singles, people with higher status more than those with lower status, members of organizations more than non-members are involved in socio-political processes. Lipset variables in explaining the political participation can be divided into three general categories:

- 1) The economic status of the family, including income level, occupation, place of residence and social status. He says that they are basic parameters which indirectly affect the political behavior of the people through some other variables such as political ideology, party membership.
- 2) The person's social status, including variables such as marital status, participation in social and political institutions, urban and rural, migrant or indigenous status, education level, being middle- or young aged person.
- 3) Religious-political status in which the variables have mutual influence on each other. Variables such as political ideology of a person, which correlates with the degree of religiosity, influenced by the political character of the family (Amin Fatemi, 2009, 206)

The modernization study by Daniel Lerner is the most important and effective investigations among the primary researches in this field. Lerner research is the first attempt to formulate a universal model of modernization through cross-national studies. He proposed a general modernization theory. It was based on "behavioral system" of life interaction. He tested his theory by conducting a field research in several Middle Eastern countries.

In his research, he looked for a way by which communities transfer from traditional society to modern one. In addition, Lerner had conducted some studies to assess this point that how societies link with modernity. In this context, Modernism is a "participatory style of life" and a modern society is a participatory society. Features of participatory society are present in the West; people are going to school, reading a newspaper, financially supported, purchase goods, vote and discuss about a wide range of issues. In describing the movement of society from traditional to transitional stage and then to a new form of life, Lerner mainly provides three definitions:

1. Modernism in developing countries must follow the historical pattern of modernization belonging to the West because Western society has still the most developed model of social characteristics (power, wealth, skills and rationalism). This is the same model that Middle East spokesmen call it their target and support it. Lerner did not clearly identify that who these spokesmen are, but we can guess that he points to the political and economical elites; people who have western ideas and are the dominant powers in their societies.
2. Empathy or sympathy, as a dynamic psychological component, is called the modernization key. According to Lerner, empathy means the imagination of self in other peoples' position. Lerner clearly explained a process that changes this person to a client, radio listeners and voters.
3. The mass media, as a change index, facilitate the modernization process. The mass media reinforces the mobilization and this means that the mass media is able to adopt with the "change type" and "possibility of change". Lerner believes that there is an interaction between the index of media modernization and other social institutions. Dependent growth of urbanization and education from 10 to 25 percent of urbanization shows at the peak of this correlation.

After this stage, the growth of literacy is linked to the growth of mass media. The theory of Lerner, accessing the mass media as a precondition of participation in the society and the fact that mass media directly affects the attitudes and individual behaviors, are challenged by both the critics of the traditional patterns and reviewers of the communication patterns and the development of liberal capitalism (Ibid: 48). Subsistence economy is the characteristic of a transitional society; This is not an industrial society and the investment is very little or there not any investment. According to this model, a traditional society is politically an authoritarian society that is highly decentralized. In traditional society, people are rural, uneducated, untrained, fatalist and they are not active. On the other hand, a modern society is an entirely urban, educated and trained society in which the communication means are available. From the perspective of Lerner, modern human is a secular, trained and educated person who is physically and mentally active. Moreover, modern and traditional societies are very different in terms of communication. According to liberal-capitalist models, traditional societies rely on face-to-face communication and to prove their role and status look for the information (Ibid: 58). Lerner thought that in order to create a new identity in traditional society a national spokesperson is needed. According to him, the speaker could have been a national leader like Ataturk, in the 1920s and 1930s, who extended Western secularism in Turkey, or an elite who believes in modernism. The new ways of living should be placed against farmers and Lerner mainly held such a role for the media (Ibid: 59). Rostow's stage of growth theory was formed under the influence of the evolution school. Rostow's theory is not just an economic and technical theory. He has examined the productive forces in terms of social development and by showing the historical changes; the productive forces have tried to upgrade the capitalist society as an evolved society (Papal Yazdi Ebrahimi, 2011: 87). Rostow lists the passing from traditional society to industrial society in five stages:

1. Traditional Society: a society with limited production and its scientific and technical knowledge. The society is primarily an agricultural society and organized based on the family-based development. People have a chronic fatalistic view.
2. Prone to economic conditions: pre-requisites for the development of a traditional society, are a number of factors, including: a) promotion of the idea that economic progress is

required to achieve social welfare. B) Training, at least in some communities C) the use of savings in order to create private or public institutions by entrepreneurs D) establishing the bank and financial institutions. E) Increasing the investment and expanding the trade F) the establishment of a central political power. This is a transitional stage between traditional society and the next period.

3. Economic Rise: in this phase, the difference between traditional and developed society become clear and that is why the all rise factors must be fulfilled so that the investments agricultural productivity increase, cities expands and new urban centers appears.
4. Mature phase in which the industrial products are diversified, industry sectors, more economical and effective new techniques are developed.
5. Mass Consumption: This step is identified with higher living standards in the community, increasing the number of skilled workers' investments in the field of social security and health. Rostow's analysis is based on this point that a need for the automatic economic growth is an increase in material investment. The emphasis on capital is not limited to sociologists, but many economists believe that the main problem of underdevelopment is capital scarcity (Azkia, 2002: 43).

Research Hypotheses

- The participation of citizens in terms of psychological, economic, political, cultural and social types of participation changes according to their social alienation.
- The participation of citizens in terms of psychological, economic, political, cultural and social types of participation changes with respect to their group bonds.
- The participation of citizens in terms of psychological, economic, political, cultural and social types of participation changes with respect to the use of media.
- The participation of citizens in terms of psychological, economic, political, cultural and social types of participation changes with respect to their socio-Economic economical status.

Research Methodology

This is a correlation study and was conducted as a survey research. The statistical population of this research includes over 18 year-old Khalkhal citizens who were 36,000 according to the Census Bureau. Using Cochran formula and using multistage cluster sampling, 380 people were selected as the sample of study. The most common technique, questionnaire, was used in the survey. The validity and reliability were tested using Cronbach's alpha coefficient for all variables and it was higher than 0.70.

Research Findings

Descriptive findings

According to research findings, 51.8% of the respondedents were male and 48.2% were female; The lowest age was 18 and the highest age was 58 years old; More respondents are also at the age of 28; 60.5% of the total respondents were married which include the highest frequency. In addition, 5.0% of respondents were widow (the least frequency); 32.9% had bachelor degree, while 1.6% had the elementary education; 49 (9/12%) of the subjects were businessmen, 6 (1.6%) of the subjects were workers; the lowest income was less than 5000000 Rials and the highest income was 35010 Rials; 30.8% of the respondents' fathers had elementary education and there was no parent with higher education; the fathers of 132 (34.7%) subjects were businessman and 2 father(0.5%) were drivers; the lowest income of the respondednts' father were 5000000 Rials (17.6%) and the highest rate was 35000000 Rials (2.1%). 31.3% of the respondents' mothers were illeterate (the highest frequency); 83.25 were housewives and 0.8% were businesswomen; the mothers' lowest income was less than 5000000 Rials and the highest rate was 15000000-25000000 Rials.

Table (1): Sample classification in terms of independent and dependent variables (Descriptive statistics)

| | Mean | Max. | Min. | Number of question | Scale form |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|------|--------------------|------------|
| Group bonds | 19.6658 | 29 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Social alienation | 31.7158 | 46 | 21 | 13 | 5 |
| Mass media | 6.6132 | 16 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Social participation | 27.7895 | 32 | 16 | 16 | 2 |
| Economical participation | 52.9763 | 70 | 30 | 16 | 5 |
| Cultural participation | 30.2342 | 50 | 10 | 10 | 5 |
| Political participation | 51.5868 | 77 | 26 | 18 | 5 |
| Psychological participation | 69.3211 | 92 | 50 | 21 | 5 |

Inferential results

1. To test the first hypothesis, the psychological participation varies according to social alienation, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and (with significance level of 0.95%) we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables; given the positive correlation (0.424), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to increase in another variable.
2. To test the second hypothesis, the political participation varies according to social alienation, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables; given the positive correlation (0.242), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
3. To test the third hypothesis, the cultural participation varies according to social alienation, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables. Given the positive correlation (0.207), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
4. To test the fourth hypothesis, the economic participation varies according to social alienation, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables. Given the positive correlation (0.178), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
5. To test the fifth sixth hypothesis, the psychological participation varies according to group bonds, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables; increase in one variable leads to increase in another variable. Given the positive correlation (0.243), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
6. To test the sixth hypothesis, the political participation varies according to group bonds, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables; increase in one variable leads to increase in another variable. Given the positive correlation (0.428), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
7. To test the seventh hypothesis, the cultural participation varies according to group bonds, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that

there was a significant relationship between the two variables. Given the positive correlation (0.177), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.

8. To test the eighth hypothesis, the economic participation varies according to group bonds, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables. Given the positive correlation (0.253), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
9. To test the ninth hypothesis, the social participation varies according to group bonds, the independent T-test was used. The results showed that the T value was 2.556 ($p < 0.012$), then the null hypothesis is rejected. It means that the variance of two groups are not the same and they are different in terms of group bonds. Since the average of the first group, who have social participation, is higher than the average of second groups, we can say that people with group ties have higher social participation.
10. To test the tenth hypothesis, the political participation varies according to the use of media, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.041) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables; increase in one variable leads to increase in another variable. Given the positive correlation (0.105), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
11. To test the eleventh hypothesis, the cultural participation varies according to the use of media, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results showed that the significance level of the test (0.000) was less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can say that there was a significant relationship between the two variables. Given the positive correlation (0.185), there was a significant relationship between two variables; increase in one variable leads to an increase in another variable.
12. To test the twelfth hypothesis, the psychological participation varies according to social and economical status, ANOVA test was used. To do the one way variance analysis on the relationship between the social and economical status and psychological participation, the social and economical status were categorized into three levels: high, middle and low levels. The findings show that significance level of the test (0.528) was more than 0.05. That is, there was not a significant difference between the participation of citizens in terms of their psychological participation and their social and economical status.
13. To test the thirteenth hypothesis, the political participation varies according to socio-economical status, ANOVA test was used. To do the one way variance analysis on the relationship between the social and economical status and political participation, the social and economical status were categorized into three levels: high, middle and low levels. The findings show that significance level of the test (0.391) was more than 0.05. That is, there was not a significant difference between the participation of citizens in terms of their political participation and their social and economical status.
14. To test the fourteenth hypothesis, the cultural participation varies according to socio-economic and status, ANOVA test was used. To do the one way variance analysis on the relationship between the socio-economic status cultural participation, the socio-economic status was categorized into three levels: high, middle and low levels. The findings show that significance level of the test (0.191) was more than 0.05. That is, there was not a significant difference between the participation of citizens in terms of their cultural participation and their socio-economic status.
15. To test the fifteenth hypothesis, the economic participation varies according to socio-economical status, ANOVA test was used. To do the one way variance analysis on the relationship between the socio-economic status and economical participation, the socio-economic status was categorized into three levels: high, middle and low levels. The findings

show that significance level of the test (0.403) was more than 0.05. That is, there was not a significant difference between the economic participation and their socio-economic status.

16. To test sixteenth hypothesis, the political participation varies according to socio-economic status, Chi-square test was used. Since the significance level of the table was less than 0.05, it can be said that the participation of citizens in terms of political participation varies according to their socio-economical status is different from each other;

The findings show that significance level of the test (0.391) was more than 0.05. That is, there was not a significant difference between the participation of citizens in terms of their political participation and their social and economic status; those who have higher socio- economic status, they have higher social participation, as well.

Structural Equation Modeling Using Amos Graphics

In this part we consider the validity of measurement tool and the structure's Goodness of fit using to Amos software. It is done through data variables derived from hypotheses (Ghasemi, 1384: 73). The following model tests the validity of independent variables (social alienation, the use of the media, group bonds and socio-economic status) and the dependent variable (participation) and the structure's Goodness of fit. In the measurement part, as the model suggests, most of the latent variables are suitably loaded on them and the variables with low loadings are removed from the model. In the structural part, the model also suggests that social alienation variable (-0.4261) could explain the highest amount of variance. Model parameters and the structure's Goodness of fit are in harmony with the observed data and construct validity of the measurement tool. All comparative indices were also in higher levels (0.90). It means that the model moves away from an independent model and approach to a saturated model based on defined criteria. Since that AGFI= 0.901, TLI= 0.908 and IFI = 0.912 are close to one, it indicates that the model is fit and RMSEA= 0.079 shows the weak performance of remaining in the model.

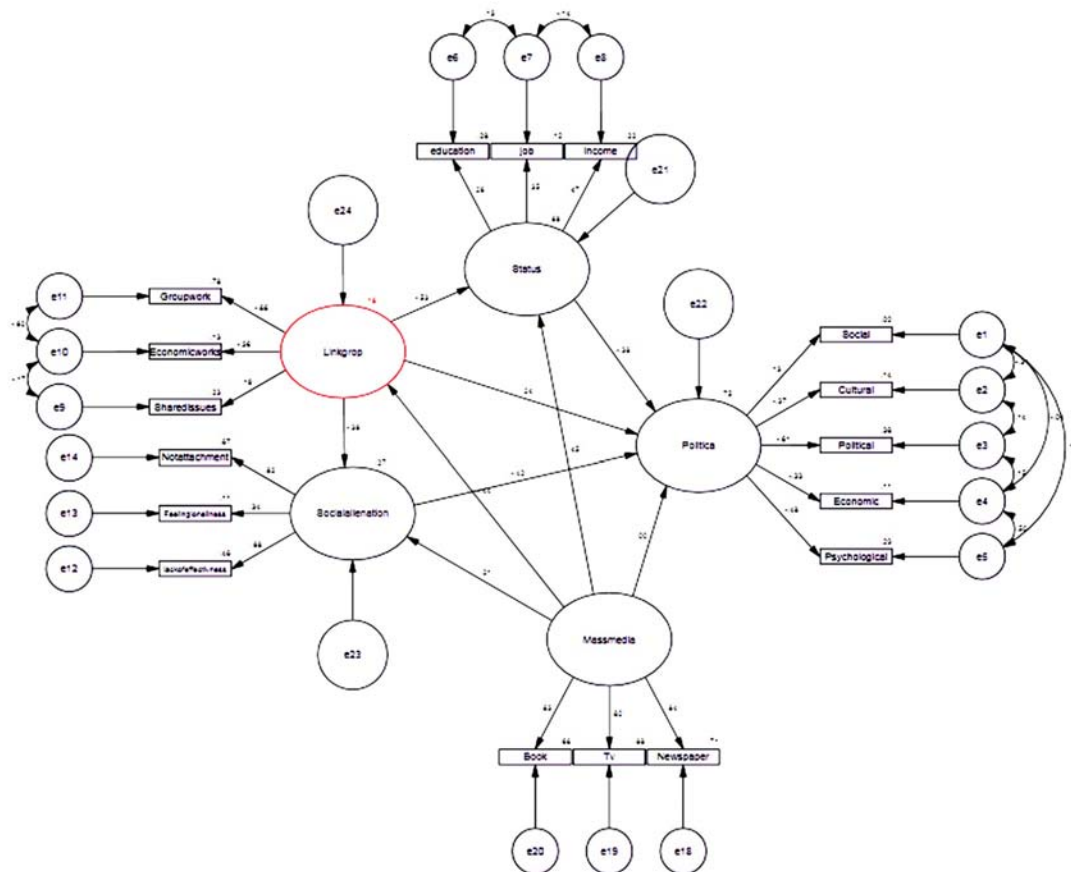


Table (2): the results of Amos Graphics Output

| | |
|---|---------|
| Degrees of freedom | 101 |
| The significance level | 0.000 |
| Chi-square | 413.802 |
| AGFI Modified goodness of fit index | 0.901 |
| RMSEA The root mean square error of estimate | 0.079 |
| IFI Incremental fit index | 0.912 |
| NFI Normalized fit index | 0.906 |
| TLI Not normal fit index | 0.908 |
| CMIN/DF Chi-square normalized | 4.097 |

Research Recommendations

According to the research findings, there is a relationship between the use of mass media and dimensions of participation. Thus, the mass media must be the guardian of citizens, select the topics and issues impartially and be open to their concerns and suggestions.

Recommendations for Future Researchers

To the researchers tending to work about the participation, the following cases can be suggested:

1. Since many of the researchers have worked in partnership without making a distinction between the political, economic, social, and psychological and culture concepts, therefore it is suggested to the researchers to firstly define these concepts and prevent any misunderstanding and secondly try to offer suitable solutions to increase dimensions of this concept.
2. This study was a survey and the questionnaire was used to collect the data. Other methods and techniques, including interview, case study or a longitudinal study can be used for evaluating the social phenomena because there are many influential factors and it makes the analysis very difficult.
3. Since participation is a multidimensional and complex phenomenon, it is recommended future studies focus on only one aspect of participation.
4. This study was conducted in the Khalkhal city. In order to achieve a broader perspective, the complementary studies can be done in other cities or countries and the results of the study can be compared.

Research Limitations

- Persian resource limitations, especially in psychological and economic participation variables.
- Limitations in international scientific literature on the research.
- Lack of access to all the resources, especially the thesis in other universities.
- The lack of willingness of citizens to respond the questionnaire.

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