

A Comparative study on Women's Attitudes towards their Social Roles in Cities with High and Low Socio-Economic Development (A Case Study of Khuzestan Province, 2010)

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Abstract: *Historical experiences of the western communities indicate that in practice, it was after the industrialization of the Europe that the women's participation in public domains of production as a social necessity took form. Following that, the women's attitudes towards the social positions and roles were also changed. The Iranian society never experienced such an introvert process of social-economic development. The existence of incongruous and unbalanced socio-economic structures in Iran paved grounds for women's involvement with objective experiences and different mental world and sometimes conflicting one in connection with their social roles. For this reason, today, even women themselves are facing many ambiguities and conflicts in defining their social roles. The identification of factors and relationships in the process of formation of women's attitude towards their social roles can strategically lead to the promotion of their participatory-seeking attitudes. At the same time, such an effort can help with the efficient use of existing human forces in the society. The pivotal issue in this study is that it seems the women living in the regions with a high socio-economic development has a more equality-oriented attitudes towards their social roles as compared with the women living in a low development region. For this purpose, a study comprising of a sample of 400 women with a settlement record of over 15 years in urban regions of Khuzestan province was performed. The findings of the research show that with reliance upon the theoretical elaborations and with reference to the practical findings of research, it can be said that the women's attitudes living in developed cities has a meaningful difference in comparison with those of the women residing in undeveloped cities. At the same time, the results of statistical tests of this research indicate that there is also a meaningful difference among women's attitudes with regard to the rate and nature of economic, social and cultural development of their city of residence.*

Keywords: *Socio-Economic Development, Incongruous, Women's Attitudes, Women's Social Roles, Khuzestan [Province], Urban Regions*

Introduction

The process of socio-economic development of Iran started at about early nineteenth century. This process took form mainly under the influence of mechanisms outside the society and took place without an ideal structural ground and any changes in the structure and base of social relationships. So, such a socio-economic development was neither able to put the imbalanced and unfavorable social system in a balanced and favorable direction and nor was able to meet the demands of socio-economic groups of Iran, but it made the social structure and the social system became more unbalanced and dependent on the global economy (Seifollahi, 2002-81). In such a condition, it is forecasted that the Iranian women to have different or conflicting attitudes towards their social roles under the impact of incongruous and unbalanced structure and function of socio-economic development of the society. In other words, it seems that the women who are living in developed regions have a more gender equality-oriented attitudes in comparison with the women who are living in undeveloped regions. So that, the main issue of this research is whether or not the women's attitudes towards roles, norms and dominating gender beliefs in developed structures are different from their attitudes and expectations in undeveloped structures? Reviewing the examples of this issue in different urban regions of Iran, it will be possible to gather the practical and statistical documents necessary for the issue.

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Statement of the Research

The historical experiences of the western societies indicate that the process of socio-economic development of those societies have had impacts on the redefinition of definition in the side of women of those societies. In other words, in practice, it was after the industrialization of the Europe when the women's participation in public domains of production took shape as a social necessity. Following that the women's attitudes towards their social roles and positions were also changed. The Iranian society never experienced such an introvert process of socio-economic development. The existence of socio-economic incongruous and unbalanced structures in this society has given rise to the women's involvement in objective experiences and different (and sometimes a conflicting mental world) in connection with their social roles. For this reason, even women themselves are facing many ambiguities and conflicts in defining their social roles. In other words, due to the natural difference of the structure of socio-economic development of Iran with that of the western society, the type and rate of women's social participation and their definition of their social roles in that society are different from the western societies.

The pivotal point in this study is that there is a direct relationship between the quality and quantity of socio-economic development of a society with the rate of women's participation in public scenes and their role expectation. Thus, it seems that the Iranian women under incongruous and unbalanced structure and functions of socio-economic development of this society have different or conflicting attitudes in relationship with their social roles. In other words, it seems that the women who are living in more developed areas have more equality-seeking attitudes towards gender roles and social participation as compared with the women living in undeveloped areas. So, the main issue in this research is to consider whether or not the women's attitudes towards their social roles and their role expectation in developed structures are different from their attitudes and expectation in undeveloped structures? Studying the examples of such an issue in urban society of Iran can help with the preparation of necessary practical and statistical documents for this issue.

The importance and necessity of the research topic

The incongruous growth and development of Iran in recent century has made the creation of types of different and conflicting social relationships in the society. These differences and conflicts are in particular more in connection with the role models of women, their expectations of society and themselves in respect with their social roles. The existence of different and conflicting attitudes in women can in turn cause tension and contradiction in social structures. The importance of this issue is in particular becoming more important when the dialectic relationship between the socio-economic growth and development of each society with the indexes of human development of that society to be considered. In particular in connection with women, the rate of their social participation is considered to be an indicator determining the rate of socio-economic development of societies.

The main assumption of this study is that the type of women's attitudes towards the social roles is subject to the rate and nature of the socio-economic development of society. So that, logically, it can be concluded that to the extent a society enjoys a higher level of development, to the same extent, it will have more equality-oriented attitudes towards gender roles and as the same time, it will have a more positive attitude towards social participation. The identification of factors and relationships which are influential in the formation of women's attitudes towards social roles can strategically lead to the promotion of their participatory attitudes. At the same time, such an effort will help with the possibility of the efficient use of existing human forces at the society.

Objectives of the research topic

1. Studying and reviewing the structure and function of socio-economic development of Khuzestan province and ranking of different cities of Khuzestan province from the viewpoint of the rate and nature of socio-economic development
2. Comparing the women's attitudes of women residing in undeveloped cities (towards their social roles) with the women of undeveloped cities
3. Presenting strategic and applied mechanisms in the area of women's attitudes towards their social roles

A review of the previous studies

Many researches have been conducted on gender attitudes, beliefs, norms and ideology, but in most of these researches, the above variables have been elaborated in connection with micro factors. Nevertheless, many

researches, even those intending to elaborate the women's social participation can be useful in both practical and theoretical dimensions. Schmitz and Diefenthaler have tried to study the relationship between culture and gender attitudes in their research. The statistical community and sample population in the above-mentioned research included the American women and men. The main assumption of the research is that the Mexican culture is more traditional in comparison with the American culture, so that, it is based on the system of role distribution and fully gender norms. The results of the above research show that the Mexican people are more faithful to traditional norms and expectation in comparison with the Americans. In addition, the Mexicans have gained more scores in the scale of measuring patriarchal attitudes in comparison with the Americans, so that they have more patriarchal (male-oriented) attitudes.

A research by Barbara Mensch and Barbara Abraham has been conducted to measure the attitudes towards gender roles among the Egyptian adults. The statistical community of this research includes the Egyptian single people of the age 16 to 19 as a society with a gender role segregation. In this research, the attitudes of girls and boys of the mentioned age group on the features of their future wife and their attitudes towards obedience of women and their responsibility on household labors are assessed. The rate of academic progress is considered in this research as an independent variable. At the same time, some of the socio-economic variables are also studied as other independent variables which are effective on individuals' attitudes. The result of research indicates the lack of confirmation of the model of this research in elaborating the sociability differences of gender roles. In the views of the mentioned researchers, perhaps the attitudes towards gender roles are not resulting from the performance of individuals' socio-economic bases and their place of residence, but from immeasurable factors which are under the influence of unmeasured factors or those related to cultural features or life experiences (Mensch, 2003, 34).

Zanjanizadeh conducted a research entitled "The assessment of the rate of the independence of married women residing in Mashhad city and social factors affecting that" (Zanjanizadeh, 2005). The independent variables of the research included: age and duration of marriage, job and rate of education of women and her husband, redefinition in values and women attitudes and normative atmosphere of family orientation, self-estimation, the rate of privacy and expansion of socio-cultural relationship network. The results of that research indicated there is no meaningful relationship among variables of age, rate of children and duration of marriage with the women's autonomous condition. However, the variables of job, rate of women's education and that of her husband have a meaningful, positive or average relationship with the rate of self-autonomous condition. In other words, to the extent that the job and academic rank of husband or the woman herself are higher, to the same extent, the possibility of increase of women's autonomy is greater.

In a research conducted by MohammadAbdollahi (2008) entitled, "factors, obstacles and strategies of Iranian women's civil participation" the women's participation has been considered as a dependent variable. In this research, the theoretical framework has been developed in three macro, intermediate and micro levels. So, considering the factors of macro level as factors creating intermediate level and intermediate factors as factors forming factors of micro level, the research has drawn a conceptual framework for the women's civil participation in Iran. Abdollahi studies the macro factors in connection with three levels. These three levels include: the level of province development (including cultural, social, political and economic development), normative proving environment of the province where women are living and the geographical and political position of province. In his view, the total of these factors draw the population condition. The results of this study show that the civil participation of women living in provinces with central geographical-political position or semi-central such as Tehran and Hamadan is higher as compared with women who are residing in peripheral provinces such as SistanvaBaluchestan province. Also in provinces which are more developed from the viewpoint of economic, political, social and cultural indicators and enjoy a dense population and higher percentage of urbanism, women have a higher social contribution.

The theoretical framework of the research

In this research, the combined viewpoint of Seifollahi (a new approach) has been considered as the macro variable elaborating the Iranian women's attitudes. Adopting a structural and dialectic approach, he notices to the objective structures of the society in social changes. Seifollahi believes that in general, the process of establishment of unjust social relationship is resulting from the performance of unbalanced social structure. The unbalanced social structure system is also resulting from the nature and performance of internal and external structure of the basic elements which form a social system. Inside the social system, there are various elements with different structures and functions but the basic pillars of the system are relied upon five elements along with related components. These pillars, elements and components include: social and geographical pillars, elements

and components, population pillars, elements and components, livelihood-economic pillars, elements and components and political pillars, elements and components (Seifollahi, 2002:57).

Elaborating the unequal gender relationships in different societies, Seifollahi believes that social unjust relationships are causes for gender discrimination. In this issue, he adds: Another consequence of the unjust social relationships is the creation of gender inequalities. In a society whose bases are based on inequality, the discrimination, pre-judgment and gender exploitation is an undeniable fact. These unequal relationships exist in most of the human societies. Women are subject to tyranny and exploitation, since they have no position in decision making centers. Women do not receive an equal income for doing an equal job and in lieu of an equal merit and talent; they do not gain a job more important than men. Work, job and career are distributed based on women and men genders. Women are submissive to men and this submission is not resulting from biological factors but arises from imposing men's views that have political, economic and cultural powers and instruments of the society under their control. Woman in an unequal society is like a consuming commodity and ranks lower from the perspective of decision making (Seifollahi, 1993:223).

The unbalanced model of development in the Iranian geographical bed which is the result of peripheral development of this society has been followed by tension-provoking consequences in this society. In Iran, the development of provinces is not equal. This issue is resulting from the special structure of planning system and employing borrowed model; in particular the Center-Environs development model. It is obvious that in provinces, most of investments are on central part and margins are less noticed (Sharbatian, 2009). The incongruous and unbalanced development process has had impacts not only on the objective features of the Iranian social life but also its mental dimensions too. So, this society is witnessing different or conflicting types of production methods, it also bears different or contradicting models in immaterial dimensions. It seems that such conflicts can be observed in the women's intellectual system. Thus, it is expected that the indigenous model of socio-economic development has given rise to the creation of incongruous intellectual models in each of these geographical regions. In connection with the subject of the present research, it should be said that under the influence of incongruous development, the society has witnessed a very incongruous spectrum of gender norms and beliefs among women. At the same time, it should be noticed that the macro structures of the society do not play an immediate role in the formation of women's attitudes of a society. In other words, structures leave impacts on intermediate and micro levels and through a dialectic process have impacts on women's attitude and undergo influences as well.

Chafetz, one of the feminists' scholars studies the issue of gender inequality at micro and macro levels. He divides the mechanisms which are influencing the continuation of gender inequality into two sections. These two sections include the mandatory forces and volunteer forces and individual actions. In relation with the mandatory forces of gender inequality, he says that the gender stratification is finally connected to the social labor division at macro level. Concerning the gender inequality volunteer forces, Chafetz believe that the culture of the society justifies the gender differences, such that it seems these differences to be natural for the young individuals of the family and society, so that, individuals and even women accept these changes in voluntary forms and act accordingly. Chafetz distinguishes among three types of gender definition. 1) Gender ideology or belief in basic differences or typically biological differences between the nature of men and women 2) Gender norms or expectations on correct methods and behavior of women and men 3) Cliché beliefs or emphasis on difference among women and men that what kind of reaction do they usually show in different positions (LahsayeeZadeh, 48:1990). Concerning the cliché beliefs, in addition to Chafetz, some other scholars have conducted researches as well. In his definition of cliché belief, Anselmi states that cliché beliefs include the prevailing beliefs among individuals based on their membership in one or some social groups (Anselmi, 1998:195). In connection with the gender roles, he says that the gender roles are prescriptions and beliefs determined by a culture and society in connection with the method of women and men's behaviors and emotions (Anselmi and Lave, 1998:195). In general, according to scholars, cliché building can be divided into two types of descriptive and prescriptive ones. The descriptive cliché shows how are the members of groups typically (women are mild and kind). The prescriptive cliché defines the prescriptive standards of behavior which the members of groups should observe to avoid being mocked (women should be mild and kind) (Fiske et al, 1991). As it was mentioned, the prescriptive cliché indicates those categories of behaviors which the members of a society should behave in accordance with those behaviors. A housewife, a kind mother, a devoted wife, etc. are types of clichés which have been put in the women's mind in form of a cliché belief and serve as a base for their practice. The result of research by Mac Donald and Parke has shown that the behavior of parent-child has impacts on the formation of gender cliché and they treat their sons and daughters differently. Furthermore, they play physical games with their sons more than their daughters (Mac Donald and Parke, 1998). The result of research has shown that boys and men are forced to act in accordance with the manly standards. For example, boys and men who do not act in accordance with

manly standards are faced with inferiority complex. At the same time, those groups of men who are able to behave in accordance with manly standards, due to intensive pressures related to the manly authorized trainings are bearing psychological or mental pressures (Pleck, 1993:109). Researches have indicated that parents have cliché beliefs on having special behaviors suitable for each gender and consider difference in natural capabilities of each gender (Jacobs, 1985:20-25). Such a situation has a negative impact on individuals' performance, since they see themselves before judgment of cliché beliefs in advance. The result of a research by scientists has shown that when the participants of a math test were told that the test will probably show gender differences among the two genders, the women's scores went meaningfully lower than men. Oppositely, when the participants of a test did not imagine that the result of test will indicate their gender differences, both men's and women's scores were the same (Spencer, 1990-4-28). Concerning the gender and cliché beliefs and the necessity of paying attention to these two issues in connection with each other and in particular to the mutual relationship of couples, Landrine believes that when the gender cliché beliefs are studied, though it is possible that no race or social class to be put forth, but most of people make some pre-assumptions. So when a race or a social class is put forth, different gender cliché beliefs are put forth (Landrine, 1999). In the opinion of Walzer, the gender roles and cliché beliefs have impacts on the mutual relationships of couples and families.

Basically, the labor division of house duties is based on gender. Usually, women undertake home jobs and men deal with working outside home and undertake the duty of gaining family income (Walzer, 2001:88-94). In this relationship, he writes that in total, women deal with taking care of their children more than men and spend more time for that too. Such kind of taking care includes undertaking the responsibility of mental and intellectual works of gathering and using necessary information to take care after children, preoccupation and sensitivity towards child's health and welfare. In summary, it seems that the unfair distribution of work either on works at home or those related to taking care after children in conditions where the main part of the job is undertaken by women have a role in lower satisfaction of women with playing their motherhood roles (ibid). Bem is one of the feminists who put forth gender schema or theory and thereby he emphasizes on the role of cognitive system in addition to sociability. In that theory, it is assumed that children learn how culture or society has defined their role as a woman or a man and then they internalize those definitions as a gender schema or undisputable image (Bem: 1993). According to Bem, through a gender schema, an individual divides behaviors and attitudes into womanly and manly categories spontaneously. So, an individual processes information and adjusts his/her behaviors based on how his culture defines manly and womanly culture (Bem, 1981:354-364).

In a general summing up, it should be said that the base of the theoretical framework of present research is relied on historical, macro and dialectic approach of Seifollahi on socio-economic development of Iran. According to such a viewpoint, it is expected that the incongruous structures of the Iranian socio-economic development to give rise to the creation of incongruous attitudes among women. In other words, it is expected that the women's attitudes towards their social roles to be dependent on the rate of socio-economic development of their living environment.

Research hypotheses

1. It seems that the women's attitudes towards their social roles in developed cities will have a meaningful difference in comparison with undeveloped cities.
2. It seems that the women's attitudes towards the social roles in cities with a high economic development will have a meaningful difference as compared with the cities with low economic development.
3. It seems that the women's attitudes towards the social roles in cities with a high social development will have a meaningful difference in comparison with cities with a low social development.
4. It seems that the women's attitude towards the social roles in cities with a high cultural development will have a meaningful difference in comparison with cities with a low cultural development.
5. It seems that the women's background variables (education, age, job, ethnic group and social class) will have an impact on their attitude towards their social roles.

Research methodology

In this research, credible scales made by the Iranian and western scholars were used in order to develop and adjust instruments to assess the women's attitudes. However, with regard to the cultural difference between Iran and the western societies, the discordant components which were in conflict with the Iranian culture were either amended or deleted. The women's attitudes towards their social roles were assessed through three micro scales of women's attitudes towards participation in labor market, their attitudes towards home jobs (household labors) and their attitudes toward decision making in the family. The scale made by Slade and Jenner which have been

prepared to assess women's attitudes towards social roles was one of the scales whose items were used while keeping an eye on the cultural conditions of the Iranian society (Slade and Jenner, 1978). The Fortin's scale under the title of women's attitudes towards gender roles and participation in labor market was another scales being used to develop the questionnaire of the present research. The items of this scale were used in particular to assess the women's attitudes towards their participation in the labor market and the rate of importance of this social role in comparison with the mother and wife roles (Fortin, 2009) Ispence and Helmreich's scale entitled a version of a summary of attitudes to the women scale). The questionnaire of the present research was adjusted in accordance with the Likert spectrum. This questionnaire was adjusted within the framework of items with 5 choices (ranging from fully agreed to fully disagree). Based on coding of this research, the score of an individual with a fully equality-seeking attitude is (1) and the score of an individual with a fully non-equality seeking attitude (belief in full detachment of gender roles) is equal to (5). Thus, to the extent that an individual's score becomes closer to figure 1, it means to the same extent, it has a greater equality-seeking attitude.

In order to assess the macro variable of the research statement, i.e. the rate and nature of socio-economic development of urban regions of Khuzestan province, it was necessary to rank different cities of this province by rate and nature of development. For this purpose, with a combination of the indicators extracted from the report of indicators of human development of UN (2009), the indexes extracted from research of Mohammad Abdolahi (2008) and indexes determined by Management and Planning Organization, the multi-fold indexes were determined to make an operational study of the rate and nature of cities of Khuzestan province. After determining the development indexes, all cities of Khuzestan province (according to the classification of the year 2006 of Management and Planning Organization of Khuzestan province), with the help of Taxonomy technique (as one of the best ranking techniques), they were ranked in terms of the rate of their socio-economic development. At the same time, the rate of each of the cities of this province were also determined by the rate of economic development, the rate of social development and the rate of cultural development (12, 13 and 13 respectively). In the last step, these cities were divided into two general categories based on their ranking. The first group included cities with a high development rate and the second group were that of the cities with a low development rate. It is worth mentioning that due to the proximity of the scores of each of these cities and the similarities of scores with each other, in practice; it was not possible to divide the cities into three categories.

Research reliability and validity

Since the main items of this questionnaire was taken from a reliable questionnaire tested by different researchers, so that the validity of the research instruments could be confirmed to a great extent. However, in order to be assured of the validity of the questionnaire, once again its reliability was reviewed. For this purpose, first a copy of the questionnaire was presented to experts and authorities to assess the surface reliability of questionnaire and in case to make a possible amendment in the questionnaire. So, the questions which were making any damage on the reliability of questionnaire were deleted or amended. On the other hands, 50 copies of questionnaires were completed in form of a pre-test and the ambiguous or inappropriate items were deleted or altered. At the same time, referring to the conceptual definitions was a noticeable help with the development of researcher-made items. In this research, in order to estimate the reliability of the questionnaire, the Cronbach's Alpha method was used. The scores related to each questionnaire were considered and assessed; using the SPSS Cronbach's Alpha and the following results were obtained:

1. The Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient of validity of the spectrum of women's attitudes towards home works is 0.763.
2. The Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient of the spectrum of women's attitude towards participation in labor market is 0.828.
3. The Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient of the spectrum of women's attitude towards the building of power in the family is 0.793.
4. The Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient of the validity of spectrum of women's attitudes towards social roles is 0.824.
5. The Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient of the validity test of assessment of socio-economic development is 0.820.

The statistical community, sample population and sampling method

The statistical society in this research includes all women and girls over 15 years of age residing in urban regions of cities of Khuzestan province. Using the formula of conversion of Fischer, the statistical volume of 400 was

determined and in harmony with the rate of population of each city, the sample volume of that city was specified. The sampling method was a random sampling. For this purpose, first, a simple random sampling was made and one city was selected out of the two groups of developed and undeveloped cities. For this, Andimeshk was selected out of the cities with a high development and Izeh from the group of cities with a low development. In this research, the socio-economic development of cities was assessed based on three dimensions, i.e. economic development, cultural development and social development. The two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh which are in two different groups due to a general rank of socio-economic development, belong to two different groups (high and low) in two other dimensions, i.e. economic development and social development too. However, these two cities are both placed in one group due to the cultural development, since both have a low cultural development and therefore are placed in the group of cities with a low development. Thus, based on the existing data, in the Table of City ranking (in terms of cultural development) once again the two cities was selected randomly. Thus the two cities of Ahwaz and Dezful were selected as the representatives of cities with a high and a low cultural development. As each of the mentioned cities consists of a number of cities, for facilitating the sampling and upgrading the rate of accuracy, the centers of each of these cities were selected as sample units. At the second stage of sampling, by using the maps of each of the mentioned four cities, first the map of the city was graded in millimeter form. Then, using the Table of random digits, two digits in axis of Y and X (horizontal and vertical axis) were selected and their crossing point was determined as a statistical domain (containing 10 sample households). In case where in each of the sample households were more than one statistical society, (female individuals over 15 years of age), in that condition one person was selected randomly. Also, if the selected unit was a flat complex, then, one flat unit was selected randomly.

Data analysis methods

In this research, in order to analyze data, various methods of descriptive and perceptive statistics were used. So, primarily in order to describe the existing situation, descriptive statistical methods were utilized which included the distribution of frequencies and percentage and central indexes. For the purpose of data analysis, while considering the nature of variable (nominal, ranking or distance), various types of statistical tests in proportion with each of these variables were utilized. In order to study the relationship of structure and function of socio-economic development with the women's attitudes towards social roles, the techniques of variance analysis, Toki test, T test and Pearson Correlation Test were used. All statistical analyses were made by the SPSS software's.

Research findings

Table (1) indicates the descriptive results of research in connection with the women's attitudes of four cities of Andimeshk, Izeh, Ahwaz and Dezful. The results included in Table (1) indicate that the average of women's scores of the women residing in these four cities is 3.248. The women of Andimeshk with an average of 2.969 have had the highest rate of participatory attitudes in the labor market (having a job). The women of Ahwaz with the average of 3.159 ranked the second. Dezful with an average of 3.570 ranked third and Izeh with an average of 3.703 have the least rate of participatory attitude in the labor market. In connection with the micro scale of women's attitude towards household works, also Andimeshk with an average of 3.066, Ahwaz with an average of 3.205, Dezful with an average of 3.694 and Izeh with an average of 3.758 had the highest to lowest rate of equality seeking attitudes. At the same time, the average scores of these four cities are about 3.322. Thus, once again the two cities of Andimeshk and Ahwaz have a score below the average of the four cities and Dezful and Izeh have a score over the average of these four cities.

In the micro scale of attitude toward the decision making in family which indicates the respondents' attitudes towards the quality of power distribution in family, Andimeshk with an average of 2.617, Ahwaz with an average of 2.843, Dezful with an average of 3.127 and Izeh with an average of about 3.359 have the highest to lowest rate of equality seeking attitudes. The general average of these four cities is about 2.914. In connection with the women's attitudes towards their social roles which is a combination of three mentioned micro scales, the average of scores of women in these four cities is about 3.158. The descriptive findings indicate that Andimeshk with an average score of 2.844 has the highest rate of equality-oriented attitudes and there comes Ahwaz following that with an average of 3.069. The two cities of Dezful and Izdeh, each with 3.479 and 3.606 are ranked to be after these two cities. Thus, once again, these two cities of Andimeshk and Ahwaz have a score lower than average and Dezful and Izeh has a score higher than average. In other words, it can be confirmed that the women's attitudes of the first two cities is more equality-oriented than the second two cities.

Table (1) Descriptive findings of women' attitudes towards their social roles in four sample cities

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Attitude Toward Work Participation	<i>Andimeshk</i>	35	2.9690	.58109	.13331	2.6889	3.2490	1.92	4.23
	<i>Ahwaz</i>	271	3.1590	.72288	.05902	3.0424	3.2756	1.00	4.62
	<i>Izeh</i>	27	3.7026	.79190	.20447	3.2640	4.1411	2.23	5.00
	<i>Dezful</i>	67	3.5696	.53585	.08809	3.3910	3.7483	2.38	5.00
	Total	400	3.2483	.71557	.04813	3.1535	3.3432	1.00	5.00
Attitude toward division of household labor	<i>Andimeshk</i>	35	3.0658	.80619	.18495	2.6772	3.4544	1.38	4.50
	<i>Ahwaz</i>	271	3.2052	.68502	.05593	3.0947	3.3157	1.50	5.00
	<i>Izeh</i>	27	3.7583	.70310	.18154	3.3690	4.1477	2.63	4.88
	<i>Dezful</i>	67	3.6940	.52836	.08686	3.5179	3.8702	2.63	5.00
	Total	400	3.3126	.70659	.04753	3.2189	3.4063	1.38	5.00
Attitude Toward decision making	<i>Andimeshk</i>	35	2.6174	.54667	.12541	2.3539	2.8809	1.36	3.43
	<i>Ahwaz</i>	271	2.8433	.65847	.05376	2.7370	2.9495	1.54	5.00
	<i>Izeh</i>	27	3.3586	.65757	.16978	2.9945	3.7228	2.14	4.57
	<i>Dezful</i>	67	3.1721	.55159	.09068	2.9882	3.3560	2.14	4.86
	Total	400	2.9139	.65658	.04417	2.8268	3.0009	1.36	5.00
Women Attitudes toward Gender Roles	<i>Andimeshk</i>	35	2.8841	.55539	.12741	2.6164	3.1517	1.55	3.57
	<i>Ahwaz</i>	271	3.0692	.58297	.04760	2.9751	3.1632	1.72	4.79
	<i>Izeh</i>	27	3.6065	.64011	.16527	3.2520	3.9610	2.83	4.69
	<i>Dezful</i>	67	3.4786	.43609	.07169	3.3332	3.6240	2.38	4.64
	Total	400	3.1583	.59621	.04011	3.0792	3.2373	1.55	4.79

In connection with the background variables of the research, i.e. nationality, marital status, and employment situation, also the descriptive results of the research shows some differences among these groups. Concerning the variable of ethnicity, the findings of the research indicate that there is not a considerable difference among the scores of women's attitudes with Arab, Lor ethnic groups or other women (here broadly using the Fars women). The reason is that the average of the scores of total women in this scale was 3.173 and the average of scores of Arab and Fars women were both about 3.2; whereas the average of the scores of Lor women is 3.05. This means the women of the first two groups have a less justice or equality-seeking attitudes in comparison with Lor women.

The descriptive findings related to the status of women's employment –i.e. being employed or unemployed- with their attitudes towards their social roles shows that the average of women's attitude of employed women is about 2.93 whereas this figure is 3.19 for unemployed women. That is to say, the average of employed women's attitudes is more justice-oriented as compared with the unemployed women.

The descriptive results in connection with other variable of research, i.e. the marital statuses of women who responded to the questions indicate that the average score of married women in the area of their attitudes towards their social roles is a slightly higher than this score among the single women. The average score of married women in this area is about 3.2 and it is 3.1 among single individuals. In order to study the relationship between the levels of city development with the women's attitudes toward their social roles, the variance analysis test and Toki test were used. Table (2) shows the results of the variance analysis test among the cities where the women were residing.

Table (2) Variance analysis of comparing the women's attitudes towards gender roles in four sample cities

		SS	d.f.	MS	F	Sig.
Women Attitudes toward Gender Roles	Between Groups	9.430	3	3.143	9.918	.000

	Within Groups	68.773	397	.317		
	Total	78.203	400			

The results included in the Table (2) shows that the average of the inter-group (between groups) squares is more than intra-group (within groups) squares. The F test indicates that there is a meaningful relationship with 9.99% reliance. So, the zero assumption of the research for their social roles is rejected and the research assumption, i.e the existence of difference in women’s attitudes who are residing in these four cities towards their social roles is confirmed. However, in order to clarify that the resulting difference in the variance analysis test comes from which cities, the above relationship was assessed with the help of Toki test in a more specific way. As it was mentioned earlier, Andimeshk was selected as the representative of the group of cities with a high development and Izeh as the representative of the group of cities with a low development. However, since these two cities are placed in one group (both with a low cultural development) from the perspective of cultural development, both cities of Ahwaz and Dezful were selected as cities representing cities with a high and low cultural development. Table (3) shows the results of the Toki test resulting from the comparison of women’s attitudes of both cities of Andimeshk and Izeh.

Table (3) Toki test resulting from comparing women’s attitudes of both cities of Andimeshk and Izeh

Women Attitudes toward Gender Roles	(I) shahr.N	(J) shahr.N	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Andimeshk	Izeh	-.72245(*)	.19445	.001	-1.2259	-.2190

The results of Toki test indicate that with 9.99% reliance, the two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh are different from the perspective of the average score of attitudes towards social roles. So, the zero assumption of the research is rejected and the research assumption indicating difference among women’s attitudes of cities with a high and small socio-economic development is confirmed. On the other hands, since the two cities are different from each other from the perspective of social and economic developments, and each has been selected as a sample of their own class, so it can be said that women of the cities with high economic developments in comparison with women of the cities with low economic developments, also the women of cities with high social developments in comparison with the women of cities with the low social developments have a meaningful difference from the perspective of attitudes towards gender norms with a 9.99% reliance. In order to test the relationship between city cultural developments with the women’s attitudes towards their social roles, the two cities of Ahwaz (with a high cultural development) and Dezful (with a low cultural development) were compared using Toki test. The result of this test is shown in Table No. (4).

Table (4) Toki test resulting from comparing the women’s attitudes in two cities of Ahwaz and Dezful

Women Attitudes toward Gender Roles	(I) shahr.N	(J) shahr.N	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Ahwaz	Dezful	-.40943(*)	.10334	.001	-.6770	-.1419

As Table No. (4) shows, there is a difference between the women’s attitudes of these two cities with a 9.99% reliance. The women’s attitudes towards their social roles in the cities with a high economic development and also the women’s attitudes towards their social roles in cities with high and low social developments have a meaningful difference. As it was mentioned earlier, the women’s attitude toward their social roles is assessed through a combination of three micro scales of attitudes towards participation in labor market (attitudes towards working outside home), attitudes towards household works, and attitudes towards decision making (power distribution in the family). Using variance analysis test, this relationship between socio-economic developments of the place of living of women with their attitudes is evaluated. The results of the variance analysis of assessing the connection between women’s attitudes towards participation in labor market and socio-economic development of the city are presented in Table (5). The results of test confirm the existence of a meaningful

difference among the women’s attitudes of these four cities with 9.99% reliance. So, it can be said that there is a difference between the attitudes of the women of at least two cities of the above cities. The Toki test elaborates the more slight results of these differences.

Table (5) Variance analysis test for comparing the women’s attitudes towards participation in labor market of four sample cities

		SS	d.f.	MS	F	Sig.
Attitude Toward Work Participation	Between Groups	9.594	3	3.198	6.734	.000
	Within Groups	103.055	397	.475		
	Total	112.649	400			

Table No. (6) shows the result of Toki test resulting from comparing the women’s attitudes in two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh from the perspective of participation in labor market. The result of the test indicates that with 0.99% reliance, the zero assumption of research, i.e. the lack of existence of difference between the women’s attitudes towards participation in the labor market based on the socio-economic development of their cities of residence is rejected and the assumption of research is confirmed. At the same time, it can be concluded that the women’s attitude towards their social roles in the cities with a high economic development and in comparison with the cities with a low economic development and also the women’s attitudes towards their social roles in the cities with a high and a slow social development has a meaningful difference.

Table (6) Toki test resulting from the comparison of women’s attitudes towards participation in the labor market in two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh

Dependent Variable	(I) shahr.N	(J) shahr.N	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Attitude Toward Work Participation	Andimeshk	Izeh	-.73360(*)	.23802	.012	-1.3499	-.1173

The result of Toki test of comparing the women’s attitudes towards participation in the labor market of two cities of Ahwaz and Dezful is presented in Table No. 7.

Table (7) Toki test resulting from the comparison of women’s attitudes towards participation in labor market of the two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh

Attitude Toward Work Participation	(I) ShahrN	(J) shahrN	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Ahwaz	Dezful	-.41063(*)	.12650	.007	-.7381	-.0831

As the Table (7) shows, with a reliance of 9.99%, there is a meaningful difference between the women’s attitudes of these two cities. So, the zero assumption of research is rejected and research assumption, i.e the existence of a relationship between cultural development with the women’s attitudes towards participation in labor market is confirmed. Table (B) indicates the results of variance analysis among micro scales of women’s attitudes towards household labor with the rate of city development of their place of residence.

Table (8): Variance analysis of comparing the women’s attitudes towards home roles of the four sample cities

		SS	d.f.	MS	F	Sig.
Attitude toward division of household labor	Between Groups	11.251	4	3.750	8.254	.000
	Within Groups	98.589	397	.454		
	Total	109.839	400			

As the Table shows, the average (mean) of the score between groups (inter-groups) is greater than those of within groups (intra-groups). The F test confirms the meaningfulness of difference with 9.99% reliance and rejects the zero assumption of lack of difference. So, it can be said that there is a meaningful difference between the women's attitudes towards household labor with regard to the rate of development of city of their place of residence. Here, in order to assess the impact of the various dimensions of socio-economic development, with the help of Toki test, a pair comparison was made between the mean squares of the scores of cities with high and low development. The results of the test of comparison of two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh are presented in Table No. (9). Findings indicated that with reliance over 0.95, there is a difference between the two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh from the perspective of women's attitudes towards household labors (home labors). With regard to the fact that these two cities are different from each other from the viewpoint of economic development, social development and general development of the city, it can be said that there is a meaningful difference between the women's attitudes towards household labor with regard to the rate of economic development of city, social development of the city and general development of the city.

Table (9): Toki tests resulting from the comparison of women's attitudes towards home labor (household labor) in two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh

Attitude toward division of household labor	(I) shahrN	(J) shahrN	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Andimeshk	Izeh	-.69254(*)	.23281	.017	-1.2953	-.0898

Table (10) shows the result of Toki test of comparison between two cities of Ahwaz (with a high cultural development) and Dezful (with a low cultural development). As the figures included in the Table indicate, there is a meaningful difference between these attitudes of women of both cities with 0.99 reliance. So, the zero assumption of research, i.e., the lack of existence of a relationship is rejected and the research assumption is confirmed.

Table (10) Toki test resulting from the comparison of women's attitudes towards household labor of two cities of Ahwaz and Dezful

Attitude toward division of household labor	(I) shahr.N	(J) shahr.N	(I-J) Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Ahwaz	Dezful	-.48882(*)	.12373	.001	-.8091	-.1685

Table (11) shows the results of variance analysis among above four cities from the perspective of women towards the structure of power in family. The above Table shows that the mean (average) of inter-groups (between groups) squares is greater than average of intra-groups (within groups) squares. With 9.99% reliance, it can be said that there is a difference between women's attitudes of these four cities from the perspective of power structure in the family. The result of F test indicates that at least between two cities of mentioned cities, there is a difference from the perspective of women's attitude towards power building. Once again, by doing Toki test, the relationship among different dimensions of socio-economic development with women's attitudes is assessed.

Table (11) Variance analysis test of comparing the women's attitudes towards power making in the families of the four sample cities

		SS	d.f.	MS	F	Sig.
Attitude Toward decision making	Between Groups	7.852	3	2.617	6.529	.000
	Within Groups	86.990	397	.401		
	Total	94.841	400			

Table (12) shows that there is a difference between the women's attitudes of the two cities of Andimeshk and Izeh towards decision making in family with a reliance of 0.99. Thus, the zero assumption of research is rejected and research assumption is confirmed.

Table (12): Toki test of comparing the women's attitudes towards decision making in families of two cities of Izeh and Andimeshk

Dependent Variable	(I) shahr.N	(J) shahr.N	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Attitude Toward decision making	Andimeshk	Izeh	-.74120(*)	.21869	.005	-1.3074	-.1750

Table (13) shows the Toki test resulting from the comparison of two cities of Ahwaz (with a high cultural development) and Dezful (with a low cultural development).

Table (13): Toki test of comparing the women's attitudes towards decision making in families of two cities of Ahwaz and Dezful

Attitude Toward decision making	(I) shahr.N	(J) shahr.N	(I-J) Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	Ahwaz	Dezful	-.32884(*)	.11622	.026	-.6297	-.0279

As Table (13) shows, it can be said that with a reliance of 0.95, there is a difference between women's attitudes of these two cities with regard to decision making in the family. So, the zero assumption of research, i.e the lack of existence of a relationship is rejected and the research assumption is confirmed. Furthermore, with a reliance of 0.95, there is a meaningful difference between the women's attitudes towards decision making in the family with regard to the rate of the cultural development of the city of their residence. The variables of ethnicity, married status, age, education, employment status and social class were background variables for assessment in this research. The result of variance analysis test shows that there is not a meaningful relationship between the ethnicity of an individual and her attitudes towards gender roles. Notwithstanding, the descriptive findings of the research indicate that the Arab ethnic women have a more equality seeking attitudes in comparison with the women of the two other groups. The lack of meaningfulness of the relationship among women's ethnicity statuses with their attitudes is to some extent under the influence of their place of residence, since out of the above-four cities, Ahwaz has the largest group of Arab speaking population. So perhaps, the fading status of differences is resulting from the development of their place of living.

In relationship with the relationship between the marriage status of women and their attitudes, the result of T-Test shows that there is a difference between the employed and unemployed women's attitude with 0.95 reliance. So, the zero assumption of research is rejected and the research assumption based on the existence of a meaningful difference between the attitudes of employed and unemployed women is confirmed. On the other hands, the result of T Test (Table 14) shows that there is a meaningful relationship between the statuses of women's employment with their attitudes towards participation in the labor market and their attitudes towards household labors with 0.95 reliance. Though, the result of T Test does not confirm the existence of a relationship between the status of women employment and their attitudes towards decision making in the family. With regard to the fact that the descriptive findings of the research indicate that the average (mean) scores of women's attitudes is 2.93 and the average score of unemployed women is 3.18, it can be said that job has a positive impact on women's equality seeking attitudes.

Table (14): the women's employment status with their attitudes towards participation in the labor market and their attitudes towards household labors

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	T	d.f.	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
Attitude Toward Work Participation	Equal variances assumed	1.115	.292	3.498	398	.001	.39147	.11192
	Equal variances not assumed			3.864	99.190	.000	.39147	.10130
Attitude toward division of	Equal variances assumed	.035	.852	2.498	398	.013	.28353	.11351

household labor	Equal variances not assumed			2.509	83.843	.014	.28353	.11301
Attitude Toward decision making	Equal variances assumed	2.863	.092	1.225	398	.222	.12862	.10496
	Equal variances not assumed			1.399	106.076	.165	.12862	.09191
Attitude Toward Social gender roles	Equal variances assumed	1.244	.266	2.831	398	.005	.26787	.09461
	Equal variances not assumed			3.079	96.258	.003	.26787	.08699

Assessing the relationship between marital status with her attitudes was one of the secondary assumptions of this research. The results of T Test show that there is no meaningful difference between married and unmarried women's attitudes. So, the zero assumption of this research, i.e lack of existence of difference between the married and unmarried women's attitudes is confirmed and research assumption is rejected. Also the results of this test indicate that there is no meaningful relationship between the married statuses of women with the micro scales related to women's attitudes. The result of correlation test among women's social class of the population under consideration with the women's attitudes towards their social roles (Table 15) shows that with a reliance of 9.99%, there is a relationship between these two variables, though the intensity of this relationship is not so high (-02 85), but the result of this test shows that to the extent the individual's social class is lower, to the same extent, their traditional attitudes towards their social roles is greater.

Table (15): The result of Pearson Test of the relationship between social class and rate of education with the women's attitudes

		Social class	Level of educations
Attitude Toward Work Participation	Pearson Correlation	-.249(**)	-.314(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
	N	379	386
Attitude toward division of household labor	Pearson Correlation	-.293(**)	-.342(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
	N	379	386
Attitude Toward decision making	Pearson Correlation	-.193(**)	-.306(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	.000
	N	379	386
Attitude Toward Social gender roles	Pearson Correlation	-.285(**)	-.370(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
	N	379	386

The last variable under consideration is the assessment of education. The result of this test (Table 15) shows that there is a negative relationship between women's attitudes towards their social roles and their rate of education with a reliance of 9.99%. The result of Pearson test shows that the rate of this relationship is -0.370. Though the above rate shows the lack of existence a strong relationship between these two variables, but anyway, it elaborates part of changes in the dependent variable of the research. The negative relationship between the above two variables indicates that with the increase of the women's academic rate, their attitudes becomes more equality-oriented attitudes. On the other hands, as it is learned from the above Table, there is a negative and

meaningful relationship between the rate of women's education with the three micro scales related to the assessment of women's attitudes towards their social roles.

Conclusion

Relying upon combinational theory of socio-economic (Seifollahi) and of Chafetz and Bem's feministic theories, this research aims at to elaborate the women's attitudes towards their social roles. For this purpose, the women's attitudes of over 15 years of age with three micro scales of women's attitudes towards participation in the labor market (work participation), attitudes towards household labor and attitudes towards decision making in the family were measured. The result of research shows that with a reliance on the theoretical clarifications of the research and based on practical findings of the research, it can be said that the women residing in developed cities have a more equality-oriented attitudes towards their social roles in comparison with women inhabiting the undeveloped cities. At the same time, the result of statistical tests of this research indicates that there is a meaningful relationship between the women's attitudes towards their social roles in terms of the rate of economic development, social development and cultural development of their cities of residence. So, the main assumption of this research and the assumptions related to the comparison of women's attitudes in terms of the rate and nature of economic development, the social and cultural development of their place of residence was confirmed. Thus, as it was expected, the findings show that incongruous conditions in socio-economic structures of Iran have had a deep impact on intellectual dimension and women's attitudes of this society. It can be said that the undeveloped structures pave grounds for the formation of less equality-oriented and participation-oriented attitudes in women. On the other hands, the incongruous status in socio-economic structures has created grounds for the creation of role conflicts, role pressure and dissatisfaction with roles and ambiguity in role definitions for women. Thus, change in the objective and subjective situations of women are subject to the creation of deep changes in socio-economic structures.

The study and identification of limits, opportunities and necessities of each region and planning to make feasibility studies in order to achieve a homogenous socio-economic development, the creation of social labor division system based on expertise and skills instead of labor division system based on appointing features of individuals such as gender, ethnic group, race and as likes, preparation of facilities for women's effective involvement in micro and macro decision making levels of the society, also developing rules and regulations related to them, the study and identification of limits, opportunities and needs of women of each region to promote their level of life, preparing their further social participation, the approval of rules to give women more control over the financial resources of the family and supporting women's rights in particular at family level and making efforts to promote women's quantitative and qualitative education are all among approaches which can help with the promotion of women's position in the society.

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