

**A Sociological Study of the Impact of Social Factors on Electoral Behavior (Comparison of Youth and Adult Age Study Group in Mazandaran Province)**

Seyyed Yasser Ghorbanpour Ganji <sup>1</sup>  
Seyyed Yaghoub Mousavi<sup>\*2</sup>

Received 12 February 2019; Accepted 25 June 2019

***Abstract***

The purpose of the present study is to investigate the sociological impact of social factors on the electoral behavior of citizens of Mazandaran province by comparing the two age groups of youth and adults. In this regard, a descriptive-analytical cross-sectional study was conducted using a researcher-made questionnaire. Statistical population of this study is men and women over 18 years old that are divided into two groups: 18-35 years old and 36-60 years old; Through Cochran formula, 384 individuals were selected as sample from the whole target population and finally, using multi-stage sampling method, the selected sample participated in the questionnaire. The theoretical foundations and framework of the research are the Pippa Norris theory and other theories of electoral behavior. The results of the comparison tests showed that the two age groups had different electoral behavior. In the youth age group, there was no statistically significant difference in electoral behavior by gender, place of residence, marital status, and type of occupation, and only by education; and the same tests were similar for adults of the same age group by residence, marital status, education, and statistically different electoral behavior by gender and occupation. The results of linear regression between the two groups showed that the age group of youth of national identity and in the age group of adults' social networks had the most influence on their electoral behavior.

***Keywords:*** Electoral Behavior, National Identity, Social Networks, Social Institutions.

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1.Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Islamic Azad University, Science & Research Branch, Tehran, Iran

2\*.Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Al-Zahra University, Tehran, Iran, y.mousavi91@alzahra.ac.ir (Corresponding author)

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## 1. Introduction

Elections are one of the social phenomena that are constantly repeated in countries with democratic rule and is characterized by being multidimensional and therefore researchers in different fields of sociology, geography, political science, psychology and so on. Electoral behavior is a type of political behavior that studies why and how citizens vote in elections (Goldman, 1966, 379-383). From a sociological point of view, Paul Lazarus White and the Columbia University Research Group (1940) believe that by studying the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the constituents, political orientation and therefore their vote can be predicted. (Abdullah, 2010, 89) and the psychological approaches that result from the research results of the Mashigan University Research Group (1948) emphasize that the decision of voters are more subject to psychological factors than to the influence of other factors as well as the economic approach proposed by Anthony Downes that Believes people's incentives to vote"; Therefore, it can be stated that elections are studied by scholars of different fields in different aspects and dimensions And in this sociological study, different social dimensions that influence electoral behavior will be examined.

From a sociological point of view, electoral behavior is influenced by several factors: political culture (Al Ghafour, 1996, 118) social class (Inglehart, 1990,15) socioeconomic base (occupation, income, education) religious affiliation (Lazarfeld, 1994, 27 44). On the one hand, officials in each country appointed through elections which seek to predict their citizens' voting behavior. These characteristics emphasize the need for continuous and timely study of electoral behavior in any society. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, which does not have much electoral record compared to Western countries, this phenomenon is confronted with various factors in society, so many sociologists and social analysts believe that the Iranian people's electoral behavior cannot be predicted. Iran, on the other hand, has a young population. Young people play an important role in various fields, including elections. Given some theories of socialization and values, such as Inglehart's theories that emphasize the generational events such as the revolution, war, and economic crises that have taken place in Iran appear to have influenced the attitudes of different

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generations. The young age group has different attitudes and values to the generations of the revolution and war. Each of them went through different socialization and social conditions. The two generations are supposed to have different values together; and electoral behavior is a social phenomenon that is influenced by the process of socialization. Electoral behavior may differ between youth and adults, and youth population diversity and their impact on country-wide decision making, especially the selection of top executives, is important and requires further study for several scientific and empirical reasons to determine what patterns. Behavior puts the country on a different path and political course, and what social factors shape these patterns of behavior? Therefore, the key question of this research is to answer the key question: what social factors in particular affect the electoral behavior of youth and adults living in Mazandaran province?

## **2. Research Background**

Ruth Dassonville et al., (2017), in an article entitled *The Impact of Forced Elections on Inequality and Voting Quality*, shows that mandatory voting systems are reduced based on political knowledge or education level, and also there is a negative relationship between mandatory voting and election-related training. The two main mechanisms underlying this research that accountability or proximity (near) voting based on results only weaken one of the two mechanisms when citizens are forced to vote. Jonas Lefever (2016), in an article entitled *The Impact of Election Campaigns on the Nationalization of Local Election Behavior: A case study of the Antwerp Local Election Campaign* showed that election. In addition, there is no evidence that Hindus discriminate against Muslim candidates or that the parties face electoral punishment for a Muslim candidate. Holland et al., (2011) in a paper on the impact of the media on citizens' electoral behavior concluded that news and information broadcast by traditional media such as newspapers, radio and television which can increase citizens' political awareness by engaging in political activity and elections. In his article, emphasizing white race in New England Politics, Gimppe and Tom Ku (2004) came to the conclusion that cities with a focus on European ethnic groups tend to be republican and cities

with new immigrant groups tend to be democratic. In their view, "New Ethnicity" and "Old Ethnicity" clearly encompass different political implications for the field of presidential politics in New England.

### **3. Theoretical Foundations of Research**

Researchers in the field of electoral studies looked at the issue from a different angle. Various studies and theories emerging from empirical studies in different countries which have given rise to different theories of electoral participation and voting behavior. This has led some scholars to classify theories.

In the book of *Sociology of Political Participation*, Rahmatollah Mehmar has divided the research into four categories, from the perspective of political sociologists. The first classification of theories is based on the subject of analysis that is divided into two theories of electoral attendance and electoral preferences. Second, the theories based on the level of analysis divided into the micro and macro levels and the macro level on topics such as political culture, economic development, urbanization, industrialization, social inequality and micro level, individuals and attitudes, motivations and beliefs, and some deals with personal and mid-level features such as formal and informal associations, organizations, and social networks. The third classification of theories is based on explanatory factors; which includes all factors related to the political participation literature in general and voting behavior in particular; And finally its fourth classification is based on the theoretical approach. In this classification, each of the scholars in some way divided the theoretical division into psychological, sociological, economic, and other forms of theory. The architect also offers four theoretical divisions based on different subdivisions. It outlines the cultural, social, political and economic approaches and theories associated with it. One of these categories belongs to Garrett Perry (1977). He divides the explanations that exist for political participation into two types of evolutionary theories and instrumental theories. Evolutionary theories argue that the ideal citizen is a participatory citizen and that participation is viewed as a social responsibility. This point of view is found in the writings of Aristotle, John Stuart Mill, Dotokwil, and Rousseau (Rush, 2002, 139-140). Utility

theories are also based on the assumption that man is a rational being, and enters into politics by calculating profits in order to fulfill some of his desires and interests. The instrumental insights of the 1980s have attracted the attention of many scholars. Especially in the analysis of the political behavior of citizens (especially by American scholars), it has received much acclaim (Bashiriyeh et al., 1998, 187). The two scholars believe that there are two different approaches that attempt to provide the most effective framework for explaining the motivation of people to vote or not and the motivation of people to choose a political party from among other parties. These two approaches are:

a. Neoclassical "General Choice" approach: This approach was developed by Anthony Boones, James Buchanan, Gordon Tollock, William Reeker, Peter Overt Shack and Dennis Muller. According to this approach, individuals' incentives to vote are largely based on their personal economic interests. Individuals seek personal privileges from government policies and select candidates and parties that realize their tangible and desired benefits and interests.

B. Structural Logical Approach: This approach relies on sociological concepts such as values, norms and structures to explain voting behavior. This approach was presented by George Hummans, Michel Hatcher, Carl Dieter Op, Jordan Wildowski, Dennis Cheung and Daniel Little. In this approach, it is assumed that cultural beliefs (values and norms) and socio-political structures influence the intentions of voters. In addition to striving for their own self-interest, individuals are also concerned with people's well-being. According to this approach, although individuals have an active role in processing political information and evaluating available options, their decisions are not made independently. Because structural opportunities and constraints are decisive in their decision making (Andrews & Epter, 2001, pp 392-390). There are several categories of scholars in the field of theology, most of which fall into three approaches:

1. Sociologists' approach: This view was first presented by Paul Lazar Sheffield and the Columbia University Research Group (1940); it showed that by studying the socio-economic and cultural conditions of the voters, political orientation and consequently their voting can be predicted.

2. Psychologists' approach: Voting before being a social phenomenon is subject to people's perception of important political issues in society. Researchers at the University of Michigan (1948) study various US presidential elections and conclude that voters' decisions are more subject to psychological factors.

3. Economic approach (rational choice model or rational choice). Proponents of this model believe that voting is an individual decision, independent of social status, emotions, and so on, and is in the interests of the individual.

There is also a fourth approach, which is a combination of the triple approaches that some scholars have suggested, which can be described as a hybrid approach.

Pipanoris (2002) named three main theories of macro, average, and micro in explaining political participation (Norris, 2002) for categorizing the variables involved in voting participation designed primarily for political participation, in general, considering the variables and factors involved in his political participation (Norris, 2002, p. 2) in the hybrid approach. This categorization is based on the variables of theories.

1) Macro-level theories are divided into two types of theories: The first group of theories that defines the structure of government in a society determines the type and level of citizen participation, the second group of theories that modernize the process of changing different aspects of societal life in political participation.

2) Middle-level theories which include theories under the heading of organizational theories, or theories of mobilization agents or agents.

3) The micro level consists of three groups: A: Resource theory B: Motivation theory C: The theory of demographic characteristics is categorized.

By reviewing all the theories and categories presented, we can see that some of the theories of electoral behavior fall within the field of sociology and other parts of it are in other areas such as economics and psychology or in combination. And in some studies, such as Pippa Norris, interdisciplinary composition has been used to classify theories to investigate the phenomenon of voting behavior.

This study has attempted to avoid unilateralism and the tendency for particular theory and, on the contrary, to use more experimental theories and practices. Factors affecting citizen electoral behavior are numerous and can be categorized in various ways; And what is clear is that no comprehensive theory of electoral behavior has been put forward so far, and the theories they analyzed each emphasized a particular variable and failed to provide a comprehensive model for explaining voting behavior; Therefore, in order to understand and explain the social factors affecting electoral behavior, one must first adopt a mixed perspective by emphasizing the variables that have been put forward in existing empirical theories and tests. Hence, we formulate a theoretical framework based on the Pippa Norris model and combine it with other perspectives.

At the micro level, Pippa Norris puts together three categories of theories (resource theory, motivation theory and demographic theory) and resource theory holds that those with more resources have higher levels of participation. These resources can be material or spiritual (Such as education, income, leisure, communication, and organizational skills). In the theory of motivation, they believe that despite resources, citizens do not participate alone. The range of motivational factors ranges from material motivations to value and attitudinal motivations; and the theory of demographic characteristics that considers individual characteristics as influencing the election (age, gender, race, residence, etc.). On the other hand, some theorists of electoral behavior, such as Lazarus White (residence, job), Zagrid (residence), Daniel Lerner (education), Bradwell (sex, area of residence, age, education, income), Meyer and Pascal (age, sex) , income, gender (marital status, education, place of residence, age), and Miller (gender, age, geographic area) also consider some of these variables to be effective in electoral behavior.

We therefore place the concepts (age, gender, marital status, place of residence, income, occupation, education) as demographic variables that are relevant to the individual characteristics that were emphasized.

And another notion that can be extracted from motivational theories and is at the micro level of contract as well as social, not psychological, is the value motivation expressed as value preferences.

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At the middle level, Norris points to theories as organizational theories and theories of mobilization agents that emphasize the role of social and political mobilization factors and social networks in explaining electoral participation, and mobilizing factors include: Political parties, trade unions, churches and religious centers, volunteer associations and news media, and more. He considers these elements to have an impact on electoral behavior.

On the other hand, some theorists, such as Lazarus White, who take a political sociology approach, believe that how people vote is largely as a result of the political socialization that occurs through the learning process. He also believes that a person's social character and membership in social groups through social networking determine his or her political preferences and electoral behavior. This process of political socialization is taught to individuals by the primary and secondary social institutions as well as by culture, social groupings, mass media, and the public. Therefore, according to middle-level theories, the variables of mobilizing factors (social institutions and the media) that play the role of political socialization and social networks that form individuals' relationships are considered as middle-level concepts.

At the macro level, Pipor Norris views on the structure of government in society believe that the laws of the electoral system, the constitution, the party system, etc. influence the rate of participation and the theories that are related to modernize the process.

Given that the macro level of its concepts encompasses more and more broad topics, such as topics as the laws governing the country (constitution, election law etc.) And we place theorists' emphasis on the political sociology approach on political socialization and its effects on the voting rate;

On the other hand, on the basis of Meyer and Pascal's theory that the process of socialization resumes at any stage of life, and that each individual joining different political and cultural groups determines the effects of these groups on the individual's political orientation; And they think people's voting behavior is influenced by objective situations (age, gender, income, place of birth, etc.) and past or subjective positions (religious identity, social awareness, political values, etc.), and it is also thought by the author to be a part of the process of socialization of individuals in this society in terms of the statistical



population and the type of election under study of religious and national identity (mental status), from the perspective of Meyer and Pascal, it is one of the mental states of the people, and since the opposition of tradition and religion has existed in Iran until now, and people's dependence on nationalist and religious discourses is widespread in this country. Accordingly, the concept of identity is considered as the major variable influencing the electoral behavior. And this concept is divided into two parts: national identity and religious identity, and we put it at the macro level for measurement.

Also, since electoral behavior as a political action is rooted in political culture and the political culture of every society is based on the public culture of that society; therefore, one of the dimensions of the general culture of any country is social capital. On the other hand, electoral behavior is repetitive in that it elects state officials through elections, and that requires real public trust in the authorities.

Therefore, the following assumptions were formulated using empirical theories and tests to examine the sociological variability of electoral behavior in Mazandaran province.

### **3.1. Hypotheses**

#### **3.1.1. The Main Hypothesis**

There seems to be a statistically significant difference between the electoral behavior of the two age groups of youth and adults.

##### **Sub-hypothesis**

There seems to be a significant difference in the electoral behavior of youth and adults at the micro level of social factors in terms of contextual variables and value preferences.

There seems to be a statistically significant difference between the electoral behavior of youth and adults at the middle level of social factors.

It seems that electoral behavior among young adults at the macro level of social factors is statistically significant.

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#### **4. Research Methodology**

In this study, a researcher-made questionnaire was used to reach the goals and answer the research questions. The research questions were formulated according to the process of indexing the independent and dependent variables of the research. The statistical population of this study includes men and women over 18 years old living in cities and villages of Mazandaran province. The Cochran formula was used to determine the sample size (2269512 people) and the sample size was 384 people. A multi-stage cluster sampling method was used to select the statistical sample in this study. On the basis of population ratio and sample size for each area, the number of respondents was determined and questionnaires were distributed by referring to homes over 18 years old.

#### **5. Conceptual and Operational Definitions of Variables**

##### **5.1. Social Trust**

In the present study, social trust is considered as a set of expectations, acquired and socially validated expectations that individuals have towards each other and the organizations and institutions related to their social lives. In this study, we divided social trust into three levels of personal trust, interpersonal trust and general trust.

##### **5.1.1. Social Order**

The issue of social order is one of the topics that most sociologists have paid attention to it. Sociologists such as Thomas Hobbes, Durkheim, Weber, Functionalism, and Conflict have all addressed this aspect. In the book of *Sociology of Order*, Massoud Chalpi considers social order to be the result of the interplay of normative and shared sets with opportunity and interactive networks of individual and collective actors. The social order in this study was divided into two dimensions: socialization and legalism.

##### **5.1.2. Religious Identity**

Religious identity is one of the important aspects of social identity, which implies a level of religiosity that coincides with the collective myth or religious

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community. In fact, religious identity reflects a sense of belonging and commitment to religion and religious community. Religious identity is, in effect, the effect of the religious transmission on the religious person. In a better sense, by accepting religion as a principle of belief in the life of the believer, significant changes and consequences are achieved in different aspects of life (Chitazm, 2004, p. 196).

### **5.1.3. National Identity**

National identity represents the sense of homogeneity, similarity, belonging, and loyalty of individuals to national groups or groups such as nationality (ourselves) and at the same time expresses difference, heterogeneity and differentiation or other collective units (others) (Shahram Nia et al., 2014, p. 125). National identity was identified by historical, territorial and social cultural heritage.

## **5.2. Social Networks**

According to Helen Siddiq, social networking is a term used to name a group of people who have extensive and continuous communication among themselves, forming a coherent communication loop (Siddiq Baran, 1978). The social network index in this study was divided into two components: formal and informal social networks.

## **5.3. Social Organizations**

In the book of Sociology of Fundamentals, Coxen defines institutionalism in this way: An institution is a relatively stable and organized system of social patterns that encompasses some of the same regulated behaviors to meet the basic needs of society (Coxen, 2007, p.156). In order to operationalize and measure the index of social institutions, they were divided into family components, education, politics, economics, religion.

### **5.3.1. Media**

Media refers to any means of communication that carries or "interfaces" the message (Windal, 2008, p. 269). Media can play a variety of behavioral,

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phenomenological, auditory, signs and symptoms, objects, publications, and mass media (Aliie et al., 2016, p. 136). In this study, media indexes were considered for auditory, visual and reading components.

### **5.3.2. Value Preferences**

In his book of Social Culture, Beiro does not necessarily view social models as general models of all kinds of personal values, cultures, judgments, and so on and it emphasizes that people value their social life, and members of society have somehow come to terms with these values (Alan Beer, 1998, p. 386). In this study, the index of values was divided into components such as modern, traditional, religious and national values.

### **5.4. Dependent Variable: Electoral Behavior**

Electoral behavior is the set of behaviors and decisions made by people, factions, and political groups at the time of the election. In other words, this behavior is specific to the time of the election, and it means the action and reaction of the people and the candidates. By definition, voting is a form of political participation. In this article, electoral behavior is intended to have a direct or indirect impact on government governance (Brett, 2014, p. 28).

In this study, we attempt to measure the electoral behavior with variables such as electoral bias, electoral behavior, and electoral cognition.

## **6. Credibility and Validity**

In this study, it is attempted to pay attention to the structural validity or validity of the theoretical concept; that is, the relation between the items with theoretical foundations and topics. In order to measure the reliability of the items, pre-test was performed on a sample of 40 people in the statistical population, with a validity of over 70%. All data were analyzed by SPSS software using descriptive and inferential statistics and using appropriate tests.

**Table 1. Reliability coefficient of independent and dependent variables of research**

Cronbach's alpha	Number of items	index	Independent variable
81%	8	Social Trust	Social Factors
73%	8	Social order	
75%	8	National identity	
78%	8	Religious Identity	
71%	6	Social Networks	
73%	8	Social institutions	
77%	7	Media	
70%	8	Value preferences	
	7	Background variable	Dependent variable
94%	42	electoral behavior	

## 7. Research Findings

The results of t-test for electoral behavior with youth and adults show (sig = 0.00,  $t = -13.473$ ) that youth electoral behavior (mean= 2.39 and standard deviation= 0.359) and adult electoral behavior (mean=3.09 and standard deviation= 0.511). The mean of 0.7 was significantly different from each other, And the two groups with a confidence level of 0.95 percent have a different average election behavior. Comparative results of t-test for electoral behavior with gender in two age groups of youth and adults show that electoral behavior of men and women in youth age group (sig = 0.563,  $t = -0.580$ ) showed that men's electoral behavior (mean =144.08 and standard deviation= 19.17) and the electoral behavior of women with a mean difference of 1.78 was not statistically significantly different. As a result, young people in this age group have similar electoral behavior in terms of gender.

The results of t-test show electoral behavior and residence in both adolescents and adults statistically significant differences were not found in urban and rural residents in the youth age group (sig = 0.550,  $t = -0.599$ ) which showed that rural youth election behavior (mean =142.169 and standard deviation =18.90) and urban youth election behavior (mean =144.04 and standard deviation =18.61) with a mean difference of 1.871 and the two groups have the same confidence level of 0.95 percent of the average election behavior. Statistically significant differences were not found in urban and rural

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residents in the adult age group (sig = 0.598, t = 0.529) showed that rural adult election behavior (mean =112.158 and standard deviation= 28.55) and urban adult election behavior (mean =110.151 and standard deviation =28.29) with a mean difference of 2 and the two groups have the same confidence level of 0.95 percent of the average election behavior. Results of the t-test for the two age groups by place of residence were not significant. Consequently, it can be stated that there is no difference in the electoral behavior of the urban and rural residents in the electoral behavior of these two age groups and there are the same electoral behavior of the two age groups in the city and the village.

The results of t-test for comparing the electoral behavior of two groups of adults and youth with marital status show that the electoral behavior (young people) was in two single and married groups (sig = 0.107, t = 1.622).

The results of f (one-way analysis of variance) level of educational behavior for youth age group indicate that sig table is at a significant level and this indicates that there is a significant difference between the educational attainment of youth age group and their electoral behavior. The results of the f (one-way analysis of variance) level of educational behavior for the adult age group showed that the sig table was not at a significant level, and this indicates that there is no significant difference between the educational attainments of adults in their electoral behavior.

The results of the f (one-way analysis of variance) behavior of the electoral groups with the youth age group showed that the sig table was not at a significant level, and this indicates that there is no significant difference between the age groups of youth groups in their electoral behavior.

The results of the f (one-way analysis of variance) analysis of occupational behavior with occupational age groups showed that the sig table was at a significant level, and this indicates that there is a significant difference between the job age groups of adults in their electoral behavior.

**Table 2. Simple linear regression between independent variables of micro level with dependent variable of electoral behavior**

sig	t	Beta	(b)	(a)	Model Summary		anova		Independent variables		
					R <sup>2</sup>	R	sig	F			
0.011	-2.578	-0.200	166.365	-0.801	0.040	0.20	0.011	6.644	Youth	age	Micro level
0.007	-2.705	-0.179	147.898	-0.863	0.032	-0.179	0.007	7.318	adults		
0.502	-0.672	-0.053	145.780	-1.95	0.003	0.053	0.502	0.452	Youth	income	
0.000	-3.609	-0.236	127.87	-1.018	0.056	0.236	0.000	13.025	adults		
0.072	1.810	128.287	0.560	0.142	0.020	0.142	0.072	3.287	Youth	value preferences	
0.000	4.996	0.319	77.717	1.506	0.102	0.319	0.000	24.96	adults		

Table 2 shows the results of Pearson correlation coefficient and linear regression of micro level variables with electoral behavior in both adolescents and adults. There is a significant relationship between the age group of solely age-variable youth and electoral behavior, and the coefficient of determination shows that only 4% of the changes in the age-group electoral behavior are explained by the age variable. Compared to the age group of adults, there is a statistically significant relationship between the social factors of age, income and value preferences. Value preferences with a coefficient of determination of 0.102 have the most to do with electoral behavior at this level.

**Table 3. Simple linear regression between intermediate level as independent variables and electoral behavior as a dependent variable**

sig	t	Beta	(b)	(a)	Model Summary		anova		Independent variables	
					R <sup>2</sup>	R	sig	F		
0.000	9.405	0.597	69.135	2.717	0.356	0.597	0.000	88.446	Youth	social organizations
0.000	7.988	0.474	53.777	2.717	0.225	0.474	0.000	63.801	Adults	
0.050	1.973	0.154	125.854	0.847	0.024	0.154	3.894	0.050	Youth	Social Networks
0.000	12.247	0.637	48.133	3.908	0.405	0.637	0.000	149.985	Adults	
0.000	7.087	0.489	95.044	2.042	0.239	0.489	0.000	50.230	Youth	media
0.000	7.473	0.450	68.224	2.239	0.202	0.450	0.000	55.842	Adults	

Table 3 shows the results of Pearson's correlation coefficient and linear regression of mid-level variables with electoral behavior in both adolescents and adults. The three variables of social institutions, social network and media in both age groups have significant relationship with electoral behavior. In the youth age group, social institutions with a coefficient of determination 0.356, media with a coefficient of 0.239 and social networks with a coefficient of 0.024, respectively, affect moderately the electoral behavior variable, and in the adult age group, moderately influenced social networks with coefficients of



0.405, social institutions with coefficients of 0.225 and media 0.202, respectively, affect moderately the electoral behavior.

**Table 4. Simple linear regression between macro-level independent variables and the dependent variable of electoral behavior**

sig	t	Beta	(b)	(a)	Model Summary		anova		Independent variables	
					R <sup>2</sup>	α	sig	F		
0.000	5.337	0.389	98.243	1.686	0.151	0.389	0.000	28.483	You th	social trust
0.000	7.119	0.433	68.944	1.919	0.187	0.433	0.000	50.687	Ad ults	
0.000	3.844	0.291	111.524	1.247	0.085	0.291	0.000	14.779	You th	social order
0.000	6.036	0.377	72.960	1.760	0.142	0.377	0.000	36.433	Ad ults	
0.000	4.005	0.302	115.788	1.097	0.091	0.302	0.000	16.036	You th	Religio us identity
0.000	5.490	0.347	72.231	1.739	0.120	0.347	0.000	30.139	Ad ults	
0.000	9.695	0.608	69.057	2.670	0.370	0.608	0.000	93.989	You th	Nation al identity
0.000	10.263	0.569	48.289	3.025	0.324	0.569	0.000	105.325	Ad ults	

Table 4 shows the results of Pearson's correlation coefficient and linear regression of macro-level variables with electoral behavior in both adolescents and adults. The four variables of social trust, social order, and national and religious identity in both age groups have significant relationship with electoral behavior. In youth age group, national identity with coefficient of determination of 0.324, social trust with coefficient of 0.151, religious identity with coefficient of 0.091, and social order with coefficient of 0.085, respectively, have significant effects on predicting electoral behavior,

respectively. In the age group of adults, national identity with coefficient of determination of 0.324, social confidence with coefficient of 0.187, social order with coefficient of 0.142 and religious identity with coefficient of determination of 0.120 as predictor variables influence electoral behavior. Consequently, it can be stated that at the macro level in the age group of youth and adults the most influence is the variable of national identity and social trust respectively at the macro level and in the youth age the least influence is on the macro level of social order and in the adult group the religious identity has the least effect on electoral behavior.

## **8. Conclusion**

The purpose of this study was to compare the sociological effects of social factors affecting the electoral behavior of citizens of Mazandaran province in two age groups of youth and adults. The research was carried out in such a way that the research problem, its necessity and goals, and then the different theoretical issues and theories were categorized as the main approach of the research. The hypotheses of this study were based on the theories formulated in the field of electoral behavior and the empirical findings regarding the elections.

The findings of the study showed that in the youth age group, men and women have similar electoral behavior, whereas in the age group of adults, men and women have different electoral behavior. Also, there was no difference in electoral behavior between the two age groups of youth and high school in terms of residence (city and village) and marital status. Findings of the f-test show a different electoral behavior according to the level of education of the youth, and in contrast to the same test in the adult age group, they have a similar level of electoral behavior. In the f-test for youth age group by occupation, it showed similar electoral behavior, whereas in the adult age group, there was a statistically different electoral behavior.

Finally, based on the findings, it can be concluded that the two age groups have different electoral behavior and both groups were tested according to the variables in the same age group of youth in that the age group of youth is similar in terms of gender, place of residence, marital status, and occupation.

As a result, education variables play a more prominent role in the type of youth electoral behavior, and in contrast, in the age group of adults, their gender and occupation determine their electoral behavior. On the other hand, variables of national identity, social institutions and media have influence in both groups and in the variable group of adults social networks have more influence than youth group.

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