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Social participation and factors affecting it: A Study in the counties of Javanroud and Ravansar

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Detailed Abstract

Introduction

Participation is an essential and inseparable part of every person's daily life and is of great importance. Therefore, we are forced to study participation status and its factors and obstacles. The participation rate of the people of Kermanshah province in the first and second rounds of the presidential elections in 2024 was 31.5 percent and 42 percent, respectively, and the participation rate of the people of Javanrud and Ravansar counties in these elections was generally lower than the average. These statistics indicate that social participation is a problem in the studied society. Therefore, it is necessary to research and investigate their participation to achieve breakthrough results.

In the present study, we want to know the level of social participation among the citizens of Javanroud and Ravansar counties. And we want to study and test the factors affecting social participation (dependence on the government and limited welfare) in these counties, which are among the less developed areas of Kermanshah province, to determine what factors have affected the decrease in social participation of the citizens of Javanroud and Ravansar counties.

Research method

The research population in this study consists of all citizens over 18 years of age living in Javanroud and Ravansar. According to the 2016 census, there are 122,826 people. The sample size in this study was also calculated using the

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Cochran formula, and it was 384. There are a total of 384 people in the two cities, and the questionnaire was divided equally between the two cities. The sampling method in this study is a multi-stage cluster sampling proportional to the sample size.

The data collection tool was a questionnaire. Nine researcher-made items were used to measure social participation, and eight standardized items by foreign (Rogers, McClelland, etc.) and domestic (Azkia, Mohseni Tabrizi, Ghaffari, etc.) researchers, after localization, were used to measure the variables of dependence on the government and limited good. SPSS software was used to analyze the data.

findings

The findings showed that most respondents were university educated, male, 30 and under 30, married, and from a low social class. Their dependence on the government is medium to low, their goodwill is medium to low, and they have medium social participation. The test of the research hypotheses (Pearson's correlation coefficient) showed a significant relationship between the variables of dependence on the government and the perception of limited good with social participation. The results of multivariable regression analysis showed that 6.3% of the variance of the social participation variable is due to independent variables. The variable of dependence on the government affects social participation with a standardized beta coefficient of 0.209; The limited goodness variable has no significant effect.

Social participation is measured by combining formal and informal participation variables. In these societies, informal participation is medium to high, but formal participation is medium to low, which shows that citizens are not very willing to participate in official activities.

There is a significant and positive relationship between the variables of dependence on the government and limited good. Social participation increases with increasing reliance on the government and limited goods. If the government can gain the people's trust, their dependence and trust in the government will increase. People will welcome government plans for agricultural activities, agricultural innovations, improvements, and reforms, such as building proper roads, etc., and the government can participate in advancing national and regional plans. If, like in Japanese society, thoughtful and well-intentioned individuals support the government, people can use government guidance for regional progress and count on government assistance.

The low dependence on the government at the level of the studied society shows that people solve most of their problems with social participation and less with reliance on the government. Due to the borderline and low government aid in these areas, people have come to believe that they should rely on themselves and

solve problems with each other's help and participation. Regarding the low authoritarianism of the people of this region, the results show that people do not believe much in unilateral, hierarchical, and top-down activities and want to have a role in executive and participatory activities. Also, the informal participation of the people of these regions, independently and sometimes without government support, which is more evident in these regions than in the other areas of Kermanshah province, can indicate their low dependence on the government.

Regarding the variable of limited good, Foster believes that as the amount of limited good increases, social participation decreases, but contrary to her opinion, as the perception of limited good increases, people in the region cooperate and participate to overcome problems and achieve prosperity. Considering the lifestyle of the people of this region, which still has a strong tribal, nomadic, and tribal culture combined with religious teachings, people prefer to cooperate and participate to overcome problems. The increased facilities and welfare in the studied society have caused the image of limited good to fade. Javanroud County has commercial opportunities that have increased peace among residents and lowered the perception of limited well-being. In Ravansar County, most residents are also active in jobs besides agriculture that can improve their needs and provide them with a sense of security.

Conclusion

In general, the results show that in the less developed areas (the studied cities), the culture, beliefs, and social values have not changed much, and the society has remained in its traditional form. Contrary to the theories of the experts of the old modernization school, tradition and small elements of peasant culture are a strong point, strengthening social participation and establishing development in these areas. Government and development experts must rely on these elements so that people can achieve specific, predetermined goals and plans through social participation.

Keywords: limited good, social participation, dependence on the government, Javanroud and Ravansar.