

## **The Study of the Factors Affecting Awareness of Youth's Citizenship Rights (Case Study: Bandar Abbas City)**

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### ***Abstract***

Awareness of the citizenship rights and duties is the first prerequisite for asking the right and performing duties and obligations. Members of the temporal community find opportunity to participate to be aware of their own rights, duties and obligations on one hand, and the rights, duties and responsibilities of the existing institutions on the other hand. The main aim of this study is to investigate the factors affecting awareness of citizenship rights of youths. Then, views of the sociologists such as Weber, Marshall, Parsons, Turner and Habermas and also Keith Faulks towards the postmodern citizenship were investigated and finally the views of Marshall, Habermas, Parsons and Turner have been used for the theoretical framework. Survey and questionnaire technique methods were used to collect data to investigate this issue. The Statistical population was the youth of 18-29 years in Bandar Abbas. Multi-stage cluster sampling has been used for sampling and the sample size was of 280 individuals using the Cochran formula. And Pearson tests as well as regression analysis and path analysis have been used to test the hypotheses. The results of the study show that awareness of citizenship rights had been more than awareness of citizenship duties. Also, universality variables, social economic base, having cultural resources and social trust are correlated with citizenship awareness and 52.5% of variance of awareness of citizenship have been predicted by the above variables.

***Keywords:*** Rights, Citizenship awareness, Cultural resources, Social trust.

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## 1. Introduction

Citizenship is one of the most important concepts and social ideas which are effective on reviewing the relationship between the individual and the community. Several and different definitions of citizenship have been presented. Citizenship represents the relationship between the individual and community in the form of rights and responsibilities. Citizenship has both individualist and collectivist elements. So that on one hand, citizenship provides the required space for the individual by giving rights in order to follow his/her own interests, regardless of any intervention as well as enables the individual to have a role in shaping the public, government, institutions, and on the other hand, emphasizing the responsibilities which must be taken for sustainability of our political communities and natural environment.

Therefore, the human relations are sustainable and the rights can be realized only in this social context (Faulks, 2002: 10-11). Citizenship can eradicate social stress which threatens social order by proposing this demand that is to be treated equally with all individuals. Citizenship provides a way to fair distribution and management of resources by dividing the interests and responsibilities of social life with the help of a set of its rights, duties and obligations (Faulks, 2002: 15). Members of the temporal community find opportunity to participate in when to be aware of their own rights, duties and obligations on one hand, and the rights, duties and responsibilities of the existing institutions on the other hand. This understanding and acting to it depends on the recognition of citizenship. Then, the citizenship can be considered the main core of the social and political participation of a community. And the active participation can be considered as defining part of citizenship rights and duties. Therefore, the grounds should be provided for the realization of citizenship in order to realizing a healthy community.

Due to the tension between autocratic government and citizenship relationships and responsibility in Iran, neither citizenship relationship was institutionalized in Iran, nor could Iranians consider themselves as citizens and have citizenship identity by requesting citizenship rights and privileges and responsibility for them.

In terms of historical sociology of citizenship, social form of "making citizenship" in Iran has been appeared after the Islamic revolution 1357 (Tavassoli, 2004: 57).

The existence of citizen's awareness and committed to civil behavior are of the conditions of democratic community. Unilateral emphasis on each of these dual aspects and the lack of sufficient awareness of other aspects that are due to the lack of realization of citizenship among the individuals of the community can make crisis and problems for any community. In Iran, due to lack of citizenship rights -for centuries –

and considering the people as "common people and peasant", in a completely unbalanced way, no emphasis and less discussion were given on the citizenship rights and citizenship duties.

After the constitutional revolution, the modernity issue, restriction of the monarchy, emergence of parliament, peoples' intervention in the destiny of their own community, and finally the citizenship act were proposed.

Most people who are seeking citizenship right do not know the duties associated with it and are not willing to do it (Piran, 2006: 9). "The main function of citizenship is managing the community according to the principles of respect for the rights of others and commitment to play a role in maintaining common institutions that sustains these rights (Faulks, 2002: 211). Constitutionalism was an appropriate historical opportunity to strengthen the citizenship act, but was not successful.

After the establishment of the Pahlavi regime which was known for absolute opposite attributes, pseudo-modern, autocratic, military-oriented, and nationalist (Tavassoli, Najati Hosseini, 2007: 46), for making grounds and strengthening the citizenship act have taken a certain direction due to the unconventional economic development, intense modernization, and passionate nationalism that modernist measures, and the programs in two aspects of cultural and economic development, not the political development and the law which makes ground for the principles of citizenship can be mentioned (ibid).

However, due to the total tension between autocratic government and citizenship relationships, neither citizenship relationship was institutionalized in Iran, nor Iranians could consider themselves as citizens and have citizenship identity by requesting the citizenship rights and privileges and responsibility for them.

Historically, Iran is one of the first countries in Asian continent which has achieved constitution and institutionalization of political structure but the citizenship act has not been understood as it should be. For this reason, social planners, politicians and elites had tried to familiarize and inform the citizens of their rights and obligations as well as stimulate them to participate in the implementation of these rights and obligations with proposing citizenship and rights and obligations associated with it in the public discourses.

Implementing these rights is dependent on implementing the obligations, and the citizens can only realize their own rights in implementing these obligations.

Citizenship gives an identity as a dignity to the community members and gives them a series of rights known as citizenship rights. These rights have general, equal, and approved features as well as have implementation guarantees by the government.

Thus, it is necessary for the community individuals to be consciously and actively in the context of the community and defend their rights with implementing their own obligations.

Adolescence and youth are important and sensitive periods, because most of the human knowledge and resources that underlie in the behavior and acting in adulthood are achieved during the primary and secondary social education. The individuals can be trained to accept the role of a citizen during his adulthood in the light of citizenship education during this period.

Investigating factors affecting the level of citizenship awareness and realizing it and making the appropriate resources and opportunities and positive attitude towards participation help to realize citizenship. The level of citizens' awareness of their rights and obligations and their participation in the community have effective and decisive roles in realizing the citizens' rights and its expansion. Therefore, recognizing the rights, responsibilities, and acting to them are very important in order to create and expand the dynamics needs of the community.

So, the grounds should be provided for the realization of citizenship in order to establish a healthy and dynamic community, and this will not be possible except by recognizing the factors affecting it. In this study, citizenship has been conceptualized as the rights and duties include participation, voluntary cooperation, and so on.

The aim of this study is to achieve a sociological analysis of the factors affecting youth citizenship awareness. Citizenship represents political and social membership which determines the mutual relationship between the individual, the government and various institutions in each community and requires awareness of the rights and responsibilities and participation in community affairs.

Studying the youth citizenship status and the factors affecting it and making appropriate grounds and conditions for citizenship realization and maintaining social cohesion are important.

## **2. Research background**

In the study of Citizen-oriented city two theoretical models have been made. Citizen-oriented city and Powerful-oriented city and the concept of citizen and citizenship have been considered as distinctions between cities. Citizen-oriented city is the result of the community in which the individual has identity regardless of his/her own blood, ethnic, and tribal relations. Such a community is based on the social consensus which is appeared as a social, and is a powerful evolved civil community (Piran, 1997).

Citizenship status and the factors affecting changing the attitude of the individuals towards their rights and duties have been investigated and analyzed. The study which has been conducted in Lorestan entitled Sociological Analysis of Citizenship Status. The aim of investigation is to understand the Citizenship status in Lorestan province and providing practical strategies and guidelines. The study has been conducted in a survey method, and questionnaire had been the main data collection method.

The intended population of sample size has been estimated 355 individuals for Khorramabad, 341 individuals for Boroujerd, and 161 individuals for Noorabad. The results of the study show that the majority of respondents were under diploma and the mean of literacy in Boroujerd is higher than in the other two cities.

The proposed population of sample was about 355 individuals from Khorramabad, 341 individuals from Boroujerd, and 161 individuals from Noorabad. The results of the study show that the majority of respondents were under diploma and the mean of literacy in Boroujerd is higher than in the other two cities.

In all three cities, the individuals have been somewhat pursued political information and news and their political awareness has been moderate and low. The indicators of participatory and voluntary activities show very low participation in the religious, cultural and educational activities. The majority of respondents have participated in different elections in Noorabad, Khorramabad and Boroujerd, respectively. The results of the study also show that membership in different tribal and emphasis on the particularism affiliations and attachments have led to get away from understanding, so that the individuals without belonging to a tribe have had more awareness of the rights and duties (Shiain, 2002).

The study of the political obstacles for citizenship expansion for women has been designed to answer this main question that whether the situation of women in the public arena is influenced by their situation in the private arena or not?

The statistical population of this study is the women members of the City Council. The survey methodology has been tallied. The data were collected through phone interview with 233 women members of city council. To answer that whether how to divide the domestic labor and roles within the household (private arena) will affect the quantity and quality of the presence of women in councils (public arena) or not?

The results of the study showed that the level of women' citizenship is low due to the indicators of this study. On the other hand, the position of these women in the private live is heavily concerned as stereotypes female, thus women are still responsible for the major housework and still both the family members (children) and the relatives consider the main gob of the woman is at home (Shahrokni, 2002).

### 3. Research hypotheses

1. There is a relationship between universality and citizenship awareness.
2. There is a relationship between economic resources and citizenship awareness.
3. There is a relationship between cultural resources and citizenship awareness.
4. There is a relationship between social trust and citizenship awareness.
5. There is a relationship between socio-economic base and citizenship awareness.
6. There is a relationship between citizenship awareness and attitude to participation.
7. There is a relationship between demographic variables (age, gender, marital status, religion, and employment status, and education) and citizenship awareness.

### 4. Methodology

The research assessment tool is the researcher made questionnaire in which the questions have been designed using relevant documents and the preliminary questionnaire on the variables research topic. Formal and content validity method have been used to determine the validity of the main variables of this study, and the questionnaire questions were designed and compiled using the experts' opinions. Cronbach's alpha coefficient which is a type of index to determine the internal consistency of a structure has been used to determine the validity of the indices of this study. So that after designing and compiling, the initial questionnaire has been completed by 30 individuals and under pre-test, and the probable defects and failures have been resolved and finally, the final questionnaire has been prepared. The statistical population/group aged 18-29 years old were youth from Bandar Abbas. Multi-stage cluster sampling has been used to a sample size of 280 individuals using the Cochran formula. The results of the study have been also extracted by the statistical software SPSS at two descriptive and analytical levels. T and F and r Pearson tests as well as regression analysis and path analysis have been used to test the hypotheses.

### 5. Results

**Table 1. Frequency distribution of the respondents in terms of awareness of citizenship rights**

	Frequency	Valid percentage
Low	40	15.3
Moderate	97	37.2
High	124	47.5
total	261	100

According to the information in the above table, it can be stated that 15.3% of the respondents had a low awareness of citizenship rights, 37.2% had a moderate awareness, and 47.5% had a high awareness.

**Table 2- Frequency distribution of the respondents in terms of awareness of citizenship duties**

	Frequency	Valid percentage
Low	40	16.5
Moderate	136	56.2
High	66	27.3
total	242	100

According to the information in the above table, it can be stated that 16.5% of the respondents had a low awareness of citizenship duties, 56.2% had a moderate awareness, and 27.3% had a high awareness. The citizenship awareness variable is obtained from 20 items (sum of the items of awareness of rights and duties). According to the information in the above table, it can be stated that 10.2% of the respondents had a low awareness of citizenship rights and duties, 56.7% had a moderate awareness, and 33.1% had a high awareness.

**Table 3. Frequency distribution of the respondents in terms of citizenship awareness**

	Frequency	Valid percentage
Low	24	10.2
Moderate	134	56.7
High	78	33.1
total	242	100

**Table 4. Pearson correlation coefficient test for two variables of universality and citizenship awareness**

Variable	Pearson correlation (R)	Determination Coefficient (R <sup>2</sup> )	Significance level
Generalism	0.457	0.20	0.000
Having economic resources	0.381	0.14	0.000
Having cultural resources	0.334	0.112	0.000
Socio-economic base	0.462	0.213	0.000
Social trust	0.111	-	0.092
Attitude to participation	0.315	0.099	0.000

According to the information in the above table, it can be found that there is a relatively moderate and direct correlation about 0.46 between the two variables of universality and citizenship awareness, and the universality variable explains 20

percent of the variance of citizenship awareness variable. There is a relatively moderate and direct correlation about 0.38 between the two variables of the level of having economic resources and citizenship awareness and the variable of the level of having economic resources shows 14 percent of the variance of citizenship awareness variable. Therefore, it can be said that the more level of having economic resources, the individual has the higher citizenship awareness and vice versa.

There is a significant relationship with a confidence level of 99% (sig=0.000) and a relatively moderate and direct correlation about 0.33 between the two variables of the level of having cultural resources and citizenship awareness, and the universality variable shows 11 percent of the variance of citizenship awareness variable.

According to the information above, it can be found that there is no relationship between social trust and citizenship awareness, because the significance level (sig = 0.092) is greater than 0.05.

There is a significant relationship with a confidence level of 99% (sig=0.000) and a moderate and direct correlation about 0.46 between the two variables of socio-economic base and citizenship awareness, and the variance of socio-economic base explains 21 percent of the variance of citizenship awareness variable. Therefore, it can be said that the more socio-economic base the individual has, he/she has the higher citizenship awareness and vice versa.

There is a significant relationship with a confidence level of 99% (sig=0.000) and a relatively moderate and direct correlation about 0.31 between the two variables of attitude to participation and citizenship awareness, and the citizenship awareness variable explains 1 percent of the variance of attitude to participation variable.

Regression analysis is used to determine the contribution of the effect of each independent variable on the dependent variable without considering priority and recentness among them. In this section, the most important factors affecting citizenship awareness and action will be investigated based on regression analysis. The method used in this regression analysis is the stepwise method.

In order to perform regression analysis in this study, first, the variables of generalism, social trust, socio-economic base, having the economic, social, and cultural resources, and the age of respondent were entered into the regression equation as the independent variables, and the citizenship awareness variable as the dependent variable. The results are as follows:



**Table 5. Regression statistics and fitting the regression model**

Statistics Dependent variable	Pearson correlation (R)	Determination Coefficient (R <sup>2</sup> )	F value	Degree of freedom (df)	Significance level (sig)
Citizenship awareness	0/724	0/524	45.4	5	0.000

According to the information above, it can be found that the amount of correlation between the independent variables entered in the model and the dependent variable (citizenship awareness) is about 0.724 which indicates the strong correlation between the variables. Also, 52.4% of the variance of citizenship awareness variable is explained by the independent variables entered in the model which is significant. Based on the significance level of the analysis of variance (F), the above regression model is confirmed at a confidence level of over 99%; because the mentioned significance level is 0.000 which is less than 0.01.

**Table 6. Elements of the variables within the equation to predict citizenship awareness**

Independent variables	B	Beta	t	sig
Generalism	0.798	0.311	6.058	0.000
Socio-economic base	0.589	0.755	6.118	0.000
Having cultural resources	0.370	0.490	4.008	0.000
Social trust	-0.475	-0.131	-2.536	0.012

Statistical indicators for the variables within the equation such as coefficient and regression (B) for raw scores and Beta for the standard scores and the t-test can be observed in the above table. The t-test indicates that coefficient B for the first three variables is statistically significant at the confidence level of 99%, and for the last variable at the confidence level of 95%, and the direction of their relationship has been determined by Beta coefficient.

As it is observed, universality is the first variable which has been entered into the equation and its beta is 0.311. It means the more generalism, the more citizenship awareness of the respondents.

Socio-economic base and having cultural resources are the next variables which have been entered into the equation after universality respectively, and have a positive correlation with the dependent variable. There is a reverse correlation between social trust and citizenship awareness; it means those individuals who have more awareness and have less social trust.

**Table 7. The main elements of multivariate analysis in step-by-step method from step1 to step 4 to predict citizenship awareness**

Step	Variables' name	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Modified value of R <sup>2</sup>	Standard error
First	Generalism	0.484	0.234	--	7.11
Second	Socio-economic base	0.693	0.480	0.093	5.88
Third	Having cultural resources	0.714	0.510	0.030	5.73
Fourth	Social trust	0.724	0.524	0.014	5.65

The information in the above table indicates that our prediction equation has 5 steps.

According to the information obtained in the table of multivariate correlation, R is equal to 0.724 in the fifth step, the determination coefficient obtained in the fifth step shows that a total of 5 variables within the equation, namely generalism, socio-economic base, having cultural resources, and social trust predict about 52.5% of the variance of the dependent variable (citizenship awareness).

**Table 8. Elements of variables outside the equation in the fifth step to predict citizenship awareness**

Variables' name	Partial correlation	t value	sig
Age	0.072	1.032	0.303
Having economic resources	0.007	0.100	0.920

The results obtained in the table above indicate that the two variables of age and having economic resources have not been able to enter the equation and a significant value to R<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, these two variables have not played any role in predicting the dependent variable.

Based on the above analytical model, it can be said that 4 variables of generalism, social trust, having cultural resources and socio-economic base have had a significant effect on citizenship awareness.

From these variables, the socio-economic base with the correlation of 0.755 has had the most effect on the citizenship awareness variable. Having cultural resources also has had the most effect on socio-economic base.

## 6. Conclusion

According to the study results, youth awareness of citizenship rights had been more than awareness of citizenship duties. Also regarding citizenship rights, awareness of social rights had been more than awareness of civil and political rights.

The level of universality is not so high in youth-the sample population-, so that, only 24.4% of the respondents have had a high generalist orientation and 75.6% of the respondents have a moderate and low generalist orientation. 10.2% of the respondents have had a low positive attitude to participation, 60.1% of them have a moderate and 29.7% of them have had a high positive attitude to participation. Also, 26.3% of the respondents have had a low social trust (generalized trust and institutional trust), 50.8% of them have a moderate, and 22.9% of them have had a high social trust.

Of course, the level of institutional trust (trust in government institutions) of the respondents had been less than the level of generalized trust (trust in people) and they have had less trust in government institutions.

Citizenship requires membership and participation based on the generalist norms in the community and is recognized in a community where the individuals have a generalist orientation. Awareness of the citizenship rights and duties and acting to them are influenced by several factors, one of these factors is generalism.

According to the results of study, universality in several aspects, i.e lack of sex discrimination, social equality and so on have effect on the citizenship awareness.

From the perspective of Parsons, citizenship is the result of the emergence of modern capitalism and the changes in the traditional community.

In modern communities, elementary identities are replaced by the newer affiliations like national citizenship and have some characteristics in terms of position and identity which are more acquired not assigned.

In fact, modern citizenship should not be limited to the particularism such as ethnicity and gender, but is the result of the development of general values and norms; that is, the social activist considers others equally in any situation and deals with them according to the general rules.

This value allows the individuals to expand the rights and responsibilities beyond ethnic, sexual belonging and so on.

In this study, the relationship between universality and citizenship awareness has been confirmed.

Most respondents have had particularism orientations in this study that this characteristic is fundamentally rooted in a kind of National identity crisis and ethical particularism in Iranian community.

Also, citizenship is realized in the community where the citizens have resources. According to Faulks, citizenship is always dependent on resources in order to make the citizenship meaningful and provide actual opportunities for the individuals to use their rights.

Turner considers the community, identity, resources, and citizenship to interact with each other in the sociological pattern of citizenship. He acknowledges that the resources should be provided for the individual in order to shape the citizenship.

These resources included are not only economic resources such as housing, income and job, but also are cultural resources such as study, education, and political.

The results of the study in the section of awareness confirm Turners' view, that is, there is a positive and significant relationship between having economic resources and youth citizenship awareness.

The same is true for the cultural resources. It means there is a positive and significant relationship between the level of having cultural resources and citizenship awareness.

In the regression analysis, the variable of cultural resources has also become significant and has been able to predict 3% of the variance of citizenship awareness variable.

According to the results of the study, the relationship between socio-economic base and citizenship is such that there is a positive and significant relationship between socio-economic base and citizenship awareness.

In other words, youth citizenship is mostly inactive and thus, citizenship has still remained at the level of awareness and has been less manifested practically.

According to the regression analysis, the base variable has the ability to predict citizenship awareness along with other factors and predicts 9 percent of the variance of the dependent variable.

Citizenship awareness is influenced by social trust. It should be noted that, the results of the study show that the individuals who had been more aware of citizenship rights and duties have had a lower level of social trust.

In other words, the relationship between awareness and social trust is inversely. The reason for this may be attributed to this issue that the youth who have more awareness have also more demands that the ground to achieve is not available.

Attitudes are also one of the determinant factors of the behaviors which are resulting from our awareness and feeling about the subject and the willingness to do them practically.

Citizenship awareness leads to strengthen the positive attitude to participation in the individual. The results of the study show that there is a positive and significant relationship between awareness of the rights and duties and attitude to participation and citizenship awareness predicts about 10 percent of the variance of the variable of the positive attitude to participation.

Religiously, the results of the study indicate the difference between Shia and Sunni respondents. That is, Sunni respondents in citizenship awareness are at the lower level than the respondents with Shia religion. This result implies the inactivity and isolation of Sunni respondents.

There is no significant difference between the gender of the respondents and citizenship awareness that this can be due to the growth of women's literacy and education, the mass media and so on.

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