

INVESTIGATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL DIMENSIONS AND SOCIAL TRUST (CASE STUDY: CITIZENS OF ILAM CITY)

^aAMIR HOSSEIN AMIRKHANI, ^bNEDA RAHIMI, ^cELMIRA PASHMCHI, ^dSEYED AMIR MOSAVIAN

^a Associate Professor, Payame Nour University, Tehran, Iran

^b Master of Executive Management Varamin Branch, Payamenoor University, Iran

^c Master of Executive Management, Varamin Branch, Payamenoor University, Iran

^d Master of Executive Management, Varamin Branch, Payamenoor University, Iran

Email: ^aD.amir.hosein.amirakbari@gmail.com,

^bNedaya3469@gmail.com, ^cEl.ira.pashmchi.pa@gmail.com,

^dS.a.mosavian.s@gmail.com

Abstract: This study was conducted as survey, the population consisted of the city of Ilam and based on multi-stage cluster sampling 384 citizens aged 18 and over were selected as sample. Data were collected using a questionnaire and Spss software for data analysis used. Based on the findings, the generally low level of participation in citizen participation, and in dimensions as well, social participation of citizens in the informal is stronger than official dimension and trust of citizens is higher and the participation in general, it is also more in two dimensions.

Keywords: social participation, social trust, citizens, official dimension, informal dimension, Ilam city

1. Introduction

Public participation in autonomy and collective decision-making and participatory democracy considered as visualization component for achieving sustainable development. Civic participation is a process of self-education and participation activities, requires changes at all levels of social and psychological state of mind. This change resulted in new human and social relations (Rezai, 1996: 54). You should know that the evolution of human societies depends on the density and complexity of relationships and social interactions in other words is their network. Such a density of no confidence in the ruling leaven for the formation and sustainability of small-scale social relations, intermediate and macro, it is rarely possible is not allowed and the culture that it needs to be remembered as a culture of trust; a culture that not only generating confidence that social capital is a key motif and fundamental prerequisite for democracy, organized and dynamic social order and the development aspects of political, social, cultural and economic (Zetomka, 2007: a). Since the late 50s, followed by the failure of development programs based on the views modernization, the concept of collaboration and partnership development was developed in the literature. The failure of these programs in achieving their objectives is fostering belief that the lack of public participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs is causing their failure. So in response to this, the concept of partnership as "the involvement of citizens in public decision-making and planning related to it" (Roofing, 184: 2004) was considered by planners and strengthening public participation processes, as key areas of development were raised.

The exact definition of participation must be said that participation can be an interactive process between the actor's targeted action and his social environment in order to achieve certain goals defined preset. The process by which people consciously, voluntary collective and specific goals in mind and specified that leads to the sharing of community resources, they will attend. The objective of this is collaborative, cooperative institutions such as forums, groups, NGOs and others (Dehghan and Ghafari, 68: 2005).

In modern societies because of the special importance of the participation requirements of the new life phenomenon, the

extent of communities and increasing population, the variety and diversity issues and social strata has led to a strong role for participation, because people's participation in decision-making processes on the one hand and belief and commitment of managers to take advantage of the comments they and implement the decisions of the underlying potential problems and prevent potential problems will be cured; research has shown that the worst places in the world in terms of economic and social, where people do nothing but follow their individual interests and respect for justice suppressed. Development and prosperity where there is an inner feeling associated with values such as altruism (social partnership), reliability, loyalty and fair play are grown (Basu, 2006: 35-34) which is always a positive relationship between participation in the social, political and...the concept of social trust. Confidence is the central concept in the classical theories of sociology, as well as the core of modern theories of social capital and social interaction and relationships (Moeedfar and Jahangiri, 2009: 48).

In short, attitudes and values related to trust and give / take between people is particularly important. They are essential for social and political stability and cooperation. In this way, in terms of social capital on the values and attitudes of citizens insist that cooperation, understanding, empathy and fellowship with each other towards it (Newton, 67: 2008). And participation in the process of engaging all groups of people in all stages of development to emerge abilities, capabilities and therefore their material and spiritual growth and development and may therefore always been in recent years in the scientific and political circles, citizen participation in social and political discourse have tops, all of it as an important element in achieving sustainable development, democracy and debated. (Abbas Zadeh, 44: 2008) The basis for the development of responsible and informed participation of individuals or in other words, citizens in different social and political affairs and culture is one of the important priorities and if we are to be effective, requires a change in thinking and action which should boil within the community and in the formats acceptable and stable society and state crystallized.

2. Theoretical framework

Participation is primarily a social phenomenon that results and other social and political implications too. Participation as a social phenomenon includes the involvement of the social values of membership. When people live within the values and norms of their society, in fact, participate in social life. The interpretative school of Max Weber and his followers, is partnering with the concept of chance or possibility of cooperation. This means that it is possible for the different conditions and the various factors increase the chance, reduce or even completely be ruled out. When the object has the chance to certain expectations that people have of the behavior of others and this objective has always been expected to be realized or fulfilled. So as long as people's expectations to be fulfilled in the context of social relations, they believe that the established order is participation continued (Tavassoly, 2003: 76-74).

Huntington and Nelson participation in the decision-making process affecting citizens of the state are considered to them, the two parameters of social mobility and membership in associations and social groups provide a context for the development of social partnership (Amin-Zadeh, 111: 1997) Maurice Halbwachs's position in the hierarchy of social classes primarily on the degree of participation has higher social class or benefit from activities related (Tavassoly, 2003: 76-74).

Daniel Lerner factors such as literacy, urbanization, access to mass media and public and finally social relationships with

community participation knows and believes that these variables are more in modern society. He named the new society as participatory society (Alerner, 57: 1964). Inglehart also increase participation in advanced societies to three factors: improving the educational level and political information, change the norms governing the participation and changes in the relative value priorities. In his view, these factors have less emphasis on immediate needs and insist on the right to express an opinion (Inglehart, 378: 1994). Inglehart addition to the aforementioned factors, the relationship between trust and participation are examined. According to him, trusting each other of the factors influencing participation, because of predictable behavior can be trusted because resulting in the strengthening of the area of action and decision-making. This approach is somewhat similar approach in discussing Almond and Verba "civic culture" trust appliances democratic culture and secondary relationships are formed. Inglehart also social capital equivalent to trusted and believes that social capital is a culture of trust and tolerance that thanks to its extensive network of voluntary organizations grown. He believes the network is the result of people's trust in one another, rather than people's trust by-product of this forum. Patriotic people, who trust each other, communicate with each other to sports groups to work in various positions, form an association and thereby rely more on each other (Rose, 78: 1999). The Putnam in strengthening cooperation and participation in society, trust is an essential element and not an element of involuntary and unconscious. (Putnam, 2001: 292) is located in Putnam believes the high level of participation is what makes confidence that is created in the form of social and cooperative collaboration (Jadj, 1: 2003)

Trust is required to predict the behavior of an independent actor. In small communities and interconnected this prediction is based on something done and Bernard Williams calls it sincerely trust, the confidence that an intimate acquaintance with the individual. But in larger and more complex societies or indirectly from a trust impersonal trust is essential (Putnam, 2001: 292). According to Giddens, in modern society, people have the time / place to be most of the time, they need more confidence. In pre-modern societies that have local character and more at the local level and face to face interactions occurred, naturally there is social trust relations; but in large communities and extensive social relations are time/location far done and individuals involved in these relationships are less know each other face to face, very dependent on trust. (Taleghani, Farhangi, Abedi, 92: 2010) Giddens, trust described as ensure the reliability persons or relying on quality or character of a person or the authenticity of the statement (Giddens, 1999: 37).

He trusted the existence of a sense of security that the transfer of the individual human being, in a climate crisis and a heart full of potential risks improves. (Giddens, 1999: 63) Giddens, confidence of the main elements of modernity knows and believes four local context trust, that is, kinship, community, tradition and religious cosmology pre-modern cultures have mastered, while in modern times, trust in abstract systems, symbols and systems of this type of trust is a bachelor (Giddens, 2001: 120). It should be noted that many schools have found a strong correlation between trust and democracy in society. They say trust a prominent role in the commitment to sustainable democracy plays in different areas; the schools also beneficial social trust as a source of unity and facilitate cooperation for mutual benefit in the fall. (Lee, 585: 2008), on the other hand,

some schools believe that generalized trust and social capital, people to join voluntary associations and engaging in civic activities is encouraging (Parks and Shane, 18: 2003). Finally, to imagine a world without trust Cook, hard life and social order breaks and society in the regulation and supervision of institutions that typically produce and reinforce provide the organizational conditions for cooperation in the community, need to maintain social order, if uncompromising performance to run (Cook, 5: 2001)

With the backing theory of conceptual model study is designed as follows:

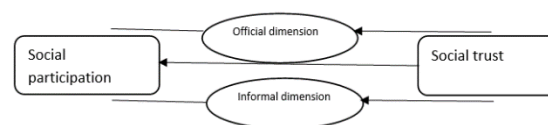


Figure 1:

Based on the above hypotheses are designed as follows:

1. There is relationship between social participation and trust of citizens.
2. There is relationship between trust of the citizens and their social participation in official dimension.
3. There is relationship between trust of the citizens and their social participation in informal.
4. There is difference between social participation of citizens in the formal and informal dimension.

2. Research Methodology

The methodology for this study is survey. The population of study is Ilam city and using a sample of 384 citizens in 18 years up to a multi-stage cluster sampling method was studied. The study is based on a survey, a questionnaire was used to collect the information techniques, reliability of the questionnaire in this study for analysis of alpha reliability coefficient was used and for social confidence 0.88 and for social participation 0.725 were obtained, so reliability was approved. The independent variable in this study is that variable social trust, social trust in three dimensions of interpersonal trust or an individual, generalized trust and institutional trust placed. Social participation is also dependent variable in the study of social participation in both formal (community participation in environmental activities, city Council, etc.), and then informally (in cooperation with neighbors, attending delegations, mourning, etc.) are examined. Finally, using the Spss software (Pearson correlation coefficient, t-test ...) to analyze the data studied.

3. Findings

3.1 Descriptive statistics of variables

In Table 1 Descriptive statistics of variables social participation, social partnership (informal), social partnership (formal) and social confidence shows that social participation in the informal rather than after it is official.

Table 1: Descriptive statistic of variables

	frequency	mean	standard deviation	standard error	minimum	maximum
social participation	315	27.03	9.20	0.518	12	60
social participation (official)	334	11.44	4.82	263	6	30
social participation (informal)	360	15.78	5.20	0.274	6	30
social trust	324	53.75	6.56	0.365	27	73

Test hypotheses

The first hypothesis: there is relationship between social participation and trust of citizens.

According to Table (2) the results of Pearson correlation coefficient value (0.373) and significant level of Sig=0.000 can be considered a significant proportion of the correlation trust; this means that the higher the level of social trust citizens, they are also more social participation and the hypothesis is confirmed.

Second hypothesis: there is relationship between trust of the citizens and their social participation in official dimension.

According to Table (2) the results of Pearson correlation coefficient value (0.303) a significant level of Sig=0.000 means

Table 2 The correlation coefficient between the social trust of citizens and social participation, social partnership (formal) social participation (informal)

hypothesis	independent variable	dependent variable	correlation coefficient	amount	significant level	error
first	social trust	social participation	pearson	**0.373	0.000	05%
second	social trust	social participation (official)	pearson	**0.303	0.000	05%
third	social trust	social participation (informal)	pearson	**0.381	0.000	05%

the higher the level of social trust is higher citizens, the participation in the more formal, and this hypothesis is confirmed.

The third hypothesis: there is relationship between trust of the citizens and their social participation in informal.

According to Table 2 Pearson's correlation coefficient with (0.381) and significant level of Sig=0.000 can be considered a significant proportion of the correlation coefficient, this means that the higher the level of social trust citizens, the participation in the more informal and the hypothesis is confirmed.

Fourth research hypothesis: there is difference between social participation of citizens in the formal and informal dimension.

The results of the t test and differences in the relationship between social participation of citizens in both the informal to the formal dimension with a significant level of Sig=0.000 implies acceptance of the hypothesis H1. this means that the amount equal to Sig=0.000 and given that this amount is smaller than 0.05, it can be considered a significant proportion of the correlation coefficient, this means that the social participation of citizens in the informal to the formal dimension where there is a hypothesis is confirmed.

Table 3. Test of difference between social participation of citizens in the informal and formal

	correlation coefficient	amount	degree of freedom	significance level	error
T test	official participation	43.354	333	0.000	05%
	informal participation	57.561	359		

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The main purpose of this article is check the status of citizen participation, seeks to accomplish the following have also been studied: check the status of formal and informal aspects of social participation among citizens, citizen participation and trust in their social relationships, the relationship of trust with participation in formal and informal dimensions. As noted in the findings, citizen participation is generally low. This result is not satisfactory result for officials and planners and, of course, is a result of numerous factors and has the ability to review and empirical research, the variable in this study the effect of trust in the society. The social participation is addressed. In the present study social participation of citizens in both formal and informal been evaluated. Based on the results of citizen participation in official later than after a small amount is informal; An explanation for this result can be represented like this and management ladder is still a society from top to bottom and the role of citizens is not much clarity and involvement are effective, this task is the responsibility of national authorities/local communication channels with citizens to determine and the influence of citizens are strongly urged to plan goals and so the society from top to bottom with the management ladder from the bottom up change management that will definitely succeed. As

has been the social participation of citizens in terms of strength is more informal, it can be said as regards the informal cooperation among citizens is more the result of communication and interaction with each other official communication with agencies and organizations, elements such as empathy and understanding between the citizens affected this study, the influential elements of trust in each other as we have studied and studied. Based on the analytical results, the average amount of trust between citizens and the rate is positively related to social participation. So should strive to increase the level of trust in society that promotes social participation of people in particular will be in the next official and subsequently saw the development of local /national society. Finally, to explain the relation between concepts citizens, civil society and contribute to interact with different levels of trust in society, it can be discussed with the theory of "Stuart", "Lister" and "Denison" finished. The three theorists, in the order of a few key concepts related to their use. The three key concepts are: Citizen of local government and urban (Stewart), the practical realization of the rights of citizens in the local community and municipal (Lister) and social justice at the local level (Denison). (Nejati Hosseini, 2001) According to Stewart, the most important task of the authorities and local governments is "citizenship". Citizen of the facilities, and facilities necessary mechanisms for citizens, they are entitled to their civil rights, and also being able to appropriate

tasks and duties of the citizens in the local community play. Lister also that the citizens of the Stuart should be practical in order to fulfill citizens' rights to Marshall (civil rights, social and political) provided. Denison with an emphasis on social justice in local and municipal level there is a relationship between citizens and local governments and urban close and the role of local governments and municipal social justice at the local level. Based on what was said identity of the citizen as an acquired identity, the interaction between citizens and official organizations and civil society takes shape. Both sides of this engagement, rights and obligations that it cannot be achieved without a commitment a democratic society to expect. Citizenship certain value system and behavior requires that participation and a sense of belonging to society is its most important feature.

References

1. Abbas Zadeh, M.: The factors influencing participation of citizens in the city (Case Study: Isfahan), doctoral dissertation in sociology, University of Isfahan, 2008.
2. Amin Zadeh, M.: Political development, political information economy - economic, 1997, vol. 117, p. 118-125.
3. Basu, K.: Identity, Trust and Altruism, Sociological Clues to Economic Development, 2006.
4. Baum, H.S.: Citizen Participation, international encyclopedia of the social & behavioral sciences, 2004. p. 1840-1846.
5. Cook, K. S., Trust in Society, New York: Russell Sage, 2001.
6. Ghaffari, G.R., Azkia, M.: The relationship between social cohesion and social inclusion in rural areas villagers organized the city of Kashan, Agricultural Economics and Development, ninth year, 2006, vol. 36, p. 89-95.
7. Giddens, A.: Way reconstruction of social democracy, Tehran: Tiraj, 1999
8. Inglehart, R.: Cultural development in advanced industrial society, Tehran, Kavir, 1994.
9. Judge, R.: The difference that Gender makes, social capital, Gender and Political Participation, Eyewitness Robert. University of Manitoba, 2001.
10. Lerner, D.: The passing of traditional Society, New York, 1964.
11. Lee, J.: Social capital and Democracy Embedded in the citizens Review Asian survey, 2008. vol. 4, pp.580-602
12. Nejati Hosseini, M.: Check the status of municipal law concept of citizenship in Iran, Tehran: Publication of municipalities, 2001.
13. Newton, K.: Social capital and democracy, Zeribar Journal, 2008. Vol. 66, p. 65-69.
14. Park C., Shin, D.: Social capital and democratic citizenship: the case of South Korea. Working paper series: 2003. Vol. 12, pp. 1-39.
15. Putnam, R.: Democracy and civil traditions, Tehran: Office of Political Studies and the Ministry of Interior, 2001.
16. Rezaei, A.: Social participation by developing the information or political – economic, 1996, p. 110.
17. Rose, R.: Getting Things done in an Anti-modern Society: social capital Networks in Russia. In Dasgupta & Serageldin. 1999. pp. 71-147.
18. Taleghani, G.R., Abedi Jafari, A.A.: Modeling the factors affecting the trust of citizens towards municipal administration, Public Administration, 2010, vol. 2, p. 56-65.
19. Tavassoly, G.: Anomic society in terms of social partnership, Tehran: Tehran, 2003.
20. Zetomca, P.: Trust: social theory, Tehran: publication and research headband, 2007.