An evaluation of social capital and its influencing factors among villagers of Kermanshah province
(Case study: Uramanat Region)

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1. INTRODUCTION
Social capital is the key to a civil society and the lack of social capital is a formidable barrier to creation and deployment of such a society (Haji pour, 2006:43-44), it has had a major impact on rural development process, and it will have a significant impact on rural development, if it is enhanced and optimized (Miri & et al, 2009:30). Thus, social capital is considered a basic principle for achieving sustainable development. Successful states and government are those that can adopt necessary policies and provide appropriate solutions to increase the production and development of social capital. Therefore, with regard to great impacts of social capital on development process and sustainable development of rural communities, this study, selecting the rural areas of Uramanat region in Kermanshah Province, sought to answer the following questions: In what level is the social capital among the villagers of Uramanat region? And what are its influencing factors?

2. METHODOLOGY
This study is a descriptive-correlational one. Data were collected through library research methods and fieldworks. The statistical population consisted of 22279 households, living in 492 villages in Uramanat region. To estimate the sample size, Cochran formula has been used with the confidence level of 95% (p&q=0.05) and the error probability of d=0.07. 263 households were selected by multi-stage
stratified sampling. However, due to variations in total number of the villages, and in order to increase the accuracy of the research and avoid errors, we decided to add 5% to the sample size. Therefore, to evaluate the level of social capital and its influencing factors in the villages of Uramanat region, 280 people (Head of households) were questioned. Four townships comprised the classes of this study. After data collection and processing them in SPSS software, we came to data analysis and explanation of the subject of the study.

3. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Based on the results of one sample T-test, the mean value of the social capital of the villagers in the study area was 3.9 which is close to average social capital of the villagers (3). This shows that the social capital of the villagers of Uramanat region was evaluated as moderate to more than average (Tables 1 and 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of social capital</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>frequency percentage</th>
<th>Cumulative frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very low</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>77.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean= 3.9  S.d= 0.851  Maximum= 5  Minimum= 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Capital</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>sig</th>
<th>Mean Difference</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval of the Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.752</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.903</td>
<td>0.803</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To determine the relative contribution of the independent variables (factors influencing the social capital of villagers of Uramanat region) to dependent variable (social capital of villagers), stepwise logistic regression was used. The study results show that five variables simultaneously affect the social capital of villagers in Uramanat region. The multiple correlation coefficient R=0.756 and
determination coefficient $R^2=0.559$ show that 55.9% of the variations in dependent variable are explained by proposed independent variables (Table-3). According to the study results summarized in Table 3, the linear equation obtained from regression analysis is as follows:

$$x_5 - 0.354 x_0.008 + x_3 0.227 +x_2 0.065 + x_1 3.115 Y= Y \text{ the social capital of villagers, } x_1= \text{ Age, } x_2= \text{ land area, } x_3= \text{ overall satisfaction with life, } x_4= \text{ percentage of income from the main job, } x_5= \text{ driving as a job.}$$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>sig</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constant coefficient</td>
<td>3.115</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.235</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-0.019</td>
<td>-0.221</td>
<td>-4.11</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level land</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>0.292</td>
<td>5.378</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overall satisfaction with life</td>
<td>0.227</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>6.515</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>percentage of income from main job</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>2.553</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving as a job</td>
<td>-0.354</td>
<td>-0.119</td>
<td>-2.184</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- $R=0.756, R^2=0.559, 19.365 = F, Sig= 0.000$

Judgment on the contribution of each of the five variables namely “age, land area, overall satisfaction with life, percentage of income from the main job, driving as a job” in explaining the dependent variable should be assigned to Beta values, because these values are standardized and make it possible to compare and determine the relative contribution of each variable. Based on obtained beta for the variable of age, per unit change in standard deviation, this variable changes -0.221 in the standard deviation of the dependent variable (social capital of the villagers). The second variable that has the largest effect on the standard deviation of the dependent variable is the variable of satisfaction that per unit change in standard deviation, this variable changes -0.019 in the standard deviation of the dependent variable (social capital of the villagers). Based on the results summarized in Table 1 and 2, the social capital of the villagers in Uramanat region is moderate to more than average. Thus, according to research findings, it can be concluded that factors affecting the variables of social capital of the villagers in Uramanat region were so poor that produced such results. To better understand the reasons behind such results, one should investigate the components of social capital variables. Therefore, it is suggested that the contribution of each of the five variables of age, land area, overall satisfaction with life, percentage of income from the main job and driving as a job in explaining the dependent variable should be investigated by
planners of rural development, because these five variables have exerted major impacts on the rise and decline of social capital among the villagers of Uramanat region.

**Keywords**: Social Capital, Consistency, Participation, Confidence, Sustainable rural development, Uramanat Region.

**References (in Persian)**


References (in English):


