Recognition and Analysis of the causes of inefficiency of rural management from the native habitants’ viewpoint
(Case study: Aran and Bidgol central district)

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Received 28 July 2013 Accepted 22 April 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

Management is one of the most important factors for growth and development of a society. Villages as special settlements, in comparison with urban areas are different in livelihood and lifestyle of their residents; therefore, they require distinct management patterns which are in accordance with economic, social and ecological conditions prevailing in rural areas. Accordingly, in many countries particularly in developing countries identifying the most efficient management pattern for effective administration of rural areas is one of the key elements in achieving sustainable rural development. Based on the new development paradigms, in management of local communities, a great emphasis is on community-based approaches that imply broad concepts, such as proper perceptions of local conditions, democracy and plurality, public participation in decision-makings and implementation of decisions, reasonable policy-making, ability to analyze the economic, social and environmental restrictions and capabilities to access sustainable development.

Considering the importance of rural management in achieving dynamic and sustainable rural systems in one hand, and problems in the field of Iran rural management at local scale on the other hand, this research with a hybrid methodology (qualitative and quantitative) explores and analyzes the causes of rural management inefficiency from the native habitants’ viewpoint in tree villages of Aran and Bidgol central district, including Yazdel, Mohamad Abad and Ali Abad.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Rural development is a multidimensional phenomenon, and management, relating as it does to power, resources' priorities and choice, is a fundamental aspect of rural
development. Rural development is often the centerpiece of rural political systems. Interventions to reconfigure local management are therefore quintessentially rural development initiatives.

In the new paradigm, management at local communities is comprised of a set of institutions, mechanisms and processes through which citizens and their groups can articulate their interests and needs, mediate their differences and exercise their rights and obligations at local level. It requires partnership between local governmental institutions, civil society organizations and private sector for participatory, transparent, accountable and equitable service delivery and local development. It necessitates empowering local governments with authority and resources and building their capacity to function as participatory institutions that are responsive and accountable to the concerns and needs of all citizens. At the same time, it is concerned with strengthening of grass roots democracy and empowering citizens, communities and their organizations including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to participate as equal partners in local governance and local development process.

3. DISCUSSION

The research results were obtained in the process of two panels. In first panel through interview with 30 people of local elites, the causes of inefficiency of rural management in Yazdel, Mohamad Abad and Ali Abad were investigated. The data of interviews were analyzed through qualitative data analysis techniques including open coding, axial coding and selective coding. At the end of this panel, 23 factors affecting the rural management inefficiencies were identified, and then these factors were classified in 8 main categories. In the second panel a quantitative analysis of the first panel's qualitative results were conducted. Based on this method, we designed a Likert questionnaire to assess the local people's perceptions about 23 causes of rural management inefficiencies. The result of "one sample run test" shows that, there is convergence and theoretical agreement in viewpoints and perceptions of both groups (local elites and local residents) on the causes of rural management inefficiencies in all three villages.

4. CONCLUSION

Rural sustainable development is one the most important components of achieving sustainable development in a national scale which is not attainable without an efficient management. Therefore, recognizing the problems in the way of local management in various geographical regions of the country and attempting to solve them by taking proper course of action could be instrumental. In the contemporary Iran, especially after the land reform in 1960s, the influence of government bypassed the traditional management, but after a few decades, the government has not been able to submit an appropriate substitute. During the last decades, this issue has been the focus of attention of the Iranian experts and researchers in the field of rural studies. In this article, by
employing a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, the obstacles in the way of rural management from the viewpoint of villagers of Yazdel, Mohammad Abad, and Ali Abad (Aran and Bidgol central district) were investigated. The results revealed 23 causes affecting the inefficiency of rural management in local scale; they were categorized in eight categories: lack of meritocracy, lack of information, preferring personal and ethinical interest to collective ones, weak human and social capital, weakness in social and cultural planning, limited budget, lack of providence, and operational and legal limitation.

5– SUGGESTIONS

The totality of these causes are interacting systematically, so as it seems the only way to resolve these problems is an integrated, systematic and community-based approach to rural management in the framework of national development system. Systemic approach integrates all the components of rural development; hence contributes to recognizing the complexity of management at community level. In framework of this approach, it is possible to achieve participation of rural community in decision-makings, and build up Top-down and bottom-up relationships between management levels including local, regional and national scales. Finally, in order to make reasonable decisions for effective management of rural communities and achieve sustainable rural development, it is necessary to ensure effective coordination and balance between various components of rural management planning and development.

Key words: Rural Management, Causes of Inefficiency, Rural Development, Local community.

References (in Persian)


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