Future Scenarios of Rural Settlements of Iran

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Received: 2 Sept. 2013  Accepted: 26 Feb. 2014

Extended Abstract

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the main challenges of rural development from sustainable development perspective is migration of human resources and that has weakened the rural economy and its culture; moreover, agricultural workers are getting older and rural areas have been unstable. Events such as growth of information and communication technologies in rural areas, urbanization growth, industrialization, and expansion of domestic small businesses have raised the levels of literacy development in relation with universities and fields. Links between agriculture and manufacturing and so on are happening or likely to happen in future. These events will have a major influence on human settlement system and will change it.

Future study is scientific literacy that will answer this question. The objective of future is the origin of randomness character. Future may happen or not happen to with next events is always possible, multiple and random. This means that the appearance is unacceptable only one unique future in general and always "futures" and not the "future" are facing.

2. METHODOLOGY

At first the key factors associated with the continuity of rural life were determined by Delphi. Considering the importance of each key factor in demonstrating the stability and viability of a village, key factors were selected. To analyze the key factors, coefficient and percentage changes were used. After identifying the key factors, affecting intrusion, main events and important key factors in expert groups (n = 14) were determined. After the questionnaires were filled out by experts of the Delphi Group, propellants and main events were classified according to importance and uncertainties. To examine reciprocal influence of propellants, structural analysis was administered.

The consensus index was used to assess the degree of uncertainty. A propellant matrix questionnaire was designed to measure and evaluate the importance of each propellant in comparison to each other. AHP multi-criteria analysis and TOPSIS model were used. Then, logic of scenarios based on their importance, their effectiveness on the key factors, the uncertainty of propellants, and main events were specified and finally, future of village's scenarios were illustrated.

3. DISCUSSION

To determine the importance of each key factor in the stability of the villages, views of Delphi experts were used. To analyze these views AHP hierarchical matrix was used. Then the main propellants and events affecting any of the key factors were determined based on the views of Delphi expert Group. Regarding expert opinions, propellants of each key factor is presented.

4. CONCLUSION

The first scenario: Improvement of information technology and communication in development policy of small settlements will bring rural areas into economic system of the country and will highlight their role in economic and social developments in the country.

The second scenario: Improvement of information technology and communication in development policy of large settlements will challenge the villages in economy and settlement system of the country.

The third scenario: Lack of information technology and communication in development policy of large settlements will endanger the continuity of rural life.

The fourth scenario: Lack of information in development policy of technology and communication small settlements will put small villages at the risk of marginalization.

Keywords: Rural areas, future studies, scenario, propellant.
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**How to cite this article:**

ISSN: 2322-2514 eISSN: 2383-2495