Ranking of the Districts of Jiroft County Based on Quality of Life Criteria, Using TOPSIS Model

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Extended Abstract
1. INTRODUCTION
The term "Quality of life" (QOL) has been entered in the literature of development from 1960 decade. Thus, various researchers have conducted several studies in this field since then. They have tried to define the quality of life criteria and to compare different cities, nations and territories based on these criteria. Evaluating and ranking the quality of life of people in a certain region would be very helpful in presenting solutions and strategies towards reducing poverty and preparing the necessary conditions for development. Thus, the aim of this study was to analyze QOL in the centers of rural districts of Jiroft County.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
QOL is a multidimensional concept that can be used either at micro or at macro levels. The sustainable development approach considers this concept at the macro-social level. Thus, the study of QOL needs a multi-disciplinary approach. Moreover, this concept includes both objective and subjective aspects. The Quality Research Department of Toronto University describes QOL as people's enjoyment about basic facilities of their life. Furthermore, with regard to cultural and value plurality of the QOL, it is not possible to use some universal criteria to study the QOL of a certain area, but to be able to compare the results of different studies to each other, it is necessary to consider some universal criteria. Thus, this study was carried out using some main criteria of the QOL obtained from relevant literature.

3. METHODOLOGY
Survey research method was used in this study. A predesigned questionnaire with close and open ended questions was designed to collect data. The validity of the supposed questionnaire was verified using face validity procedure and its reliability was also verified calculating Cronbach's Alpha coefficient (from 0.710 to 0.898) in a pilot study.

Research population included 4243 households in rural districts of Jiroft County that about 350 ones of them were selected as research sample based on Kerjecie and Morgan sampling table and Stratified Random Sampling Technique. Furthermore, it is considered that the members of sample in each village aren't less than 30. SPSS software was used to analyze data, also, TOPSIS technique was used to weight QOL criteria and then to rank centers of rural districts.

4. DISCUSSION
Descriptive findings showed that the average score of the age of respondents has been 51.41 years with 10.40 standard deviation score. The majority of them have been either illiterate or farmer. The results of weighting QOL criteria showed that "income" is the main indicator of QOL. The calculated weigh of this criterion (0.3165) showed that about 31.65% of the QOL of the supposed respondents has been allocated to income. The next (second) position assigned to "per capita clothing" that allocated about 17.66% of the QOL of the respondents. The last positions assigned to satisfaction (5.44%), and social security (4.94%). Then, the studied villages were ranked using TOPSIS technique and the amount of closeness to ideal situation ($C_i^*$). The results showed that in a range from 0 to 1, the QOL score of Khaton Abad (0.7235) ranked the first and Halil (0.1097) ranked the last.

5. CONCLUSION
The Overall mean of QOL in the study area (0.3680) showed that the supposed villages were relatively poor in terms of QOL. Also, the results of the classification of the studied villages based on the closeness to ideal situation showed that Khatoon-Abad and Karim-Abad have a high level of the QOL, Esfandegheh and Delfard are in the middle ranges and the other villages are in a low level of QOL. Thus, only two rural districts have an acceptable degree of QOL in the study area and the rest are not in a favorable situation. Therefore, it is really important to pay enough attention to
promote the QOL in the study area especially in more deprived areas. Some recommendations are presented here.

- Based on the results of this study, it is recommended that more attention should be paid to some QOL criteria such as income, housing and nutrition especially in areas with lowest QOL scores. Offering banking loans and free nutrition in schools can be useful in this regard.

References

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