Analysis of the Characteristics of Skilled Local Managers in Rural Development  
(Case Study: Central District of Ilam County)

Ghadir Firouznia1- Rouya Teymorian*2

1-Assistant prof., in Geography & Rural Planning, Payame Noor University, Tehran, Iran.  
2-Ph.D. Candidate in Geography & Rural Planning, Payame Noor University, Tehran, Iran.

Received: 23 December 2013  Accepted: 14 May 2015

Extended Abstract
1. INTRODUCTION
Many factors influence the development of villages. One of these factors is that, rural managers can have an influence on rural development by doing his constitutional duties. There are many factors that influence the accomplishment of local manager’s duties and development process of villages including administrative, political, economic, social, and physical factors and particularly the skill of village managers (the members of the village Islamic council and Dehyar). The identification of these factors can provide the field with better arrangement of rural management. With identification of the effective factors of rural managements and reinforcement or correction of these factors and the elimination of restrictions, we can hope that this public institution plays more important roles in the process of development. The council members and Dehyar, as the village managers, can reduce the challenges and problems that rural management faces, on the condition they have the necessary skills. This research has been conducted to answer this question: to what extent skill characteristics of rural manager's influence in the rural development?

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
The theoretical basis of this research study relies on two theories: power and influence theory, and contingency management theory. The influence of skill characteristics of managers on rural development have been achieved through taking advantage of these two theories. According to power and influence theory, effective factors of influential leadership are as follows: the ability of persuading people, the power resulted from manager’s skill and experience, the power based on law, specialized knowledge etc. According to contingency management, any village can select competent individuals for accepting this responsibility based on its particular characteristics and conditions.

3. METHODOLOGY
The current study is an applied research with an analytical-descriptive approach. Documentary and field methods were used to collect the required information and data. Index cards and questionnaires were used as the instruments of this study. Research domain is the central region of Ilam town that includes two rural districts of Mishlkhas and Dehpaeen. The questionnaire used includes 22 items in a Likert scale that was designed to evaluate the skill characteristics including, power of influence, and persuasion, and strong public relations, the ability to perform tasks, low-abiding, related university education, experience and information, power of planning and decision making, power of attracting financial resources, power of speech, interaction with governmental organizations, and reporting to the people of the village. The research population consists of 2083 households (5237 persons) who live in 6 selected villages of central district of Ilam. Employing the Cochran formula, 355 persons were selected from among the sample population that include 15 persons of the management members of the village and 340 people of the village.

4. DISCUSSION
The results of the research showed that, most of the rural managers of the studied villages have had necessary skill characteristics for accepting the responsibility of their village management. On the other hand the findings showed that, all the studied characteristics influence rural development. The results also showed that, there is a significant relationship between skill characteristics of rural managers and rural development, but the extent of this relationship is weak. Research results in villages showed that, the highest amount of having

* Corresponding Author: teymorian2020@gmail.com  Tel: +989197238945
skill characteristics belongs to the managers of Hossainabad- Fatemieh-keshvari- Maidan, and Jaafarabad villages, respectively. Among the studied villages, local managers of Shahid Keshvari village could present suitable service and facilities to rural people in different social, cultural, economic, and physical dimensions. Fatemieh, Midan, and Jaafarabad villages were located in the second, third, and fourth ranks, respectively.

5. CONCLUSION

According to the findings of the research, we can present the following general results: laying the groundwork for selecting people to take the management responsibility of a village with these features, through giving information to enhance the villagers’ accuracy in the selection of the members of the Islamic council. Adoption of an empowerment approach and a coherent plan of cooperation with all related organizations in the field of rural development, people and local managers for training new members to join the Islamic Council of the village. And finally the conduction of collaborative research in the field of identifying characteristics that influence the role of local managers in achieving rural development.

Key words: Village Islamic council, rural management, rural development, Ilam County.

References


26. Taba, B. (2003). *The role of rural management in the field of preservation and restoration of natural resources* (*Unpublished MSc. Thesis*). University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. [In Persian]


How to cite this article:


ISSN: 2322-2514 eISSN: 2383-2495