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Original Article

Evaluating of Factors Inhibiting the Activity of Nomadic Cooperatives in Fars Province: Solutions for Rural-Nomadic Development of the Region

Madineh Khosrowjerdi[1]- Mehdi Nooripoor*[2]- Ayatollah Karami[3]- Saeid Salehi[4]- Maryam Afereydouni[5]

1- Ph.D. Graduate in Agricultural Development, Manager of Nomadic Office, Fars Province, Mohr & Lamerd, Iran.
2- Full Prof. in Rural Development Management, Yasouj University, Yasouj, Iran.
3- Full Prof. in Rural Development Management, Yasouj University, Yasouj, Iran.
4- Ph.D. Graduate in Agricultural Extension, Nomadic Affairs Organization Fars Province, Iran
5- Ph.D. Student in Agricultural Development, Yasouj University, Iran.

Abstract

Purpose- This study aimed to evaluate the factors inhibiting the performance of nomadic cooperatives in Fars Province, Iran, and to identify the major barriers affecting their effectiveness using a sequential exploratory mixed-methods approach.

Design/methodology/approach- The research employed a sequential exploratory mixed-methods design. In the qualitative phase, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 40 members of nomadic cooperatives selected through snowball sampling until theoretical saturation was achieved. The interview data yielded 62 initial concepts, which formed the basis for developing a researcher-made questionnaire. In the quantitative phase, data were collected from 380 cooperative members selected through simple random sampling. The questionnaire consisted of respondents' demographic characteristics and items measuring the identified barriers using a five-point Likert scale. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and exploratory factor analysis (EFA) in SPSS.

Findings- Exploratory factor analysis identified 11 principal factors with eigenvalues greater than one, explaining 86.19% of the total variance in barriers to the performance of nomadic cooperatives. Economic barriers accounted for the largest share of explained variance, followed by educational and knowledge, managerial, legal–political, organizational, social, cultural, skills, market and marketing, infrastructural, and ecological barriers. Key challenges included limited financial resources, inadequate access to credit, weak managerial capacity, insufficient training, administrative complexity, low member participation, poor marketing systems, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental constraints such as drought and water scarcity.

Research limitations/implications- The study focused exclusively on nomadic cooperatives in Fars Province, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Future research is recommended to examine cooperatives in other regions using comparative and longitudinal approaches.

Originality/value- While previous studies have mainly focused on rural cooperatives, limited attention has been given to nomadic cooperatives in Iran. By integrating qualitative exploration with quantitative validation, this study provides a comprehensive framework for identifying and prioritizing the barriers affecting nomadic cooperatives. The findings offer practical insights for policymakers and cooperative managers to strengthen financial support, managerial capacity, education, infrastructure, and institutional policies, thereby enhancing the sustainability of nomadic cooperatives and contributing to rural–nomadic development.

Keywords- Inhibiting Factors, Nomadic Cooperatives, Mixed Research Methods, Fars Province.

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Corresponding Author:
Nooripoor, Mehdi, Ph.D.
Address: Rural Development Management Department, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Natural Resources, Yasouj University, Yasouj, Iran.
Tel: +989173430080
E-mail: mnooripoor@yu.ac.ir

1. Introduction

Today, cooperatives play an important role in economic development via multiple channels, particularly, in developing countries' cases (Paudel & Acharya, 2022). A new Cooperatives Act, which is based on international cooperative principles, was lawfully signed by the SA government in August 2005. This Act foresees a major role for cooperatives in promoting social and economic development, more especially by creating employment, income, economic empowerment and eradicating poverty (Mangoejane & Christian, 2025).

Therefore, today, sociologists have turned more attention to cooperatives and partnerships as a way to help reduce poverty, increase employment, and empower poor people in developing countries (Lanzi, 2023). The World Summit on Social Development, held in 1995, and the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted in 1996, recognized the importance of cooperatives in a people-centered approach to social development (Samian et al., 2017). Cooperatives have gained prominent attention in recent years as strategic elements to achieve social cohesion and sustainable economic development social cohesion in the context of neoliberal globalization (Bretos & Marcuello, 2017).

According to the International Cooperative Alliance,1 more than eight hundred million people in the world today are organized into cooperatives spanning a wide range of activities, including economic ones (Reyes & Harnecker, 2013).

Studies conducted on agricultural cooperatives indicate that cooperatives play an important role in important decision-making (Pakrah et al., 2020). For this reason, special emphasis has been placed on cooperatives in the development process of various countries, as well as in the Iranian Constitution and socio-economic development programs (Ansari Renani, 2016).

In recent years, the increase in economic, social, and environmental challenges in cities and the rise in living costs have increased the tendency of urban dwellers to reside and invest in rural areas (Behi et al., 2026). This trend has made it more necessary to pay attention to sustainable rural development, because the sustainability of villages requires simultaneous attention to economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions and strengthening the spatial organization of rural settlements (Moahammadi & Nasrollahizadeh, 2021).

Rural life depends on the economy and production, and livelihood plays a decisive role in the formation of the spatial and physical organization of rural houses. In fact, human settlements, after the transition from a nomadic lifestyle, have been formed and developed mainly on the basis of agriculture, animal husbandry, and related activities (Rezaei et al., 2025). It is also worth noting that Iran, as one of the first and most important origins of the settlement of nomadic societies, villages have always played a fundamental role in the development of human settlements (Shekari et al., 2022). The main strategies for economizing activities in nomadic societies lead to comprehensive development and the realization of a resistance economy and support for domestic production. The first step for the development of these societies is to involve nomads in economic activities. This can lead to attracting the participation of nomads in the resistance economy through the implementation of a plan for nomad organizations such as nomad cooperatives (Baseri et al., 2010).

As a type of exploitation system, nomadic cooperatives play a fundamental role in the qualitative growth of the conditions of the exploiters in economic and social fields through cooperation and cooperation, and have been directly effective in reducing poverty through the economic and social progress of the members and indirectly through economic mobility and the development of the social foundations of the communities in which they operate. According to surveys, in recent years, 225 nomadic cooperatives have been established nationwide, of which 23 are located in Fars province. This province, which houses 12.5 percent of the country's nomadic population, is considered the first nomadic province in the country (General Directorate of Nomadic Affairs of Fars, 2022). The nomads of Fars province play a key role in providing a large part of the province's protein and livestock products, and their share in this field is far greater than their population ratio. Despite the significant production of agricultural and livestock products by this productive group, disregard for their economic status has been the main factor in migration and the decline of the nomadic

population. This situation has led to widespread livelihood problems among the nomads. In such circumstances, cooperatives are considered an efficient and tested solution. These organizations can help maintain social cohesion, pool small capital, facilitate resource management, and establish effective communication with government institutions. Therefore, maximizing the potential of nomadic cooperatives as economic and social units, accurately identifying the challenges they face, and providing continuous support, guidance, and supervision to these grassroots organizations is of great importance. On the other hand, based on the basic results of the last census of nomadic tribes conducted by the Statistical Center of Iran using the registration-based method and published in 1400, the nomadic population of Fars province is 120,684 winter quarter and 118,080 summer quarter, with the share of women in this population being 56,348 (46.7 percent) and 55,356 (46.9 percent), respectively, which indicates a gender ratio of about 113 men to women in the nomadic community of Fars province (Statistical Center of Iran, 2025).

These cooperatives play an undeniable role in the economic, social and cultural structure of nomadic societies, therefore, it is essential to utilize all the existing fields and capacities of nomadic cooperatives as economic and social units, to accurately identify the issues facing them, to guide, support and monitor these popular organizations, and to evaluate and identify the drivers and inhibitors of their activities. On the other hand, due to the special characteristics of the nomadic society, including their nomadic nature and dispersion in different parts of Fars province, no research has been conducted on this society, especially in the field of nomadic cooperatives. However, the conflict between the high potential of nomadic cooperatives and their actual performance is due to the lack of accurate understanding of the inhibiting factors. Since the cultural and geographical characteristics of these communities differ from general agricultural patterns, there is an urgent need to specifically identify these barriers to the transition to sustainable development. Therefore, it is an undeniable necessity to pay attention to nomadic cooperatives and identify the inhibitors of their activities in order to achieve corrective solutions. The present study was designed to answer the fundamental question: What is the main Inhibiting to the activity of nomadic cooperatives in Fars Province? To achieve this goal, the research process includes the stage of collecting qualitative data through in-depth interviews and subsequently analyzing and categorizing the findings through exploratory analysis.

2. Research Theoretical Literature

There has been a great diversity in rural development policies over the past half century (Zasada & Piorr 2015). These policies and strategies include community development (Shaturaev 2021) intensive agricultural development (Ruiz and Dumont 2012), integrated rural development (Leakey 2017), livelihood approaches (Jagger et al. 2012), and a variety of participatory methods, such as rapid rural assessment and participatory rural assessment, sustainable development approaches, and cooperative development (Ashley & Maxwell, 2001; Ataei & Zamani-Miandashti, 2017). A cooperative is an independent association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled economic enterprise. This definition is important because cooperatives are autonomous and self-organizing (Scholz & Calzada, 2021).

In development programs related to nomads, efforts have also been made to support and increase the production sector quantitatively by using government support and the capacity of cooperative companies. Following the creation of some environmental restrictions for the rangeland-based production and livestock system, the use of government resources and nomad capital has been taken in the form of government support and the capacity of cooperative companies. The government has tried to support and organize nomads in the five-year development programs by considering the characteristics and status of nomads, while maintaining their production capabilities and providing services to nomads in order to promote public and social welfare in an appropriate manner and with the participation of nomads and without increasing government ownership. So that it can improve the main development indicators in nomads as a result (Pakrah et al., 2020).

In this regard, in 1982, the Nomadic Affairs Organization established the Union of Nomadic Cooperatives to delegate affairs to the nomads with the aim of reducing government ownership and establishing healthy commercial relations and supplying nomad products. The statutes of these cooperatives are multi-purpose in order to provide numerous social and economic services to the nomads. The tasks listed below show that cooperatives can have many fields, the most important of which are: providing livestock inputs, providing facilities, loans or credit to members, marketing nomad products, carrying out production activities such as producing concentrates and growing fodder, providing public services such as providing basic goods needed by members, implementing and developing educational and promotional programs, and carrying out related projects in the nomad community (Jafary, 2013).

Most cooperatives face several problems, including lack of financial support, poor management, and lack of competitive markets to sell their products (Mhembwe and Dube, 2017). Issues such as lack of employee discipline due to lack of an attendance management system, large number of competitors, low employee capability, decreasing number of members, high number of inactive members, lack of member loyalty, and failure to pay cooperatives on time for product sales affect cooperative performance (Harisudin et al., 2020). Various studies have been conducted to identify inhibitors of cooperative activity, which are briefly introduced below.

In a study Abdolmaleki (2015), based on factor analysis, it showed that the obstacles to the formation and development of walnut production cooperatives in Hamedan province were divided into seven groups, which, respectively, lack of cultural infrastructure, insufficient knowledge and incorrect opinions of producers and leaders, inadequate laws and vulnerability, and infrastructural obstacles had the greatest impact on the formation and development of walnut production cooperatives.

The authors such as Sebhatu et al. (2021), Maksimova et al. (2021) They have showed that the deterrent nature of agricultural credit cooperatives is determined by two groups of factors: exogenous (financial instability, lack of institutional conditions, excessive requirements from the Bank of Russia) and endogenous (confidence of agricultural producers, lack of financial and digital literacy in rural areas) In research, Hessam and Mahmodi (2024) examined the obstacles to the establishment and development of rural cooperatives in Gilan province. it shows that the five core categories of institutional-management, economic, social-cultural, awareness, and laws are the most important obstacles, respectively.

In a study, Baldacchino et al. (2018) analyzed the barriers to the development of cooperatives in Malta. The results of their study showed that lack of education and awareness are the main barriers to the development of cooperatives in this country. They suggested that for the growth and development of cooperatives, addressing the lack of education and awareness and increasing the level of cooperation between cooperatives in order to overcome the challenges.

The research of Najafi et al. (2024) showed that among the performance dimensions of rural producer cooperatives, improving the livelihood of members is the most important component and has the highest factor load. Also, among the management dimensions, leadership was recognized as the most effective factor in improving the performance and management of cooperatives. The findings of the quantitative part of Ataei & Izadi's (2015) research in Fars Province showed that eight variables: board accountability, cooperative management performance, member training, drought, social participation, awareness of cooperative principles, satisfaction with the board of directors, and social trust, are collectively able to predict 80 percent of the changes in the dependent variable. Qualitative findings also revealed that seven factors: economic, environmental, social, human capital, management, support and training were affecting factors on success of rural cooperative.

In a study by Barati et al. (2017), a combined method (ANP-SWOT) in Iran. According to results, 19 key strategic factors such as lack of management knowledge, and ability to improve value and supply chains were identified. Also, identified 11 strategic alternatives which among them Implement public policy and provide technical and financial services, Facilitate procurement of inputs and develop supply and value chains and Involve rural cooperatives, had

greater priority in Iran. According to the findings of Brandão and Breitenbach (2019), Three categories of problems were verified in the management of agricultural cooperatives: political and institutional, behavioral and technical-administrative.

In a study by Zhu et al. (2018) they examined agricultural cooperatives in Mongolia. The results of the study showed that the most important economic and financial problems faced by cooperatives include lack of liquidity of cooperatives, lack of bank facilities, and long-term.

In a study by Ton et al. (2016) organizational challenges and organizational environment were examined, and a comparative analysis of dairy cooperatives in Kenya and Morocco was conducted. The results of the study indicated that there are two major organizational challenges, namely effective quality assurance systems and attractive and affordable payment methods for members. The ways to overcome these challenges were also stated as strengthening the internal organizational structure of the cooperative sector, public support with favorable policies and regulations, and facilitating multilateral platforms.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Geographical scope of the research

Fars Province is a vast mountainous region whose heights follow the great Zagros mountain range. The Fars Zagros Mountains complex with deep valleys and relatively green plains in the Fars part on the 27 to 30 degrees north latitude is known as the widest region of the Zagros. The height of the Fars Zagros decreases from the northeast to the southwest, which plays a significant role in the diversity of weather and the change in climatic conditions. The heights of northern Fars with an altitude of more than 3300 meters above sea level are very effective in changing the weather. This province has an area of more than 133,000 square kilometers and enjoys three types of noticeable climates: cold, warm and temperate, and dozens of unique regional features and benefits from the potential facilities of nature.

Fars nomads have a total of 3,081,631 head of light livestock and 13,012 head of heavy livestock in the province. The most important products of the nomads of Fars province include meat, dairy products, handicrafts, and medicinal plants. nomad roads are one of the most important livelihood infrastructures of the nomad community, which the nomads use to move from the summer quarter to winter quarter or vice versa. On this route, which takes about two months, the fodder on the route is used for the livestock and they are gradually transferred from the hot region to the cold region or vice versa. During this period of time, the pressure on the summer quarter and winter quarter pastures is reduced (Iranian Nomad Affairs Organization 2025). Figure 1 shows a map of Fars province.

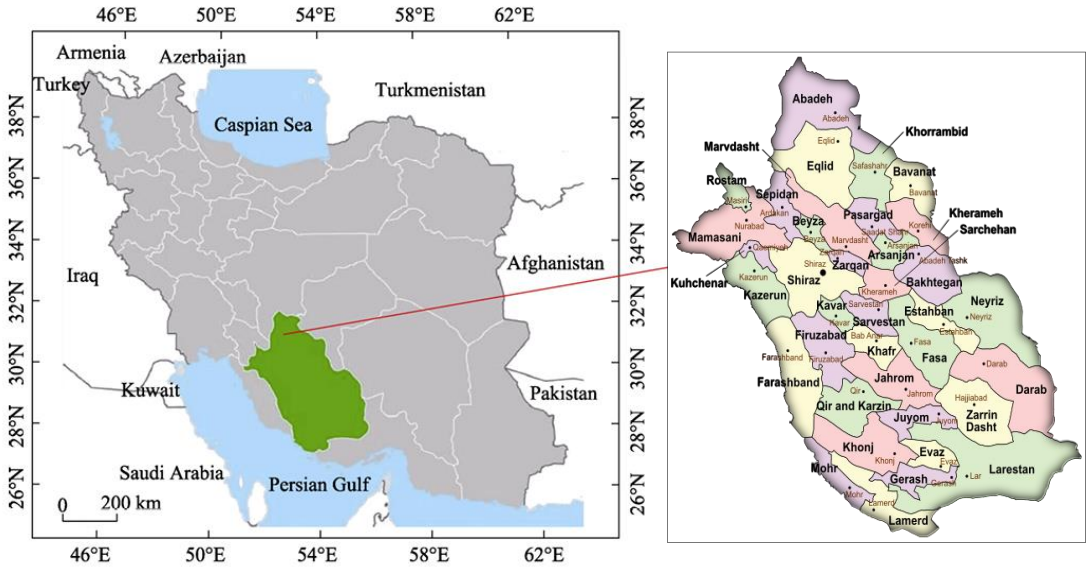

Figure1. Location of the study area (Fars Province)

3.2 The first phase of research

The present study used an integrative research approach. The main idea of the integrative method, which is also referred to as a multi-method or mixed method approach. According to Creswell and Plano-Clark (2011), a mixed methods research design includes its own philosophical assumptions and research methods. Combining qualitative and quantitative data allows us to analyze research problems in a meaningful way. Also, this method provides a deeper understanding of the details of the problem (Dawadi et al. 2023). The qualitative part of the research aimed to identify the inhibitors of the activity of nomadic cooperatives in Fars province. The statistical population related to identifying the inhibitors of the activity of nomadic cooperatives was the members of the board of directors, managing directors, inspectors of cooperative companies and key members of nomadic cooperative companies. Sampling was carried out using the snowball method and continued until theoretical saturation was reached. Accordingly, 40 board members, managing directors, inspectors of cooperative companies, and key members of the companies were selected as a sample. The data collection tool in the qualitative phase of the research was a semi-structured interview (in-depth interview) that was formed by a set of questions and topics, and the interviews were recorded. These interviews continued until the point of theoretical saturation and until the statistical samples no longer revealed new information and the topics became repetitive. The data analysis from the research was conducted using content analysis. Content analysis is also conducted in such a way that field notes and all the writings collected from the interviews are reread and the inhibitors of the activities of nomadic cooperatives are extracted in the interviews.

3.3 The second phase of research

The quantitative part of the research was conducted with the aim of prioritizing the inhibitors of the activity of nomadic cooperatives and ultimately identifying the most important inhibitory factor. In this phase of the research, the research method was applied in terms of its purpose and non-experimental in terms of the data collection method, a survey type. The statistical population related to this part was the members of nomadic cooperatives in Fars province. According to official statistics from the General Directorate of Nomadic Affairs of Fars Province (2023), Fars Province includes 23 cooperative companies, and according to the latest information received, the number of cooperative members is 38,315. The sample size of the study was estimated to be 380 members based on the Krejci and Morgan minimization table. The sample size of the research was estimated to be 380 members based on the Krejci and Morgan minimization table. After estimating the total sample size, a percentage of the sample size was allocated to them in proportion to the total number of members in each cooperative. The data collection tool in this part of the research was a structured and researcher-made questionnaire that measured the inhibitors of the activity of nomadic cooperatives. and in order to ensure the reliability of the questionnaire and the consistency within the questions, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated for the preliminary study. The alpha value obtained (0.868) from each phase of the questionnaire indicates the reliability of the questionnaire and the internal consistency of the items.

In order to collect data, 380 questionnaires were distributed among members of nomadic cooperatives in Fars province. After checking the completeness of the responses, 380 questionnaires were used for the final analysis. In this phase of the research, after collecting and classifying the data using SPSSver24 software, descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation and frequency) and inferential statistics (exploratory factor analysis) were used to analyze the data.

4. Findings

4.1 Qualitative Findings

In this phase of the research, initially, by conducting content analysis and interviews with board members, managing directors, inspectors of cooperative companies and key members in the companies and studying the collected information line by line, the factors inhibiting the activities of nomadic cooperatives were extracted. The responses of the audience to the semi-structured questions during the individual interviews, as well as other topics that were raised during their conversations, were reviewed word by word in the text and the key issues raised were extracted in separate parts. In this way, the results of the interviews with (40) board members, managing directors, inspectors of cooperative companies and key members in the companies, a total of 62 factors were identified and extracted

4.2 Quantitative Findings

Descriptive analysis of findings related to the inhibitors of the activities of nomadic cooperatives showed that the lack of attention and investment of the cooperative in economic activities and production works with a mean of 3.86 and a standard deviation of 0.34 ranked first among 62 inhibitors, and the lack of attention of the cooperative to the educational needs of its members, the lack of awareness and recognition of the members of the existing principles and laws governing the cooperative system, and the lack of awareness and recognition of the members of the existing principles and laws governing the cooperative system were ranked 2nd to 4th, respectively. Also, the item of occasional drought and its direct impact on the profit of cooperatives was ranked last with a mean of 1.92 and a standard deviation of 1.29. The complete results are presented in (Table 1).

Table 1. Description and prioritization of inhibitors to the activity of nomadic cooperatives

Factors inhibiting the activity of nomadic cooperatives	Average rank*	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation	Priority
1. Lack of attention and investment by the cooperative in economic activities and production work	3.86	0.34	0.08	1
2. The cooperative's lack of attention to the educational needs of its members	4.75	0.43	0.09	2
3. Lack of awareness and recognition by members of the existing principles and laws governing the cooperative system.	4.17	0.41	0.09	3
4. Limited access to financial resources and lack of liquidity to carry out activities	3.10	0.30	0.09	4
5. The spirit of individualism in cooperatives (lack of members' involvement and expression of opinions in cooperative issues, resulting in blind reliance on the actions of cooperative bodies)	4.59	0.49	0.10	5
6. Failure to provide adequate cooperative services to members	3.80	0.40	0.10	6
7. Lack of diversification in the activities of nomadic cooperatives by managers	2.96	0.31	0.10	7
8. Price fluctuations in the market and instability in the price of raw materials	4.51	0.54	0.11	8
9. Lack of long-term and medium-term plans in cooperative companies	4.48	0.50	0.11	9
10. Lack of fair allocation of livestock inputs between rural and nomadic cooperatives	4.42	0.52	0.11	10
11. Lack of fair distribution of facilities among cooperatives and reduction of facilities provided by the cooperative administration to nomadic cooperatives	4.41	0.49	0.11	11
12. Lack of awareness among members of nomadic cooperatives about the rights and obligations arising from membership	4.36	0.48	0.11	12
13. Inability to attract livestock inputs due to high indebtedness of cooperatives	4.17	0.49	0.11	13
14.Failure to attract investors in capital-intensive cooperative projects	4.07	0.46	0.11	14
15. Small membership and weak financial strength of nomads to increase cooperative capital	3.79	0.42	0.11	15
16. Low level of education of cooperative members and CEOs	3.76	0.42	0.11	16
17. Weakness in training cooperative managers and employees	4.53	0.58	0.12	17
18. Inexperience of CEOs	4.41	0.56	0.12	18

Factors inhibiting the activity of nomadic cooperatives	Average rank*	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation	Priority
19. Lack of a strong financial management system in cooperatives	4.27	0.52	0.12	19
20. Limitation of the scope of activity of cooperative companies	4.12	0.52	0.12	20
21. Failure to provide the necessary training by the General Directorate of Cooperatives and other training centers in developing the activities of nomadic cooperatives and improving economic efficiency.	4.05	0.51	0.12	21
22. Lack of conditions for efficient competitiveness among nomadic cooperatives	2.98	0.37	0.12	22
23. Failure to distribute profits and notify them to members in some cooperative companies	4.42	0.61	0.12	23
24. Lack of allocation of national and provincial funds for the development of cooperative activities	4.24	0.56	0.13	24
25. Cumbersome rules and regulations for new members to join the cooperative	4.12	0.57	0.13	25
26. Lack of organizational discipline in the cooperative	3.59	0.49	0.13	26
27. Unequal base of cooperative members	3.52	0.49	0.13	27
28. The cooperative's lack of knowledge of marketing and market management principles (identifying customers and sales policies)	3.29	0.45	0.13	28
29. Lack of access of nomadic cooperatives to the required facilities and equipment	4.20	0.61	0.14	29
30. Distribution of members covered by cooperatives in various nomadic areas	3.98	0.57	0.14	30
31. Failure to select specialized and skilled individuals in the bodies of nomadic cooperatives	3.71	0.54	0.14	31
32. Lack of close and continuous communication between members and the relevant cooperatives	3.50	0.50	0.14	32
33. The cooperative's failure to achieve pre-defined goals and plans (such as planning for the development and sustainable export of livestock products through the utilization of all capacities)	3.47	0.50	0.14	33
34. The complexity of administrative bureaucracy in carrying out cooperative-related matters	3.32	0.47	0.14	34
35. Lack of continuous monitoring of various training courses and their quantitative and qualitative evaluation by the Cooperatives Affairs Department of the General Directorate of Nomadic Affairs of Fars and the Extension Management of the Agricultural Jihad Organization	4.14	0.64	0.15	35
36. Lack of attention from cooperative administration officials to cooperative problems	4.23	0.71	0.16	36
37. Inability to repay bank facilities	3.94	0.65	0.16	37
38. Inflation in society and the company's ever-increasing current costs	3.71	0.63	0.16	38
39. Low level of education of cooperative members	3.61	0.61	0.16	39
40. Failure to fully implement the provisions of the statute by cooperative officials	3.93	0.67	0.17	40
41. Job dissatisfaction of cooperative members	3.67	0.65	0.17	41
42. Lack of a healthy economic culture in cooperatives (rents, cronyism, and bribery)	3.52	0.61	0.17	42
43. Cultural weakness of cooperative members in carrying out collaborative and collective work	3.60	0.67	0.18	43
44. Weakness of marketing services in nomadic	3.43	0.66	0.19	44

Factors inhibiting the activity of nomadic cooperatives	Average rank*	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation	Priority
cooperatives in Fars province (good intermediaries, cold storage and warehouses, etc.)				
45. Lack of modern technology in cooperatives (such as creating electronic sales platforms and creating electronic monitoring platforms)	3.96	0.85	0.21	45
46. The presence of powerful intermediaries and brokers in the cooperative economy	4.25	1.02	0.24	46
47. Lack of strong supervision and timely control from the provincial cooperative affairs and Nomad affairs departments	3.27	0.81	0.24	47
48. Lack of serious cooperation between the government sector and the cooperative sector and officials' reliance on idealistic slogans without providing operational tools and grounds.	3.89	0.99	0.25	48
49. Lack of complete independence of nomadic cooperatives and unnecessary government interference in cooperatives	3.10	0.80	0.25	49
50. Lack of sufficient cultural development in establishing cooperative thinking among members	3.53	0.93	0.26	50
51. Lack of support for the sale of manufactured products due to distance from the sales market	3.84	1.07	0.27	51
52. Traditional thinking and management in nomadic cooperatives	3.23	0.88	0.27	52
53. High costs of hiring the human resources required by the cooperative	3.23	0.93	0.28	53
54. Weakness of cooperative CEOs in providing economic, legal and technical information to company members	3.98	1.16	0.29	54
55. Low level of livestock disease control by cooperatives	3.25	0.97	0.29	55
56. Lack of active participation of member group leaders in the cooperative's general assembly	3.331	1.01	0.30	56
57. Low skills of cooperative sellers in attracting customers and making profits	3.28	0.99	0.30	57
58. Lack of number of cooperative stores	3.45	1.16	0.33	58
59. Nomads' tendency to buy from private stores instead of cooperatives (due to the lack of price difference)	2.94	1.00	0.34	59
60. Lack of support from members for cooperative activities	2.05	1.29	0.62	60
61. Weak social interactions among cooperative members	2.08	1.38	0.66	61
62. Occasional droughts and their direct impact on cooperative profits	1.92	1.29	0.67	62

The average range is from 1 to 5 (Source: Research findings)

In order to analyze and identify the components and inhibitors of the success of nomadic cooperatives, the KMO coefficient and Bartlett test were used. Accordingly, the initial statistical calculations of the research showed that the necessary conditions for conducting factor analysis, namely the determinant of the correlation matrix being greater than zero to find out the inhomogeneity of the variables, KMO greater than 0.5 to know the adequacy of the number of samples and the significance of the Bartlett test, which indicates the existence of a correlation between the variables, exist. Based on the research findings, the KMO value is equal to 0.832 and the Bartlett statistic value is equal to 45514.049 with a significance level of 0.0001, indicating the suitability of the variables entered for the analysis (Table 2).

Table 2. Amount of statistics required for factor analysis

KMO	0.832
Bartlett's Test	45514.049
Sig	0.0001

Principal component analysis was used to analyze the factors of the questionnaire on the obstacles to the success of nomadic cooperatives. Then, the Varimax rotation method was used to analyze the possible factors that underlie the questionnaire. To determine whether the questionnaire is saturated with several significant factors, three main indicators were used, which are: 1) the eigenvalue, 2) the proportion of variance explained by each factor, and 3) the eigenvalue diagram, which is called the Scree test. Figure 2 shows the Scree test. As can be seen in this diagram, 11 factors can be observed whose eigenvalues are greater than 1. It can also be concluded that the contribution of factor one in explaining the variance of the total questions is higher than the contribution of other factors.

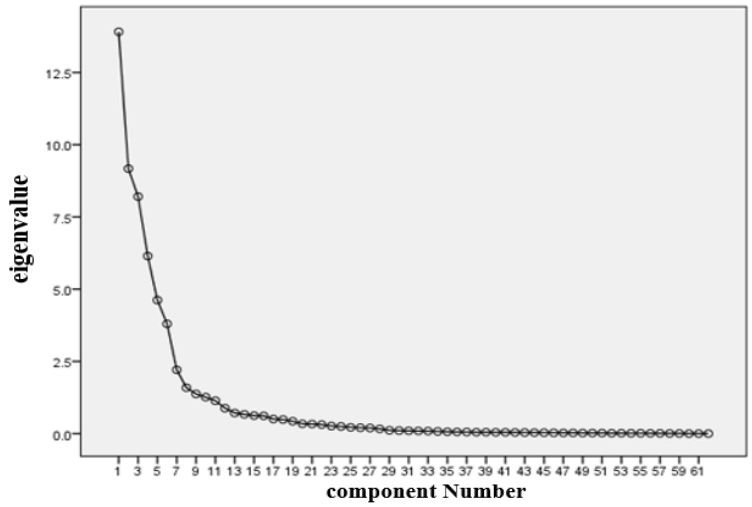

Figure 2. Scree Plot

According to the results obtained in Table 3 from the principal component analysis, initially 11 factors with eigenvalues greater than 1 were extracted, which explained 86.191 percent of the variance changes. After selecting the factors, their rotation is necessary. The purpose of rotating the factors is to achieve a simple factor structure. In factor analysis, there are multiple factor structures for a correlation matrix. The first factor is usually a general factor on which all or most of the variables have a high factor loading. The results of the principal component analysis and Varimax rotation showed that in this model, 11 factors were obtained according to the number of eigenvalues greater than 1, which in total explain 86.191 percent of the total variance of the obstacles to the success of nomadic cooperatives, and 13.809 percent of the remaining variance is related to factors that were not identified through factor analysis.

Table 3. Extracted factors along with the eigenvalue of variance after factor rotation

Factor	Eigenvalues	Percentage Variance	Cumulative variance percentage
1	12.288	19.819	19.819
2	7.880	12.710	32.528
3	7.173	11.570	44.098
4	6.853	11.054	55.152
5	3.658	5.900	61.052
6	3.371	5.473	66.489

Factor	Eigenvalues	Percentage Variance	Cumulative variance percentage
7	2.993	4.828	71.317
8	2.856	4.607	75.924
9	2.526	4.075	79.998
10	2.314	3.732	83.731
11	1.526	2.461	86.191

After examining the variables related to each factor and their factor loadings, the variables covered by the main factors were shown in the table below. In Table 4, the variables of each factor are arranged based on the factor loading.

Table 4. Variables related to each factor and factor loading obtained from the inhibitors of the activity of nomadic cooperatives

Factors	Variables	Factor Loading
(1) Economic Inhibitors	Lack of attention and investment in cooperatives for economic activities and production work	0.661
	Limited access to financial resources and lack of liquidity to carry out activities	0.863
	Failure to attract investors in capital-intensive cooperative projects	0.846
	Failure to distribute profits and notify them to members in some cooperative companies	0.625
	Inability to repay bank facilities	0.516
	Inability to attract livestock inputs due to high indebtedness of cooperatives	0.678
	Inflation in society and the company's ever-increasing current costs	0.730
	Small membership and weak financial strength of nomads to increase cooperative capital	0.626
	High costs of hiring the human resources required by the cooperative	0.619
	Nomads' tendency to buy from private stores instead of cooperatives (due to the lack of price difference)	0.527
(2) Educational and knowledge inhibitors	Lack of awareness and recognition by members of the existing principles and laws governing the cooperative system.	0.935
	Lack of awareness among members of nomadic cooperatives about the rights and obligations arising from membership	0.847
	Low level of education of cooperative members	0.890
	Weakness in training cooperative managers and employees	0.900
	Low level of education of cooperative members and CEOs	0.920
	The cooperative's lack of attention to the educational needs of its members	0.947
	Failure to provide the necessary training by the General Directorate of Cooperatives and other training centers in developing the activities of nomadic cooperatives and improving economic efficiency	0.859
	Weakness of cooperative CEOs in providing economic, legal and technical information to company members	0.961
(3) Management Inhibitors	Inexperience of CEOs	0.810
	Lack of a strong financial management system in cooperatives	0.792
	Traditional thinking and management in nomadic cooperatives	0.832
	Lack of conditions for efficient competitiveness among nomadic cooperatives	0.847
	Limitation of the scope of activity of cooperative companies	0.854
	Lack of continuous monitoring of various training courses and their quantitative and qualitative evaluation by the Cooperatives Affairs Department of the General Directorate of Nomadic Affairs of Fars and the Extension Management of the Agricultural Jihad Organization	0.870
	Failure to provide adequate cooperative services to members	0.878

Factors	Variables	Factor Loading
	Lack of attention from cooperative administration officials to cooperative problems	0.808
	Lack of strong supervision and timely control from the provincial cooperative affairs and Nomad affairs departments	0.798
	Lack of diversification in the activities of nomadic cooperatives by managers	0.884
	Low level of livestock disease control by cooperatives	0.912
(4) Legal and political Inhibitors	Lack of fair distribution of facilities among cooperatives and reduction of facilities provided by the cooperative administration to nomadic cooperatives	0.866
	Lack of fair allocation of livestock inputs between rural and nomadic cooperatives	0.565
	Cumbersome rules and regulations for new members to join the cooperative	0.685
	The complexity of administrative bureaucracy in carrying out cooperative-related matters	0.627
	Lack of allocation of national and provincial funds for the development of cooperative activities	0.827
	Lack of serious cooperation between the government sector and the cooperative sector and officials' reliance on idealistic slogans without providing operational tools and grounds.	0.792
	The presence of powerful intermediaries and brokers in the cooperative economy	0.663
	Lack of complete independence of nomadic cooperatives and unnecessary government interference in cooperatives	0.619
(5) Organizational Inhibitors	Lack of organizational discipline in the cooperative	0.797
	Failure to fully implement the provisions of the statute by cooperative officials	0.606
	Failure to fully implement the provisions of the statute by cooperative officials	0.896
	Lack of long-term and medium-term plans in cooperative companies	0.904
(6) Social Inhibitors	Weak social interactions among cooperative members	0.621
	Job dissatisfaction of cooperative members	0.652
	Lack of close and continuous communication between members and the relevant cooperatives	0.853
	Unequal base of cooperative members	0.876
	Lack of support from members for cooperative activities	0.873
(7) Cultural Inhibitors	Lack of sufficient cultural development in establishing cooperative thinking among members	0.572
	Lack of a healthy economic culture in cooperatives (rents, cronyism, and bribery)	0.589
	Lack of active participation of member group leaders in the cooperative's general assembly	0.586
	Cultural weakness of cooperative members in carrying out collaborative and collective work	0.774
	The spirit of individualism in cooperatives (lack of members' involvement and expression of opinions in cooperative issues, resulting in blind reliance on the actions of cooperative bodies)	0.831
(8) Skill Inhibitors	Failure to select specialized and skilled individuals in the bodies of nomadic cooperatives	0.807
	Low skills of cooperative sellers in attracting customers and making profits	0.603
(9)	Price fluctuations in the market and instability in the price of raw	0.825

Factors	Variables	Factor Loading
Market and marketing inhibitors	materials	
	The cooperative's lack of knowledge of marketing and market management principles (identifying customers and sales policies)	0.698
	Weakness of marketing services in nomadic cooperatives in Fars province (good intermediaries, cold storage and warehouses, etc.)	0.600
(10) Infrastructure Inhibitors	Lack of modern technology in cooperatives (such as creating electronic sales platforms and creating electronic monitoring platforms)	0.764
	Lack of number of cooperative stores	0.540
	Lack of access of nomadic cooperatives to the required facilities and equipment	0.792
(11) Ecological inhibitors	Distribution of members covered by cooperatives in various nomadic areas	0.828
	Occasional droughts and their direct impact on cooperative profits	0.822
	Lack of support for the sale of manufactured products due to distance from the sales market	0.751

5. Discussion and Conclusions

Cooperatives, especially nomadic cooperatives, play a vital role in the sustainable development of communities and help empower individuals by relying on the principles of self-help and cooperation. Due to the specific challenges faced by nomadic communities, these cooperatives can reduce economic risk, facilitate access to markets, and provide essential services and training. However, several barriers affect their success. Identifying these barriers is essential for designing effective interventions and optimal allocation of resources, and can contribute to the sustainability of cooperatives. In the present study, which was conducted with the aim of identifying the inhibitors of the activity of nomadic cooperatives, in order to systematically compare the findings of the present study with the results of previous studies, a summary of this comparison is presented in Table 5. Then, each of the identified factors is discussed and interpreted in detail.

Table 5. Comparison of the findings of the present study with previous studies

Findings of the present study	Previous research	Comparison result
Economic Inhibitors	Zhu et al. (2018), Sebhatu et al. (2021), Maksimova et al. (2021)	Both studies have identified economic problems, lack of capital, and lack of financial stability as the most important obstacles to the success of cooperatives.
Educational and knowledge inhibitors	Abdolmaleki (2015), Baldacchino et al. (2018)	The importance of training, knowledge promotion, and empowerment of members and managers has been confirmed in both studies.
Management Inhibitors	Zhu et al. (2018), Najafi et al. (2024)	This finding aligns with previous studies indicating that management weaknesses, such as lack of experience and managerial inefficiency, are key limiting factors for the performance of cooperatives.
Legal and political Inhibitors	Sebhatu et al. (2021), Maksimova et al. (2021), Brandão and Breitenbach (2019)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that regulatory complexity, the multiplicity of policymaking institutions, and weak legal protections are significant barriers to the development of cooperatives.
Organizational Inhibitors	Hessam and Mahmodi (2024), Ton et al. (2016)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that structural weaknesses and organizational performance issues have a negative impact on the success of cooperatives
Social Inhibitors	Hessam and Mahmodi (2024), Brandão and Breitenbach (2019)	his finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that social factors and declining member participation are key barriers to cooperative activities.
Cultural Inhibitors	Hessam and Mahmodi (2024)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that a weak culture of participation and cooperation reduces the efficiency of cooperatives.

Skill Inhibitors	Baldacchino et al. (2018)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that a lack of specialized and professional skills is a barrier to the success of cooperatives.
Market and marketing inhibitors	Mhembwe and Dube (2017), Harisudin et al(2020)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that weak marketing and limited market access are major challenges for cooperatives.
Infrastructure Inhibitors	Abdolmaleki (2015)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that a lack of infrastructure and equipment limits the performance of cooperatives.
Ecological inhibitors	Ataei and Izadi's (2015)	This finding aligns with previous studies, indicating that environmental and climatic conditions are significant barriers to the activities of nomadic cooperatives.

The first factor was named the economic inhibitory factor, according to the components in which it was placed, and it is able to explain 19.819 percent of the variance. In interpreting this research finding, it can be stated that capital is a very important factor that strengthens the foundations and sustainability of cooperative companies. Among the economic inhibitors, the most important pest that threatens the life of cooperatives is the lack of credit and financial capital of cooperatives and the failure to apply appropriate methods to solve this problem. In the absence of sufficient capital, the cooperative is practically unable to apply modern production methods. The government needs to take various measures, including direct participation, regulating the prices of domestic products, supporting exports, and supporting activists and investors in this sector, to address the economic problems of cooperatives. It is important to note that government support for nomadic cooperatives must be provided within a specific time frame and scope.

The second factor was called the educational and knowledge inhibitory factor, which explains 12.710 percent of the variance .It goes without saying that education is considered as a major infrastructure in the cooperative system. Education plays an undeniable role in the development and training of thoughts, the results of which will be evident in the long term. But the point is that in educating members of nomadic cooperatives, issues such as productivity and exploitation of opportunities, legal education, and training related to creative thinking, management, and leadership should be seriously considered.

The third factor is Management Inhibitors, which explain 11.570 percent of the variance. The lack of managerial experience of the CEO and their low executive power have caused the management department to lack the necessary efficiency. This situation could be the result of the CEO not taking the necessary training courses to manage a complex institution such as a cooperative. The results and effects of these management problems extend to all areas of cooperative activity. In particular, the lack of empowerment and training of board members has caused these individuals to lack sufficient awareness of their duties and responsibilities and to perform poorly during planning and decision-making. On the other hand, the lack of practical planning skills and the lack of specialized and up-to-date knowledge in the management of cooperatives, such as ignorance of the capacity of laws and regulations supporting cooperatives, lack of creativity, and lack of use of technology, have caused the lack of a programmatic approach in the prevailing management, the absence of long-term policies and plans for the management of cooperatives, and the cooperative is managed on a daily basis. In such a situation, the capacity and potential of the cooperative is not recognized and the maximum capacity of the cooperative will not be utilized. In addition, the lack of a strong performance evaluation system to control the performance of the cooperative management and its compliance with laws and regulations causes the spread of factionalism in the management of the cooperative and unhealthy practices prevail in it. The inability of managers leads to the incorrect implementation of plans and the use of inappropriate executive mechanisms, and the implementation of measures will be based on imprecise management and will be accompanied by trial and error. Due to the lack of a precise monitoring and evaluation system, sometimes the cooperative's manager or board of directors clash with experts and inspectors.

The fourth factor was named Legal and political Inhibitors, which explains 11.054 percent of the

variance. Like many sectors, the cooperative sector also suffers from multiple and parallel institutions in policymaking in this sector. The Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, the Cooperative Chamber, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Cooperative Organization of Iran, various cooperative supervision and coordination unions, and the Urban and Rural Consumer Cooperative Organization are some of the policy-making organizations in the cooperative sector, which in some cases have conflict or disagreement between their policies. One of the fundamental and important problems that the Iranian economy has been acutely involved with in recent years has been the broker-oriented and intermediary-oriented economy. In an economy based on brokerage and speculation, the productive sector suffers the most, and the economic mechanism is driven towards price bubbles and severe fluctuations. One of the main obstacles to the successful implementation of policies in various sectors, especially the cooperative sector, is excessive legal or administrative formalities, in other words, the process of issuing licenses, activities, attracting investment is long, and many of the phases and processes of issuing licenses are unnecessary, which is why it is essential for the responsible agencies to pay attention to this issue.

The fifth factor was named organizational inhibitors, which explains 5.900 percent of the variance. The sixth factor was called social inhibitors, which explained 5.473 percent of the variance. Hessam and Mahmodi (2024), Brandão and Breitenbach (2019) also reached a similar conclusion in their research and introduced social inhibitors as an effective factor in the failure of cooperatives.

The seventh factor was named cultural inhibitors, which explains 4.828 percent of the variance, One of the concerns of nomadic cooperatives is the indifference of members to the fate of the cooperative, or in other words, the cultural weakness of cooperative members in carrying out cooperative and collective work, which will gradually lead to the decline and bankruptcy of these economic enterprises. The participation of members in decision-making in cooperative affairs brings many benefits, but since most members have become members of cooperatives to use cooperative facilities and meet professional needs, they do not have much desire to participate in its affairs. On the other hand, most members do not consider the cooperative company their own and consider it a government institution that is responsible for meeting their needs. Therefore, they do not have effective participation in cooperative decision-making and programs. Cooperatives need the participation and consensus of all members to grow and develop, and therefore, cooperative members should be considered as like-minded individuals and not just as profit-seeking individuals. Therefore, if members continue to turn away from continuing participation and cooperation, the main burden falls on the shoulders of the CEO, accountant, and warehousemen. In these circumstances, cooperative members do not consider the company their home and in many cases, instead of helping to build the future of the cooperative company, they destroy it. With the decline in social capital and individualism, the spirit of people's participation in cooperative activities has decreased. Whenever individualism increases in a society along with distrust, the spirit of collective work and cooperative activity in that society also weakens.

The eighth factor was called skill inhibitors, which includes the lack of selection of specialized and skilled individuals in the pillars of nomadic cooperatives and the low skill of cooperative sellers in attracting customers and making profits, which explains 4.607 percent of the variance.

The ninth factor was named market and marketing inhibitors, which explained 4.075 percent of the variance. All these studies have shown that cooperatives are unsuccessful in finding out about suitable markets and identifying customers. The existence of a suitable market for products is effective in improving the income level of members. Today, there are few nomadic cooperative companies in Fars province that have paid attention to online network marketing by relying on cultivating the creative power of members or their managers, or even provided the grounds for it. Wherever the distance between the consumer and the producer decreases, the share of nomads in income increases and they move towards greater justice. Marketing of nomad products is one of the development requirements in these societies and should be seriously considered.

The tenth factor was named infrastructure inhibitors, which explains 3.732 percent of the

variance. The use of new technologies enables companies and related individuals to, while trying to acquire and become familiar with the policies and programs developed at the macro and upstream levels, also employ new knowledge and advanced technological methods, and by improving the level of general knowledge and social awareness, bring more inclusive groups and groups of society into the field of struggle to achieve the expected results of the programs.

The eleventh factor was named ecological inhibitors and explained 2.461 percent of the variance. Since the activity of most cooperatives has been in the field of production and employment in the production and agricultural sectors, the recent water shortage crisis and droughts have made them extremely vulnerable and have prevented the realization of many of the upstream programs. Therefore, based on the research findings, the following suggestions are made:

- Given that economic barriers were identified as the first and most important obstacle for nomadic cooperatives in Fars Province, it is suggested that the General Directorate of Nomadic Affairs, the General Directorate of Cooperatives, and the operating banks support the activities of nomadic cooperatives by providing low-interest facilities, providing working capital, and fairly distributing livestock inputs.
- In order to reduce educational barriers, it is suggested that the General Directorate of Nomadic Affairs and the Agricultural Jihad Organization continuously hold need-based training courses in the field of cooperative management, marketing, and cooperative laws and regulations.
- Also, to reduce cultural barriers, it is suggested that the boards of directors of cooperatives provide the basis for strengthening trust, cooperation, and a cooperative culture by holding regular meetings, providing transparent reports, and increasing member participation in decision-making.

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Authors' contributions

The authors equally contributed to the preparation of this article.

Conflict of interest

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Original Article

ارزیابی عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری در استان فارس: شناسایی راهکارهای توسعه روستایی- عشایری منطقه

مدینه خسروجردی[۱]- مهدی نوری‌پور[۲*]- آیت‌اله کرمی[۳]- سعید صالحی[۴]- مریم آفریدونی[۵]

۱-دانش‌آموخته دکترای توسعه کشاورزی، مدیر اداره امور عشایر، استان فارس، مهر و لامرد، ایران.
۲- استاد مدیریت توسعه روستایی، دانشگاه یاسوج، یاسوج، ایران.
۳- استاد مدیریت توسعه روستایی، دانشگاه یاسوج، یاسوج، ایران.
۴- دانش‌آموخته دکترای ترویج کشاورزی، سازمان امور عشایر استان فارس، ایران.
۵- دانشجوی دکتری توسعه کشاورزی، دانشگاه یاسوج، یاسوج، ایران.

چکیده

مبسوط

۱. مقدمه

تعاونی‌ها به‌عنوان یکی از مهم‌ترین نهادهای اقتصادی و اجتماعی، نقش مؤثری در توسعه پایدار، ارتقای رفاه اجتماعی، کاهش فقر و افزایش مشارکت مردمی ایفا می‌کنند. در این میان، شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری به دلیل ارتباط مستقیم با معیشت خانوارهای عشایری، از جایگاه ویژه‌ای در توسعه اقتصادی و اجتماعی مناطق عشایری برخوردارند. این تعاونی‌ها با تأمین نهاده‌های تولید، ارائه خدمات پشتیبانی، بازاریابی محصولات و ایجاد بستر مشارکت جمعی می‌توانند نقش مهمی در بهبود وضعیت اقتصادی و توانمندسازی جوامع عشایری ایفا کنند. با وجود این، بسیاری از تعاونی‌های عشایری در دستیابی به اهداف خود با چالش‌ها و موانع متعددی مواجه هستند که موجب کاهش کارایی، بهره‌وری و اثربخشی آن‌ها شده است. ازاین‌رو، شناسایی و تحلیل عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت این تعاونی‌ها می‌تواند زمینه مناسبی برای تدوین سیاست‌ها و برنامه‌های حمایتی فراهم سازد. پژوهش حاضر با هدف ارزیابی عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری در استان فارس انجام شد.

۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

موفقیت تعاونی‌ها به مجموعه‌ای از عوامل اقتصادی، مدیریتی، اجتماعی، فرهنگی، آموزشی و نهادی وابسته است. بر اساس نظریه‌های توسعه مشارکتی، تعاونی‌ها زمانی می‌توانند به اهداف خود دست یابند که اعضا از مشارکت فعال، اعتماد متقابل و احساس تعلق سازمانی برخوردار باشند. همچنین نظریه سرمایه اجتماعی تأکید می‌کند که اعتماد، همکاری و مشارکت اعضا از مهم‌ترین عوامل موفقیت سازمان‌های تعاونی محسوب می‌شوند. در مقابل، ضعف سرمایه اجتماعی، کاهش اعتماد و گسترش فردگرایی می‌تواند اثربخشی فعالیت‌های تعاونی را کاهش دهد.

از سوی دیگر، نبود مدیران توانمند و ضعف مهارت‌های مدیریتی می‌تواند موجب کاهش بهره‌وری و ناکارآمدی تعاونی‌ها شود. همچنین رویکردهای توسعه اقتصادی، دسترسی به منابع مالی و سرمایه را یکی از مهم‌ترین الزامات پایداری فعالیت‌های تعاونی می‌دانند. کمبود سرمایه، محدودیت اعتبارات و مشکلات تأمین مالی از جمله عواملی هستند که می‌توانند مانع رشد و توسعه تعاونی‌ها شوند. بنابراین، بررسی جامع عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت تعاونی‌های عشایری مستلزم توجه هم‌زمان به ابعاد مختلف اقتصادی، اجتماعی، مدیریتی و محیطی است.

۳. روش تحقیق

این پژوهش با استفاده از رویکرد آمیخته و راهبرد اکتشافی متوالی انجام شد. در مرحله نخست، به‌منظور شناسایی عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری، از روش کیفی و مصاحبه‌های نیمه‌ساختاریافته استفاده شد. مشارکت‌کنندگان پژوهش شامل ۴۰ نفر از اعضای شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری استان فارس بودند که به روش نمونه‌گیری گلوله‌برفی انتخاب شدند. مصاحبه‌ها تا دستیابی به اشباع نظری ادامه یافت. داده‌های حاصل از مصاحبه‌ها پس از کدگذاری و تحلیل، به استخراج مفاهیم و مؤلفه‌های اصلی منجر شد. در مرحله دوم، بر اساس نتایج بخش کیفی، پرسشنامه‌ای محقق‌ساخته طراحی گردید. این پرسشنامه شامل مشخصات فردی پاسخگویان و گویه‌های مربوط به عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت تعاونی‌های عشایری بود که بر اساس طیف پنج‌درجه‌ای لیکرت تنظیم شد. جامعه آماری بخش کمّی را اعضای شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری

*. نویسندهٔ مسئول:
دکتر مهدی نوری‌پور
آدرس: گروه مدیریت توسعه روستایی، دانشکده مهندسی کشاورزی و مناطع طبیعی، دانشگاه یاسوج، یاسوج، ایران.
پست الکترونیکی: Email: mnooripoor@yu.ac.ir

استان فارس تشکیل دادند که از میان آنان ۳۸۰ نفر به روش نمونه‌گیری تصادفی ساده انتخاب شدند. داده‌های جمع‌آوری‌شده با استفاده از نرم‌افزار SPSS و از طریق آمار توصیفی و تحلیل عاملی اکتشافی مورد تجزیه و تحلیل قرار گرفت.

۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

در بخش کیفی پژوهش، ۶۲ مفهوم اولیه از مصاحبه‌ها استخراج شد. سپس در مرحله کمّی، تحلیل عاملی اکتشافی برای دسته‌بندی و شناسایی ابعاد اصلی عوامل بازدارنده به کار گرفته شد. نتایج نشان داد که ۱۱ عامل اصلی دارای مقدار ویژه بیشتر از یک شناسایی شدند که در مجموع ۸۶/۱۹۱ درصد از واریانس کل عوامل بازدارنده فعالیت شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری را تبیین کردند. این عوامل شامل بازدارنده‌های اقتصادی، آموزشی و دانشی، مدیریتی، قانونی ـ سیاسی، سازمانی، اجتماعی، فرهنگی، مهارتی، بازار و بازاریابی، زیرساختی و اکولوژیکی بودند. عامل اقتصادی با تبیین۱۹/۸۱۹درصد از واریانس، مهم‌ترین عامل بازدارنده شناخته شد. کمبود سرمایه و نقدینگی، محدودیت دسترسی به تسهیلات مالی و نبود سرمایه‌گذاری کافی از مهم‌ترین مؤلفه‌های این عامل بودند. پس از آن، بازدارنده‌های آموزشی و دانشی و بازدارنده‌های مدیریتی قرار گرفتند که نشان‌دهنده اهمیت آموزش، دانش تخصصی و مدیریت کارآمد در موفقیت تعاونی‌ها است. همچنین عوامل قانونی ـ سیاسی، از جمله تعدد نهادهای تصمیم‌گیر و پیچیدگی فرایندهای اداری، از دیگر موانع مهم فعالیت تعاونی‌ها محسوب شدند. در کنار این موارد، ضعف مشارکت اجتماعی اعضا، کاهش روحیه همکاری، کم‌رنگ بودن فرهنگ تعاون، کمبود مهارت‌های تخصصی، ضعف بازاریابی محصولات، محدودیت زیرساخت‌های فنی و ارتباطی و در نهایت خشکسالی و کم‌آبی به‌عنوان مهم‌ترین چالش‌های اکولوژیکی شناسایی شدند.

۵. بحث و نتیجه‌گیری

نتایج پژوهش نشان داد که فعالیت شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری در استان فارس تحت تأثیر مجموعه‌ای از عوامل چندبعدی قرار دارد که به‌صورت هم‌زمان بر عملکرد و موفقیت آن‌ها اثر می‌گذارند. اهمیت بالای عامل اقتصادی بیانگر آن است که پایداری مالی و دسترسی به منابع اعتباری، پیش‌شرط اساسی تداوم فعالیت تعاونی‌ها محسوب می‌شود. همچنین جایگاه عوامل آموزشی، دانشی و مدیریتی نشان می‌دهد که توسعه سرمایه انسانی و ارتقای توان مدیریتی از الزامات اساسی موفقیت تعاونی‌های عشایری است. از سوی دیگر، وجود موانع قانونی، اجتماعی و فرهنگی نشان می‌دهد که مشکلات تعاونی‌ها تنها به مسائل اقتصادی محدود نمی‌شود و برای افزایش کارآمدی آن‌ها باید به اصلاح ساختارهای نهادی، تقویت فرهنگ مشارکت و افزایش اعتماد اعضا نیز توجه شود. علاوه بر این، ضعف بازاریابی، کمبود زیرساخت‌ها و چالش‌های محیطی از جمله خشکسالی، ضرورت اتخاذ سیاست‌های جامع و هماهنگ برای حمایت از تعاونی‌های عشایری را آشکار می‌سازد. بر این اساس، پیشنهاد می‌شود سیاست‌گذاران و دستگاه‌های اجرایی با توسعه حمایت‌های مالی هدفمند، تسهیل دسترسی تعاونی‌ها به اعتبارات، برگزاری دوره‌های آموزشی مستمر، توانمندسازی مدیران، تقویت فرهنگ تعاون، توسعه زیرساخت‌های مورد نیاز و حمایت از برنامه‌های سازگار با شرایط اقلیمی، زمینه ارتقای عملکرد و پایداری شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری را فراهم آورند. نتایج این پژوهش می‌تواند مبنای مناسبی برای برنامه‌ریزی و سیاست‌گذاری در جهت توسعه پایدار تعاونی‌های عشایری و بهبود شرایط اقتصادی و اجتماعی جوامع عشایری باشد.

کلیدواژه‌ها: عوامل بازدارنده، شرکت‌های تعاونی عشایری، روش تحقیق آمیخته، استان فارس.

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