Assessment of Quality of life in rural areas of Ilam province: A case study of Karezan Dehestan

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1. INTRODUCTION

Quality of life is a multi-faceted concept which is used to show the satisfaction of the individuals of their life, and it can also be used as a criterion for determining the satisfaction or dissatisfaction with various aspects of life of individuals and groups. It depends on factors such as employment, access to services like education, health, reasonable salary, etc. Based on population census in 2011, less than 29 percent of Iranian population lives in rural areas (Statistical Center of Iran, 2011). Meanwhile, about a century ago (in 1926) about 81 percent of the population lived in rural areas. Despite the decline of rural population in Iran, about 36 percent of populations in Ilam Province are villagers, even in Shirvan and Chardavl Counties nearly 71 percent of people live in rural areas. Therefore, it is necessary to study the quality of life in Ilam province, especially in Shirvan and Chardavl Counties so that villagers might receive better services, avoid migration to urban areas and enjoy the benefits of sustainable rural development. Therefore, the main question of this study is "how is the quality of life of the villagers living in the rural areas of Karzan Dehestan in Ilam?"

2. METHODOLOGY

The research was carried out in a descriptive-survey method and its purpose was to assess the quality of life in rural areas of Karzan Dehestan. The statistical society included all the villages with 20 or more than 20 households in Karzan Dehestan (4416=N). Using Cochran formula and stratified sampling method with proportionate allocation, 238 households were selected as the sample volume for completing the questionnaires. Used as research tools, questionnaires were confirmed as valid by a group of experts. Cronbach alpha coefficient (0.827) was used to evaluate the reliability scale of the questionnaires. Data were analyzed using SPSS software.

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3. DISCUSSION

The study results showed that based on the views of the subjects, apart from the factors of quality of residential environment, other factors used to measure the quality of life were lower than average. With regard to quality of life and using the ANOVA and Duncan test and regression analysis, villages of the study area were divided into four categories, in which the village of Cheshmeh-chahi Sofla with the lowest level of quality of life fall into category 1, villages of Aliabad Sofla and Aliabad Olia fall into category 2, villages like Kali-kali, Kole joob, Joob-deruz Mirzabeigi and Ghanat-abad fall into category 3, and villages like Ghanat, Sarah, Cheshmeh Rashid, Cheshmeh pahn and Cheshmeh-khazaneh fall into category 4. Cheshmeh-khazaneh had the highest level of quality of life among the villages of the study area. Therefore, we can conclude that there are significant differences between the villages in terms of quality of life. There was a positive and significant relationship between the populations and the level of quality of life in the villages of the study area, alpha level and coefficient were respectively 5% and 0.685.

4. CONCLUSION

According to the study results and the constituent components affecting the quality of life, we can conclude that all the villages enjoying the most favorable level in terms of dimensions effective in quality of life, were located in the northwestern part of this Dehestan, and being in the center of Dehestan, they enjoy better education and health facilities. For example, the village of Cheshmeh pahn has a high school (easy access to schools in a short time), health center (access to health care), gym and police station (security). In addition, villages of Sarb, Cheshmeh Rashid, Cheshmeh pahn and Cheshmeh-khazane are located near Kermanshah-Illam Road (the road to Karbala), thus they have an appropriate communication road and enjoy ease of access to urban and service centers. Having an active Dehyary, this village has access to garbage collection systems and garbage is taken out of the village. Rural Guide plans were implemented in these villages and they enjoyed quality roads. While villages in category 1 and 2, due to their far distance from the center of Dehestan, were deprived of such facilities and had a restricted access. Therefore, the results obtained in this step are acceptable.

5. SUGGESTIONS

- Improving health services in the study area;
- Construction of multi-purpose sports hall in the study area;
- Construction of a public library or sending a bookmobile to the study area;
- Improving access to safe drinking water in the rural areas;
- Facilitating access to credit and financial services in the rural areas;
- Construction of a landfill site for waste disposal in the study area.
Keywords: Quality of life, Subjective index, Assessment, Rural areas, Karzan Dehestan.

References (in Persian)
References (in English)