Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research 17 (6): 728-734, 2013
ISSN 1990-9233

DOI: 10.5829/idosi.mejsr.2013.17.06.11948

An Analysis on the Role of Government's Structural Financial Services on the Sustainability of Rural Settlements Case Study: Darab Area Villages - Iran

Ali Shakoor and Ali Shamsoddini

Department of Geography, Marvdasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Marvdasht, Iran

Abstract: Villages, as the first human settlements, have experienced different stages of growth or stop during the process of their historical evolution and also in their encountering with development of technology and change in structural fundamentals of societies, which has sometimes caused the increase or decrease of population of these residential points due to migration of villagers from the area. In this regard and specially in developing countries, attention to environmental improvement and rural development has been among basic priorities of the statesmen of such countries. In this line rendering welfare and infrastructure amenities and services with the purpose of getting villagers to stay in these population centers in the line with sustainable development of villages are among the major objectives of planners and statesmen. In this research, which is a correlative-analytical one, it is attempted to study the role and effect of government services in decreasing rural migrations and consequently sustainability of population in rural settlements in Darab region, an environ of Iran, using data gathered through the field study and survey. The statistical population includes 15 villages enjoying and 15 villages lacking government services and financial facilities and using Cochran sampling method, 220 people have been selected as sample size. The questionnaires have been randomly distributed in villages and the correlation between variables has been measured using Spearman correlation coefficient. The results indicate that there is no significant relation between rendering services to villages and the sustainability of population in the studied villages. In other words, in spite of providing service and rendering welfare-fundamental facilities by the government agencies to the studied villages, the presence of economic problems such as lack of capital and financial resources required for production, widespread poverty, high rate of unemployment in villages and the existence of relative surplus of labor in agriculture department have caused migration of villagers of the area to cities and therefore, evacuation of villages from population and their unsustainability.

Key words: Civil Works · Rural Services · Rural Migration · Village · Darab · Iran

INTRODUCTION

Disregarding villages in the process of performing development programs especially in developing countries has caused the outbreak of significant social and economic differences and dualities among urban and rural communities. Deprivation and poverty due to such a process have persuaded villagers to migrate from villages to other settlement centers specially cities to improve social-economic conditions and welfare of their life [1]. In other words, with the increase of urban-rural communication flows in the third world countries and also comparing their living situation with other people of that community (specially urban groups), villagers, as the poorest classes of society in such countries, who have been encountered with poverty as well as welfare and living problems for years due to social, economic and political conditions and also the presence of spatial inequity governing settlement areas, in their attempt to change this undesirable situation and also gaining more welfare, comfort and prosperity, leave for cities and other population centers [2]. In this line, the causes of rural migrations has significant relation with unemployment, urban amenities, obtaining a socio-economic base, population growth and agricultural limitation and the difference of income between rural and urban residents [3], so the causes of migration could not be separated from its effects; because in one hand, migration is the

Corresponding Author: Ali Shakoor, Department of Geography, Marvdasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Marvdasht, Iran

Table 1: Total urban population, growth rate, percentage and number of cities in seven censing periods (1956-2006)

No.	Year	Total Population	Urban	Percentage	Growth rate	Rural	Percentage
1	1956	18954704	5597161	4/31	-	13001141	6/68
2	1966	25078923	9714612	39	94/4	15994476	61
3	1976	33708744	15854680	47	02/5	17854064	53
4	1986	49445091	26952894	3/54	45/5	22349351	7/45
5	1991	55837000	31836598	57	39/3	24972660	43
6	1996	60055519	36808400	3/61	94/2	23237488	7/38
7	2006	69286913	48242797	6/69	74/2	21044116	4/30

Source: taken from statistical data of housing and population census of the years 1956-2006 [10].

effect of unequal development and on the other hand, it is itself a factor for the expansion of unequal development [4]. Therefore, in order to decrease villagers' migration processes and consequently achieve sustainability of rural settlements alongside with the objectives of national sustainable development, it is required that the government and planning institutions make arrangements for development of these population centers [5].

Among the required preconditions for reaching sustainable development in any geographical area, providing an appropriate ground for development together with rendering welfare-living infrastructures and services in this regard are in the line with establishing development and balance in that society. For this purpose, access to services and providing the grounds and other institutional and financial conditions required for development in villages could play an effective role in the acceleration of development process and the improvement of the villagers' quality of life [6]. Therefore, in conditions where the villages are faced with so many economic problems such as decline of farming, production and income, if the government of any country could respond current needs of rural communities through proper planning and removing welfare-services problems, so that a model for revolving nature of rural development could be presented [7].

One of the fundamental concerns of Iranian governments especially after the revolution of 1979 is the control of irregular villagers' migration to cities and encouraging them to live in villages [8]. So that, organizations such as Constructive Jihad & Housing Foundation have been established and put into operation in the line with development of villages and removing poverty and deprivation from these settlements. Having geographical approach for removing deprivation and reducing villagers' migration, these governmental organizations have transferred extensive infrastructure and welfare services and amenities to villages and huge funds were spent in this regard since the beginning [9]. However, it is observed that in many rural areas not only migrations have been decreased, but also it has been intensified. As it is observed in Table 1: the urban population of Iran has been increased from 31.4% in 1956 to 69.6% in 2006 and consequently, the rural population of the country has been decreased from 68.6% in 1956 to 30.4% in 2006 and also, the devoid of population of over 60000 rural points during the time period implies a high rate of villagers' migration in the totality of the country's settlement system [10].

Darab County is one of the areas with a large of number of scattered villages being away from each other. Despite the potential capacity of villages, double poverty, unemployment, low income and social problems etc… are factors that in spite of physical development and growth have lead the villagers of the region to migrate to cities [11]. (Using survey operations and gathering data through field study such as interview and questionnaire, the present research tries to lay out the influence of government operations and activities with regard to rendering services and amenities to the villages of Darab County on the decrease of migration and consequently stabilization of rural population of the area. In other words, this research, through its descriptive-analytical methodology and with the use of statistical analysis and correlation test, tries to study the role of government services in persistence of population and sustainability in the villages of Darab region based on the case study on 15 villages enjoying and 15 villages lacking amenities [12].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present research, which is an applied one, the correlation method has been used. Data gathering has been carried out through field observation and the statistical population includes 30 villages of Darab County, environ of Iran. Given the extent of the studied population, sampling has been necessarily done randomly. Before selecting the samples, the statistical population has been divided into two classes of villages deprived from development activities (15 villages) and

Table 2: Villages having Water & Electricity in Rural Regions separately based on the Villages of Darab Region

Rural District	Village	Villages having water	Coverage percentage	Villages having electricity	Coverage percentage
Ghale Biaban	16	7	43%	7	43%
Balesh	15	10	66%	5	33%
Paskhon	20	13	65%	15	75%
Fassarood	12	10	83%	9	75%
Gharyatolkheir	9	7	77%	4	44%
Nasrovan	13	13	100%	12	92%
Hashivar	20	20	100%	15	75%
Bokhnajerd	13	11	84%	7	54%
Rastagh	15	10	66%	9	60%
Koohestan	20	11	55%	4	20%
Forg	13	12	92%	7	54%
Abshoor	7	6	86%	5	71%

Source: Research Findings, based on the information of Fars Planning & Management Organization, 2003 [10-12].

those enjoying development amenities (15 villages). Also, using Cochran sampling method 220 villagers have been randomly selected as the sample size. In order to explain the relations between independent and dependant variables, the statistical T-test and Spearman correlation coefficient have been used. In the section of descriptive results, descriptive statistics, tables and graphs have been used and all raw data processing operations have been carried out in SPSS program.

Introducing Parameters under Study

Water, Electricity & Network Communicational: Based on the latest information from Fars Planning & Management Organization in 2003, it has been reported that from the total rural population, 150 villages equal to 75% of inhabitant places have drinking water and the rest have been without potable water. Also, based on the data obtained from villages under electricity coverage in 2003, about 120 villages have power which includes 89% of rural families. With regard to communication roads, it should be mentioned that in hierarchal point of view they are placed the third and include access roads to the villages of the county. Given the dispersion and distribution, it shows the highest rate of the existing roads (about 60%), however with regard to quality, it has the lowest level of servicing (Table 2).

Region Specifications: Darab County, in the south east of Fars province, an environ of Iran, is located in the longitude of 54°, 30′ east and 28°, 40′ north and at the farthest end of the south east of Zagros. Being located on Fars-Hormozgan communication road and neighboring Kerman province, it has a unique situation among the counties of Fars province. This county has an area of 6540sq/km, it has 3 districts, 2 urban regions, 12 villages and 297 villages with residents, the center of the region is Darab city which is in 230km. south east of Shiraz. Based on population and housing census, the population of Darab County in 2006 has been 210935, 32655 of whom have been residing in rural areas.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Main Reasons for Villagers' Migration: First we decided to investigate the reasons for the migration of villagers under study and then study and analyze each factor in detail. So that the villages enjoying and those lacking economic factors with percentage of 87% and 84.5% were the most important factors in the people's migration from these regions to cities (Table 3).

Main Economic Factors in Migration of Villagers to Cities: Among the economic reasons effective on the migration of villagers to cities in the villages enjoying amenities, water shortage for production (34%) and permanent unemployment (28%) have been the most important factors. Also, in villages lacking amenities, permanent unemployment (37% of interviewees) and water shortage for production were the main reasons for migration of these villages (Table 4).

Cultural-Social Factors Effective in Villagers' Migration:" Based on the research findings, among the social factors effective in the migration of villagers enjoying and those lacking amenities, the shortage of educational facilities respectively with 42.4, 47.6% and lack of clinic and health care services respectively with 39, 40% have had the greatest role in the migration of villagers under the study (Table 5).

Table 3: Main factors effective in the migration of villagers under study to cities (in percentage)

Reasons for Migration	Villages Enjoying Amenities	Villages Lacking Amenities	Total
Economic Factors	87.3	84.6	88.2
Services & Development	8.2	12.2	9.3
Cultural & Social Reasons	4.5	3.2	2.5
Total	100	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 4: Different Economic Factors effective in Migration (in percentage)

Economic Factors	Villages Enjoying Amenities	Villages Lacking Amenities	Total
	2	2.6	2.3
Shortage or lack of agricultural institutions	4	4.3	8.5
Permanent unemployment	28	3.7	30
Seasonal unemployment and lack of income	1.2	1.1	2
Shortage of water for production	34	30	32
Lack of farming lands	18	13	15
Lack of necessary capital	9.5	12	10.2
Total	100	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 5: Cultural & Social Factors effective in Migration of Villagers (in percentage)

Health Care, Cultural & Social Parameters	Villages Enjoying Amenities	Deprived Villages	Total
Lack of enough educational area	42.4	47.6	46.5
Lack of access to mass media	9.6	7.3	8.2
Lack of clinic and health house	3.9	40	3.7
Shortage of lack of services such as bank & Post	6.3	2.6	5.7
Lack of rural advocates and promotion	2.7	2.5	2.6
Total	100	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 6: The Effects of Rural Roads in the Increase of Interest in Villages

Measure	Villages Enjoying Amenities	Villages Lacking Amenities
High	39.3	52.8
Medium	42.5	32.9
Low	18.2	14.3
Total	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 7: Determining the Correlation between Research Variables & Proper Rural Roads

Question	Education	Type of Job	Enjoying Civil Facilities
The Effect of Proper Roads in Villagers' Sustainability	0.188	0.076	-0.154

Table 8: Measuring the effect of performing rural improvement projects in the sustainability of villagers

Measurement Rate	Villages enjoying amenities	Deprived villages
Very high	59.8	70.3
High	18.2	15.6
Average	12.5	5.3
Low	9.5	8.8
Total	100	100

Source: Research Findings

Table 9: The Correlation between Research Variables with the Effect of Rural Improvement Project in the Increase of Inclination of Villagers' Sustainability

Question	Education	Type of Job	Facilities provided by constructive Jihad
The effect of rural improvement projects in sustainability of rural population	0.119	0.056	-.039

Table 10: The effect of performing rural water and waste-water project in increasing villagers' sustainability

Measurement Rate	Villages enjoying amenities	Deprived villages
Very high	60.5	56.2
High	18.8	18.4
Average	7.3	10.5
Low	13.4	14.9
Total	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 11: The Correlation between Research Variables with the Question regarding the Effect of Rural Water & Waste-Water Project in the Increase of Villagers' Sustainability

Question	Education	Type of Job	Facilities provided by constructive Jihad
The effect of performing rural water and waste-water project in sustainability of rural population	0.065	0.001	0.098

Table 12: The effect of performing power supply project in increasing villagers' sustainability

Question	Villages enjoying amenities	Deprived villages
Very high	40.2	37.2
High	33.8	28.1
Average	20	23.2
Low	6	11.5
Total	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 13: The Correlation between Research Variables with the Question regarding the Effect of Rural Power Supply Project in the Villagers' Sustainability

Question	Education	Job	Development facilities provided by constructive Jihad
The effect of performing rural power supply project in villagers' sustainability	0.056	0.031	0.086

Table 14: Development activities effective factors in villagers' sustainability

Type of Activity	Villages enjoying amenities	Villages lacking amenities
Drinking water	43	44.4
Electricity	32.6	30.9
Road	10.2	11.6
Sanitation	14.2	13.1
Total	100	100

Source: Research Findings.

Table 15: Determining the Correlation between Research Variables with the Type of Development Activity in the Villagers' Sustainability

Question	Education	Job	Development facilities provided by constructive Jihad
Determining type of development activity effective in the sustainability of rural population	0.167	0.142	0.125

The Analysis of the Effect of Civil Activities & Facilities in Rural Stay

The Effect of Appropriate Rural Way in the Sustainability of Population in Villages: Based on the statistics of table 6, in villages lacking amenities, the variable of proper communication road with 52.8% has the greatest role in the villagers' tendency to stay in villages. Based on the analytical findings, the proper road has had a high correlation with the villagers' settlement (Table 6, 7).

The Effect of Performing Rural Improvement Project in the Sustainability of Villagers: Given the conducting projects and performing rural improvement operations in deprived villages, over 70% of the respondents, have considered this factor with a very high index as a main reason for inculcation to reside in villages. This index has had a special effect as to its correlation (Tables 8, 9).

The Effect of Performing Rural Water & Waste-Water Project in Increasing the Inclination for the Villagers' Sustainability: In villages enjoying amenities, the interviewing sampling population has stated the role of this welfare-fundamental index in the inclination to reside in villages very high with the rate of 60.5%. The residents of the deprived villages have also evaluated the effect of performing rural water and waste-water project very high (Table 10, 11).

The Effect of Rural Power in Increasing the Inclination for the Villagers' Sustainability: Based on Table 12, as the variable of power supply is the most critical basic and infrastructure amenities required for living in the present era, the villagers under study specially in villages enjoying amenities, have evaluated the role of this factor in inclination to reside in villages as high and very high with the rate of 74%. This index has a significant relation with sustainability of population in villages with correlation of 0.086 (Table12, 13).

The Descriptive & Analytical Results of Effective Factors as of Performed Development Activities in Villagers' Sustainability: At the end, the effect of each of the four underlying factors of civil services rendered by the government to villages in the rate of inclination of villagers under study to reside in villages have been asked, therefore, drinking water with the rate of 43%, 44.4% in villages enjoying amenities and the deprived ones, have been known as the most important index in the villagers' stay (Table 14). Finally, quantitative and statistical analysis, also, indicate correlation between civil services rendered to villages and sustainability of rural population (Table 15).

CONCLUSION

Governmental institutions such as Constructive Jihad and Housing Foundation of Iran have ferocious experiences regarding designing and implementation of development projects since 1979 [13]. However, the results have not been duly successful, because in many parts, there has been no complete and precise relation between local study and other sections of the program and if there is so in some parts, this relation has not been systematic and structural. In other words, rural development plans in Iran after revolution has been based on offering service solutions in practice, the main purpose of which has been the stability of rural population, decrease of migrations, relative rural development and rendering services, however, such parameters could not keep rural population in villages which has been resulted in relative inattention to further distance between city and village, as well as the raise of poverty and economic problems in villages which could be followed by destruction and evacuation of villages in long term. Though, in the studied villages, in spite of rendering welfare and infrastructure amenities and services such as water supply and sewerage system, power supply, proper network communicational, …. by the governmental institutions to the studied villages, the presence of economic problems such as lack of capital and financial resources required for production, widespread poverty, high rate of unemployment in villages and the existence of relative surplus of labor in agriculture department have caused migration of villagers of the area to cities and therefore, evacuation of villages from population and their unsustainability. Therefore, although Agricultural Jihad has carried out important activities in villages which has led to population stability, it is not a healing for migrations; because along with providing development parameters, it should be fully coordinate with issues related to rural development specially economic development.

REFERENCES

1. Sajjadi, Z. and A. Shamsoddini, 2011. An analysis on rural-urban migrations with the emphasis on the role of distance access (case: Mamasani city)", Regional and Urban Research and Studies Journal, 2(8): 77-94
2. Shamsoddini, A. and M. Mahdavi, 2011. The Performance of Masiri City in Spatial Equalization for Surrounding Villages, Case: Central District of Rostam County, Iran, African Journal of Agricultural Research, 6(26): 5793-5799.
3. Firooznia, G.H., 2006. Explaining the continuation of economic function of eviction in rural population of Ghazvin city, Ph.D. thesis of geography and rural planning, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.
4. Iman, M., 1989. Migration in third world countries", literature journal of the faculty of literature and humanities of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2(3, 4): 45-60.
5. Shakoor, A., 2011. Analysis of the Role of Natural Environment in the Compatibility of Human Settlement with it Emphasizing Application of Climate in Esfahan Rural Architecture, Iran, Australian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences, 5(12): 1524-1526.
6. Shakoor, A., 2011. Survey economic geography parameters in Development Darab Rural Districts, Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research, 9(5): 691-695.
7. Todaro, M., 1999. Economic Development in the third world, translated by Gholamali Fajadi, published by Development Planning & Research Institute, Tehran, Iran.

8. Diani, L. and M. Taherkhani, 2008. Survey on the rural migrants' resettlement: case study of migrations supported by Imam Khomeini Relief Committee of Pakdasht" Village and Development Seasonal, 11(2): 119-142.
9. Rezaei, M.R. and A. Shakoor, 2011. Study of some Concerned Factors among Rural Farmers of Darab City (Fars Province of Iran) Based on Economical Geography View, American-Eurasian J. Agri. And Environ. Sci., 11(4): 528-533.
10. Iran Statistic Center, 1956-2006. Population and housing census of Darab villages, Tehran.
11. Shakoor, A., 2001. An introduction to Economic Geography of Darab, Rahgosha publication, Shiraz.
12. Fars Planning and Management Organization, 2003. statistics of Fars Province, Published by Planning and Management Organization.
13 Ashoori, E., 2004. An investigation into the effect of development activities of constructive jihad", Geographic Research Seasonal, pp: 72.
14. Motiei Langroodi, H., 1998. Geography of Iran's Economics, third edition, ACECR press, Mashhad.
15. www.ers.usda.gov/pupl/ations.