

## Social Participation and General Health of Aged Citizens in Khuzistan Province (Iran): Literature, Factors, and Obstacles

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**Abstract:** Increasing aged population (3.1%) compared with natural growth of Iranian population (1.2%) is a problematic issue. The literatures acclaim that physical disabilities and health problems in end life have significant relationship with social participation of aged. This study was conducted to illustrate social participation in Iranian background, its factors and obstacles especially among aged. Scale of aged participation (SAP) was constructed according to selected theories in four main items and 35 subitems. Community of the study are aged in four selected cities of Khuzistan province/Iran: Ahwaz, Behbahan, Mah-Shahr, Dezful and Abadan in 2010 and sampled 768 urban and rural elders. Findings have mentioned that social participation is low. It has significant relationship with Burgess, high literacy, ethnicity, living with children, feminine, growth of welfare, having chronic disease of respiratory disorder, social alienation, cost of participation, reduction in benefits of participation, growth of their child's income.

**Key words:** Elderly, Social Participation, General Health Literatures, Obstacles, Factors, Khuzistan Cities (Iran)

### INTRODUCTION

There is collected consciousness among social scientists that a kind of intellectual thinking lead to development of groups and civic organizations. There is no the safe area to growth of bureaucratic development in new social being. The public groups and civic organizations have invested on all economic, political, cultural and social life. Membership in these groups is intellectual thinking and knowledge of human in their life. Also, it is one of the legitimacy and authority visions to power among recent states and governments. Generally, developed states and societies would be evaluated and recognized via amount of social participation. Majority of societies are looking hardly for increasing social participation and resolve their problem partly with engagement of members in decision making and social life. Iranian society, its social systems and policies show paradoxical situation in social participation. Political system want to take a simple participation of

society's members in cross-sectional movements with long sectional advantages e.g. political elections. Besides, the state do not any attends to civic participation of people in social institutions with long term and uncontrolled.

Additionally, measurement and typology of participants have an incoherent and resemblance distribution within social actions in Iran. It should be noted that in poor and low developing regions, there is a high participatory interactions and less political knowledge for example in south west of Iran.

The main goal of the study is attention to measuring social participation of elder citizens who will be as reference group to younger generation during future planning. The study estimates amount of tendency to social participation and civic engagement among aged people of selected urban/rural regions of cities in Khuzistan Province (Southwest of Iran near Iraq's border line) named *Ahwaz*, *Abadan*, *Mah-Shahr*, *Behbahan* and *Dezful* in the second midyear 2010.

**Objectives:** Failure in grouped games and wining in individual games, weakness and inability of Iranian scientists in joined research, low tendency of Iranian citizens to interactions within the groups, associations, parties and trade unions, proportional look after rights of other citizens in public arena and social life, priority of individual advantages upon public profits lead to imposition of more expenses against Iranian society. The causes of these problem mention to wasted factors. But the most accepted factors are quality of socialization of Iranians and values that were inherited to new generation [1].

Although it would not be simple to statement of formal and informal socialization and their roles to transmission of cultural element. So, measuring tendency of aged to participation as main actors of society and appointers of future social life for juveniles, can illustrates perspective vision to next years for us. Eventually, we will be able to plan conditions as possible as to engaging in civic participation and voluntary interactions for aged. This potentiality will be conducted with recognition of challenges and problem of aged people in social participation and risk factors which effect on their tendencies. Additionally, decision makers may reinforced to programm their positive and continuing life in the near future for Iranian elder society as well [2].

There are more research and review about social participation of citizens specially on political participations that state to important of this concept. They have mentioned to effect of multi variables and factors e.g. individual benefits, opportunities of participatory, difference between political movements and knowledge. Other vision of research on participation is for women's participatory in society which stated to main effect of some issues i.e. literacy, participation in family decision making and their motivation, combat to traditional roles and actions versus new roles and careers for women, negative attitude of men on these new roles, main effect of male blocking on beginning or continuation of male employee and inequality in job positions and incomes between ethnicity and gender groups [3, 4].

Other researches have regarded to rural participation and participatory interaction of ethnic groups in the society and its factors e.g. social trusty, social alienation, tendency to virtual, etc [5, 6].

The vision of post research on social participation hasn't developed to elder studies and social Gerontology that is a polemic issues 2-6.

**Theoretical Framework:** Statement of theoretical approaches about social participation could be wasted

among sociological theories for example are about subject of participation (a phenomenon that participation is being shaped for It.), participated background, sever of participation, its factors and situations and so on. In the other side, causes and kinds of social participation show deferent aspects in this area for conflict and order theoreticians in sociology and accompanied by deferent interpretations. For order theory, participation is combined for goal achievement of social system. According to this aspect, social participation is basic condition for societal membership. Based on *Durkheim's* dialogue (1910), participation would be either within traditional society similar *Gemeinschaft* by Ferdinand Tunnies (1936) as public participation. This is a kind of traditional ritual and protected by *Collective Consciousness*. In modern society (*Gezellschaft*), participation is among inhomogeneous actors in different situations e.g. building trade union, codification of laws and acceptance of them and worth in *Individual Consciousness* [7].

In opposite view, the participation is a class criteria and unconsciousness in Conflict theory. Within inter-class participation, there is a collective goal for exploitation of common classes by dominant class and group. In the other words, it is companion of exploited groups for combat to upper class and group. Bisidly, unconsciousness participation states to participatory of exploited and obsessed class in their exploitation due to their false consciousness on current situation. When there is no classification and polarized community, there is unconsciousness participation about upper and dominant class specially in the first stages of social mobilization. The society is not bipolarized exactly between two class. Dominant class of productive instruments interacts with other classes for residues of their individual benefits than group and collective benefits [8].

**Definition of Participation:** Even though participation has vast concept and it was defined by more scientists. But according to essance of this study, it is defined in sociological approach. Participation means having the shared phenomenon and taking benefit or participating with a group and so have cooperation with them. In sociological view, according to Asadollahi (2008) we must separate participation as situation (companied action) instead of participation as committed interaction [9].

Participation in first definition states to dependency in special group and having a shared situation in its existence. On the other side, it has an active role in the group and mentions to social interaction [10].

Based on Suzanne Taschereau and Jose Edgardo L. Campos (1997), Robert Klitgaard and Heather Baser (1997) have more concentrate to action and commitment in participation and they define it as:

*“Participation could be defined as participated commitment in attention to development of the problems upon to duties which are agreed. Participations are shaped around common goals ... and upon purchasing group’s goals those have long time or temporary participation”* [11].

Participation is a conscious, active, liberated and committed movement that is vital for progress of society. So, definition of participation was changed from suffering action to active and consciousness engagement [12].

Saleki (1995) emphasis on active role of participation and conducts it as commitment:

*“participation in social interaction means as commitment and acceptance of individual and collective duties that we are inevitable to acceptance it. This commitment and duty could enforced within unlimited or specified tasks which are shaped in social, moral, economic and judicial forms”* [13].

According to above definitions, all authors attitude to second definition of Bearue (2005) for participation as commitment. Interactions and social behaviors are received as real participation. But in popular meaning for participation, literatures don’t regard to it as membership in group and having a shared benefits in continuing groups’ life for technical and operational meaning [10].

In this study, these twice definitions were accepted, also with non membership in group as non participation, membership as limited participation and interaction with group as high level of participation.

**The Wiewpoints to Participation:** Parry and coworkers (1992) has stated to three aspects of participation, such as *Style, Quality and Intensity*. The style of participation is defined as formal and informal participation due to special factors: opportunity, interesting, achievement to resource and supportive or lack of supportive attitudes of society for social participation. The intensity means amount of members and their participated times in extraordinary political action resultling from opportunity and resources. The quality illusterates as measurement of efficiency within members and their effect on dominant class and governors. This aspect is affected by opportunity and resources too [14].

Milbrath in *“Political Participation”* (1965) mentions to classified participation which are from disengagement to purchasing governmental tasks. He divided US citizens in three groups: *Gladiators* who are active in political actions (5-7 per cent), viewers who have less interaction in political participation (60 per cent) and disengages who have not any interaction with political system (33 per cent) [15].

#### **This Classification Has Three Aspects as Below**

**Gladiatorial Activities:** Having the governmental and authorized role, candidateship, requesting political support, engagement and participation in political struggles.

**Transactional Activities:** Participating in political meetings, constructing the commercial organization to support interested party or a candidate, connecting to local governors.

**Spectral Activities:** Wearing a distinguished sign or mark specially, collecting the votes for a new attitude, conducting a political meeting, voting and presenting in elections [16, 17].

According to table one, Cornwall (2003) mentioned to four modes of participation within citizens that the fourth mode is stated in this study [18].

Political groups could classified to six groups: strongly isolated citizens, persons with temporary participation in elections, localizers who have political participation only in local government (20%), short-sighted who attents to problem upon their personal visions (4 per cent), fighters who combat only in special phenomenon that are in their policy (15%) and persons who are high active in all political arenas (18 per cent) [19-21].

Participation adherent with achieving to companionship, either in buying the bonds of commercial companies with purchasing benefits goals or in non profit social activities for solving the social problems. So, it may not be with compulsion [13, 22].

**Functions of Social Participation:** Robert King Merton as Functional sociologist (1968), describes the latent and manifest functions according to participating in social activities as below:

- Situations of participators in social structure.
- Moral and emotional meanings of behaviors of someone who participates.
- Distinction between participating attitudes and behaviors of participators.

Table 1: The modes of participation

Modes of participation	Associated with	Why invite/involve?	Participants view as
Functional	Beneficiary participation	To enlist people in projects or processes as to secure compliance, minimize dissent, lend legitimacy.	Objectives
Instrumental	Community participation	To make projects or interventions run more efficiently, by enlisting contributions, delegating responsibilities.	Instruments
Consultative	Stakeholder participation	To get in tune with public views and values, to garner goods ideas, to defuse opposition, to enhance responsiveness.	Actors
Transformative	Citizen participation	To built political capabilities, critical consciousness and confidence, to enable to demand rights, to enhance accountability	Agents

Source: [13]

Even though aspects of arranged behaviors which are adapted with these behaviors aren't knowledgeable by participators [10].

According to Pei-te Lien and his coworkers (2001), the results of participatory interactions for a person are instruments for supplying economic needs, supplying social assimilation, instruments for taking the special values, for supplying the psychological needs unconsciously, differentiated structures and development of political participation [23].

Samuel Huntington (1976) was looking for interpretation of dynamic and innovative factors on intellectual authority [15].

Political participation is described with two basic aspects. First of all, applying in new policy that means social and economic reforms are ascertained via state's actions. The second, social forces are successfully harmonized in one system [24].

**Social Participation Around the World:** According to Bearue (2008), social participation as sharing the benefits of collective actions or membership in special group, is common phenomenon with an ancient action in human's social life. Therefor, we could name *Homasapians* as first participating group. Because of human life would not shaped without collective actions and building special groups. Mankind is a societal asset. Consequently, without participating in social interactions, her/his life will be unintelligible.

Human has constructed a kind of work division at her/his first life on the earth and it has led to empowerment for him/her in social participation. This kind of participation which have mentioned above, could be named as constrain participation. Because, without it, human existence and her/his collective life will be threatened. Social participation, has escorted with political participation specially in voting and elections. According to this definition, social participation could

be shaped and constructed by democratic movements in the west world after French revolution (1779) [7].

**According to Anthony Giddens:**

*“authorized state was been as a state which its citizens have rights of political participation. These rights have been consequence either mobilizations which reduced monarchy states and was fallen them by revolutions such as French and US revolutions”* [7].

The modern concept of participation should attented after construction of co-operative companies in economic actions that the first kind is recognized by Rochdale Elements (1844) at Rochdale town in UK. Human rights usually commits to citizenship rights in societal or civic participation. Also, it has been encountered to cultural equality in cultural studies now a days too. Even though, mankind has converted to skepticism presumably till to acceptance of civic participation and equality of them now. But societal mobilizations will obtain the context of this acceptance for human equality [7].

**Social Participation in Iran:** Iran is not similar other countries in the Middle East region on social participation. Social participation in global typology has two kinds of participations: traditional and public viewing on participation and modern viewing. Traditional participations are essentially based on native and its needs. For example in political needs it is based on kind of tyrannical state, in economic context with participatory life on differential natural life and environment such as *“Boneh”*, in societal and civic engagement with unreciprocated context due to sub-cultural peasantry, in cultural background with complex of participation and conflict due to ethnic and religious diversity [25, 26].

New kind of participation in Iran is rooted from external development. Political participation at first time

was mentioned via conditional state upon foreign patterns goal to reducing the power of monarchy state of Pahlavid sultanate (1928-1979) before fundamental Islamic revolution in 1979 [22].

Economic participation had been as cooperative companies in Iran before 1979. This participation is other part of Iranian economic side by side to private and governmental sections. Unfortunately, this part hasn't mature effectively rather than other sections even though with hard efforts. Civic engagement and human rights is in the first step. Because, there is no special pattern or historical context. This part of participation have encountered to some problems now a days. Sociologists and social decision makers' should attend to Iranian cultural system historically for better describing cultural participation [27, 28].

**Social Participation Theories:** There is various insights on social participation. All sociological theories have noted actually to participation indirectly. Notably, it has not special thoughts on this phenomenon separately. Parry and co-workers (1992) have mentioned to two theoretical aspects in permission of political participation: Instrumental and Progressive. Instrumental theories states to participation as need to achievement a goal for support or development of special person or group and opposite to tyrannical system. Progressive theory claims that the nation is constructed by participatory citizens. Consequently, participation would be as an action in social commitment of citizens. According to this approach, participation is one of learning skill that citizen purchases during the period of consciousness about his/her rights and duties in society [14].

Optter and Payne (2001) in "*Political Opposition and Social Change*" state to three dimensions of political opposition: cultural beliefs, structure and behavior. According to Optter and Payne, there are two approaches on causes of citizens' participation in elections and community. First of all, *Neoclassical Public Choice Approach* by Anthony Buns, James Buchanan, William Riker, Pitter Everard Shak, Anthony Dawns and Denis Mauler that states to attitude of persons. This aspect notes that people participate and elect candidates who prepare their individual profits and privileges [29].

Opposite approach is *Intellectual Structuralism Approach* which concentrate to sociological concepts such as values, norms and structures for analysis of election behaviors by Georg Humans, Michele Hatcher, Carl Dieter Opp, Denis Chung and Daniel Little. The approach states to effect of cultural beliefs (values and

norms) and social-political structures on voters' attitudes. Although, the voters have an active role in political process and analysis, but structural opportunities empower them to make their selections. Structural limitations interdict their selections as well [29].

**Factors for Participation:** Seymour M. Lipset, American political sociologist (1981) has mentioned to four general propositions in neoclassical approach. The following propositions effect on actors and groups to participate in the political context:

- Their beliefs and attitudes are affected by governmental policy.
- There is a range to access information about relationship between political decisions and personal profits.
- Actors are affected by social pressure in elections.
- Actors are not affected for selection of special party [30].

Based on Frank (2005), Robert Dahl (2003) alluded that factors of participation are constructed upon social psychological thoughts. The causes are as below:

- If someone evaluates that the benefits of political-social participation are less than other actions' benefits, he/she would not participate in those actions.
- If someone evaluates that there is no difference among encountered situations, he/she would participate less.
- If someone do not observe the effect of his/her actions, he/she would not participate.
- If satisfaction of a person is produced without his/her intervention, the chance of his/her participation will be reduced.
- If someone supposes that the participation has no efficiency because of their narrow knowledge, he/she would prefer to participate less.
- The chance of participation will be reduced, if the problem of social participation increases [31].

Milbrath (1965) mentions to four causes of participation: political attitudes, social status, personal traits and political context [15].

Anthony Dawns (1997) states to economic attitudes of participation. He noted that to encounter and rational persons try to reduce costs, increase benefits and apply in system where political parties act for maximum votes.

A citizen behaviors rationally. If a situation do not give them benefits easily and projection of result is unclear, participation will be less. But in rival and difficult election with clear concepts, participation usually would be more [32].

Milbrath and Goel (1977) state that alienation, anomie and pessimism are factors for disengagement [33].

They believe that there is high significant coefficient between political participation and efficiency. The least or non participation may be due to uncontrolled factors for person exactly when a special group or cult has no ordinal right for participation or prohibition to participate dominantly [13] this issue is too problematic in diverted society similar Iran.

According to Saleki (1990) main factors for participation of persons are counter reciprocity, knowledge on joint needs, achievement to participation, respect for free election and autonomy [13].

Development is one of important factors to participation. Seraj-Zadeh (1989) with regarding to Iranian culture and history says:

*“Generally, when development process is increasing, indicators of achievement to participation will growing up. But in traditional society under agricultural economics, participation is limited for Latifundia monarchy and fewer bureaucratic group in state and military”* [27].

Based on Ja'afari (2009), below concepts are factors of political participation in Iranian society:

- The growth of state's role in administration of society and increasing effect of this role in citizen's life.
- Non equivalency in development and innovation.
- Conflict between modernization and some traditional institutions especially religion and its controversy to some aspects of development.
- The growth of mass media leads to increase of political knowledge among citizens [34].

Daniel Lerner in “The Passing of Traditional Society: Modernizing the Middle East” (1951) found the significant relation between urbanization, literacy, participation and receiving to mass media in the Middle East countries such as Iran. He has mentioned to diverse aspects of participation.

*“Participation in politic arena e.g. sharing in elections; in economic sections e.g. increasing income and activity within market; in cultural situations e.g. receiving mass media and finally, psychic participation e.g. empathy and sympathy”* as Lerner acclaimed [35].

Lerner's theory could be developed in micro and macro levels of society:

*“Participation in micro society leads to psychic mobility. It was stated in dynamic and active personality, power of adaptation, innovation and invention in personal level. Political-economic participation refers to macro level of society too”* [35].

Benjamin H. Higgins, Benjamin Higgins, Donald J. Savoie (1997) in “Regional Development Theories and their Application” and other literatures believe that urbanization and development prepare most social participation, political communion, employment of women and reducing crimes among them, acquisitive situations and manners for social mobility [8, 25, 36].

The concepts of these theories were used in this study. Social participation was classified into 35 items with additional item of non participation. Scale of aged participation (SAP) was adjusted in four basic items such as social capture (alienation), applause of participation, expenditures of participation, benefits of participation and with significant relation to background variables such as gender and ethnicity of participator, literacy, kind of settlement, income and job status. At least three variables were added to them upon characteristics of samples (seniors) as health status, living in nursing home and income of their children.

**Socio-Demographic Background of the Study:** With a population of 75 million, a natural growth rate of 1.08 percent and domestic production as measured by GDP of \$115 billion, Iran was the second most populous country with the second-largest economy in the Middle East in end of year 2006 [37]

The nation is the second-largest OPEC oil producer and, has the world's second-largest reserves of gas. The literacy rate is more than 79 per cent and, the structure of the school system is 8 years of compulsory primary and lower secondary education as well as three years of optional upper secondary education. There are approximately 18 million students in the school and about 1.7 million in the universities [37].

According to the World Bank Report (2005) and ISCC (2007), Iran has emphasized on human development and social protection with good progress to date. For example, from early 1970s to 2001, primary school enrolment rates increased from 60 to 90 per cent and, the portion of the population living under the poverty line decreased significantly from 47 per cent in 1978 to 16 per cent in 1999. However, data show an increase of elder population from 1.3 per cent in 1997 to 2.8 per cent in 2007, which states an increase in DR (dependency ratio) above 55 years old among Iranian Citizens [37, 38].

Likewise, as shown by Khuzistan Census in 2007, the DR has increased more than national data (1.6% to 3.1% according those years). Based on KSCC annual report 2007, between years census of 1997 to 2007, Khuzistan province and its capital, Ahwaz have had higher ratio of aged persons among cities (3.1 per cent in total aged population of province). All data are based on KSCC and ISCC annual reports in 2007 [38].

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Statistical community of the study is aged population who is 60 years old and above among four selected counties in Khuzistan province in south west of Iran near Iraq’s border line. The five cities are most crowded

areas: *Ahwaz, Dezful, Abadan, Behbahan* and *Mah-Shahr* that are estimated 313607 aged dwellers. Finally, the authors sampled 768 aged according to cluster-ratio method (see table two) [37, 38].

Ratio and cluster sampling had been upon two variables gender and kind of settlement in urban and rural areas. Data collection had used questionnaire of SAP that was classified into 35 items with five answers in Likert scale. The SAP was validated by alpha Cronbasch too ( $\alpha= 0.72$ ). [39, 40].

According to Table 3, internal validity upon Cronbach’s alpha are well adjusted to four basic items of SAP. Items of SAP are reliable. Overall, scores states that these concepts were moderately internally consistent. The study has mentioned to new definition for socail participation in the gerontological aspect.

Also, the relationship of factors and its significant has estimated by ANOVA and Multi Regression tests [41].

**RESULTS**

Measurement of social participation of aged was weak among community of the study and the samples was graded into 83 (max. score= 175). There are deferent situations and degrees among selected counties in social

Table 2: Population of aged dwellers in selected counties upon KSCC & ISCC in 2007

City	Total Population	Aged Population	Aged* Pop. 2017	Aged Samples % (n=768)	Aged Population in Rural Area		Aged Population in Urban Area	
					Male	Female	Male	Female
Abadan	277261	36318	46946	11.5	1336	1359	5695	6052
Ahwaz	1338126	160018	206844	51.2	6143	5747	26891	25454
Mah Shahr-Port	252587	42917	55476	13.6	1029	917	4256	4227
Behbahan	175373	23642	30560	7.53	2141	1902	4491	4653
Dezful	401558	50712	65552	16.17	3533	2882	8734	7902
Sum of selected cities	2444905	313607	405378	100	14182	12807	50067	48288
Province	4274979	539880	675003	---	53316	42824	84810	76536

Source: [37-38] \* Population of 2017 was estimated by the authors.

Table 3: Internal reliability for the four basic variables of SAP (N = 768, =95)

Basic variables of SAP	No. of Q.	M (SD)	Skewness	Kurtosis	Alpha
Social capture (Alienation)	7	2.29 (.68)	.43	.25	.70
Applause of participation	6	2.58 (.62)	-.56	.33	.71
Expenditures of participation	10	3.78 (.72)	-.47	.35	.74
Benefits of participation	12	3.35 (.88)	.41	-.31	.69
SAP	35	3.02 (.79)	.38	.37	.72

Table 4: Logistic regression for predicting social participation

Variables	B	S.E.	Wald	R	$\rho^*$
Social capture (Alienation)	-0.106	0.042	2.808	-0.49	0.050
Income of their children	-0.471	0.013	5.312	-0.45	0.001
Applause of participation	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.02	0.001
Literacy	0.261	0.032	1.516	0.39	0.002
Living in nursing home	0.243	0.087	2.190	0.45	0.034
Expenditures of participation	0.106	0.062	2.818	0.48	0.028
Marital status	0.456	0.019	5.278	0.51	0.006
Kind of settlement	0.769	0.129	3.003	0.55	0.010
Health status	0.261	0.018	6.561	0.63	0.011
Socioeconomic status	0.527	0.067	4.276	0.64	0.000
Benefits of participation	0.229	0.191	5.030	0.67	0.040
Job status	0.342	0.032	4.276	0.68	0.029
Gender	0.551	0.012	6.236	0.76	0.007
Constant	1.564	0.143	12.10	0.56	0.002
-2 log likelihood	5.201				0.067
Model $\chi^2$	112.96*				0.000

\*  $\rho < 0.05$ ; n: 768

participation but Ahwaz County has most degree of it ( $F = .102, \rho = .000$ ). It supports findings of Seraj-Zadeh in 1989 among urban dwellers of Iranian counties and Daniel Lerner (1951) in the Middle East region that had asserted signification relationship between modernization and participation in society. Because, Ahwaz city as provincial capital of Khuzistan province has developed high within selected counties. Social participation of aged population has been gender-related ( $t = .257, \rho = .000$ ).

The male elders have more participation than women which was stated by post studies e.g. Bahmani-Teraz (2000), Bavar (1995), Jaafari (1997) and Asadollahi (2007). The sample of aged female was less than men, so generalization of findings would be validated solely [42, 12, 34, 36].

Social participation of educated elders was more than illiterate aged persons ( $F = .012, \rho = .002$ ). These findings like Bahmani-Teraz (2000) in scholar context between literacy and political participation of students [42].

Social participation of pesian aged samples was more than other ethnic groups i.e. Lors and Arabs ( $F = .103, \rho = .001$ ). These findings like Asadollahi (2008), Azimi (2001) and Saleki (1990) [9, 13].

Effect of income and welfare situation of aged samples in participation was tested. Participation of elders with fewer average and poor status is more than wealthy dwellers ( $F = .0017, \rho = .013$ ). There was significant relation between health situations of samples and their participation. The elders' participation with heart-capillary disorders was more than diabetics and respiratory patients ( $F = .004, \rho = .000$ ). Urban dwellers have more participation than rural elders and significant difference was accepted ( $t = .107, \rho = .000$ ). Bavar (1995) mentioned

to significant and Baqeri-Ahmadabad (1998) to insignificant relationship of these variables [12, 43].

There is no significant relation between job status and social participation of aged samples ( $F = .004, \rho = .107$ ). Aged citizens that live lonely and are separated from their children have more participation than others ( $F = .276, \rho = .000$ ).

Participation of aged samples whom were settled in nursing homes was more than elders who live alone or with their children ( $t = .0121, \rho = .0003$ ). There are significant relations within these variables. There is a significant relationship between aged participation and income of their child's ( $t = .0102, \rho = .000$ ). Logistic Regression pointed to decreasing social participation of aged during growth of their child's income. Even though, Bavar (1995) mentioned to insignificant relationship, but Baqeri-Ahmadabadi (1998) approved the relationship with income of family.

Logistic Regression show that increasing benefits of participation affects on the social participation of aged directly ( $R = .67, \rho = .040$ ). If attends of elders are eliminated by civic institutions, they will participate in society more (see table four). However, Ojaqlou (2002) has denied this significant affection in educational institutions [44].

According to table four, social participation of aged was decreased by growth of its expenditure in two parts: times and benefits ( $R = .48, \rho = .028$ ). Reinforcing motives will increases social participation within aged samples in selected counties. Regression analysis of variables for social participation with social rapture (*Alienation*) and income of aged's children pointed to their inversed relation ( $R = -.49$  and  $R = -.45, \rho = .050$ ). Gender is most predictor and affective factor that has modified social participation ( $R = -.76, \rho = .007$ ).



## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The findings mentioned to weak participation among aged samples of selected counties in Khuzistan province. The multi factors effect on weak social participation of elderly such as individual, familiar and social agents which uphold rational selection theory, neoclassical approach to public selection and Individualism. Social participation have had more among urban dwellers, male elders, educated, median social class holders, heart patients, aged whom are settled in nursing homes and less income holders. But rural dwellers, female elders, illiteracy, highest social status holders, respiratory patients, grays who are inmate with their children and high income holders have participated less.

Above converged findings connote to individualization of aged situation in society whom is upraised from a kind of rationalized personality. It called *Microeconomic Rationality*. Collective action theory as rational aspect demonstrates this theorem that acclaims human endeavor to increase her/his benefits than obtain necessities of group. This condition notes companionship of development in the society with urbanization, education and economic welfare lead to decrease in social participation. Some of these polemic issues might proceeded from cynic and pessimist personality of urban dwellers, citizens with literacy and wealthy situation in society.

There is high alienation and social rapture among aged samples of selected counties in Khuzistan province. Social alienation booms to progress in urban area and effects on participation of citizens negatively. This variable has different status within ethnic groups. Arabs and Lors have sensed too social isolation than Persian aged. This cynic view may lead to recent social structures that assembles tendencies and roots of social participation for minorities and especial groups in social system. They have not critical citizenship status in Iranian society after fundamental revolution in 1979. Also, it may result to intolerant attitude by technocratic elites and educated class of society and the province. The effective relationships of increasing benefits and decreasing expenditures on social participation mention to growth of individualization of aged citizens. This was stated in more contemporary literatures of Iranian scholars as well.

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Although, data availability about social research is too hard in southwest of Iran especially in items of ethnicity. The authors thanks to Khuzistan municipal administrations and Department of Social Work at University of Applied Science and Technology (UAST) of Khuzistan branch for their virtual patronages.

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