Studying the Sociological of Dimensions of Collective Identity of Students of Payame Noor University, Golestan Province

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Abstract: This study aims investigate the sociology of dimensions of population identity between students of Payame Noor University of Golestan province focusing on social layering. The question discussed here is that what is the relation between social layer of students and dimensions of population identity as well as social factors influencing on the level of population identity of students? For answering to these questions, there have been used micro and macro levels theories as well as combined theories. The method used in this study is an observing method and technique for collecting the information is by questionnaire. The population of this study includes students of Payame Noor University of Golestan with 22000 students and sample size obtained by Cochrane formula was 425 people. The sampling method in this study is stratified sampling and each of 11 Payame Noor Centers of province have been considered as a layer and their portion in the sample determined based on the number of students. Variables such as social interaction, self-imagine, discrimination feeling, deprivation feeling, accessing to welfare possibilities, social class and gender have been studied related to the identity level of students using Pearson correlation coefficient and Kai Square and finally there have been provided some alternatives proportional with identity level of students for accessing to the unity.

Key words: Local identity · National identity · Global identity · Dimensions of collective identity · Payame Noor Students of Golestan province

INTRODUCTION

Identity is a phenomenon presented in man's life during the history and has been dealt with in different views and approaches. Philosophers, anthropologists, sociologists and scholars of policy science each one decided to discover its facets and dimensions by special methods. Identity, in the word, means recognition and conformation and in sociology, it includes: conform itself by an individual or a group such that individual can see itself in its framework and by such meaning there are combined synonyms such as coexistent imaging and is effective in the training as well as social processes [Saroukhani, 1991]. What is important is that our identity depends on another one whom we can recognize our identity [Bashirieh, 2004: 811]. For this reason, historically, Iranian identity has been shined against other people like Macedonians, Arabs, Mongols, Ottomans &... therefore, identity sociologically means the feeling of man's integration with social groups locally, nationally and internationally. These identities are formed by interacting with each other.

Today, all societies through the world are experiencing the identity crisis as well as its renovation. In the traditional societies, there was no separation between time and space and time and space were combined to each other spatially; therefore, it was not complicated finding the identity and maintaining it. But in the modernity process, social relations have been deformed from interaction limitations in the framework of places and limited territories. It seems that ethic and local identity when turning to the ethnocentrism and feeling of nobility and dominion on other ethics can be the origin of ethical discrepancy and a barrier of general integration in the society levels and on the other side, the national identity, when turning to the extreme nationalism and applying the anti ethical policies and trying to identifying other ethics can be the origin of ethical oppositions in any country and international oppositions regionally and internationally [Abdallahi, 1997: 66].

The fact is that today, the modernity and globalization processes resulted in identity changes. Different cultures influenced by TV, satellite, internet, language, tourism, believes related to human rights &...

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have been disjointed from local relatives. Among them, Iran , based on its strategic and geostrategic situation in the region [presence of common races in and out of its barriers] i.e. Kurd people in and out of country, Arabs, Baluchis, Azeri people, who have some commonalities with overseas races, enjoys higher sensitivity. This can be seen in provinces such as Golestan in its smaller scale. Presence of variety and number of different races such as Baluchis, Turkoman, Kurd, Arab, Turk, Fars, Sistan and local peoples made similar and of course special conditions in the province. According to this point in which Payame Noor university has the policy of accepting the local students in its agenda, there can be seen a situation similar to Golestan province in Payame Noor University. Therefore, the main issue discussed in this thesis determines that how is the identity situation and its levels among students of Payame Noor University in Golestan and which type of identity can be more seen among students, local, national or global identity? And what are the alternatives for reducing the stresses resulted from propagation of identity dimensions (local, ethical and national) and increased social integration.

The dimensions one can find for mass identity come with different levels, but anyway, some of mass identities are fluctuating between specificity and generality. The identities are local, national or global.

Literature Review: The discussion of identity in the social thought has been studied by different views and there are different classifications. In this study, the identity will be investigated based on three levels of analysis in sociology, i.e. macro, micro and combined levels.

Macro Level of Sociology: In this level, the functionalism school, due to the consideration to the subject of mass identity, has been investigated. This school focuses on this principle that any whole comprised from its components that can be combined to each other and when transformed both in the components and totally, such deformations can help the stabilization of whole system. The most important factor of integration in the society is the values conformation and such values are considered as the most stable component of social and cultural system [Rytzr, 1998: 45]. In this level there are peoples such as Durkheim and Parsons.

Durkheim believes that due to the increased population and work division followed by progress of development by changing from mechanical to organic integration, we can see a type of more general mass identity. One can state that mechanical integration based societies have more special and disciplinary identity and its people, because have been fully failed, have the special identity of that place. In comparison, the organic integration based societies have more general identity and its people due to their more freedom and transient from racial, ethical and national barriers are more general [Durkheim, 1993: 308].

Parsons discusses his theories in two macro and micro levels. In the micro level, it discusses satisfying the people's needs and the process of socialization and normalization of people and in the macro level, it considers the structural factors such as economy, policy in the needed conditions and generating cultural institute as a determinant of fulfilling a general society [Abdallahi 1996: 135]. Identity, upon the view of Parsons, is the same as personality system that interacting factor by internalizing the symbols, values and ideologies supplied by cultural system of society gives meaning to its interactions and others' (same ref).

Micro Level of Sociology: In the micro level, comparing with macro level, the social events in the level of interactions between people and maximum small groups can be considered. In this level, the interaction school has more dealt with the identity than other schools. This school studies the social interaction processes and justified their results for individual and society and this is a totally dynamic meaning including a set of self- conception and concept of others. Therefore, one can consider the identity as a growing phenomenon and may not be stable in any time and space and is always renewing [Turner, 1998: 82-375].

The Approach of Combined Sociology: In the view of contemporary socialists (such as Giddens), against classic socialists who are more considered the structure and or evaluate the individual, according to their new questions, dualism (macro and micro) is faded. Therefore, the subject of identity that is the main characteristics of a new society, is being studied totally different from what considered by classic sociologist.

In the view of Giddens, the identity is made by modern era and born from modernity. Giddens may not provide a clear definition of identity, but in its book,

"Modernity and Distinction" dealt with the identity. According to its view, the personal identity is not a thing that bestowed to a man as a result of continuance of social actions, but it is a thing that man must continuously make it and support it in its reflective activities [Giddens, 1999: 81].

In response to this question if the identity is a fixed phenomenon or may be changed during times and under different conditions and factors, Giddens declares that one of the prominent differences of modern days than past days is its unparalleled dynamic social life. Modern day is the day of escape and dynamic, as well as unusual change of social life. The social identity is also generated by modern day and formed under these conditions; therefore, the identity is a variable phenomenon and is continuously changing.

Methodology: The methodology of this study is survey and technique for data collection is by questionnaire. The statistical population of this study includes students of Payame Noor University of Golestan province comprising from 22000 students. Payame Noor University of province comprises from 11 university centers including: Gorgan, Gondab, Bandare Turkman, Kordkooy, Agh Ghalla, Bandare Gaz, Ali Abad, Ramian, Azadshahr, Galikesh and Kalaleh. The sample size has been determined by Cochrane formula about 425 people. The sampling method in this study is based on stratified sampling and each of 11 centers of Payame Noor in the province have been considered as one class and their portion in the sample determined based on the number of students. Statistical analysis, Pearson correlation coefficient and Kai Square, were used for data analysis.

RESULTS

Of respondents, 45% enjoyed low possibilities, 42% average possibilities and only 12% of high possibilities; 59% out of 425 respondents belonged to average class, 31% to low class and 10% to high class, socially.

64% of respondents had low interaction, 35% average interaction and only 2% had high interaction.

58.4% of respondents had average and weak imagination, 41.6% had positive self- imagination.

For the rate of enjoying different possibilities, most students had discrimination feeling such that 48% of students had average discrimination felling and 43% had high discrimination feeling.

44% out of 425 respondents were studied based on their identity locally, 43%, nationally and 20% internationally. According to the identity level indicators studied separately, most respondents had local identity and in the second class was national identity.

Results obtained from Pearson Correlation Coefficient indicate that there is a significant relation between two variables of social class and tendency to the mass identity level (p= 0.033). it means, the more the social class, the more is the tendency to the general identity and vice versa.

Results of Pearson correlation coefficient indicate that there is a significant relation between rate of accessing to the welfare possibilities and tendency to the mass identity level (P= 0.022).

Results of Pearson correlation coefficient indicate that there is a significant relation between rate of self-imagination and tendency to the mass identity level (P=0.00).

Results of Pearson correlation coefficient indicate that there is no significant relation between rate of deprivation feeling and tendency to the mass identity level (P= 0.178).

The results of KAI Square test indicate that there is no significant relation between gender and tendency to the mass identity level (p=0.142).

It is necessary becoming familiar with social conditions of Iran and familiarity with historical- social field of Golestan province as well as its population structure to analyze the identity situation. On one hand, because Iran has been located in transient conditions and is in its Anomic conditions, socially (not politically), this means that globalization and movements influenced by it will endure most cultural conditions on transient countries like Iran that may not be accepted by host countries. On the other hand, some negative values and norm may lose their functions. Such conditions can be seen in lower levels and smaller scales through the provinces. On the other side, the demographic structure of Golestan province, such as various races, religions and languages made special and sensitive conditions. Some provincial researchers believe that such races are always living peacefully with each other with no problem. In its work called "Studying the distribution of immigrated races residing in Golestan", Bazrafshan maintained that "various races in the province have experienced a peaceful life during the time" [Bazrafshan , 2005: 30]. But modern statistics from disciplinary force proves presence of stress between races [Public Relations of NAJA,

Golestan, 2007]. By considering this optimistic view, it can be indicated that presence of different races with their special religions and languages, may come with the possibility of stress and conflict and consequently social erosion potentially. Therefore, predicting the alternatives and preventive actions may be considered rational and this is the part recently dealt with by clinical sociologists and against social pathology, it is trying to study and find an alternative and solution before making any problem.

Therefore, it can be indicated that, achieving a unidirectional policies may result in either weakening the national identity or weakening the local and ethical identities, while society's people have different identity resources: both individually and collectively. In the framework of individual identity, they need both personal identity and role identity and in collective identity they need both special and general identities. Because people in different situations and stations play different roles, followed by different identities, therefore the theoretical vies indicate this fact that when analyzing the mass identity of young people, considering the macro sociological views, particularly typical interaction and social behaviorism views are needed but not enough. Therefore, besides micro views, it is necessary using macro sociology views and social and structural factors such as increasing the symmetrical interactions between Iranian races in all levels, locally, nationally and internationally and in all dimensions and cultural, social, political, economical and environmental facets, sustainable development and extending the separation together with social integration and combining the macro and micro factors.

Recommendations:

- For country can attain to its general development, it is needed social cooperation and national integration. Therefore, it is necessary to design the plans by which it can be increased the social and national identity rate than other identities among the students of Golestan province. For example, promoting the performance of mass media, particularly radio and TV play important role for promoting the national identity.
- Higher feeling of discrimination and deprivation among students result in smoothing the way for aggression and raucousness. In such conditions, mass cooperation and empathetic interactions may not be applied in major area and it followed by

accessing to the imbalanced development. For reducing the deprivation and discrimination feeling, it is necessary to invest in the province based on economical, climate and cultural conditions.

- For attracting the mass cooperation in social, economical, political and cultural fields, it is necessary focusing to the citizenship concept, because citizenship concept may fade the cultural and ethical lines and provides more freedom and in the framework of individual freedom there will be obtained social freedom as well.
- Applying the policies for racial and cultural pluralism based on the principle of unity by general integrity observing the rights of all races and their racial identities.
- Encouraging the inter-racial conversation for knowing the common and non common facets between races for promoting the common facets and indulgence against non common facets.

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