

Analysis and evaluation of the public participation role in rural guide plans (The case study of the villages of Sistan)

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Abstract: The rural guide plan is one of rural development plans that can have a fundamental and infrastructural role in the widespread development of rural areas. Using its potentials and capabilities, this plan will be able to prepare background for improving the public and welfare facilities of rural life condition. The present research will explore the rate of villagers' involvement in relation to the rural guide plan. The questionnaire and field observations forms have been used to analyze the data. The results show that the villagers have the positive average in indices of physical participation and decision making but they have a weak participation in financial participation due to the economic problems. At the end, some strategies have been proposed according to the results of the research.

Keywords: rural guide plan, the rate of participation, village, Sistan region

1- INTRODUCTION

Attention to the villages, reconstruction and development and improve the quality of residential environments and recovering the rural environment is one of the basic functions and infrastructure actions in the construction of the country that can prevent uncontrolled migration from rural to urban areas and it can be a solution to complex problems such as intercity network, traffic, transportation, heterogeneous development of cities and the creation of new towns. The rural guide plan is one of the most important actions that have been done in this regard. The study of the villages of the country and rural housing typology was established by institutions such as the Building and Housing Research Center, Housing Foundation, Construction Jihad in the early years of the 60s and thereby a modern and comprehensive program was provided about it and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation became executor of the projects. The first projects for rural physical organization in 1983 as the case studies in some provinces were prepared; the obtained experiences from these project were led to an extensive and comprehensive program for rural planning of rural guide plans in Iran in 1988 (Ahmadi, 1995, 14). This project has been prepared to more than 16,440 villages and has been implemented in more than 7670 villages from 1988 until the end of 2006.

The rural guide plan enters into the village system as an external variable, it will effect on the structures of village, and these structures include the physical, economic, social and ecological dimensions of the village. The rural guide plan is a part of rural development process based on the change of physical structure because the main goals of the project can be summarized in the form of external or structural rural changes. So the development cannot be achieved just by this changes format but it only leads to the desirable condition of different dimensions.

The rural guide plan is one of the rural development plans that can have a widespread basic and fundamental role in the development of rural areas. Using its potentials and capabilities, this plan can be the background for improving of public facilities and welfare, such as rural housing reconstruction, new roads and residential spaces, better living conditions and participation of rural people. The rate of public participation in these projects is one of the important measures that can help strengthen the sustainability of such projects.

Along with the evolution of the concept of development and proposing of the participation in its discussions, the principle of participation was proposed in rural development plan. Because of the emphasis on the principle of participation in the planning, development and implementation of rural guide plan needs more motivation and learning and it will be manifested in improving of internal capabilities and competence. Accordingly, rural development will seriously be depended on democracy to planning and methods.

2- THE GOALS OF THE RESEARCH

- Spatial analysis of the rate of public participation in all aspects of rural guide plans in Sistan.
- Study of the relationship between the implementation quality of rural guide plan and the rate of public participations in study villages.

3- THEORIES

The ways of attracting of public participation in the process of preparation and implementation of rural guide plan

The participation in preparing of rural guide plan

The rural guide plan will be prepared by qualified consultants and by local management of rural governor requires villagers' participation in various stages of its

preparing. Participation and cooperation of villagers in better identifying of rural environment and its characteristics and its possibilities and limitations and most importantly, effective participation and involvement in decision-making of the project proposals are the cases that can be pointed as examples of villagers' participation. The rural governor can establish a constructive interaction between people and the consultants and the plan designer and also he can prepare the social and cultural background for highlight public participation in the process of preparing the plan and provide the required contexts for conveying of the villagers views to consultant.

The participation in implanting of rural guide plan

Implementing of rural guide plan in its physical texture is related to the peoples' life and livelihoods directly so, the villagers' participation and their accompaniment are important. The governor of the village can prepare the different measures to attract the public participation in the process of implementing of the project because he is familiar to different aspects of implementing of the project and its impact on the texture of the village, widening and improving roads, prioritizing of physical, social and economic projects and programs and the proposed land use, the proposed road network and etc. Voluntarily Financial aid, providing workforce, identifying and providing land for public use plans and cooperation for widening streets and provide necessary conditions for the implementation of projects in cases where the amendment of roads is subjected to the reopening road or alley or street are the cases that requires the villagers' participation in the process of the rural guide plan and the governor of the village can have an important role in increasing of the rate of public participation in implementing of the rural guide plan by providing social context and necessary background to conduct briefings sessions in order to clear the minds of the villagers about various aspects of implementing of rural guide plan. Accordingly, the most important things about raising the level of public participation in the implementation of the rural guide plans can be named as follows:

1. Understanding of various aspects of the rural guide plan and its impact on the fabric of the village.
2. Understanding the social and economic impact of the rural guide plan on the life of villagers
3. Understudying and studying the achieved priorities for implementing of the rural guide plans and its conformity with the condition and the situation of the village.
4. Arrangements and measures for gathering peoples' voluntarily financial aid to help plans (including donations, personnel and technical assistance and cash assistance...)
5. Identifying and providing appropriate land for public use of plan during the preparation of the plan and their implementation during the rural guide plan (based on specific functionality in the field).

6. Create needed social contexts to promote public participation and collaboration in the field of improving and widening of roads and the needed reopening of the rural guide plan.

4- THE HISTORY OF THE RESEARCH

Sifird and Bojora (2011), in their study about the problems and challenges of achieving rural development, they have considered the financial problems and low levels of villagers' knowledge about rural development plans as the most important challenges of physical development of the village.

Lang and et al (2012), assessing physical development in rural areas of China, they know weaknesses in government policy and a lack of sufficient incentives for the development of villages, imitating from urban plans and the elimination of traditional fabric of the villages, lack of financial resources for the implementation of plans and projects of physical development as the most important problems and barriers of implementing of physical development plans.

Valencia (2012), analyzes the public participation in rural guide plans and he believes that the public participation in rural development programs will improve the effect of the rural guide plan and their satisfaction of the plan.

Their participation will also cause their commitment to implement the plan.

Yasis and et al (2014), study the rural development according to the firms between the villages in Italy. At the end, they have concluded that these firms play an important role in rural development.

Loizo and et al (2041) have studied the role of fishing in the rural development in Greece and the results show that it has caused the development of employment and income in the short term and affect the development of villages to some extent, but some infrastructure measures should be done in this area.

Moasavi Ghahdirijani (1995) has evaluated the social impacts of rural sanitation plans in Isfahan. The results of the research show that the sanitation has not had any role in supplying and providing of facilities and services in rural areas and villages have had the possibilities and services before sanitation generally and the villagers' participation is low in various aspects of the sanitation implementation.

Azimi and Jamshidian (2005), have studied the physical impact of the rural guide impact in rural housing in west of Gilan. The results of the research show that the rural guide plan implementation has improved the people life relatively and the hope of staying has been increased in villages that this plan has been implemented.

Mozafar and et al (2008), have studied the impact of the rural guide plans on environment of villages of Iran. According to the obtained results it can be pointed to the lack and defect of environmental studies during the preparation of plans and also not predicting of the effects of the ten projects on the natural environment and rural

environment, during production and then the plans implementation.

5- AREA OF STUDY

Sistan region with an area of 15,197 sq km in the geographic range between 30° C and 5 minutes to 31 degrees 28 minutes latitude and 60 degrees 15 minutes to

61 degrees 50 minutes longitude in southeastern Iran and the northern part of the province Sistan and Baluchestan by about one eighth of the total area allocated to the province. Average annual rainfall in the region 6/59 mm, mean annual temperature of 22°C and the average annual relative humidity is 38.

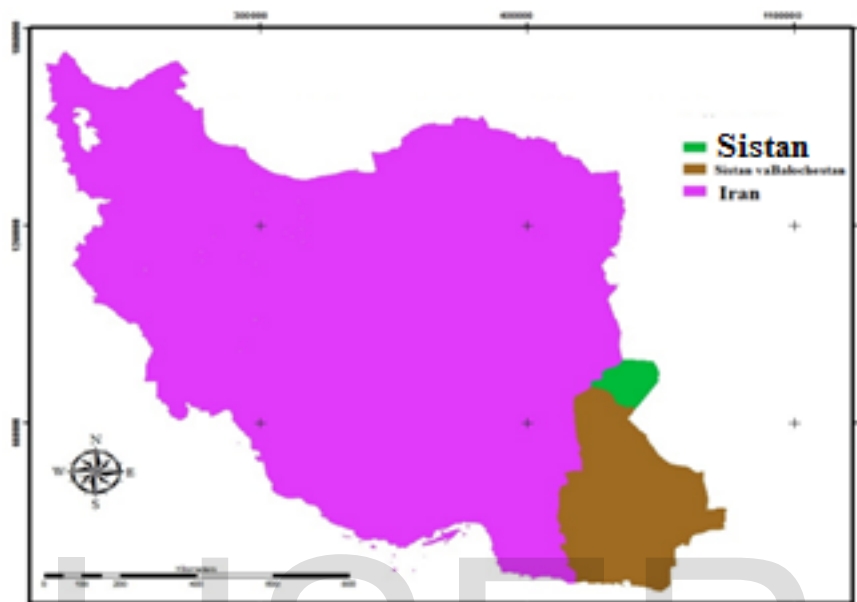


Figure (1): Map of the study area, Reference: findings of the research, 2014

6- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method of the research is analytic-descriptive and based on library, documentary and field studies and by using questionnaire. The statistic community of the research includes the resident families in 56 study villages (they include 10325 families). Due to the number of families and using Cochran formula (with the standard error of 0/5 and confidence level of 95 percent), 371 heads of families were determined as the second sample size (to respond to the questionnaire).

7- DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Recent theories of rural community development emphasize on the democratic participation of the people or their self helping and point to public participation in affairs related to their participation in decision making. In this regard and due to the importance of this issue, several questions have been included in the questionnaire

about the public participation and the results are in the following as likert spectrum:

Participation in decision-making

One of the most important preconditions of people self-helping is leaving the decision to them. As it has been shown in table 1, among the study indices of participation in related decision of the rural guide plan, use the comments and views of the Islamic Consultative of the village to build and implement the project has obtained the highest average of the respondent's view and participation in finding landfills places has obtained the lowest average of the respondent's view (In Likert scale from 1 to 5) and equivalent to 4/41 and 2/96 respectively.

Table (1): frequency, weighted average and standard deviation of participation indices in decision-making from respondents' view

Average	Very much	much	Middle	a little	little	Indices of participation in decision-making	
3/90	29/9	36/4	27/3	0	3/9	Participation in the stage of Plan Preparation	1
3/72	22/1	41/6	23/4	5/2	5/2	Villagers Participation in the approval of plan	2
2/96	11/7	31/2	22/1	9/1	24/7	Participation in finding of landfills places	3
3/48	11/7	41/6	32/5	2/6	7/8	Participation in finding of services places	4
3/56	29/9	27/3	18/2	5/2	14/3	Participation in building of the cemetery	5

3/52	13/0	40/3	38/8	5/2	5/2	Participation in finding of public places	6
4/41	57/1	29/9	3/9	2/6	2/6	Use the comments of council of the village in order to build and run the plan	7
3/80	24/7	37/7	28/6	3/9	2/6	The villagers' participation in the design of their needed housing in rural areas (map of buildings)	8
3/28	2/6	49/4	27/3	9/1	9/1	Participation in the direction of the village	9
3/54	10/4	46/8	29/9	6/5	3/9	Materials selection for housing	10
4/20	41/6	36/4	16/9	2/6	0	Participation of the governor of the village in respect of land use and other plan proposals	11

Reference: findings of the research, 2014

Manual Participation

The factor of manual participation includes six indices, they are: Participation in the transportation of materials from the city to the village, participation in tabulating and building the roads of the village, Participation in human resources and labor supply (without pay), Participation in the reconstruction of damaged houses, Villagers' participation in the reconstruction of public buildings (schools, mosques, mortuary, sanitation, etc) and rate of participation in the destruction or withdrawal of housing. All of these indices were assessed. From the respondents' view, the weigh average t for the index of

Participation in the transportation of materials from the city to the village is 3/60, for the index of Villagers' participation in the reconstruction of public buildings (schools, mosques, mortuary, sanitation, etc) is 3/54, for the index of the rate of participation in the destruction or withdrawal of housing is 2/93, these three indices have the highest weight average. Participation in tabulating and building the roads of the village with the average of 1/96 and Participation in human resources and labor supply (without pay) with weight average of 1/82 have devoted the lowest average (table 2).

Table (2): frequency, weighted average and standard deviation of indices of manual participation from the respondents' view

Average	Very much	much	Middle	a little	little	The indices of manual participation	
3/6	14/3	27/3	36/4	18/2	1/3	Participation in the transportation of materials from the city to the village	1
1/96	5/2	9/1	14/3	16/9	51/9	participation in tabulating and building the roads of the village	2
1/82	1/3	5/2	20/8	18/2	51/9	Participation in human resources and labor supply (without pay)	3
2/18	2/6	9/1	29/9	18/2	37/7	Participation in the reconstruction of damaged houses	4
3/54	19/5	27/3	40/3	7/8	2/6	Villagers' participation in the reconstruction of public buildings (schools, mosques, mortuary, sanitation, etc)	5
2/93	6/5	24/7	29/9	26/0	9/1	rate of participation in the destruction or withdrawal of housing	6

Reference: findings of the research, 2014

Financial participation

Financial participation of the people is necessary in the preparation and implementation of rural guide plans, especially in our country that is facing the problem of shortage of funds for rural development.

In this regard, eight indices have been considered to examine the villagers' participation in implementing of the rural guide plan. Interestingly, more than 95 percent of the villagers have assessed their participation as a weak participation (table 3). Respondents know their lack of participation as a reason of economic problems.

Table (3): frequency, weighted average and standard deviation of indices of financial participation from the respondents' view

Average	Very much	much	Middle	a little	little	Indices of financial participation	
1/32	0	0	5/2	20/8	71/4	Provide cash to the Housing Foundation to participate in the plan	1
1/34	0	2/6	1/3	23/4	70/1	Provide the villagers' financial assistance for the rural labor costs	2
1/36	0	3/9	1/3	20/8	71/4	Provide financial assistance to pay the cost of the asphalt of the village	3
1/73	1/3	1/3	15/6	31/2	48/1	Provide financial assistance for housing construction	4
1/36	0	2/6	1/3	24/7	67/5	Financial participation of villagers in the construction	5

						or reconstruction of public facilities of the village	
1/33	0	2/6	1/3	22/1	70/1	Provide cash to the Housing Foundation to participate in the plan	6
1/47	0	1/3	6/5	28/6	59/7	Participation in the purchase of materials to renovate houses	7
3/86	22/1	42/9	28/6	1/3	1/3	Access to bank loans for housing	8

Reference: findings of the research

8- CONCLUSION

Since the rural guide plan is the document of the rural development and will determine the future direction of rural development according to the natural and economic restrictions and it will prevent from the development of the village on high-quality agricultural land or land that are at risk of floods and earthquakes and it can lead to the development of villages if it will be implemented well.

Although the rural guide plan as the rural development document provides the background of development of rural areas by directing physical development and creating social, productive and of welfare facilities for developing housing but the villagers' participation in the preparation and implementation of the plan should be considered. The experience of various countries indicate that activities and actions of the government are not sufficient alone but it needs a strategic planning that will be able to underlie the most basic and most common needs and in another words it should be comprehensive, democratic and systemic and the ideal society is a society which to build its development plans based on public participation. On the basis of this study, the spatial analysis of the quality of implementing of the rural guide plan with emphasis on the role of public participation in the villages of Sistan has been studied.

The results show that the villagers have the positive average in indices of physical participation and decision making but they have a weak participation in financial participation due to the economic problems.

9- SUGGESTIONS

More educating of villagers about the concept of rural guide plan, objectives and the need for the involvement of villagers in preparing, approving, decision-making, implementation and maintenance of the rural guide plan in rural areas. So we need to increase the participation of the people in all stages of planning. Objectives and its effects on rural development in the future and the role of people in the process of the preparation, approval and implementation is one of the best ways to educate the villagers about the concept of the rural guide plan. It can largely improve the efficiency of plans in solving the existing problems because knowing the problems and choosing the solutions by the villagers' role is based on reality.

The participatory management (public - people) is best kind of management which can help the plan to achieve the determined targets. This kind of management not only decrease the amount of various aspects of the heavy duties of Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation as the trustee of the preparation, approval and implementation of the rural guide plan but it will be able to increase the success of the plan through effective role of the villagers that it will be followed by the satisfaction of the inhabitants of the results of the plan.

The people's active presence and participation in maintaining of infrastructure construction in rural areas and it will be better that they will be maintained by the Islamic council of the village or by the villagers' representatives and will be monitored by the government and some funds be allocated to it.

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