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## Investigating the Effect of Floods on Quality of Life and Life Expectancy (Case Study of Flood Victims in Khuzestan Province in 2019)

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### FURTHER INFORMATION:

This article is taken from the doctoral dissertation of Mrs. Azam Abdollahi Borojni in the field of sociology under the guidance of Asghar Mohammadi and Mehرداد Navabakhsh at Islamic Azad University, Dehaghan branch.



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## EXTENDED ABSTRACT

### INTRODUCTION:

Water is one of the four building elements of the world and plays a very important role in natural, animal and especially human life. Today, water plays an essential role in the industrial, drinking, etc. sectors. This water, with all its positive effects, if not managed, can have many destructive economic, civil, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and especially social and welfare effects. Although flood is a natural event, but with a little reflection and scientific and sociological studies, it can be recognized that it can have social and family, cultural, personality and psychological effects and consequences. It is here that one can understand how a natural event carries numerous historical and cultural artifacts. And sometimes social and cultural works may remain for long and years. Khuzestan province is one of the most dangerous regions of the country, which suffers a lot of damage from natural events every year. According to global definitions, a serious disintegration of a part of the society that causes extensive human, economic and environmental losses and is beyond the ability of the society to face and deal with it through the economic and financial resources of the same society is called a natural disaster. In terms of natural disasters in Khuzestan province, the earthquake is the most frequent event, but in terms of damages caused by floods, it causes the most damage to the province's infrastructure. Therefore, this issue shows the importance of payment. Unfortunately, the issue of flood and its management and damage reduction has not been given serious attention in the country, and only when a destructive flood occurs and a disaster occurs, the attention of the authorities is drawn to it (Baharlouei & et. al., 2006:1).

In developing countries, not only economic growth is considered as a goal, but these countries, along with developed countries, consider increasing the quality of life as one of the main goals and criteria of development. The current research was conducted with the aim of investigating the social consequences of floods with an emphasis on quality of life and life expectancy. This research was conducted using a survey method and in order to improve the validity of the researcher's questionnaire measures of face validity and reliability, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was obtained for all variables above 0.70. The statistical population of this research is the population of flood victims 15 years and older in the cities of Shush, Hamidiyeh, Karun, Bostan, Shadgan, Rafi, Sosangard, part of Ahvaz and the surrounding villages of Ahvaz) in the number of 49,607 people to select the sample size among the statistical population from the general formula Cochran was used. In this way, according to Cochran's formula, 600 people were obtained as a sample size. To analyze the data using descriptive and inferential statistics and using SPSS software, after preparing the matrix table, the information was arranged in the form of one-dimensional and two-dimensional tables. The research findings indicated that there is a significant relationship between the independent variable of flood occurrence and the dependent variables of physical health, mental health, social relations and life expectancy.

## METHODOLOGY:

The current research was conducted as a correlational survey. The tool for collecting information was a researcher-made questionnaire. This questionnaire contains open and closed questions and two-answer, three-answer, multiple-answer, etc. and open questions include suggested questions. Considering that the total population of Khuzestan province (9 cities) is 4,710,506 people, the statistical population of this research is the heads of families of flood victims aged 15 years and older in the cities of Shush, Hamidiyeh, Karun, Bostan, Shadgan, Rafi, Sosengard, part of Ahvaz and surrounding villages. Ahvaz) is 49,607 people (Statistics and Information Unit of Ahvaz City Governorate, 2019). The unit of analysis in this research is the individual. The sample size in this research includes 600 people, which was determined using Cochran's formula as described below.

$$n = \frac{\frac{(1.96)^2(0/6 * 0/4)}{0/04^2}}{1 + \frac{1}{49607} \left( \frac{(1.96)^2(0/6 * 0/4)}{0/04^2} - 1 \right)}$$

### **FINDINGS:**

According to the results obtained, 42.7% of all respondents were male and had the lowest percentage. Also, 57.3% of respondents are female and have the highest percentage. 65.2% of all respondents were married and had the highest frequency. Also, 34.8% of the respondents are single and have the lowest frequency. The youngest age was less than 30 years old and the oldest age was 61 years and older. Most of the respondents are between 41 and 50 years old. 36.5 percent of all the respondents stated their place of residence as a village and they had the highest percentage. Also, 7.8 percent of the respondents stated that their place of residence is the city center and they have the lowest percentage. 86 people (14.3%) of the sample have primary education, 87 people (14.5%) middle school and cycle, 153 people (25.5%) have high school and diploma, etc. The highest frequency is related to high school and diploma level. 65 people (16.6%) of the sample have introduced their spouses as having primary education, 33 people (8.4%) middle school and cycle, 164 people (41.9%) high school and diploma and... the highest frequency It is related to the level of secondary education and diploma. 43 people (2.7%) of the sample are employees, 143 people (23.8%) are workers, 145 people (24.2%) are marketers, etc. The highest frequency is related to agricultural occupation. 76 people (19.4%) of the sample are employees, 104 people (26.6%) are workers, 31 people (7.9%) are marketers, etc. The most common occupation of the wife is agriculture.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- The occurrence of floods affects the physical-physical health dimension of the quality of life of flood-affected people.
- The occurrence of floods affects the psychological health aspect of the quality of life of flood-affected people.
- The occurrence of floods affects the dimension of social relations and the quality of life of flood-affected people.

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