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Investigating the Situation of Social Development in The Provinces of the Country

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INTRODUCTION

Despite theoretical and practical turn in the development discourse, the concept of social development has not had a preeminent position in the country's planning and development system, or at most, it has been considered as a category on the sidelines of development dimensions, especially economic, infrastructural and industrial development. Also, the concept of social development in the discourse of Iranian social sciences does not have much clarity, conceptually and theoretically. The lack of a clear scientific definition of the social development concept and the lack of agreement in choosing valid indicators to know the initial situation for formulating a social development action strategy are important challenges in this field. Because valid indicators make it possible to judge and measure the performance of the planning and development system. Furthermore, the not-so-impressive results of several decades of planning in the country, especially related to social development, multiply the necessity of revising the strategies, goals, plans, and methods of achieving it. In this regard, this article has been compiled in response to the following questions:

- What are the constituent parts of a consensus definition of social development in Iran?
- What are the components and indicators of social development evaluation according to the conditions (economic, political, and social)?
- What is the status of the analyzed components and indicators in the provinces of the country?

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on a mixed method of exploratory type, tool development category of Creswell and Plano-Clark typology. In this type, the results of the first method (qualitative) help the results and analysis of the second method (quantitative). Based on this, first, using Meta-synthesis technique in the model of Noblit and hare, documents, sources, texts, reports, and international and national studies related to social development were examined and classified. This pattern consists of three stages; The selection of research is the combination of research and presentation of the combination. In this way, the initial definition of social development and its constituent dimensions was obtained, and this definition was validated by implementing the Delphi technique.

Then, in the second phase, the secondary analysis method was used to measure social development and its dimensions in all provinces. The indexing process was

faced with methodological challenges including; The high number of variables and finding the relationship structure between the variables, the heterogeneity of the measurement unit of the indicators, the relative importance or different weight of the indicators, the non-same direction of some indicators, the equalization of variance for all variables, the calculation of negative weight for some indicators. Each of these challenges was solved with the proper such as; division by mean, elimination method, and principal component analysis (PCI). The score of the indicators was converted into spatial data by provinces in the geographic information system (GIS) and its output maps were drawn.

FINDINGS

Social development consists of four main dimensions of quality of life, social justice, social security and social capital.

The quality of life is the result of policies and social planning in order to improve people's general life and have higher life satisfaction. Among the provinces of the country, Tehran, Yazd, Semnan ranked first to fourth, and Sistan and Baluchistan province ranked 31st. The quality of life results shows the gap and dispersion between the provinces. The spatial analysis map of the quality of life also showed this gap and inequality, so that the quality of life in the peripheral provinces is lower than in the central provinces.

Social justice or the reduction of imbalances and discrimination between people is considered as one of the important goals of social development. There is a gap between the provinces of the country in terms of access to various facilities and services. The social justice situation in Sistan and Baluchistan province is with a large difference from the national average, and Tehran province has the highest difference with the national average in terms of the level of access to facilities and services compared to other provinces, and there is a big gap between the highest and the lowest provinces in access to facilities and services. According to the average obtained in social justice, the spatial analysis of the results also shows the unfair distribution pattern of facilities and services among the provinces, so that as moving from the center to the periphery, the level of access decreases.

To measure social security, the objective aspect (freedom from risks such as reducing the rate of social harms) and the mental aspect (peace, assurance, flexibility) were integrated into the operational model. Among the provinces of the country, the provinces of South Khorasan, Yazd, and North Khorasan ranked first to third, and Semnan, Qazvin, Tehran, and Alborz provinces ranked 28 to 31 in social security. Provinces are very different from each other in the objective and mental aspects of security. The spatial analysis of social security in the provinces shows that the provinces located in the center, such as Tehran and Alborz and the peripheral provinces located in the west and southwest, have inappropriate situations. It can be said that according to the map spatial analysis, there is an inverse relationship between the level of social development and social security.

Social capital is a polyhedral structure, with levels (micro, macro and medium), objective and mental aspects and different dimensions (structural, institutional and cognitive) that its preservation and strengthening is taken on the one hand as a tool and on the other hand as the goal of development. Among the provinces of the country, South Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchistan ranked first and second, and Qazvin, Mazandaran and Markazi ranked 29th to 31st in the ranking of provinces in social capital. Peripheral provinces such as Sistan and Baluchistan (with a low score in social justice and quality of life) have a high average in the social capital.

CONCLUSION

According to the studies carried out and the results obtained in this study, social development is defined as "improving the quality of the social system (community) from within the planned polyhedral process with the establishment of social justice, institutionalizing the ethics of development, improving the quality of life and increasing social security in the context of informal norms and networks.

According to the results, Tehran ranked 1st, and Kerman and Sistan and Baluchistan ranked 30th and 31st with the lowest points in the ranking of provinces in social development. The average of 19 provinces is lower than the national average of social development. Changes in social development are mostly based on changes in the objective index of social development. The macrocephaly can be attributed to the model of the initial state of social development in Iran.

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