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Investigating Social Factors Affecting Political Participation: Case Study; Participation of the Citizens of Ilam Province in the Election of Representatives of the Islamic Council of the 11th Term

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Today, people's participation in all social and political activities is accepted in all societies and its importance is always increasing. Participation in society can be considered from different dimensions. One of these dimensions is political participation. Political participation is the involvement of a person in different levels of activity in the political system, from non-participation to having an official political position. Political participation is one of the examples of people's presence in determining their own destiny, and it is one of the most basic forms of social relations and has been considered as one of the thematic axes in sociology. Therefore, one of the important issues in political sociology studies is the issue of political participation to measure the legitimacy of a regime and on the other hand as a factor to increase the efficiency of a political system. Various thinkers have addressed the issue of elections and citizens' voting and have considered it as one of the requirements of democratic societies. In line with the investigation of this issue, the basic question is raised that what social factors have influenced people's participation in the election of representatives of the 11th Islamic Council of State in Ilam province? The current research has selected the components of social awareness, social networks, social trust, social participation, social cohesion, gain of benefit and gain of honor among the various social factors and has proposed the hypothesis that different social factors affect the electoral behavior of the people of Ilam province in the elections. The Islamic Council of the 11th term has had a positive and significant impact. In this article, which is done in a descriptive-survey method, after the theoretical foundations and experimental background, the research hypotheses are tested. By mentioning the presented materials, the main question of the research is: What are the social factors affecting the political participation of the citizens of Ilam province in the election of representatives of the Islamic Council of the 11th period?

METHODOLOGY

The current research is based on the survey and descriptive method. The data collection tool is a questionnaire. Also, this research is a cross-sectional research in terms of data collection time. The statistical population of the current research is the citizens eligible to vote in Ilam province. Cluster sampling method is used for sampling and in order to select a sample that is representative of the society. For this purpose, Ilam province is divided into four clusters (North, South, East and West) and an equal number of statistical samples are selected from each cluster. Due to the unlimitedness of the statistical population, the sample size is selected using Cochran's formula and 384 people are selected, and it is measured using Cronbach's test to measure content validity and reliability. The analysis of the questionnaire section is done in SPSS software, and the data analysis will be done in two sections, descriptive and inferential statistics.

FINDINGS

The findings of the research show that the age of 30.5% of the respondents with the highest frequency was between (31-40) years, the age of 0.08% of the respondents with the lowest frequency was more than 60 years. The youngest respondent was 18 years old and the oldest was 72 years old. Regarding the level of education of the respondents, the highest frequency of them was 145 people, equivalent to 37.8% of the sample size, who had a bachelor's degree. The lowest frequency was related to the respondents with doctoral education, which was 6 people and accounted for 1.6% of the sample size. Also, 47.4% of respondents were male and 52.6% were female. In addition, 27.1% of them were single and 72.9% were married.

CONCLUSION

In general, according to the special characteristics of Ilam province and the traditional and Ilati context of this region, cultural and social characteristics play an important role in people's participation. The level of participation and the tendency of people to vote is influenced by factors such as ethnicity, honor, network, social cohesion and other social coordinates governing the region. Of course, this issue is generally common in most regions of Iran. One of the most important harms of participating in elections in Iran is that people under the influence of socio-cultural, ethnic and religious considerations do this. The main problem is the lack of institutions such as political parties. Because these are the political parties

that, with their special functions, have raised the level of political consciousness of people and political awareness and promote a participatory political culture. In the absence of political parties, rationality may decrease in the competition for power and many people either become indifferent to their political destiny or turn to political participation out of ignorance. Things like paying attention to the young and educated class, providing information and political education, desirable political socialization, accountability of the statesmen and meeting the basic needs of the people, creating criteria for qualifying the candidate and explaining the religious foundations and spreading it in the society can contribute to the development of participatory culture in Iran. be influential.

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