Barriers of sustainable rural development from perspective of experts

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ABSTRACT

This study examined barriers of sustainable rural development from perspective of experts in Department of Rural Development in Razi University, Institute of Rural Research & Development, and Organization of Rural Cooperatives in Kermanshah (N=42).The sample size was estimated by population census. The main research instrument for data collection was pre-tested questionnaire. Validityof questionnaire was confirmed by a panel of experts and its reliability was confirmed by Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Data analysis was performed by SPSS version 18. The results showed that the main obstacles to sustainable rural development in the province of Kermanshah were five factors: : 1- Physical- Structural; 2- Investment problems; 3- Weak policymaking; 4- Agricultural Production risk; and 5- Lack of skill.

Keyword: Rural development, sustainable development, Kermanshah province

INTRODUCTION

Development cited as a human tendency to shift forward a higher level and better quality of life and increased control over the environment (Gholipour et al, 2007).Development is improvement in all dimensions and aspects of human life;this means that it affection all people of society in all aspects of life, yet development is the rational use of resources (Nori, 2008). Rural development is the strategy that designs to improve the social and economic life of certain groups of people that who are the poor villagers.This strategy seeks to extend the benefits of development among the poorest people living in rural areas and sought for livelihood (Nori, 2008). So rural development is a factor for poverty reduction, it should effort in clear and convenient way to increase production and productivity. Rural Development Scholars believe that development should create a fundamental transformation in rural areas, and the only solution is promoted and develop all aspects of rural life (Yasury, 2007). Rural migration cycle to cities and the rural poverty explain that rural development strategies has been not successful in the past and failed to provide food security and environmental sustainability. These issues have caused more countries around the world focus on rural development and review its strategies (Bahrami,2010).In this regard, several studies have examined the barriers to rural development, including: Varmzyary and Hosseini (2010) study, consider shortage of funds and lack of local empowering organizations as the obstacles of rural development. Alibeigi et al. (2008) study in Gender analysis of agricultural activities in the city of

Kermanshah, showed low participation of women and their low access to various resources arethe barriers of rural development. Rezvani et al (2010) study of factors affecting participation in rural development in the watershed Halberd showed villagers low information about their legal &rights and low tendency to change, are some barriers of rural development. Bahrami (2010) considered the main obstacles of rural development as the economic factors, management and planning factors, and social and structural factors.Viitanen (2005) in his study concluded that hadn't motive in residents to improve their situation as well as the spatial organization status, shortage of facilities for villagers, lack of appropriate communication pathway, low literacy, dispersion of farming lands, are the main obstacles to rural development. Karim and Hashemi(2010) in their study concluded that the main obstacles to rural development are, social environment (including unemployment and high population growth, high rates of migration, adult illiteracy, low life expectancy, poor nutritional status and lack of appropriate health facility), ecological and environmental barriers (including high consumption of chemical fertilizers, lack of recycling and reuse of waste, and land increased operation), the economic environment barriers (including reducing annual groundwater, lack of facilities and lack of sustainable use of natural resources) and institutional environment barriers (including low employing rate of the rural poor, the low savings ratio and low public awareness and information).According Doman(2011)finding major barriers to rural development are high unemployment rates in rural areas, rural migration to large urban areas, labor migration reaction due to an imbalance in the market, and the difference in wages, economic facilities, social and cultural barriers. Homson (2009) in his study in Ireland showed the most significant barriers to rural development, including an over-reliance on agricultural employment, the government didn't considering to set up industries in rural areas, the problem in the policymaking of agricultural products, non-'s comprehensive plan on the market, not spirit of community participation in rural, poor health facilities in rural areas, villages are scattered and inconsistent, inadequate and unbalanced spatial structure of rural and low population density and scattered villages. Eferd et al., (2008) findings suggest that the most significant barriers to rural development, including rural development program is inefficient, the village's position didn't considering in the overall structure, monoculture agriculture, the spatial distribution of the population, traditional systems of ownership and is obvious and hidden unemployment in rural areas. So, with considering the research literature, the overall aim of this research is studying barriers of rural development in Kermanshah Province from perspective of experts are dedicated goals includes:

-study of personal and career attributes of experts;

-Prioritize barriers of rural development from the perspective of experts and;

-Analysis the barriers of rural development from the perspective of experts.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The nature of this study is Quantitative research, and with regarding the purpose of researchis applied. This research is descriptive research (non- experimental). Due to the time range, a single cross-sectional study was used, and data were collected. The study population consisted of faculty members and experts of government agencies in field of rural development included: Rural Development Department in Razi university, Institute of Rural Research and Development, and Organization of Rural Cooperatives in the province of Kermanshah (N=45).The sampling was census method that 42 questionnaires were completed and returned and the research tool was structured and pre-tested questionnaire.The questionnaire consists of two parts: The first part of the questionnaire was personal and professional characteristics of the respondents and the second part consists of variables related to barriers to rural development. The validity of questionnaires were determined by the opinions of experts group and its reliability was calculated by using Cronbach's alpha coefficient (α= 0.92).SPSS18 was used for analyzing of data by using statistical methods such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and factor analysis.

RESULTS

The Result of Descriptive Statistics showed that 9 of 42 cases (18.36%) were female and 33 (81.64%) of them were male. The average age of respondents was 44.49 years with a standard deviation of 12.64 that were in the age range of 29-62.Other results are showed in Table 1.

Prioritizing barriers of rural development from the perspective of experts

In order to prioritize the statements related to sustainable rural development from the perspectives of experts was used the coefficient of variation (C.V.). The results of Table 2 present, the items of "the small lands of farmers," "lake of developing mechanization in rural" and "lake of new technology" are the most important barriers ofrural development from views of respondents. The items of "low security of production", "lack of attention to marketing of agricultural products" and "single-crop agriculture in the province" are low important obstacles to sustainable rural development from view of experts.

Factor analyze to barriers of rural development from the perspective of experts

The factor analysis method was used to analyzing barriers to rural development from the perspective of experts. To determine the suitability of data for factor analysis was used KMO and Bartlett's test. The KMO value was equal to .811. Also, Bartlet test was3117.332 (p=0.000) that was significant at the 1% level therefore data were suitable for factor analysis. In this analysis, five factors with Eigen values greater than 1 were extracted that explained 61.6% of the total variance of factors, and 38.4% of the remaining were factors that were not identified in the analysis. With regarding Eigen value e in Table 3, the first factor had highest proportion (5.34) and the final factor (fifth) had lowest proportion (3.6) of the total variance.

Varimax rotation was used to in other to separate factors. After rotation, the factor loadings for each variable are listed in Table 4. The items (variables) associated with each agent that loadings, were named this way: 1-Physical- Structural 2 - Investment problems, 3- Weak policymaking, 4- Agricultural Production risk 5- Lack of skill.

CONCLUSION

Rural development is strategy that design to improve the social and economic life of certain groups of people who are poor villagers. This strategy seeks to extend the benefits of development among the poorest people living in rural areas. Some problems in cities such as marginalization, false employment and other social – culture issues have a source in rural poverty and influence from living conditions in the rural.However, the development of technology and communication, have been changes in rural settlements and have improved rural living conditions.However, the important point is that we have a long way to achieving sustainable development in rural areas in the province of Kermanshah and we are faced lot of different problems based on experts opinion. But in general, this research results indicate that the villages of the Kermanshah province concerned with physical problems, lack of investment in agriculture, weak policymaking, high risk of agricultural production, and lack of skill in the utilization of resources thatis in consistent with finding offered et al., (2008) ;Homson (2009) Viitanen (2010): Karim, et al. (2010);Yadqar (2004);Bahrami, 2010; and Varmazyari and Hosseini (2010). In this regard, it is suggested to solve structural problems government provid employment for the rural poor in the service sector to encourage farmers to migrate to the industrial sector. And also encourage innovative farmers to adopt new technologies in the agriculture sector. To solve problems of pricing policies, the government should guarantee prices to buy the products such as wheat in cooperatives which prevent smuggled out

agricultural products of the country. By adopting this policy, agricultural risk will low. To solving low skill of farmers, policy makers could do need assessment and make courses for farmers.

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Table 1 - Distribution of personal characteristics of study subjects

Variable	Item	Frequency	Valid Percent	Mod
Gender	Male	33	81.64	Man
	Female	9	18.36	
Education	B.Sc.	19	45.23	B.Sc.
	M.Sc.	14	33.33	
	P.HD	9	21.44	
Organization	Razi University	10	27.57	Organization of Rural Cooperatives
	Institute of Rural Research and Development	8	19.04	
	Organization of Rural Cooperatives	22	53.38	

Table 2 - Prioritizing barriers of rural development from the perspective of experts

Items	Mean	SD	CV	Priority
small lands of farmers	4.04	.979	24.23	1
Lake of developing mechanization in rural	4.11	1.004	24.43	2
lake of new technology	3.9	.968	24.82	3
Illiteracy or low literacy of farmers	3.98	1.02	25.63	4
Fragmentation of agricultural lands	3.8	.988	26	5
Poor investment	3.67	.956	26.05	6
Fluctuations in prices for agricultural products	3.82	1.016	26.6	7
Insufficient income to traditional agriculture	3.92	1.046	26.68	8
Price instability of agricultural products	3.66	.996	27.68	9
Non- optimal use of soil and water resources	3.6	.978	27.17	10
Lack of a comprehensive plan based on market	3.98	1.085	27.26	11
Not applicable university education	3.72	1.026	27.58	12
No cropping pattern	3.59	1.005	27.99	13
- Parallel operation of public institutions	3.92	1.104	28.16	14
High dependence on agricultural precipitation	3.58	1.015	28.35	15
Policy problems in price	3.9	1.107	28.37	16
Lack of comprehensive rural development program	3.39	.966	28.15	17
Single- crop agriculture in province.	3.78	1.081	28.6	18
Lack of attention to the market for agricultural products	3.74	1.072	28.66	19
Insecurity in production	3.53	1.015	28.75	20

*Scale: 1- very low 2-low 3- moderate 4-high 5- very high

Table 3 - The number of extracted factors and the contribution of them

Factor number	Eigenvalue	Percentage of variance	Cumulative variance
1	5.34	17.8	17.8
2	4.75	15.8	33.6
3	3.86	12.9	46.5
4	2.63	8.8	55.3
5	1.88	6.3	61.8

Table 4 - Factor analysis of barriers to rural development based on expert's opinion

factors	Items of each factor	Load
Physical- Structural Barriers	Fragmentation of agricultural lands	.892
	Non- optimal use of soil and water resources	.761
	small lands of farmers	.832
	No cropping pattern	.842
Investment problems	- Poor investment	.865
	- Parallel operation of public institutions	.801
	- lake of new technology	.862
	- Lake of developing mechanization in rural	.803
Weak policymaking	Fluctuations in prices for agricultural products	.888
	Price instability of agricultural products	.856
	Policy problems in price	.748
	Lack of attention to the market for agricultural products	.832
	Lack of a comprehensive plan based on market	.723
Agricultural Production risk	High dependence on agricultural precipitation	.872
	Single- crop agriculture in province.	.788
	Insufficient income to traditional agriculture	.515
	Insecurity in production	.503
Lack of skill	Illiteracy or low literacy of farmers	.701
	Not applicable university education	.694