

Geographical analyses of rural well-being of Iran (case study sistan region)

Mortaza tavakoli

PhD, Faculty Member; Department of Geography, University of Zabol, zabol, Iran
tavakoli@uoz.ac.ir or tavakoly52@gmail.com

Abstract: In framework of recognize logic, reason of searching the geographical phenomena in rural well being arena and due to recognize of making clearly is from scientific special necessities in this connection. Conforming to making clear study and analyses and existence pattern socio welfare field problem, and it is meaning rate vulnerability condition and sistan rural area discussed as a principle of the study. Proportional with the subject, the hypothesis that illustrative relationship among vulnerability in socioeconomic general dimensions and all of the performances was formed. In regard of operational and also providing recognize aspects in relation to scientific theories and explanatory introduces, used by several resources, that it's result was practicable; intelligible framework for field work achievement, human, , physical, finance social capitals for reach to rural well being, also, should not be neglect from poverty, bereavement, retirement and rural vulnerability reagents. However, modification in theoretic attitudes from physical and material planning direction toward social and human planning is in result of intervention in capacities, abilities, and organize process and have also opportunity and security with regard to above mentioned, in rural; in relationship to different rural well being aspects and vulnerability in framework of training options, information, increasing intervention in making decision, participation increasing, using of local knowledge, reduction of discrimination, diversity livelihood has evaluated. The assessment in sistan region with selection 40 rural used by rural Islamic council. Results shown lack of follow actions pattern of the rural well-being in sistan region, with have rural vulnerability rate. In addition, created changes in depending variable never explained with created chance in independent variables.

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1. Introduction

Providing the well-being is related to the human rights and national governance and it contributes to the peace, stability, justice and security, especially when it is enhanced by a set of values and ideologies. Regarding the inefficiencies of the planning systems based on the simply concentrated economical views with some characteristics such as having no regard for the social and cultural dimensions of the development, centralism, increased regional and district differences, lack of people's participation, spatial, sexual and social inequalities, geographical isolation and deprivation as well as poverty resulted in the unity of thoughts concerned the well being. In 1980s, after providing a conceptual framework and a generic and specific perception, there was a right direction towards the evolution for the trend of discussions concerned the development. Also, there have been some various changes in the concept and content of the well being during the recent decades. In 1970s, it was being used for a set of rules, plans and organized services with the aim of satisfying the least urgent needs of the all people of a country and in 1980s, for a set of various social actions and services, and for the time being, it refers to the conditions that gives satisfaction to the people in their lives. Also, concerning the schools, target group

and ideologies, there are different viewpoints that form a basis of thoughts and reflections for the well being. In the meantime, villages as the biological residential places and the villagers as their residents are particularly concerned the well being in terms of having no merit and no language, being poor, less healthy, more vulnerable and being far from the decision making centers and facilities as well as geographical isolation. Therefore, the rural well being is also particularly important as a basic subclass of the national well being, because it is believed that the main reason for the failures in managerial and planning system is the having no regard for the villages. In this direction, with knowledge that there has been paid little attention to the villages and their spatial conditions in the concentrated systems and especially in the developing countries, it should be initially mentioned that in a rural community every one has a right to benefit from an honorable life and the government as the administrator and the main agent of planning and resource management is responsible for providing the well being for the villagers. Hence, concerning the principal deficiencies in rural structures, especially more illiteracy, lack of confirmed ownership, less accessibility, more susceptible economy, and two

basic approach should contain the bases for the social rural life:

- First, decreasing the (social, physical, economical, and environmental) vulnerability rate;
- Second, increasing the opportunities and equal accessibility to the facilities, resources and so on.

Wellbeing is a positive physical, social and mental state; it is not just the absence of pain, discomfort and incapacity. It requires that basic needs are met, that individuals have a sense of purpose, that they feel able to achieve important personal goals and participate in society.

It is enhanced by conditions that include supportive personal relationships, strong and inclusive communities, good health, financial and personal security, rewarding employment, and a healthy and attractive environment.

Government's role is to enable people to have a fair access now and in the future to the social, economic and environmental resources needed to achieve wellbeing. An understanding of the effect of policies on the way people experience their lives is important for designing and prioritizing them."

2. Theoretical basis of the research:

Regarding the above-mentioned cases as well as various spatial, environmental, social and economical conditions, the historical breadth, growth rate, and the development of the countries, there have been raised some different theories and viewpoints concerned the rural well being that the most important of them are referred here; from a morphological and philosophical viewpoint, of course, rural well being is as important as justice, equality, freedom, and citizen rights , that in some cases, they are considered as the complements of it and sometimes they are regarded as the bases for it or even as an aim or a tool for achieving it. From an economical point of view, as we know, the western countries economy has been influenced by the classical schools of thought derived from some thinkers' theories such as Adam Smith, David Ricardo, and Malthus, during two hundreds years ago. In this kind of the schools, the social rural welfare, in a wide sense, is influenced by the individual values and satisfaction. At the same time, from the viewpoint of the macroeconomics thinkers, unemployment is defined as the main problem in the economical system of the community and the government can provide the well being by balancing the economy through providing the social helps, social security, education, and health. In contrast to this thought and in the direction of the social analyses, Marxists introduce the radical alternative. And from their viewpoint, the ownership of

production tools can be changed through the understanding the historical nature of the relationship between human and material and also by using the work sharing and the social classes can be changed based on it (Alwang Jeffry and et al. 2005).

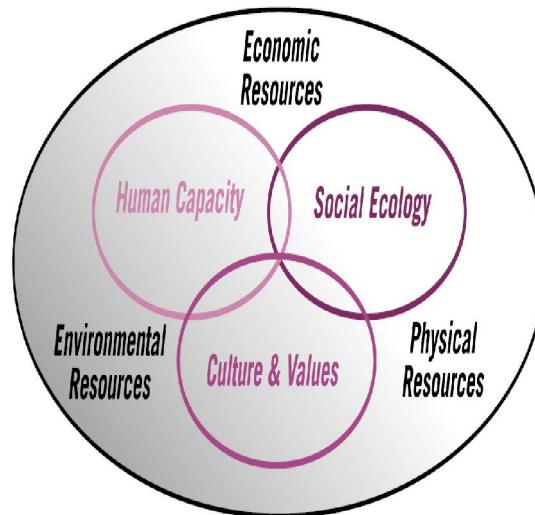


Figure 1. Basic conceptual framework

At the same time, the interaction between a flow derived from all the presented functions by the parts of a social system in a static and dynamic state and recognizing its functional inefficiency and using the religion alternative as a social feature is also the result of the functionalists' thoughts.

Unlike the above-mentioned cases, in the discussion of collectivism, grassroots and the regard for the social groups that are in the majority and lead to the forming of pluralist governments (White, S. 2008) are particularly important. The theory of the interaction perspective, balance rate, and the interaction between surfaces and the components of the social phenomena are of a great importance and the relations in the spatial (rural, urban) systems, rate of the relations and its feedbacks determine the survival of the system (Gasper, D. 2007).

One of other most basic and key discussions are the social justice theory. It has been considered in a main part of the ancient Greek philosophy to the modern thoughts. Also, it has been raised in a framework of dialectic thoughts and it has been considered to be related to appealing for the rank and proportion, that is, to be in a natural rank and it has been considered to have a natural right. At the same time, to present a definition for justice is subject to the presentation of a definition for social justice, and for this reason, justice is a subordinate confirmation of its definition. In addition, there are two problems concerned justice, that are considered as the

distributive justice and submissive justice; there are some special conditions concerned each of them. Also, there has been considered two forms for the social justice: exclusion and inclusion; its exclusive form is defined according to the just manners and its inclusive form makes the government to give some special and certain rights such as employment and housing to the people.

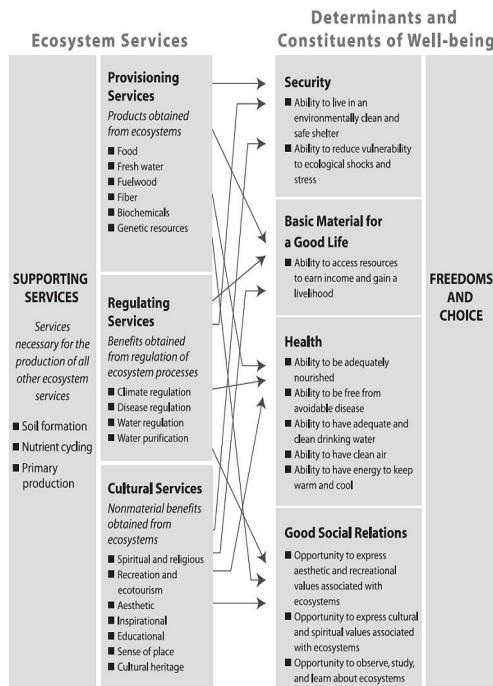


Figure 2: Ecosystems and wellbeing

Poverty is considered as a basic problem in a rural society that in some third world countries, it is accompanied by having no power, no land, no sanitation, as well as hunger, illiteracy, deprivation and familial and social isolation. At the same time, all parts interact with each other and result in the poorest of the poor (Jones Howard, 1990). Fifty percent of the poor in the world live in the rural regions. There are a lot of definitions for poverty and there are a number of different viewpoints on this issue. There are a lot of factors, reasons, effects, and consequences concerned poverty; and there have been written a great deal of material concerned them. In contrast to this theory, there is the theory of the social conscience and humanitarian stimuli that based on it, the government pay attention to the well being especially in the villages because of their own more undertaking towards the humanitarian values (WHOQOL-SRPB Group ,2006).

According to the citizen theory, a rich society can be defined as a society in which citizen rights have been given and all people have

opportunity to show their maximum capabilities. According to this theory, and concerned village and villagers, having the structural functions for improving the relations, potential, self-sufficiency among spaces, people and activities, and the ethnic, environmental, spatial, social and economical varieties in the villages as well as analysis of an explanatory range of the rules for the spatial differences and their regard range for the consequences, limitations and capabilities are definable and explicable (UNICEF; 2007).

The theory of the urgent and physical needs is one of the most basic thoughts and reflections related to the well being. According to this theory, the regard for the sanitation, nutrition, education, employment conditions, income and savings, transportation, housing, clothing, free time and insurance should be paid systematically. In this school, providing the urgent needs of the people as the necessary minima for their growth and exaltation with no regard for their living place is of great importance. According to the theory of spatial distribution, to consider the phenomena flow, to recognize the flows, the way, rate and the quality of their spread that may contains social services and the conditions of providing well being is definable and explicable. Determination of the distribution points in limitative and attractive environmental and spatial conditions of the distributive elements is considered in the conceptual area of this theory (Sointu, E.; 2005).

In addition, in this direction, the theory if the spatial right explains the basic and natural rights for human beings concerned the maximizing the social interests of human, improving the interests, minimizing the costs and increasing the rate of exploitation of human beings on the basis of their settlements. It is very important to serve the people in the place where they live and work and the distribution and justice should be considered on a spatial basis.

One of the other theories that is concerned the differences is the theory of industrialization; this theory that is based on the basic hypothesis of the urbanization, has intensified the spatial inequality so that the process of a rural-urban migration is considered as a natural incident. Instead of putting a positive effect on the growth and development, this theory resulted in leaving the villages empty, increasing the migration rate, leaving the farmlands and the spread of suburbanization and some other issues (Rojas, M.; 2007).

Everybody has a right to benefit from development, especially the villagers who are the most vulnerable and the minimum costs are allocated to them and the maximum costs are allocated to the

interests of the rich. With growing the colonization and a narrow view of development pivots, the theory of the development rights raised (New Economics Foundation; 2004).

Of course, the most basic and introductory discussion in this theory are to get rid of the discrimination, to stop tortures, to respect children's rights, women's ownership right and so on. At the same time, economical inference from the word "development", resulted in raising the theory of human development. It is true that access to the income may help people to achieve their wishes, but well being depends on how people use this income rather than other issues. Human development is not only an aim, but also it is tool, because it is a multipurpose activity for human beings to develop and perfect. Presupposition for this theory is the no regard for human beings in the human development process (Gasper, D. 2007).

In the direction of well being and with regard for the emptiness in environmental preservation and ignoring the biological cycles and nature, the theory of sustainable development raised. This theory is based on this fact that all creatures have an indisputable right to share in nature and world and so, nature and the world should not damaged or destroyed because of the human arrogance.

There are some common points regarding the above-mentioned theories that include:

1. Emphasis on the vulnerability areas in general;
2. Emphasis on the mechanisms for decreasing the vulnerability rate;
3. Having a limited attitude in each area (having no systematic attitude);
4. Regard for the tools for decreasing the vulnerabilities
5. Regard for the palpable and defined dimensions.

Also, there are some main differences concerned these schools that include:

1. Having the different attitudes towards setting (individual, social, functional, and structural and ...) goals;
2. Having the cliché attitudes of ideologies and thoughts;
3. Effect of the social context and bed on them
4. Effect of the progress and development of the society on them;
5. Using the mechanisms related to the macro – policies;
6. Using the wisdom in presenting the policies and basic approaches.



Figure 3. Map of sistan

3. Methodology and introducing the study area:

Concerning the theoretical basis and the subject nature in the direction of the spatial organization, to be logical, having a scientific spirit, realism, this research method follows a particular pattern that is:

- Width-based in terms of the activity width;
- Depth-based in terms of different elements of the vulnerability in four dimensions: natural, physical, social and economical. The Sistan area is located at the tail end of a large closed inland (endorheic) basin, in one of the driest regions of the world. It is comprised of three geographical sub-units: (i) the upper plain of the inland delta of the Helmand (Hirmand) river, which is mostly drained and used for agriculture; (ii) the wetlands (Hamoons) covering the lower delta plain and (iii) a hypersaline lake (Gowd-e-Zareh) in the lowest part of the basin, which collects the overspill from the wetlands and – in case of extreme floods – from the Helmand River. There is no outflow from this terminal lake; water is lost from Gowd-e-Zareh only by evaporation. The Sistan basin has been continuously inhabited by complex cultures for more than 5,000 years. One of the key archaeological sites on the Iranian side is the Burnt City, founded next to a presently dried-up branch of the Helmand River in 3100 B.C. Livelihoods in this region are strongly interlinked with and dependent on the wetland products and services. The reed beds provide fodder for livestock, fuel for cooking and heating, and raw materials for handicraft and constructions.

Statistical society containing all the villages in Sistan Region (310 villages with more than 20 families). In Iran that based on a sample survey, 40

villages have been chosen as the sample volume. The analysis unit has been chosen in two different levels containing sample villages where there are Islamic Councils and three persons have been questioned.

The research tools have been the questionnaire that its done according to the test has compiled at a very good level. The chosen region is Sistan Region is a frontier area of that is located east of Iran. Its population is 350000 people that 64% of it lives in rural area. 38 % of its population is under 15 years old and its annual population growth is 3/2 %.

4. Results

In this research all the accomplished stages were in the direction of refusal or approval the research hypothesis. In recognizing and the presenting the research, the following stages have been considered:

- providing the presuppositions: with respect to the researcher's mentality, differences in well being actions were the cause for raising the different question and hypotheses concerned spatial changes of these kinds of actions.
- analyzing the presuppositions: the presented presuppositions in exploratory research and through the observation and analysis of the presuppositions. Finally the relations between accomplished actions and the rate of vulnerability of the village were considered as the standard of action.
- purifying the hypotheses: through a meaning distinction and using the honorable professors' consultations, all the indicators between rural well being were extracted and then the relationship between different factors were presented in a testable framework.

In order to access to the research hypotheses and their refusal or approval, through the theoretical analogical conclusive approach (the studied theory) accompanied by the observation and experience and even last experiences were used.

So that in a first part, the theories concerned the well being and vulnerability were considered and in the second part, the research hypotheses were refused or approved with the field studies.

At the same time, concerning the non-directional nature of the hypotheses, the current conditions were considered and this matter was considered in the interpretation of the results. With an introduction that was presented, the research hypotheses were evaluated using the special statistical techniques that here we explain their refusal or approval. In addition, the focus has been on the explaining the spatial pattern of the rural well being, because the spatial effective factors and

welfare have been implicitly considered in the original research and inside the indicators.

There is a meaningful relationship among the accomplished actions concerning the provision of the rural well-being and the decrease of the rural vulnerability rate in Sistan Region.

According to this theory, the correlation coefficient test was used that its results can be presented as follows:

meaningfulness	0.437 > 0.05
correlation	-0.079

So it can be said undoubtedly that there is not a meaningful relationship between the accomplished actions concerning the rural well being and the rate of vulnerability in the villages in Sistan Region, because the accomplished actions neither decrease the vulnerability rate nor increase its rate. Therefore, the rate of the changes in the set of the independent variables (the accomplished actions in all dimensions) do not explain at all the changes of the dependent variables of the vulnerability. So, the spatial pattern of the actions concerned welfare, don't follow the rural vulnerability rate and it has not been accompanied by the setting goals for decreasing the vulnerability rate.

There is a natural-environmental meaningful relationship between the accomplished actions concerned the rural well-being and the decrease of the vulnerability rate of the villages in Sistan Region. Regarding the approval and refusal of this hypothesis and according to the presented results:

meaningfulness	0.033 < 0.05
correlation	-0.288

Firstly, it can be said this is a negative relationship, that is, the accomplished actions have not concerned the decrease of the natural and environmental vulnerability, and they have been in the villages with the lower rate of the natural vulnerability, secondly, the obtained correlation rate have been acceptable and is approved with 99% certainty. So, accomplished actions do not follow a special environmental pattern for decreasing the rate of the vulnerability in the villages and it has not increases simultaneously with the increase of the environmental vulnerability, on the contrary, it has partly decreased. In this case, the spatial pattern of the accomplished actions concerned rural welfare, is not homogenous with the pattern of the natural and environmental vulnerability rate.

There is an environmentally meaningful relationship between accomplished actions concerned rural well being and the vulnerability rate in the villages of the Sistan Region. The following results

came from the explanatory tests for eh approval and refusal the hypothesis:

meaningfulness	0.200 > 0.05
correlation	0.231

The obtained correlation is not meaningful and the hypothesis of the independence between two variable set is acceptable. So, these accomplished actions is neither concerned the decreasing the economical vulnerability in the villages of Sistan Region nor concerned their economical vulnerability. Therefore, the changes in the dependent variable (economical vulnerability) are not explained at all by the independent variable (Accomplished actions). For interpreting these results, it can be said that accomplished actions do not follow a spatial pattern for decreasing or increasing the vulnerability rate and have been aimless.

There is a meaningful relationship between the accomplished actions concerned the rural well being and decrease of the social vulnerability rate in Sistan Region. Concerned the nature of the hypothesis, non-parametrical tests of correlation have been used that the obtained results are:

meaningfulness	0.204 > 0.05
correlation	0.131

The obtained meaningfulness shows that the hypothesis of the independence between two sets of variables is acceptable. So, it can be said that the changes in independent variable (actions) is not related at all to the changes in dependent variable(social vulnerability) and the accomplished actions in the villages of Sistan Region do not follow the rate of social vulnerability in the villages, so, it does not decrease or increase the vulnerability rate. There is a physical meaningful relationship between the accomplished actions concerned the provision of the rural social security and the decrease of the vulnerability rate in the villages of Sistan Region. After carrying out the tests of hypotheses, the rate of the obtained correlation is as follows:

meaningfulness	0.489 > 0.05
correlation	-0.042

Therefore, there is no meaningful correlation between two sets of the variables and the rate of the change in the variables is not correlated to each other. So, we can conclude that the spatial pattern of the accomplished actions concerned the physical affairs, does not follow the rate of the vulnerability of the villages in Sistan Region. So, as usual, the

accomplished actions have not been concerned the decrease of the vulnerability rate in the villages.

There are some results concerned the analysis of the meaningful difference rate between distribution of facilities and resources in administrative organizations of rural well being in the villages of Sistan Region and rate of the vulnerability in the villages that obtained from a correlation analysis:

meaningfulness	0.489 > 0.05
correlation	-0.044

Regarding the correlation level and acceptable correlation, it can be said undoubtedly with 99 % certainty that there is a positive relationship between two sets of the variables. So that as the number of the organizational facilities and resources increase in the villages, the rate of the vulnerability in these villages increases acceptably. So, the changes in the dependent variable (vulnerability in all dimensions) can be explained with the rate of the changes in independent variable (organizational facilities and resources).

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