

**Investigating the Role of Participatory Institutions on the Local Development  
(Case of Study: Islamic Council in the Dehong Village)**

**Masoud Saliani<sup>1</sup>**

*PhD Student of Development Studies, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Tehran*

**Maryam Seyyedzadeh<sup>2</sup>**

*PhD Student of Development Studies, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Tehran*

**Aliasghar Kia Daliri<sup>3</sup>**

*PhD Student of Economic Studies, University of Luds, Sweden*

**Valiollah Rostamalizadeh<sup>4</sup>**

*Faculty Member of National Population Studies & Comprehensive Management Institute*

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**Abstract:** *In This study we tried to examine the role of participatory institutions in the local development by measuring the effect of social capital on the promotion of performance. Our research sample was Dehong's (a village in south of Iran) Islamic Council. On the other hand it tries to evaluate effect of social capital on local development. The result of the study showed that some of social capital factors such as social trust, social integration and social participation play a fundamental role on the improvement of performance of Islamic council. The main research method of the study was survey. Also we used observation, interview and FGD to increase the accuracy of the results.*

**Keywords:** *Social Trust, social integration, local development, social capital, Islamic council, social participation, good governance.*

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## **Introduction**

Nowadays, the concept of social capital and its effects on the process of development is considered more. Strengthening the social capital is a suitable way to cure social problems. Some perspectives which support the idea that the lack of the social capital is not one of the effective factors on the rural development in Iran, are no acceptable any more. Today, the social capital play greater role on the development than physical and economic factors. Values, norms, beliefs, social relationships, social networks, link people and organizations. Social scientists believe that if there is no social capital, the effect of other factors is bobtailed. And without social capital reaching to the developing ways is hard. If we considered Islamic Councils as an organization which could prepare a way for people's participation and social trust, it would be good sample of social capital. This study aimed to investigate the effective factors on development, and is intended to study social, psychological dimensions of social capital on the process of development. In this research we emphasize on the factors which effect on the function of the Islamic council- as Good Governance- its impact on the local development.

Process of development has different dimensions, but in most of the developing countries, just economic factors are considered. Programs which are used in the third world countries are the exact models of West ones, which were neglected the internal situations and structures. This cause class inequality and makes it deeper and deeper (Azkia, Ghaffari, 1384: 12). In summary, more attention should be paid to internal and local structures for reaching development, especially local development, because development is so dynamic concept. It should be noted that nowadays, copied models of development are not useful and effective any more (Babajani, 1386).

So, rural societies are the best choice for starting the process of developing. Therefore, considering local development models and successful experiments can be good samples for surveying the role of social capital on the development. Social capital can be the key factor for local development, because we can revive the physical, financial and environmental capital through it, and accomplish sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> Email: masoudsaliani@yahoo.com (Corresponding Author)

<sup>2</sup> Email: Seyyedzadehm@gmail.com

<sup>3</sup> Email: alik2003@yahoo.com

<sup>4</sup> Email: vrostamalizadeh@gmail.com

Dehong is the center of Gudeh rural, which is located in the center of Bastak town in Hormozghan. Its population according to the census, was about 1705, which included 849 male and 856 female and 345 family, in 1385. And according to statistics which gathered in sanitation center, during 1387, the number of people was 1991, including 1003 male and 988 female, and 410 family. The difference between these statistics might be, because of the absence of people during the survey. In this local parts people work according to the seasons, and they would not be present there all the time. The process of gathering data and analyzing them is based on the 1385 statistics.

Existence of some equipment in three dimensions such as educational, sanitation and industrial in Dehong and surveying these ones through interviews, observation and FGD method, showed acceptable level of developing in this local village. And these changes happened after the establishment of Islamic Council and the good function of this council. This phenomenon confirmed the role of Good Governance on development. In this research, we tried to study the role of social capital on the development.

### The Goals of the Research

Investigation the role of participatory institutions (Islamic Council) as a symbol of Good Governance on the local development (Dehong rural).

### Detailed Goals

1. Investigation the existing Social Trust in Dehong.
2. Investigation the existing Social integration in Dehong.
3. Investigation the existing Social participation in Dehong.
4. Analyzing the function of the Islamic Council as a Good Governance on the process of developing on the base of participation, integration, trust.

### Theoretical Framework

We could define Social capital as norms, networks which prepare the opportunity for people to participate in group works and get benefits (Tajbakhsh and et.al, 1383). In this research, two dimension of social capital is considered: The role of it on making Good Governance and The effect of that on the local development. It should be noted that the successful participatory council is considered a social capital. As theorists social capital play some roles and has function and goals:

**Table (1): Function and goal of Social capital**

Theorist	Goal	Function
Piere Bourdieu	Prepare and maintain economic capital	Private( individual and group)
Colman	Prepare and maintain human capital	Public and private
Pantam & Fukuyama	Efficient democracy and economic development	Public
Offe & Foosh	Economic efficiency	Public
NanLeen	Prepare latent sources in relationship and existing ones	Private

(Tavassoli, 1384: 27), (Nateghpur and Firoozabadi, 1384: 64).

According to the above table the aim of the social capital is the efficiency of different parts of the society by using eternal and external sources.

**Table (2): Role and the basic goal of social capital**

Theorists	Goal
Piere Bourdio	maintain economic capital
Crishna & offof	Participatory activities in agricultural, economic and social fields
Pantam & Fukooyama	Efficient democracy and economic development
Offe & Foosh	Economic efficiency

(Firoozabadi, 1384: 120)

This table shows general function and goal of social capital.

**Table (3): Investigation the role of social capital on development in local contexts**

Theorists	Role and function of social capital
Azkiya and Et.al	Better decision, Increasing the amount of productive participatory, Group work, economic efficiency, social efficiency, sustainable development, increasing the sustainability of pastures.
Tavassoli and Et.al	Economic & politic development, economic equality
Tajbakhsh	Economic & social development, development of institutions

(Azkiya and Et.al, 1383: 49 & 1382: 508- 512)& (Tavassoli and Et.al, 1384: 28) & (Tajbakhsh, 1382, result page).

So the basic hypothesis of this study which is “There is a relationship between social capital and efficient function Of participatory institutions on local development” is proved according to the upper perspectives of theorists. For proving this hypothesis on the numeral bases we need to use statistical methods such as survey and field study. In some researches, three dimension is required for measuring social capital, they are: micro level, middle level and macro level.

**Micro or Individual Level**

Everyone can be the member of group or social networks. These connections and group relations could be beneficial for people. For example: The mother who asked for help from her friend to take care of her child, benefits from this relationship. So her friend is a kind of social capital for her in micro level which Bourdieu paid attention to (Azkiya & Imani, 1384: 41). This level happens for everyone.

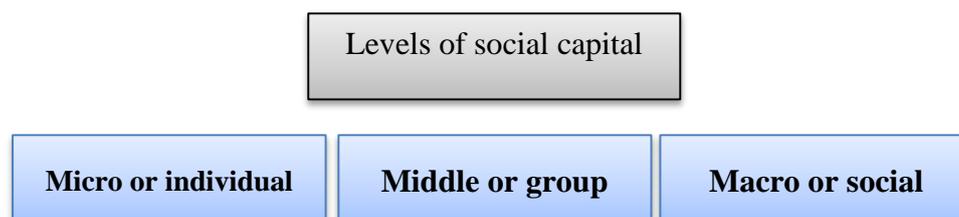
**Middle or Group Level**

Relationships based on trust among members of the groups, compose social capital. Which could be in access for each member and be useful for them to develop and reach their goals. An example for this kind of social capital is trust between salespersons of diamond who are loyal to their promises. A kind of social capital which makes trade for them easy and secure (Azkiya & Imani, 1384: 41).

**Macro or Social Level**

Volunteer groups and horizontal relationships among them which is based on trust, provide social capital that is beneficial for all members. This level of social capital was discussed by Fukuyama and Pantam. According to Pantam, this level helps democratic institutions to fulfill their responsibilities. Also, Fukuyama believes that such level of social capital keeps regularity and discipline (Azkiya & Imani, 1384: 42).

**Figure (1): Brief model of social capital and its levels**



In this research, considering whole levels of social capital seems the best way, because social interrelationships begins from people, continues to middle levels and expanded to macro levels such as institutions. We concluded that in theory, social capital play important role through council on the local development.

**Materials and Methods**

Choosing the best methodology for research is one of the important part of studying subjects, because it has great portion on the exact result of the research and reduce the bias. In this research survey and field study has been chosen as the best ways to collect data and analyze them. To observe exactly and study the real society field study methodology is used. Also using survey methodology can help to be more quantitative in this study. This research can be in the category of developing studies.

Statistical society, includes all population of Dehong present in the rural during the studying time that was about 350 ones. It should be mentioned that this local part was chosen because it is developed rural to some good extent. And the question which is said in this study is that “Why is Dehong developed to this level?” Bastak Town is located in west-north of Hormozgan in Iran. Its barrier is signified by Lar from north, by Lamerd from west, and Bandar Lenghe from south, Khamir part in Hormozgan from east (balood, 1384:30).

Its area land is about 5653 km<sup>2</sup>, which occupy about 8.4 percentage of Hormozgan (Annual census of Hormozgan, 380: 5). The distance between Bastak to Bandar Lenghe is about 170 kilometers, to Lar is about 120 kilometers, and to Bandar Abbas is about 250 kilometers (Gholi Abbasi, 1372: 17). Bastak was one of the towns of Bandar Lenghe till 1380, since then it was separated and became independent part in the country. Methodology instruments were interviews, observation and questionnaire in the research. Also, for better and exact results FGD mythology is used. SPSS software is used for analyzing data. The technics used in this survey has high validity because they were chosen from the ones which were used in more than 10 MA & PHD thesis (Azkia & Ghaffari, 1380, Majdedlin, 1386).

**Variables**

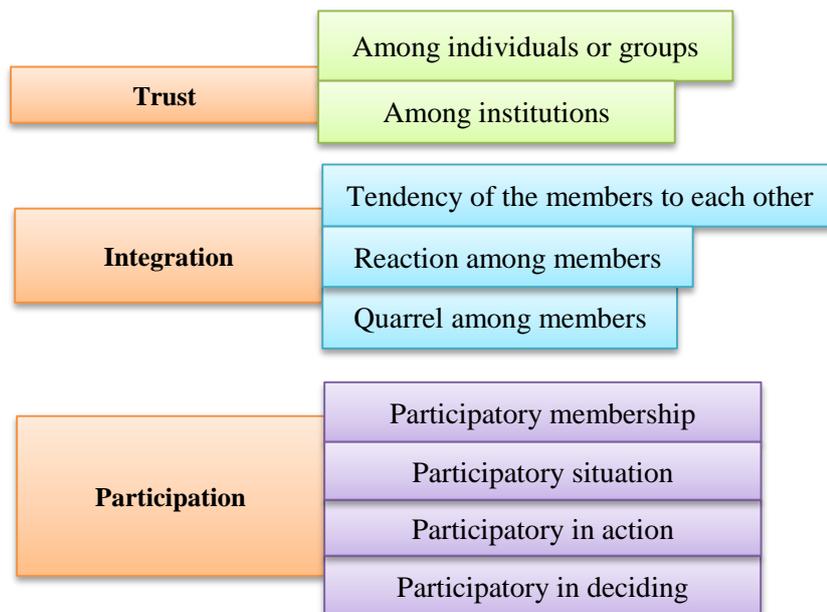
**Independent Variables:** Social Trust, Social Integration, Social Participation

**Dependent Variable:** the way of the function of the council on the local development.

**Theoretical Description of the Factors**

Social Trust, Social integration and social participation are three factors which have interactive relationship. These three factors also fortifies the effect of each other. According to Eisenstaedt, the important factor of social regularity is social correlation and trust for Durkheim and Tunis. It means that without social trust and integration, regularity of the societies would be threaten (Azkia, Ghaffari, 1383, 280). Szetompka emphasize on social trust more than the other social scientists. He believed that unique features of modern societies such as various societies, pluralism of roles, social differences, expanded selective systems, complicated institutions, increased ambivalance and so on showed the importance of social trust ( AZkia, Ghaffari, 1383: 280).other social scientists such as Luman, Ghidenz, Colman, Eisenstaedt and others have paid more attention to social trust, recently. Social Integration has great impact on the function and behavior as Durkheim stated. Other ones such as Tunis, Parsons discussed about social Integration seriously. As Olsen said, social Theorists like Tokvil, Trueman, Dal, Lipset and Et.al have discussed Social Participation. He believed that social participation is considered as the field of the politic participant. Equality, Democracy, public right spread participating (Azkia, Ghaffari, 1380: 280).

**Figure (2): Elements and indexes of measuring social capital:**



Trust among institutions is the modifier of the satisfaction from the function of the council which means that if people are satisfied with the council they trust it more.

**Research Results**

**Table (4): Levels of the vertical Trust (satisfaction from the function of the council)**

Levels of Vertical Trust	Frequency	Percentage	Accumulation Percentage
Low	64	18.3	18.3
Middle	188	53.7	53.7
High	100	28	98

The above table shows the diffusion of the scores. As it expresses high vertical Trust because high percentage got more high scores than middle ones.

**Table (5): Levels of the Horizontal Trust**

Levels of Horizontal Trust	Frequency	Percentage	Accumulation Percentage
Low	79	27.7	21.7
Middle	155	44.3	44.3
High	119	34	34

This table indicates that most of the target group got higher scores.

**Analyzing Data**

For analyzing data by SPSS software, R-Pierson and Regression were used for testing hypothesis .The results are shown in the below table.

**Table (6): The correlation between function index and variables:**

Variable	Sig.	R	Results
Vertical trust	0.01	0.639	confirmed
Tendency	0.01	0.742	confirmed
Reaction	0.01	0.74	confirmed
Conflict	0.05	-0.13	Indirect confirmed
Participation	0.01	0.386	confirmed

According to the table 6 there is direct and meaningful correlation between vertical Trust, tendency, reaction and participation variables and the function of the council. And meaningful but indirect correlation between conflict and the dependent variable.

**Table (7): Analyzing by Regression**

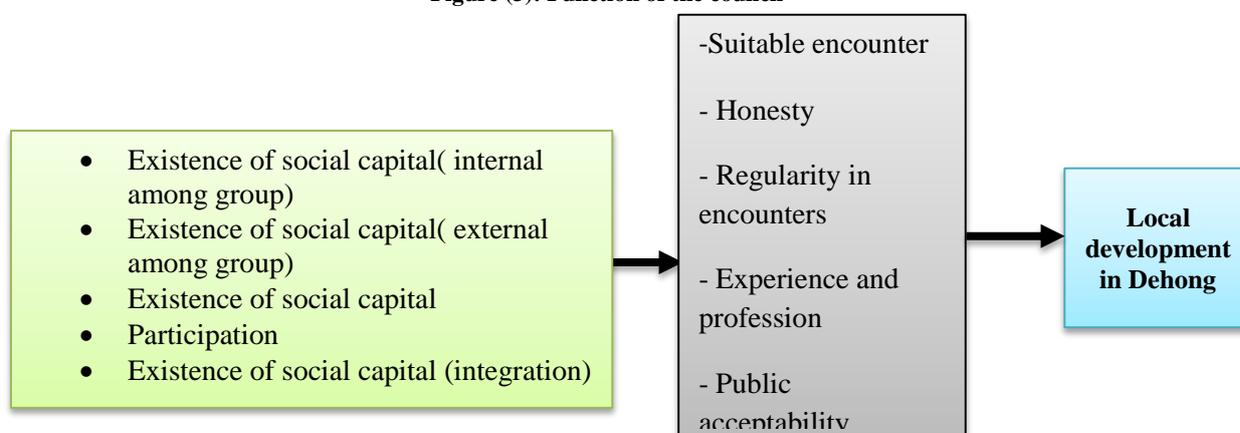
Indexes	SS	DF	MS	F	P	R	R <sup>2</sup>	SE
Regression	1549.24	5	309.849	243.253	0.00	0.883	0.78	1.129
Remains	438.17	344	1.274					

**Table (8): Analyzing by Regression**

Variables	B	SED	BETA	T	P
Vertical trust	0.198	0.027	0.227	7.34	0.00
tendency	0.314	0.027	0.376	11.57	0.00
reaction	0.679	0.047	0.435	14.32	0.00
Conflict	-0.007	0.058	-0.003	-0.115	0.90
participation	0.248	0.078	0.086	3.16	0.002

According to the table number 7 and 8, it is concluded that from five factors, for of them can predict 99 percentage of the variance of the function of the council. It means that high levels of these for indexes have great impact on the success of the function of the council.

**Figure (3): Function of the council**



Investigation showed great conformity between theoretical framework and the suggested model and the results. Just conflict factor remains out of the model in regression analysis although it had correlation with the dependent variable.

### Investigation of Social Trust

In this study the term social trust is considered as two-dimensional term. Vertical and Horizontal. 95% of the target group got 9 score or more than 9 which indicates that there is a high internal trust among people in Dehong. 86% got more than 10 in their scores, which defines that people are satisfied with the function of the council. And this indicates efficiency of the council.

### Investigation of Social Integration

This term was measured in three sub terms such as tendency, reaction and conflict. The test subjects can get score between 0- 18 in tendency term, 0-8 in reaction term and 0-6 in conflict term. As the results shows 90% got more than 9 in tendency index, 86% got more than 4 in reaction index and 82% got less than 3 in conflict index.so we can conclude there is a high integration among the people.

### Investigation of Social Participation

The score range in this term was between 0- 4.5.4% got zero, 45.1% got 10, 38% got 2, 8.9 %got 3 and 2.6% got 4. These scores shows that people have middle level of participation in this field of study.

### Discussion and Conclusion

Totally, the aim of this research was studying the effect and role of the Islamic Council as a sample of Good Governance on the local development of Dehong. The result showed that we about 78 percentage of the success of the function of the council could be identified by existing social capitals in Dehong.

**Goals and the rate of achieving them:** As it was mention this rural village was developed to some extent which was happened after the foundation of the council. Here we refer to some of them as the indexes of development.

**Fundamental Installations:** The first steps of developing started during 1378, which area land expanded to 2500 kilometers in length and 8 kilometers in width. The soft roads were extended. Solid barriers were built in the north part. Also three concrete and solid barriers were made on the way of the seasonal rivers. Four power station were established.

**Green area:** Parks were built in most parts like a park in Bastak which was about ten Hectar width. More number of Water closet rooms were established.

**Lightening equipment:** Providing energy sources and building 350 bases for lightening the rural.

**Sport places:** Building clubs. Basketball, volleyball, tennis fields were built.

**Communication:** Establishing cellphone centers and internet access.

**Cooperative parts:** cooperative funds were organized for helping farmers and for the people who work in animal husbandry.

**Medical and care centers:** Rebuilding the old ones and they improved the facilities and built on call emergency 115.

**Culture and education:** More fulltime schools were built for girls and boys. Dormitories and more cultural organization such as libraries, theaters were established.

**Agricultural and animal Husbandry:** Spreading the area which were used for these kind of jobs. Building places for cows and providing job opportunity for more than 120 families.

**House:** 160 houses were provided for young people.

Finally, as we intended to investigate the role of the Islamic council as the sample of social capital on the process of the local development, we found that in Dehong existing of this council is the origin of the developing changes. If a comparison was made between Dehong before and after the foundation of the council, the result can be proved. Although the aim of the study was investigated through statistics such as survey, field study and FGD method. So, existence of social trust, participation and integration in Dehong built a powerful Islamic council which played great role on its development.

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