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## Community-based Management, Improving Social Capital and Sustainable Rural Development<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

The present paper analyzes the role of community-based management in improving social capital and participation of local stakeholders in projects and programs, in the process of sustainable rural development of rural in Baneh County. This study has been done by using a quantitative-survey method and questionnaire. The findings show that there is a significant relationship between effective and impressionable indicators. In other words, although “community-based management” guarantees the improvement of social capital and the productive participation of local stakeholders in rural development plans and programs, in the process of sustainable rural development, but the formation of management based on a “government-based” and “bottom-up” approach has resulted to passive participation in the study area and has failed to promote social awareness, social cohesion, social organization, social networking, social trust and social participation in the process of sustainable rural development. Therefore, it needs to change the rural management system’s approach, shift the status of imperfect and centralized management into participatory and decentralization management, Consider the effective factors in formatting community-based management in improving social capital in the process of sustainable rural development

**Keywords:** social awareness, social cohesion, social networking, social participation, Baneh County

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## Introduction

In recent decades, many governments and international development organizations have considered community-based management and decentralization principles-based management as the basis for sustainable rural development strategies and policies (Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019, 68). Accordingly, participative management is one of the desirable, efficient, and dynamic management systems that play an important role in sustainable rural development. Meanwhile, what paves the way for the formation of management based on the participation of local stakeholders and attracting their participation in rural development plans and operational plans is the amount of social capital available in the community (Pongponrat & Chantradoan, 2012, 340). Social capital has led to increasing trust between the government and local stakeholders due to its relationship with basic components such as social awareness, social cohesion, interaction, and social networks, and also it has been considered an important factor in Formation community-based management in the process of sustainable rural development through involving that basic component in plans and programs (Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014, 288).

In other words, social capital not only affects the development process but also is affected by it. (Eftekhari et al., 2015, 88). Therefore, maintaining and improving social capital is increasingly associated with participative management based on local communities and includes all the requirements that are necessary for participative management (Dale & Newman, 2010, 10). On the other hand, policies, and laws, a delegation of authority, level of knowledge and training of local managers, the privilege of financial resources and equipment for local management, etc are the factors that are essential in sustainable rural devel-

opment plans and programs to form a community – based management and increase stakeholder participation (Illies, 2003; Horlings et al, 2013).

Over the past several decades, the governing patterns of rural development in many developing countries (such as Iran) have been largely dominated by “government-centered” and “top-down” approaches (Assche et al, 2014, 2387-2389) and the government has ignored the role of social capital and the participation of local communities in operational plans and programs (Chakrabarty, 2001, 336). A participatory and community-based management approach in contrast to “top-down” approaches was introduced in the field of management due to failures in spatial planning (Elmenofi et al, 2014, 288) that were affected by authoritarian and centralized approaches (Mohamadi et al, 2018, 1782). Management style and approach in decentralizing power and role change play an important role in sustainable rural development as a facilitator (Warner, 2001, 189) to increase the participation of local stakeholders in development plans and programs and improve social capital (Barkin, 2000, 46). Therefore, the necessary condition for the development of management based on the participation of local stakeholders and the development of rural communities is the expansion of social cohesion, the expansion of social participation and, most importantly; Mutual trust between individuals and the government (Bhagavatula et al, 2010, 245-260).

Thus, the participation of local stakeholders in voluntary activities and development programs is not only considered a moral issue but also reflects the values of human-centered plans and programs, through participatory management, in the process of sustainable rural development (Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016). Therefore,

paying attention to the issue of participation among managers and those involved in development has such credibility that it is sometimes considered equivalent to development and transformation, and has a direct implication for dealing with powerless factors that, (Monkman et al, 2007,453) depending on the power structure, can be “productive” (Active participation) or “un-productive” (passive participation). On this basis, given that community-based management is the participation of all local communities in decision-making and planning, with the improvement of social capital, the level of social awareness, cohesion and convergence and mutual trust between rural managers and local stakeholders to participate in projects and programs has increased. And will lead to sustainable rural development (Kuchler, 2015).

In this regard, how to improve social capital and participation of local stakeholders in projects and programs through community-based management in the process of sustainable rural development is a question that can be answered in any area, including the study area.

Therefore, the importance of the issue requires scientific knowledge to gain the position of community-based management in improving social capital and increasing the participation of local stakeholders. So, the main question is how community-based management is effective in improving social capital and the participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development? In line with the main issue, the sub-question of the article is as follows: How is community-based management effective in improving the dimensions of social capital and the participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs? How does social capital affect sustainable rural development?

## Theoretical Literature and Research Background

Social capital is a new concept that emphasizes the creation of social networks and forms groups with common norms, values, and understanding, and It is defined through intertwined components such as trust, solidarity, fairness, networks, social inclusion and cohesion, communication and empowerment (Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020, 4). The concept of social capital was introduced in modern social and economic studies in the 1990s and culminated in the work of thinkers such as Putnam (1993, 1995, 2001, 2002 & 2003) and Fukuyama (1997,1999) And owes it to three major thinkers, Bourdieu, Coleman, and Putnam (Tashdemir et al, 2017, 52).

Social capital is an asset and unlike other resources and assets, if not used properly, it will not only be destroyed; but also, will not be produced. Therefore, any society that seeks sustainable order and development must always strive to produce, maintain, repair, and strengthen this capital. (Barron et al, 2017, 184). In other words, social capital is a necessary condition for sustainable development and means the interests of the community that can be achieved in various economic and social environments through communication, cooperation and trust between institutions and also increases mutual communication, intimacy, trust and Participation between people (Cvetanovic et al, 2015, 73). Accordingly ,one of the main prerequisites for the formation of social capital and achieving sustainable rural development is the formation of community-based management in the decision-making process ,which requires the establishment of democratic structures to facilitate voluntary and informed participation of local stakeholders in development plans and programs) Sisto et al, 2018, 443). In general, the management approach

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in many developing countries is mainly government-oriented, centralized, and top-down, due to a problem in the power structure and ultimately it effects on the independence of local government in deciding and implementing plans and programs for the welfare of society (Tuke et al, 2017,65).

Thus, since the early 1990s, the international community has expanded its desire to stimulate local participation among NGOs, government officials, academia, and academia (Waladt, 2018, 694) so since the 1990s and in contrast to the approaches influenced by traditional management, participatory management has been proposed without flexibility and based solely on the technical knowledge of managers and experts (Chakrabarty, 2001, 336). In other words, the community-oriented, comprehensive and based on sustainable development of rural community's management is one of the relatively new approaches to management that has been considered as the basis of sustainable rural development strategies and policies by many governments and international development agencies (Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019, 68). On this basis, participatory management is the basis for the formation of social capital and unites individuals in a group and leads to activities based on trust, norms, and participatory behaviors that lead to sustainable development in rural society through emphasizing collective interests (Adhikari& Goldey, 2010, 184). Therefore, one of the important tools to achieve rural development is to consider the role of people and their participation in development plans and programs, through the existing social capital in society. It is also important to distinguish "public participation" from "stakeholder participation" in sustainable rural development (Luyet et al, 2012).

Rowe and Frewer (2005) state that in the

public participation, people are passive recipients of information provided by companies, regulators and governing bodies, while in the stakeholder participation, individuals participate in development plans and projects actively, voluntarily and consciously (Lazaro& Thery, 2019, 256).

Accordingly, the active, voluntary, and informed participation of local stakeholders in development plans and projects is one of the most important factors in improving social capital, which can be achieved through the formation of community-based and participatory management among rural communities. Therefore, achieving sustainable development and policy-making in decision-making is possible through participatory management that increases participation in governments, markets, and civil society sectors (Ibid, 255).

About the subject of the present study, several studies have been conducted in different countries, but the majority of these studies have examined the effects of social capital and the participation of local stakeholders in the process of sustainable rural development. However, the role of community-based management in improving social capital and the participation of local stakeholders in the process of sustainable rural development, with an emphasis on the prevailing approach, is an issue that has received less attention. Therefore, on the one hand, the study of this researches has contributed to the Problem ology, problem-solving, and methodology of the present research; On the other hand, it has provided the basis for comparing the results of previous research with the present study. In the United States, local governments and non-governmental facilitation institutions in comparison with the governmental institutions have been able to build mutual trust through community-based management by strong bonds and networks of strong relationships within the community, sharing

their independence with citizens, and decentralizing power and also they have been able to increase the participation of local communities in projects and programs in the role of facilitator rather than a controller. Thus, by increasing civic infrastructure, they have promoted social capital among communities (Warner, 2001).

In Canada and Australia, the use of tools such as central government delegation to local governments, training, and awareness-raising of local managers, improving access to finance, and the use of public forces in many rural development projects have strengthened the mutual trust between the government and the people and ultimately led to a reduction in waste in the environment (environmental development), job creation (economic development), and the creation and strengthening of local agencies (social development) and was a privilege for local communities (Dale & Newman, 2010).

In the Netherlands, interactive and participatory management has been able to build trust and commitment to mobilize private and public actors through collective norms and values and mutual feelings to offer new strategies for regional development by building the social capital of local communities (Horlings et al, 2013).

In Italy, the use of participatory management in rural areas has led to social trust, cohesion and the formation of local action groups and local stakeholder networks, which has been the basis for local issues to be resolved by local governments and other support institutions and has contributed to rural participation in projects and Operational projects and improved development of rural areas (Sisto et al, 2018).

In Latin America, in Brazil and Peru, the policy of decentralization and the delegation of national government led to the involvement of local stakeholders in rural development projects, while in Mexico and Honduras, where the government is generally government-centric and top-down, due to lack of participatory decision-making

mechanisms. , The participation of local stakeholders in plans and projects is weak and has been used only as a rhetorical tool for corporate legal activities (Lazaro & Thery, 2019).

Thus, European, American, and Australian countries are trying to improve the use of community-based management, social capital, and the participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs, and achieve sustainable rural development.

While in African countries such as Nigeria and Ethiopia, the existence of centralist policies, lack of community-based management, top-down planning, lack of authority and dominance of higher levels of government and the central government in local governments, lack of funds and financial resources available to local management, low the level of awareness and education, ethnicity and racism, etc. have led to a low level of voluntary and conscious social participation of local communities in the plans and the operational plans, and no development has taken place in the economic and social situation of the villages (Nkhata et al, 2009; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Tuke et al, 2017).

Studies in Asian countries in this field show that Nepal has witnessed the formation of community-based management in the villages of a southern region due to the change of development policies and approaches since 1990 and the establishment of democratic structures which unites individuals in a group and carries out trust-based activities, Norms and the participatory behaviors. Then, by promoting the social capital of local stakeholders, many problems and challenges of the villagers have been solved through group and collective participation and have led to sustainable development in the rural community (Adhikari & Goldey, 2010).

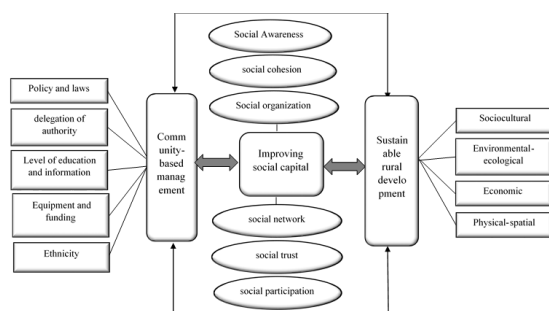
In Thailand, participatory management has led to the cohesion and integration of villagers and their involvement in all stages of decision-making, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, and is a key factor in



the success of rural development planning (Pongponrat & Chantradoan, 2012). Also, in Indonesia, the positive trust and high level of social capital of some local community families who actively participated in community activities helped to alleviate some of the villagers' problems about water, housing, and public health (Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017).

### Conceptual Model

In other to examine the position of community-based management in improving social capital and participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development, by reviewing the research literature, Figure 1 was modeled as a general framework to determine the relationships between effective and influential research variables. Figure 1. Conceptual framework of research



**Source:** Analysis based on literature and background, 2020

### Research hypothesis

To the research questions and objectives, the following hypotheses are tested and analyzed: H1: Improving the factors affecting community-based management is effective in the improvement of dimensions of social capital and the participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs. H2: Improving the dimensions of social capital is effective in sustainable rural development.

### Research Methods

The present study is basic research accord-

ing to the purpose and descriptive-survey research according to the method and the way of collecting information and is research-based on the nature of the data. This study is a study of the impact of community-based management on improvements of social capital and the participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development, which was conducted in 1397 in rural settlements of Baneh.

To accurately explain the questions and hypotheses of the present study by the descriptive-analytical method; the Field survey method was used to collect field data. In this research, the descriptive-analytical method is used to accurately explain the questions and hypotheses and the field survey method is used to collect field data.

The statistical population of the study includes 182 inhabited villages in Baneh city, which according to the 2016 census has a population of 43,290 people (equivalent to 11,628 households) (Statistics Center of Iran, 2016). The number of sample villages includes 30 villages in Baneh city in two groups (villages with 3 members of the Islamic Council and villages with 5 members of the Islamic Council) that were randomly classified. A random sample size based on the "Cochran" formula, with a 95% confidence level and an estimated variance of 0.25 ( $0.5 * 0.5$ ) and a possible probability of 5%, 350 samples were selected. A questionnaire was used to collect field data.

Different studies based on the conditions and situation of Iranian society were used to design the questionnaire.

To analyze community-based management from five indicators (policy and law, delegation, level of education and information, equipment and financial resources and ethnicity) which includes 15 items, for the dimensions of social capital from 6 indicators (social awareness, social cohesion, social organization, The network of social relations, social trust and social participation), which includes 52 items and for the variable of sustainable rural development from

four indicators (socio-cultural, environmental-ecological, economic and physical-spatial) 43 items were used according to Table 1.

Table 1. Hidden and obvious variables in research

| Latent variables                           | Observed variable                  | Authors   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Community-based management                 | Policy and laws                    | Illies, 2003; Nkhata et al, 2009; Adhikari & Goldey, 2010; Dale & Newman. 2010; Pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Horlings et al, 2013; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Tuke et al, 2017; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019                               |
|  | delegation of authority            | Illies, 2003; Nkhata et al, 2009; Adhikari & Goldey, 2010; Dale & Newman. 2010; Pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Horlings et al, 2013; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Tuke et al, 2017; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019                               |
|  | Level of education and information | Illies, 2003; Dale & Newman, 2010; Horlings et al, 2013; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Tuke et al, 2017; Lazaro & Thery, 2019  |
|  | Equipment and funding              | Illies, 2003; Horlings et al, 2013; Dale & Newman. 2010; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Tuke et al, 2017   |
|  | Ethnicity                          | Nkhata et al, 2009; Tuke et al, 2017; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016  |
| Improv-<br>ing social<br>capital           | Social Awareness                   | pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Taşdemir et al, 2017; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020   |
|  | social cohesion                    | pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Taşdemir et al, 2017; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020   |
|  | Social organization                | Dale & Newman, 2010; pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; sišto et al, 2018; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020  |
|  | social network                     | Dale & Newman, 2010; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Taşdemir et al, 2017; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; sišto et al, 2018; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020  |
|  | social trust                       | Dale & Newman, 2010; pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Taşdemir et al, 2017; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; sišto et al, 2018; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020                            |
|  | social participation               | Dale & Newman, 2010; pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Svihlova & Kubisova, 2014; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Taşdemir et al, 2017; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; sišto et al, 2018; Lazaro & Thery, 2019; Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019 ; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020 |
| Sustain-<br>able rural<br>develop-<br>ment | Sociocultural                      | Dale & Newman, 2010; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020  |
|  | Environmental-ecolog-<br>ical      | Dale & Newman, 2010; pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020   |
|  | Economic                           | Dale & Newman, 2010; pongponrat & chantradoan, 2012; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; Kvartiuk & Curtiss, 2019; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020  |
|  | Physical-spatial                   | Dale & Newman, 2010; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Prayitno, Syaifurridzal, 2017; Musavengane & Kloppers, 2020  |

Source: Analysis based on literature and background, 2020

After reviewing the questions and items of the questionnaire and presenting corrective

opinions by several professors and academic experts related to the subject in the University of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti University; And several managers and experts of related institutions, including the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Affairs, corrective measures were taken to ensure the formal and content validity of the questionnaire and the compatibility of questions from previous studies with research variables. Besides, Cronbach's alpha

method was used to evaluate the reliability of the indicators, the results of which are shown in Table 2. The obtained Cronbach's alpha is equal to 0.874 which indicates the validity and reliability of the questionnaire. Analysis of effective and efficient characteristics of the study was performed by Kendall's tau b graft scale and finally multivariate regression test.

Table 2. Cronbach's alpha coefficient  
Dimensions of effective and influential

categories of research

| Latent variables                                     | Observed variable                  | Cronbach's alpha |       |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Community-based management                           | Policy and laws                    | 0.850            | 0.853 |
|  | delegation of authority            | 0.855            |       |
|  | Level of education and information | 0.790            |       |
|  | Equipment and funding              | 0.927            |       |
|  | Ethnicity                          | 0.845            |       |
| Improving social capital<br>Improving social capital | Social Awareness                   | 0.833            | 0.879 |
|  | social cohesion                    | 0.888            |       |
|  | Social organization                | 0.842            |       |
|  | social network                     | 0.954            |       |
|  | social trust                       | 0.888            |       |
|  | social participation               | 0.870            |       |
| Sustainable rural development                        | Sociocultural                      | 0.851            | 0.891 |
|  | Environmental-ecological           | 0.888            |       |
|  | Economic                           | 0.939            |       |
|  | Physical-spatial                   | 0.887            |       |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

**Research Findings**



- Descriptive findings

Based on descriptive findings, it shows that out of 350 respondents, 77.4% of respondents are men and 22.6% are women. Also, the educational status shows that about 30.9% of the respondents have a diploma or higher and 69.1% of the respondents have a post-diploma degree. In general, the highest frequency of respondents was related to the age group of 36 to 50 years (Table 3).

Table 3. Characteristics of the respondents in the study area

| Variable  |                                    | num-<br>ber | percent |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Gender    | Male                               | 271         | 77.4    |
|           | female                             | 79          | 22.6    |
|           | Total                              | 350         | 100     |
| education | illiterate                         | 31          | 8.9     |
|           | reading and writing                | 27          | 7.7     |
|           | elementary                         | 49          | 14      |
|           | middle school                      | 63          | 18      |
|           | high school                        | 72          | 29.6    |
|           | Diploma section                    | 72          | 20.6    |
|           | Associate and Bachelor De-<br>gree | 26          | 7.4     |
|           | Master's degree and above          | 10          | 2.9     |
|           | Total                              | 350         | 100     |
| Age       | 19-25                              | 34          | 9.7     |
|           | 26-35                              | 125         | 35.7    |
|           | 36-50                              | 145         | 41.4    |
|           | +50                                | 45          | 12.9    |
|           | Total                              | 350         | 100     |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

### Inferential Findings

According to rural respondents, there is a significant relationship between the indicators affecting community-based management (such as policy and legislation, delegation, level of education and information of local managers, equipment and financial resources at the disposal and ethnicity) with the dimensions of social capital about indicators affecting There is community-based management and dimensions of social capital in Baneh city.

In other words, the relationship is significant because of the effectiveness of indicators such as policy and legislation, delegation, level of education, and information of local managers, equipment, and financial resources at the disposal and ethnicity to improve the community-based management component in the region is low. In this regard, the dimensions of social capital such as social awareness, social cohesion, social formation and groups, a network of social relations, social trust, and social participation in the region have not improved much and have had a declining trend.

Also, in the relationship between the dimensions of social capital and the sustainable rural development, there is a significant relationship between indicators of social awareness, social cohesion, social formation and groups, social relations network, social trust and social participation with sustainable rural development and due to low level of effective indicators of social capital, the sustainable rural development in environmental-ecological, socio-cultural, economic and physical-spatial dimensions has not improved in the region.

In general, although the results obtained from the measurement of “ Kendall's tau b” link indicate that there is a significant relationship between effective and influential indicators in the study area, the significant relationship between the indicators of

effective and influential categories is because the weighted average of the indicators of effective and influential categories is lower than the average.

In other words, the amount of social capital and participation of local stakeholders in the plans and programs of the study area is at a low level and sustainable development in the villages has not been achieved because community-based management in the study area is estimated at a low level (Table 4).

Table .4 Relationship between effective and Impressionable Variable indicators of the research, using Kendall's tau-b

| Effective indicators               | Impressionable Variable       | Coeffi- Correlation<br>cient | (Sig) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Policy and laws                    | Dimensions of social capital  | **0.708                      | 0.000 |
| delegation of authority            |                               | **0.616                      | 0.000 |
| Level of education and information |                               | **0.759                      | 0.000 |
| Equipment and funding              |                               | **0.780                      | 0.000 |
| Ethnicity                          |                               | **0.525                      | 0.000 |
| Social Awareness                   | Sustainable rural development | **0.723                      | 0.000 |
| social cohesion                    |                               | **0.619                      | 0.000 |
| Social organization                |                               | **0.123                      | 0.002 |
| social network                     |                               | **0.757                      | 0.000 |
| social trust                       |                               | **0.673                      | 0.000 |
| social participation               |                               | **0.648                      | 0.000 |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

### Multivariate Linear Regression Analysis to Explain the Effect of Community-based Management on Improving the Dimensions of Social Capital

Based on the obtained results, there is a correlation of 0.666 between the indicators affecting community -based management and the category of social capital in Baneh city.

Also, the Adjusted R Square shows that about 44.2% of the changes in the dimensions of social capital have been explained and predicted through the linear combination of community-based management indicators in the study area.

Table 5. Relationship between effective and Impressionable Variable indicators in research

#### Model Summary

| Model | R     | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. The error of the Estimate |
|-------|-------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1     | 0.666 | 0.443    | 0.442             | 0.438                          |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

Based on the value calculated for F and the significance level of 0.000, it can be said that the set of effective indicators of the independent variable of community-based management has been able to significantly explain and predict the number of changes in the social capital dimensions of the study area.

Table 6. Significance of regression of effective and Impressionable Variable indicators in research

| ANOVA  |            |                |     |             |         |
|--------|------------|----------------|-----|-------------|---------|
| 1      | Model      | Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F       |
|        | Regression | 43.488         | 1   | 43.488      | 502.591 |
| 1      | Residual   | 30.111         | 348 | 0.087       |         |
|        | Total      | 73.599         | 349 |             |         |
| Sig.   |            |                |     |             |         |
| 0.000b |            |                |     |             |         |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

Based on the standardized coefficients of the impact of effective category indicators (community-based management) on the affected category (dimensions of social capital), the results show that among the indicators of the effective category of community-based management, the equipment,

and financial resources index (0.447), the Policy and Law (0.313), the level of education and information (0.298) had the most impact respectively and the delegation of authority (0.044) had the least effect on improving the dimensions of social capital of the study area. Therefore, among the five indices entered in the regression equation, all the indices are significant except the ethnicity index. So as a result, all of them remain in the equation and the ethnicity index is removed.

Table 7. Coefficients of the intensity of the effects of affective and Impressionable Variable indicators in the study area

| Coefficients |                                    |                             |            |                           |        |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Model        | Indicators                         | Unstandardized Coefficients |            | Standardized Coefficients | T      |
|              |                                    | B                           | Std. Error | Beta                      |        |
| 1            | Policy and laws                    | 0.293                       | 0.017      | 0.313                     | 17.241 |
|              | delegation of authority            | 0.032                       | 0.015      | 0.044                     | 2.135  |
|              | Level of education and information | 0.296                       | 0.020      | 0.298                     | 14.710 |
|              | Equipment and funding              | 0.320                       | 0.013      | 0.447                     | 25.531 |
|              |                                    |                             |            |                           | 0.000  |
| Sig.         |                                    |                             |            |                           |        |
| 0.000        |                                    |                             |            |                           |        |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

### Multivariate Linear Regression Analysis to Explain the Effect of Social Capital Dimensions on Sustainable Rural Development

Based on the results, there is a correlation of 0.872 between the dimensions of social capital and the category of sustainable rural development in the study area. Also, the Adjusted R Square shows that about 76% of the improvement of sustainable rural development has been explained and predicted through the linear combination of social capital dimensions in the study area.

Table 8. Relationship between effective and Impressionable Variable indicators in research

| Model Summary |       |          |                   |                                |
|---------------|-------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Model         | R     | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. The error of the Estimate |
| 1             | 0.872 | 0.760    | 0.760             | 0.22530                        |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

Therefore, based on the calculated value for F and the significance level of 0.000, it can be said that the sum of effective indicators of the independent social capital variable has been able to significantly explain and predict the rate of sustainable rural development in the study area.

Table 9. Significance of regression of effective and Impressionable Variable indicators in research

| ANOVA      |                |     |             |          |        |
|------------|----------------|-----|-------------|----------|--------|
| Model      | Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F        | .Sig.  |
| 1          |                |     |             |          |        |
| Regression | 56.022         | 1   | 56.022      | 1103.639 | 0.000b |
| Residual   | 17.665         | 348 | 0.051       |          |        |
| Total      | 73.687         | 349 |             |          |        |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

Based on the standardized coefficients of the effect of the dimensions of the effective category (social capital) on the effective category (sustainable rural development), the results show that among the effective indicators that Social Cohesion Index (0.365), Social trust index (0.262), Social participation index (0.237) had the greatest impact on the rate of sustainable rural development in the study area respectively. In contrast, the social awareness index (0.139) and the social relations network (0.121) had the least impact on the rate of sustainable rural development in the study area respectively.

Therefore, among the five indices entered in the regression equation, all the indices are significant except the index of organization and social groups, so as a result, all of them remain in the equation and the index of organization and social groups are removed.

Table 10. Coefficients of the intensity of the effects of affective and Impressionable Variable indicators in the study area

| Mod-<br>el | Indicators           | Coefficients                |            |                           | t      | .Sig  |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|
|            |                      | Unstandardized Coefficients |            | Standardized Coefficients |        |       |
|            |                      | B                           | Std. Error | Beta                      |        |       |
| 1          | Social Awareness     | 0.120                       | 0.030      | 0.139                     | 3.955  | 0.000 |
|            | social cohesion      | 0.291                       | 0.008      | 0.365                     | 37.357 | 0.000 |
|            | social network       | 0.100                       | 0.031      | 0.121                     | 3.210  | 0.000 |
|            | social trust         | 0.264                       | 0.015      | 0.262                     | 17.917 | 0.000 |
|            | social participation | 0.245                       | 0.013      | 0.237                     | 18.399 | 0.000 |

Source: Research Findings, 2020

## Conclusion

Improving social capital indicators and increasing the participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs can lead to sustainable rural development in environmental-ecological, social-cultural, economic, and physical-spatial dimensions by improving the factors affecting community-based management. This study was conducted to investigate the position of community-based management in improving social capital and sustainable rural development in the villages of Baneh city. Therefore, two hypotheses were tested. The first hypothesis: community-based management has a significant effect on the dimensions of social capital. These results are consistent with the findings of researchers such as Warner (2001), Nkhat et al (2009), Dale & Newman (2010), Horlings et al (2013), Usadol and Caldwell (2016), Tuke et al (2017), Sisto et al (2018) and Lazaro and Thery (2019) who focus on community-based management through decentralization of power and authority, sharing their independence with citizens, Training, and awareness of local managers, improving access to finance, Using people's forces to implement many development projects in rural areas, avoiding

ethnicity and racism as a factor in building mutual trust between the government and the people, development of participation and Creating a network of local stakeholders to form social capital.

The second hypothesis: Improving the dimensions of social capital had a significant effect on improving sustainable rural development in the environmental-ecological, socio-cultural, economic, and physical-spatial dimensions in the study area. In other words, the findings, despite being significant, indicate the low level of affective dimensions of social capital in the study area, which makes the situation of sustainable rural development unfavorable in environmental-ecological, socio-cultural, economic, and physical-spatial dimensions in the Case Study. Therefore, it indicates the low rate of improvement of the indicators of both effective and efficient categories in this hypothesis.

These results are consistent with the findings of researchers such as Adhikari and Goldey (2010), Pongponrat and Chandra-don (2017), Prayinto and Syaifurridzal (2017) who consider the promotion of social capital of local stakeholders as a factor for positive trust, cohesion, and convergence, and active participation of local

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households in all stages of decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans and projects which were the key to the success of many programs and solved many problems and challenges of the villagers and led to the sustainable development of rural communities. Therefore, all the hypotheses of this research are confirmed.

There is also a downward trend in the impact of community-based management on improving social capital and participation of local stakeholders in plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development in the study area. This means that community-based management has not been achieved much in the study area, and this has led to a low level of promotion of social capital indicators.

As a result, development in environmental-ecological, socio-cultural, economic, and physical-spatial dimensions and sustainable rural development has not been achieved in the villages of the study area. In other words, according to the literature analysis, the method and approach of local management in Iran has been based on the “government-oriented” approach and the Lack of attention to community-based approaches in the field of local management has led to ignoring the role of social capital and the participation of local stakeholders and Cores in plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development which somehow confirms the findings of this study.

In the current approach of local management, social capital instead of “productive and active participation” of local stakeholders in plans and programs lead to “unproductive and passive participation” in rural development plans and programs. As a result, local management based on “government-centered” and “top-down” approach has failed to promote social awareness,

social cohesion, social organization, social network, and social trust and improve the social participation of local stakeholders in rural development plans and program in the process of sustainable development of villages. When villagers participate voluntarily and consciously in plans and programs that directly affect their destiny, one can expect development planning to be on the path of rural development.

This is not only a moral issue but also reflects the values of human-centeredness of plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development.

Therefore, according to the results obtained in the present study, the change and reform of the approach to the rural management system and the transition from authoritarian and centralized management to participatory, community-based and decentralized management is emphasized by avoiding centralist policies and laws, delegation Empowerment, increasing awareness and knowledge, strengthen the sense of spatial belonging, avoiding ethnocentrism and racism, strengthen financial resources and equipment available to local management to promote social capital and improving the participation of local stakeholders in rural development plans and programs in the process of sustainable rural development in Iran and the study area.

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