

Research Paper

Reviewing the Barriers and Problems of Rural Indigenous Industries Development; The Study of Carpet and Gabbeh in Zarrin Dasht County

*Khadije Bouzarjomehri¹, Fatemeh Eslamfard²

1. Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran.
2. PhD Student, Department of Geography, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran.



Citation: Bouzarjomehri, Kh., & Eslamfard, F. (2017). [Reviewing the Barriers and Problems of Rural Indigenous Industries Development; The Study of Carpet and Gabbeh in Zarrin Dasht City (Persian)]. *Journal of Rural Research*, 8(2):194-207. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22059/JRUR.2017.62672>

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22059/JRUR.2017.62672>

Received: 4 Jul. 2016

Accepted: 11 Dec. 2016

ABSTRACT

Handicrafts, especially carpet, are among non-agricultural activities that provide employment for many people, especially among tribes and villages. The main objective of the study is to investigate the problems of rural industries development in Zarrin Dasht County, one of the centers for producing carpets and gabbeh in Fars Province. The research method was qualitative and the relevant data were collected through interviews. The statistical community comprised villages active in carpet and gabbeh weaving in Zarrin Dasht County. Using snowball sampling method, 21 experts in carpet and gabbeh have been selected as the study sample from 3 main producer of carpet and gabbeh (Mesjian, Dary Shor, De Nou villages). The obtained data were coded and analyzed through grounded theory and using MAXQDA. The research results showed that the major barriers to the to develop carpet industry in Zarin Dasht County from the perspective of carpet weavers was a governmental institute that has affected the social, economic, cultural, and environmental barriers.

Key words:

Carpet and carpet weavers, Handicrafts, MAXQDA, Grounded theory

Extended Abstract**1. Introduction**

Rural people possess some knowledge which is known as local knowledge, defined several ways. According to Robert Chambers, local knowledge is a term attributed to knowledge emerging from a particular geographical location in a natural way. Handicrafts is a local knowledge and industry which is emerged from locals' art and taste. UNESCO considers handicrafts as artifacts made completely by hand or with the help of hand tools. Because of importance of carpet weaving in the economy of rural areas, it is necessary to discuss the fac-

tors involved in its production decrease or the barriers in development of these products. Therefore, in this research, we try to find the problems and barriers in local industry of carpet and gabbeh production in this county and how to exit from this recession.

2. Methodology

This research has been conducted by qualitative method. The study population comprised all producers of carpets and gabbeh in villages and the sample was selected purposefully with snowball sampling technique. Based on this method, 21 people were selected out of local expert people. The research tool was a semi-structured questionnaire and the obtained data were analyzed by MAXQDA.

*** Corresponding Author:**

Khadije Bouzarjomehri, PhD

Address: Department of Geography, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran.

Tel: +98 (915) 5199112

E-mail: azar@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir

3. Results

According to the results, one of the key issues raised in the field of handicrafts is the productive and sustainable employment. Handicrafts including carpet weaving with its special capabilities and features such as not requiring huge investment and its possibility to develop in rural areas and especially in the farmers' dwellings could play such an important role. Studies show that despite the abundant facilities in indigenous industry of gabbeh carpet weaving, it is not regarded as a factor for the growth and development and an appropriate substitute for oil exports. The barriers mentioned by the carpet-weaving women are consistent with what researchers found. The most important problems of carpet-weavers are obtaining raw material and selling their products. In this county, the raw material are provided by dealers and the finished products are exclusively bought by these dealers too. Thus, they control the market and buy the carpets with low price. Also the other problem of carpet-weavers are related to authorities and their ignorance in insuring carpet-weavers.

4. Discussion

Zarin Dasht County is one of the counties of Fars Province. The major population of this County comprised rural people and nomads. This area is one of the arid and semiarid areas of Fars Province and agriculture is hardly done in it. Therefore, since many years ago, the art of carpet and gabbeh weaving was one of the favorite industries of rural people and nomads in this county. The hand-made carpets have been weaved from the beginning to the end by strong hands of local women. These women like nomads women use horizontal rug weaving machines and weave the carpets by heart like Qashqaei carpets. These mental patterns are kind of traditional recreation inherited from previous generations. Therefore no two carpets are completely alike. The carpet industry has always played valuable role in income earned in this county, in particular in arid area of Izad-Khast. However, in the last several years, due to reduction in carpet and gabbeh weaving revenue, the production of this local industry has declined tremendously. Consequently, the carpet weaver women prefer to work in the farms of neighboring counties in Marvdasht, Soadat shahr, and Dast Morghab. Most women put away their rug weaving machines and went on seasonal immigration to earn money.

5. Conclusion

As I mentioned before, Izad-Khast area is vast and populated but with low agricultural capability. So the carpet

industry was considered as a source of income for women since a long time ago. However, it is several years that handicrafts market has experienced recession. Therefore, authorities' attention to resolve the carpet-weavers problems could be a solution for improvement and development of domestic employment and creating revenue for low-income people. In this regard, the authorities should make their agenda to support these handicrafts that are going to forget in the county.

Acknowledgments

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflict of interest.