

Research Paper

Border Market Impacts on Sustainable Livelihood of Rural Areas Around: A Case Study in Khavmirabad District in Marivan County

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ABSTRACT

Today, providing sustainable livelihood for villagers is a priority for rural development planners. This issue in rural border areas is crucial because of centralization principle in the allocation of resources and facilities which causes suffer and pressure so that the main goal is to survive in many border villages. In this regard, benefiting from the advantages of the trading in these areas by opening border markets is a good strategy which has the ability to evolve and change the livelihood of the villagers. The proper function and performance of these bazaars can be a background for fixing the economic shocks, social and natural threats and crises in these vulnerable areas and as a result, leads to the sustainability of their rural livelihood. In this regard, the current applied study was conducted to analyze the effects of border markets on sustainable rural livelihood of Khavmirabad region with an analytical-descriptive method. The relevant data were collected by documents review, field interviews, and observations. Also, a questionnaire was distributed among the villagers to find whether the establishment of border markets has had any positive and effective role in improving rural livelihoods by increasing their assets. Among the villager's assets the most improvement was seen in their financial situation.

Key words:

Sustainable livelihoods, Border, Border markets, Khavmirabad region

Extended Abstract**1. Introduction**

Establishing border bazaars and customs is one of the main opportunities in business and trade to solve problems of rural people, provide and achieve sustainable development for them, and make opportunities and new income sources. Border counties in Kurdistan Province has high rural population yet with low level of livelihood. One of these counties is Marivan which is located in the west of the province. The study

border bazaar is located in Khavirabad area in the west of the city neighboring Iraq.

Area and country development planners have ventured to establish border market to provide a sustainable livelihood for the local people. In sustainable livelihood perspective, jobs are activities that someone, family or both do to access an eligible level of livelihood. Now, the research question is that how changing economic situation in the form of opening customs and border bazaar, affect rural livelihood sustainability and decrease their vulnerability by increasing their assets in economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

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2. Methodology

The research design is both qualitative and quantitative. According to main principles of sustainable livelihood, it was necessary to find the effects of establishing border bazaar on properties, livelihood strategies, and vulnerability of rural people against crisis. In this regard, at first the quality information is collected through interview and observation. Then, questionnaires were distributed to gather information from the society.

The study population comprised resident families in Khawirabad County. This area contains 31 villages with 2736 households. Of them, 261 families were chosen as study sample. The results of the questionnaire show that the greatest impact of the border markets from highest to lowest are on financial capital, social capital, physical capital, human capital and natural capital. In fact, the financial capital of household was most affected and least impact was on natural capital.

3. Results

Comparison of situations with regard to component changes and rural livelihood properties before and after establishing bazaar show that on human dimension calculate in three components as regards meaningful amount which is less than 0.05 alphas. The most improvement was seen in nourishment and hygiene with 0.051, also skill, knowledge, and employment components were better in comparison with before border market opening.

Employment conditions among adults was better while among young people is not as good as adults and even rural women are completely forgotten. Border bazaar establishment could improve and develop rural sustainable livelihood. Computed average with 3.47 means this border bazaar is satisfactory in providing rural sustainable livelihood. Also, comparison of properties amount before and after establishing of border bazaar show 0.05 with 95% confidence in all components. Thus, rural properties are increasing after establishing border bazaar.

4. Discussion

Analysis of the findings shows the impact of border markets on the sustainable livelihoods of villagers. By the establishment of Darawaran and Piran border markets in the studied rural area, villagers managed to promote their livelihood, but also to diversify the rural economy, which is an important factor and base for sustainable livelihood. Diversification of rural economy can increase livelihoods of villagers and thus decrease their vulnerability, in

the studied area. Regarding the changes in the livelihood assets of the villagers, the results of the questionnaire to compare the assets of the villagers before and after the establishment of the bazaar market shows that all livelihood assets have increased after the opening of the market.

5. Conclusion

The fact that Border market has merely strengthened economic dealers, it is recommended to abide by laws and regulations the possibility of expanding the role of dealers in these exchanges. Also it is suggested that these bazars be improved by providing communication facilities and connection routes (pave the way by asphalt, providing electricity, telephone, cleaning and other administrative facilities, services and amenities).

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.