

## Research Paper

# Pathology of the Consequences of Development Plans in Rural Areas by a Mixed Method: A Case Study of Varzaqan County

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims at the pathology of the consequences of development plans in the rural areas of *Varzaqan* city. The research was conducted through a mixed method. In terms of purpose, it is functional, and, in nature, it is a descriptive-analytical study. In terms of data collection, it is a mixed type, and it is philosophically based on a pragmatist approach. The statistical population consisted of 132 local experts who participated in a quantitative section by responding to a researcher-made questionnaire and 51 experts who took part in two stages of qualitative semi-structured interviews and observations. Lack of suitable employment opportunities for young people, lack of productive activities, unsuccessful establishment of industries connected with the existing mines in the region, unsuccessful industries and small workshops of agricultural employment, and increasing poverty and social deprivation were the most important findings of the qualitative analysis by the Grounded theory. The results of the goodness-fit assessment obtained from the PLS structural model showed that the proposed model was compatible with the experimental data at an optimal level. Also, in the study area, there was a unified relationship among social, economic, physical and comprehensive consequences. The economic and social consequences of developmental plans were found to have led to certain spatial and comprehensive situations. The analysis of the spatial outcomes with comprehensive implications showed the weakening of rural and agricultural status in national development attempts and the mismatch of measures with the foundations of sustainable development. These two parameters were among the most important variables with high impact coefficients.

### Key words:

Pathology, Development plans, Mixed method, Grounded theory, PLS

## Extended Abstract

### 1. Introduction

With a quick look at the rural development process, one finds out that the failure of rural all-inclusive development programs is mostly due to the negligence of certain factors in the legislation and planning of rural and agricultural affairs. This

shortcoming is despite the many advantages of the efforts made so far in this regard. The other reason for the failure of many rural development projects is that these projects have been planned in the absence of people and run without their help.

### 2. Methodology

In terms of purpose, the present study is an applied one, and, in terms of data collection, it is a mixed-type survey.

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Also, philosophically, the study is based on a pragmatic approach. The data were collected through library and field studies. Since the purpose of the study was to examine the issue both quantitatively and qualitatively, data of both types were collected and analyzed. Then, the results of the two datasets were compared so as to achieve a "convergent design". To analyze the quantitative data, the Smart PLS software was used. For the qualitative testing, the Grounded theory brought the desired results.

### 3. Results

The study of the implications of rural development programs showed that the reduction of agricultural activities is associated with lower agricultural production and lower income levels. The other factors that have aggravated the situation are the migration of young people to cities, lack of suitable employment opportunities for young people, lack of productive activities, and unsuccessful establishment of relevant industries. There exist mining companies in the region, but there are no centers or workshops, however small, for agricultural activities, hence an increase in the poverty and social exclusion of farmers. All of these issues have been taken into account in a paradigmatic model as follows:

- The equations involved indicate that all the factor weights are accurate by 99%.
- The scoring coefficients indicate significant variables.
- Comprehensive outcomes and physical outcomes have strong values, and social and economic outcomes with average values determine the power of the model to predict hidden endogenous variables.
- The GOF index of this model is estimated to be 0.55, which is indicative of the overall utility of the model.

### 4. Discussion

The Pathology of Rural Development is a pioneering introduction to social and economic development plans in other parts of the region. The present study addresses the pathology of rural development programs in the county of *Varzaqan*. The general model of structural equations shows that, in *Varzaqan*, there are unified relationships among social, economic, physical and comprehensive consequences.

### 5. Conclusion

The results show that using non-traditional experts in rural development projects, as an intervening factor in a paradigm model, leads to damages to rural development programs. In this case, the rural areas of *Varzaqan* County have been subject to such damage as indicated by the paradigmatic model. Activists have reacted to the implications of rural development programs, reduction of the number of agricultural activities, and the migration of young people to the city. They have selected the village as their second home, as a strategy to deal with it. Using any strategy has its own consequences. For example, reduction of agricultural activities has led to lower agricultural revenues and, in turn, lower income levels. The other associated consequences have been the migration of young people to cities, lack of suitable opportunities for the young, lack of job-creating activities, failing establishment of industries linked to the mines existing in the region, failure of small agricultural enterprises, and rising poverty and social deprivation. The original research theories were made and reviewed after the end of the first session. At the second meeting, since the semi-structured interviews did not provide new information, the research came to saturation. The preferences and desire of the researcher, the nature of the research problem, and seeking a low-cost procedure were the most important reasons for using the Grounded theory in the qualitative method. In the quantitative analysis, the latent and observable variables dependent on four indicators were incorporated to qualitative analysis for the pathology of the consequences of rural development programs in *Varzaqan*. In order to gain an access to the path coefficients, the significance levels of the test, the model of the measurement, and the structural model test were calculated. Also, the quality of the measurement models (external), the structural model (internal), and the analytical model of the research were evaluated by the statistical data. The evaluations were also made through a reliability and validity measurement model, a structural model test, and a quality test for measuring and structural models.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest