

Research Paper

Planning for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Using the PRA Approach Based on Seven Capital Model (Case Study: Baghdad Village in Nikshahr County)

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ABSTRACT

The present is carried out aimed at developing a plan for development and sustainable rural livelihoods with an emphasis on Baghdad village in Nikshahr county. Accordingly, a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) method is used to collect the research data. Data analysis is also performed using the Seven Capital and the Radar Models. The participants of the study consist of 23 experts who are selected purposefully. The findings of the research showed that Baghdad village has appropriate natural and social capital, and its human capital is increasing. At the same time, it is found that the village does not have good spatial capital. However, according to the existing context and the demand of the villagers, implementing the scenario of relocating the village in the proposed location will create new spatial and employment opportunities for the village and villagers. There are also some weaknesses in the infrastructural capitals of the village that they can be addressed by implementing the relocation scenario. Besides, there also some weaknesses in the institutional capital of the village in terms of legal documentation. The development plans for tourism and agriculture have some problems in terms of the coordination of inter-organizational programs, and the effectiveness of the programs for job creation and livelihoods is also under question. Finally, according to the radar model and based on the opportunities available in each of the seven capitals of the village, the future development and employment plan of Baghdad village is elaborated.

Key words:

Sustainable livelihoods plan, Participatory rural appraisal (PRA), Seven-Capital Model, Radar Model, *Baghdan* Village

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

T

oday, the development of sustainable rural employment programs is the basis for the economic development of rural

areas. Baghdad village is an oasis village in the north of Nikshahr country in Sistan and Baluchestan province. Despite natural opportunities (in the past) and spatial potentials (especially after the construction of the Bam-Chabahar transit axis) exist in the village, it has not succeeded in acquiring its potential opportunities, and suffers from economic poverty. Accordingly, the central issue of the

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present study is to deal with how to prepare an economic and employment plan for the village based on a comprehensive model which captures all opportunities.

2. Methodology

The present research does not use quantitative methods and relies on qualitative and participatory approaches that reflect field realities. Data collection is done with the help of local elites and is based on participatory rural appraisal (PRA) approaches such as social structure analysis, infrastructural and economic needs measurement matrix, rural workflow, tree designing, and organizational structure mapping with the Ven diagram. The statistical data are obtained based on the implementation of the 7th capital model, which has not yet been used in other studies.

The present research added two capitals of spatial and institutional to the five capitals suggested in the 5th capital.

Statistical and sample population

The statistical population consisted of people of Baghdad village located in the northwestern Lashkar village of Lashar district in Nikshahr country. It is located 16 km from the city of Spectra in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan province. Its longitude is 60 degrees and 17 minutes, and its latitude is 26 degrees and 46 minutes. There are 49 households in the village, and its population is about 189 people. The participants of this study were 23 males and females who were selected purposefully.

3. Results

The results of the PRA and the 7th capital models showed that:

1- The natural capital of the village is strong because there are permanent freshwater sources that can be extracted without pumping costs. The village soil is fertile, and its moisture is naturally high. The relative and competitive advantages of the village are high for the production of dates, pomegranate, and lime (4.5 points out of 5)

2- The social capital of the village is, to some extent, high because it is a tribe, and there is no difference. The area also has many potentials in gardening, animal husbandry, and housing. Nevertheless, addiction is the only problem, and it affects more than 30% of residents.

3- The spatial capital of the village is very poor in the current status, but in the case of displacing the village,

this capital can be substantially improved. However, as the village is still in its primary location, the spatial opportunities are wasted, and the village is in isolation and deprived (score 2.1).

4- The human capital of the village is low due to the lack of educated, technical and skilled people and there is no rationale for the displacement of young people for labor-intensive and straightforward works (score 2.6)

5- The infrastructural capital of the village is fragile. The village's infrastructure response to 80% of the population. The village is not connected to the drinking water network. The village's school is located in the courtyard and beside the riverside river below the forest. Due to the blind spot position of the village in the current status, solving the problem of the internet (which is the main occupational and marketing need in the present) is of value (score 1.6).

6- The institutional capital of Baghdad is weak because of a lack of legal documents such as transfer plans, guide plans, tourism plans, etc. Organizational institutions implementing institutional laws and documents are not active, and their performance is not integrated (score 3.1)

7. The economic capital of Baghdad village is weak, and its livelihoods is depended on informal activities (score 1.1).

4. Discussion

The existing economic capital of Baghdad has two possible ways to create new businesses: first, the branding of businesses, especially handicrafts and raw materials and products. Second, the supply chain, in particular, the date product. Based on the findings of the research, it can be concluded that since the hidden opportunities of the 7th capital model are not activated, stable employment and continued production of Baghdad's financial capital are not achieved. Currently, we can predict the needs and drivers of employment in Baghdad, and then develop the rural employment program for a perspective of 10-years.

5. Conclusion

According to the results of the matrix of Economic Needs Assessment in Baghdad, the infrastructural priorities of the village in the economy are as bellow:

1- Changing the location of the village and the implementation of the guideline and the organization of residence; 2. Creation of a large backup pool for storing extra

water of Qanats in winter for irrigation of gardening in summer; 3- Date and livestock processing; 4. The facilitation and support facility (B.D.S) for social motivation, supply chain, and the creation and completion of a value chain. 5- Executing the droplet plan.

Finally, based on the summarizing of the 7th model, based on the advantages and limitations of the village of Baghdad, an employment package was proposed to achieve a sustainable economy in Baghdad. It involves the creation of promoters and simultaneous reinforcement of the 7th funds.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest