

Research Paper

An Investigation of the Rural Development Policies of Sixth Five-Year Social, Cultural and Economic Development Plan in Iran

Masomeh Amani¹, *Farhad Azizpour², Asghar Tahmasebi³, Hasan Afrakhteh², Hasan Darabi⁴

1. PhD Candidate, Geography and Rural Planning, Faculty of Geography, University of Kharazmi, Tehran, Iran.
2. Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geography, University of Kharazmi, Tehran, Iran.
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geography, University of Kharazmi, Tehran, Iran.
4. Assistant Professor, Department Of Environmental Design, Faculty of Environment, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.



Citation: Amani, M., Azizpour, F., Tahmasebi, A., Afrakhteh, H., & Darabi, H. (2020). [An Investigation of the Rural Development Policies of Sixth Five-Year Social, Cultural and Economic Development Plan in Iran (Persian)]. *Journal of Rural Research*, 11(1), 22-35, <http://dx.doi.org/10.22059/jrur.2019.285969.1384>

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22059/jrur.2019.285969.1384>

Received: 23 July 2019
Accepted: 17 Dec. 2019

ABSTRACT

In recent decades, planning system has faced a change in the concept of development because of the intrinsic dynamics of human societies and the ineffectiveness of theories in solving problems. The Intellectual concept development has required assessment of the conceptual framework of planning theories in the rural development. Therefore, the purpose of the present study is to investigate rural development policies of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan of Iran based on postmodernism theory. The research methodology is qualitative based on Meta-synthesis and content analysis. The method of collecting data is library-based and logical reasoning was used to understand the categories. The results showed that key principles of postmodernism theory are non-rationality. Evaluation of rural development policies revealed that these policies are relatively compliant with principles of postmodernism planning. In other words, programs derived from modernism are observed along with postmodernism planning policies that implies to eclecticism thoughts in provision of rural development policies of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan.

Key words:

Rural Development Policies, Sixth Five-Year program, Postmodernism, Iran

Copyright © 2020, Journal of Rural Research. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-noncommercial 4.0 International License which permits copy and redistribute the material just in noncommercial usages, provided the original work is properly cited.

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

In past times, an analysis of the changes in rural society of Iran shows that rural settlements were faced with major difficulties. Key problems included the exacerbation of regional inequalities, depletion of rural areas, unemployment and social harms

that, in addition to influencing the country's structures, had a significant impact on rural society. In order to cope with these conditions, the country's policy and planning system had tried to implement the development plans for providing the conditions for mitigating the challenges of Iran's settlements system, especially villages. Assessment the impacts and implications of developmental programs showed that these programs were inefficient in solving the problems. The pathology of development programs also showed that theoretical approach of development

* Corresponding Author:

Farhad Azizpour, PhD

Address: Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran.

Tel: +98 (912) 5135385

E-mail: azizpour@khu.ac.ir

program is one of the major inefficiencies. On the other hand, planning system is faced with a change in the concept of development because of the intrinsic dynamics of human societies and the ineffectiveness of theories in solving problems. Therefore, the purpose of the present study is to investigate rural development policies of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan of Iran based on post-modernism theory.

2. Methodology

This study is applied in terms of purpose and a descriptive in terms of method. The method used in the present study is qualitative based on meta-synthesis and directed content analysis. Meta Analysis involved an analysis of all research published in reputable scientific databases and library resources related to postmodernism and planning I the period 1996-2018. For directed content analysis, the target population consisted of rural development legislation in the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan of Iran. Data collection method was library-based and logical reasoning was used to understand the categories.

3. Results

The postmodern planning framework yielded five principles including pluralism, governance, contextism, domestication and localism(based on meta-synthesis. The semantic units of these principles include:

- Governance: transparency and responsiveness, partnership and collective agreement,
- Pluralism: empowerment, women's identity, taking into account all groups of people in planning,
- Contextism: Historical identity in planning, flexibility in planning, mixed planning, uncommon patterns in planning,
- Domestication: Environmental justice in programs and attention to human scale, intimacy and identity,
- Localism: localization, customization.

Content Analysis of the rural development policies shows that the adaptation of rural development policies is mainly in the three principles of pluralism, governance, and localism.

4. Discussion

Evaluation of rural development policies revealed that these policies are relatively compliant with principles of postmodernism planning; however, programs derived from modernism are observed along with postmodernism planning policies, which implies eclecticism in provision of rural development policies of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan.

5. Conclusion

Although the rural development policies are relatively compliant with principles of postmodernism planning, it believes to the modern planning in practice. In other words, eclecticism thoughts are observed in provision of rural development policies of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan. Eventually, the policy and planning system of Iran (in the provision of rural development policies), have not conceptually separated the planning paradigms from each other.

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 conflicts of interest