Research Paper

Assessment of the Desirability Levels of Environmental Health in Rural Areas: A Case Study of Lorestan Province Villages

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ABSTRACT

An analysis of international organizations reflects the centrality of health as a key indicator of sustainable development. Today, environmental quality of health has become one of the most important issues in rural settlements. In other words, in the literature on development and its related approaches, the issue of environmental health and efforts to promote this indicator is of paramount importance at the level of rural communities. The method is a library-based quantitative study and data were collected based on documentary analysis and field survey. Based on this, the components and health records of environmental quality were identified as the basis for developing the questionnaire as the main tool for research in field studies. Based on the five priority classes of Prescott Allen's utility survey in the economic dimension of 28 villages, some villages are in a potentially poor situation (poor utility). In the social dimension of the total number of studied villages, 20 were undesirable villages, six villages were in the unfavorable condition (weak utility) and four also had a moderate utility. Regarding the physical utility, 23 villages were in a state of complete disadvantage, six villages were in a poor potential situation (poor utility) and 1 village had a moderate utility. However, in terms of environmental sustainability, 22 villages were in a state of complete disadvantage and eight villages in a state of poor potential status (poor utility).

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

An analysis of international organizations reflects the centrality of the health component as a key indicator of sustainable development. Today, environmental quality of health has become one of the most important issues in rural settlements. In other words, in the literature on development and its related approaches, the issue of environmental health and efforts to promote this indicator are of paramount importance at the level of rural communities. The changes in the quality of the rural environment, in particular, the increase in negative factors, such as delinquency, pollution and land release, physical

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damage such as drainage in villages, some rural uses to landfills and power plants, unpleasant smells, inappropriate housing and vulnerability to natural disasters have led to a decline in the quality of environmental health in rural areas and the increasing concern of governments and people.

2. Methodology

The present study is quantitative and library-based and the related data were collected based on documentary analysis data and field survey. Field research method. Based on this, the components and health records of environmental quality were identified as the basis for developing the questionnaire as the main instrumetn for data collection. Validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by a number of specialized experts. Then, Cronbach's alpha was used for reliability analysis, which was found to be 0.805 indicating appropriate reliability of the questionnaire. In order to identify the studied villages, the most important indicators that affect the quality of environmental health in rural areas of *Lorestan* province were first identified. At this stage, based on indicators such as conducting a Hadi plan, having a training teacher, using new energy, access to service centers and public facilities, access to health services and facilities, villages with healthy drinking water, information and communication technology, sanitary waste collection methods, and positive population growth rate were identified. In the second stage, for the leveling of settlements in terms of availability of services, the range of centralization index changes was calculated. At the last stage, the number of villages in each class was determined. However, in order to obtain more accurate results, a stability radar test was used for each village to assess the level of environmental health in the villages of *Lorestan* province. First, we tried to prepare the collected data for analysis and measurement following the steps mentioned in the four sections (calculating the statistics, scaling, and aligning), and then the sustainability radar has been used to evaluate the health level Environmental quality in sample villages.

3. Results

First, using a single-sample T-test, the sample population was used to measure these components of environmental health. The results of this test showed that in all aspects of the quality of environmental health, the status of the sample population was lower than average; nevertheless, the highest average was related to the social component, which was estimated to be 1.85 The status of this component was more appropriate than other components of health and the quality of the environment. From the perspective of the participants, the state of the economic component, with 1/318 the average calculated. One-way ANOVA was used to determine whether there was a significant difference between the cities of *Lorestan* province in terms of environmental health components. The results of ANOVA showed that at 0.05 level of significance, there was no difference between the studied cities in terms of environmental health components.

4. Discussion

In the social dimension, out of the total number of studied villages, 20 were undesirable villages, 6 villages were in unfavorable conditions (weak utility) and 4 villages had a moderate utility. Regarding the physical utility 23 villages were in a state of complete disadvantage, six villages were in a poor situation (poor utility) and 1 village had a moderate utility. However, in terms of environmental sustainability, 22 villages were in a state of complete disadvantage and eight villages were in a state of poor status (poor utility).

5. Conclusion

Based on the research literature on measuring and analyzing health components of environmental quality, with an emphasis on rural areas, 60 questionnaire items were developed based on 13 indicators including economic stability, economic well-being, aesthetic quality, visual fit and physical identity, location belonging, permeability, physical quality of residence, social security, social quality, participation and institutional capacity, environmental health and environmental vulnerability. It can be deduced from the results, the residents in the studied villages are not satisfied in terms of the economic component of residents, their income stability, job diversification, annual saving rate, and the rate of production efficiency and they are in unfavorable conditions. In order to assess the environmental quality of health in the studied villages, we used 6 indicators of the physical component. The results of the study showed that from the perspective of the sample society, the status of this component is also undesirable. Also, based on field findings, in many villages, there is no adaptation between existing uses in the village, there is no harmony between the physical environment and the villages, and villagers rarely use indigenous materials in the construction and renovation of their homes. There is no harmony between the physical environment and the socio-cultural characteristics of the village. Also, the results of the Utility radar at the level of each village indicated that none of the studied villages had a favorable status in terms of environmental health components.

Eighteen villages were in perfect condition and 12 were in a condition of possible instability (poor utility).

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest