



Islamic Azad University-Ahar Branch
Geographic Space AApproved Scientific,
Research-based Quarterly

Gholamhossein Abdollahzadeh¹

Tahereh Qarqani²

Mohammad Sharif Sharifzadeh³

Gohar Khaksar Moghaddam⁴

Investigating Factors Affecting on Settlement Tendency among Nomads Households in Samirom County

Date received: 8 June 2015

Date accepted: 16 September 2015

Introduction

Nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists are a small but significant minority of the population of Iran and play vital role in livestock production. Nomads' settlement programs as a nomads community development strategies with the aim of deprivation and providing better service has been on the agenda of different governments. On the other hand, tend to settle among nomadic households is affected by various factors. Therefore, there is a need to identify factors influencing the tendency of settlements among nomad households so that the results be used in policy making of settlement nomads plans. Hence present research investigate factor affecting on settlements among nomads households in Samirom County.

1- Department of Agricultural Management, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran.

2- Graduated Student of Rural Development, Faculty of Agricultural Management, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran.

3- Department of Agricultural Management, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran.

4- Graduated Student of Rural Development, Faculty of Agricultural Management, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran.

Material and Methods

This applied research carried out based on survey strategy. The target population includes all the 4845 nomads households in Samirom County in which 130 households selected as samples of this research. Stratified sampling method with appropriate allocation among nomadic tribes was used to select samples. A questionnaire was used in order to collect data and its face and content validity was verified using comments of faculty members and experts from Samirom Nomads Organization and reliability of the questionnaire was confirmed according to calculate Cronbach's alpha for settlement tendency (0.681), perception of settlement attraction (0.903) and perception o nomad repulsion (0.718).

Discussion and Conclusions

Results showed that 32.3 percent of households were more tend to settlement and 40.8 percent were mediate tend to settlements. In order to determine direct and indirect effects of independent variables such on settlement tendency (as dependent variable) the path analysis techniques by calculate multiple regression was employed. The results of path analysis showed that variables "perception settlement attraction" have most positive impact (with path coefficient 0.656), "perception o nomad repulsion" (0.257), "education" (0.222), "settlement of relative people" (0.158), "households size" (0.111) and variables such "number of livestock" (-0.229) and "nomads income" (-0.148) have most negative impact on final dependent variable settlement tendency.

Conclusions

Based on the results of this research we can conclude that the decision to settle among the nomadic families was carried out in the framework of rational choice theory in order to maximize profit or personal gain. Current research used rational choice theory; therefore future research should use other theory and indicators to

assess the decision to settle among the nomadic families. Also implementing employment and welfare programs for nomadic families in settlement sites in order to support households' decision are recommended.