

**Expounding the Relation Between Territorial Development and  
Human Structures Settled in Geographical Space with Emphasize  
on Critical and Humanistic Geography  
( A Case Study of Iran)**

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**Extended Abstract**

**1-Introduction**

Expounding the development of countries related to human structures settled in geographical space has caused different theoretical discussions. Iran has a diverse society in terms of human and physical properties, so multidimensional development is considered. This paper is intended to expound the relation between the regional development of Iran and human structures settled in geographical space. Human structures include ethnic groups settled across the borders of Iran. Theoretical framework of the paper is based on the “modernization in societies” and “critical approach to the development”. Based on theoretical principles, modernization in developing societies with ignoring environmental requirements has caused one-linear development, weakness for multilateral development and human participation. These countries need reformed modernization to their society’s development. Critical approach to the development criticizes society’s inequality in terms of development and lack of human participation in society’s evolutions and emphasizes human forces for development. By synthesizing the two approaches, the paper considers the two approaches. Affected by the synthesized approach, the multilateral development in its all economic, political and cultural- social facets, and also considering humanistic development and regard to human layers of society is considered .

**2- Methodology**

The research is basic in terms of its goal and is descriptive- analytic in terms of nature and method. Data gathering procedure is based on library findings. In library procedure, using existing references like books, articles and secondary data is considered .

**3- Research findings**

Development’s variable in all three political, economic and cultural- social facets which were analyzed in the research are as follows: ethnic participation in elections (in presidential elections), ethnic participation in the state’s management, ethnic’s participation in civil organs, geographical or territorial justice, budgeting and planning in the geographical space, dispersion of communicational networks, ethnic’s values and norms, relations of ethnic groups (density of relations of ethnic groups, dialogue between ethnic groups). The paper

claims that all of the nine mentioned variables on the one hand have the ability of expounding the level of development in all three facets, and have important effect on the function of these variables in the type of Convergence and national unity, on the other hand. Research findings show that ethnic's participation in presidential elections is fluctuating because of the different factors, and they have had less participation than central provinces. Ethnic's participation in political management of the state, in the level of executive power, shows that ethnic groups, without Azerbaijanis, have had less participation in political management of the state. The situation of civil organs in local and regional level is not suitable because of the national situations, and it is needed to consider civil organs which are one of the factors of political development. Some desirable actions have been done in the distribution of facilities in the boundary regions and provinces, but the model of centre-periphery development is dominant. Budgeting is centralized because Iran's political system is a unitary centralized system. This model of budgeting and planning contrasts with Iran's geographical space. Communicative networks have a radial form and consequently weaken the relations of peripheral regions. Paying attention to ethnic's values and norms is reflected in the constitution, but has not been put into appropriate action. Ethnic's relations in Iran are weak, but this weak relation has less caused ethnic conflicts .

#### 4- Discussion and conclusion

Tense official- administrative centralism, centralized planning and also, modernization policies in development plans of the country without considering environmental requirements are some of the factors which affect development factors. Diminishing the government's body, decrease in bureaucracy, spatial and contractive decentralism, regional planning, people participation in cultural and economic development, local and national democracy, values diversity and paying attention to the ethnic's values and norms are the most important indexes of development in the contemporary era.

**Keywords:** development, territorial development, human structures, Ethnicity, critical geography