



The Role of Mental Structures on Iran Development Program Realization

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Extended Abstract

Iran have the longest history of development program among the under developing countries, but it is still a developing country. None of the country development programs including before and after the revolution, has reached its economic goals. Nowadays, the country has not suitable development position among the world countries, but sometime has been witnessed a retreat. The main goal of this paper is analyzing the economic achievements of 70 years' development programs and their effective factors from the viewpoints of mental structures. Research required data have collected through interview with development planers elites and some documents. Collected data analyzed through grounded theory and inductive reasoning. Findings show that economic goals of development programs have not realized after 70 years. Because the programs are not based on strong theoretical foundations and in accordance with country natural, economic and social condition. Therefore, People voluntary participation not guaranteed due to lack of democratic structure. Work does not have a significant validity; in spite of low economic weight of country among the world, a large share of world politics is being pursued in this country. The impact of natural, economic and social stabilities on production development does not matter and economics is not considering as an organic phenomenon. Therefore, negative mental structures play an important role in failing to fulfill development programs in Iran.

Keywords: development programs, mental structures, economic achievements, Iran

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INTRODUCTION

Iran have the longest history of development program among the under developing countries, but it is still a developing country. None of the country development programs including before and after the revolution, has reached its economic goals. Nowadays, the country has not suitable development position among the world countries, but sometime has been witnessed a retreat. Sometimes it is argued that Iranian planning system has been depended on will of politicians and powerful people. There has not been any correct understanding concerning social, economic and historical situation of Iranian society in the thinking of development planners. Development plans have not benefited from scientific framework appropriate to natural, social and economic condition of the country, thus, the economic goals of the programs have not been realized. Literature review is the first section of this paper, then some economic indices studied including economic growth rate, inflation, unemployment, productivity, income distribution and size of government. The study of these indices shows that how far the implementation of the programs has achieved the primary economic goals. The article will end by addressing the factors that influence the above-mentioned trends from the perspective of mental structures.

PURPOSE

The main goal of this article is analyzing the economic achievements of 70 years' development programs and their effective factors from the viewpoints of mental structures.

METHODOLOGY

Research required data have collected through interview with development planers elites and some documents. Planner elites were including 28 persons. They were university professors specializing in planning, experts of management and planning organization in Tehran and some provinces and a number of doctoral students related to development planning. Collected data and statements analyzed through grounded theory and inductive reasoning. Grounded theory is a well-known methodology employed in many research studies. Qualitative and quantitative data generation technique can be used in a grounded theory study. Grounded theory sets out to discover or construct theory from data systematically obtained and analyzed using comparative analysis. While, grounded theory is inherently flexible, it is a complex methodology.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Study and analyzing of economic indices including economic growth rate, inflation, unemployment, productivity, income distribution and size of government have indicated that none of the Iran development programs including before and after the revolution, has reached its primary economic goals. Analyzing collected data using grounded theory showed that six factors were effective in this process from the viewpoints of mental structure. These are as follows:

Theoretical framework. The dominant economic development theory has been modernization, structural oriented pattern and basic needs pattern, respectively during Pahlavi rule. The structural adjustment program is the most important model of Iranian development since the Iranian revolution. The main characteristic of this model is to follow of free economy and privatization, while not meeting any of its requirements in the country, as a result, intermediation activities in the Iranian economy have grown, while productive activities have weakened.

Democratic Structure. One of the requirements for sustainable development is to ensure voluntary public participation. Implementing redistribution policies, taxation, universal insurance and ensuring minimum living condition for all people in society and reducing poverty requires democratizing power structure.

Cultural Characteristics. One of the needs of positive economic transformation is cultural characteristics. The belief in production work and interest in lucrative mediation work is hindrance to development. In Iran, this argument is not universally accepted and the policy-making system does not encourage productive activities.

Economic Dependent on the Politic. Iran is more involved in world politics than its economic weight. As a result, many costs are being imposed on the country, which has a negative impact on the country's economic development, while Iran is rich in natural and human resources.

The Atmosphere of Uncertainty. One of the needs for sustainable development is the existence of an atmosphere of confidence. The Factors of natural environment are one of the uncertain factors unless man can dominate natural environment through scientific technology. Market volatility is another factor, which, coupled with the instability of the natural environment, impedes economic investment.

Economic as a collective life system. The production is not only an economic subject, but it is a social, cultural and political matter. The service sector must support production directly and indirectly. There is no such thinking in Iran. The service sector has been mixed with speculation and deviated from its original function.



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CONCLUSION

Findings show that economic goals of development plans have not been realized after 70 years. The maximum rate of realization of economic goals is only 50 percent in some pans. The plans have not had any correct theoretical framework appropriate to county's condition. There has not been people voluntary participation due to lack of democratic structure. The form of appearance of planning always prevailed over its obligations and supporting institutions in Iran. Many believe the best job is to have high income but it takes less time and is easier to do, therefore, may have preferred intermediary jobs. No particular economic theory has governed the planning process. Work does not have a significant validity; in spite of low economic weight of country among the world, a large share of world politics is being pursued in this country. The impact of natural, economic and social stabilities on production development does not matter and economics is not considering as an organic phenomenon. The role of democratic structure and powerful social society in economic development not paying attention in development plans. No attention is paid to the motivation structure of economic activities in formulating development plans. Therefore, mental structure of planners has an important role in realizing economic goals of development plan that needs to be corrected, otherwise it is not possible to achieve balance and sustainable development, and negative mental structures play an important role in failing to fulfill development programs in Iran.

NOVELTY

The novelty aspect of the paper is that it specifically addresses the role of thought and mental structure in economic development and has examined many of negative mental structure affecting economic development in Iran.

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