

Explanation of the Main Components of the Unsustainability of Cooperative Institutions in Cooperative Management Projects to Combat Desertification in South Khorasan Province

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Abstract : Background: The cooperative institution is considered the first and most essential pillar of strengthening social capital, whose sustainability is the main guarantee of survival and continued participation of local communities in natural resource management projects. The Village Development Group and the Microcredit Fund are two important social and economic institutions in the implementation of the International Project for the Restoration of Degraded Forest Lands (RFLDL) in Sarayan City, South Khorasan Province, which has learned positive lessons from the participation of the beneficiaries in the implementation. They have brought more effective projects to deal with desertification. However, the low activity or liquidation of some of these institutions has become one of the important challenges and concerns of project executive experts. The current research was carried out with the aim of explaining the main components of the instability of these institutions. Materials and Methods: This research is descriptive-analytical in terms of method, practical in terms of purpose, and the method of collecting information is two documentary and survey methods. The statistical population of the research included all the members of the village development groups and microcredit funds in the target villages of the RFLDL project of Sarayan city, based on the Kochran formula and matching with the Karjesi and Morgan table. Net people were selected as a statistical sample. After confirming the validity of the expert's opinions, the reliability of the questionnaire was 0.83, which shows the appropriate reliability of the researcher-made questionnaire. Data analysis was done using SPSS software. Results: The results related to the extraction of obstacles to the stability of social and economic networks were classified and prioritized in the form of 5 groups of social-cultural, economic, administrative, educational-promotional and policy-management factors. Based on this, in the socio-cultural factors, the items 'not paying attention to the structural characteristics and composition of groups', 'lack of commitment and moral responsibility in some members of the group,' and 'lack of a clear pattern for the preservation and survival of groups', in the disciplinary factors, The items 'Irregularity in holding group meetings' and 'Irregularity of members to participate in meetings', in the economic factors of the items "small financial capital of the fund", 'the low amount of loans of the fund' and 'the fund's inability to conclude contracts and attract capital from other sources', in the educational-promotional factors of the items 'non-simultaneity of job training with the granting of loans to create jobs' and 'insufficient training for the effective use of loans and job creation' and in the policy-management factors of the item 'failure to provide government facilities for support From the funds, they had the highest priority. Conclusion: In general, the results of this research show that policy-management factors and social factors, especially the structure and composition of social and economic institutions, are the most important obstacles to their sustainability. Therefore, it is suggested to form cooperative institutions based on network analysis studies in order to achieve the appropriate composition of members.

Keywords : cooperative institution, social capital, network analysis, participation, Sarayan.

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