

## The Role of Citizen Participant in Urban Management (Case Study: Aligudarz City)

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**Abstract:** Today, in our times, human participation has been considered as a key to develop communities. And new urban planning, instead of theoretical and cognitive issues, are more likely leading to practical planning, implementations and participations. the intention of this survey is, recognizing the methods and procedures of participation planning in order to use the most of people's participation ability to develop the urban areas, And also have a check at the rate of citizen's partnership and their role in the development of Aliguodarz city. This research is applied and the research method is "descriptive – analytical". The method of data collected is field and questionnaire. In order to was used from libraries resource, organizations internet and papers. Finding show, there is oriented relation between sexual and participant. Also, there is oriented relation between citizen participant and economic and social condition

**Key word:** Citizen participant, urban management, Aligoudarz

### I. Introduction

Studying the evolution of human societies, the development and improvement are obtained when human cooperate and participate during their life with each other. Participation is a set of attitudes, procedures and behaviors that make people to discuss and investigate the facts and conditions of their lives, so that they can plan what to do and they can find the results and evaluate them. (Chambers and Blackburn, 1996; p, 1) so one of the participatory methods is citizen partnership in development. The city is at last belongs to all the citizens and wardens so that planners cannot act and decide instead of them. (Moledan, 2002, p, 128) In this matter, it is necessary that power be distributed in urban public fields so that citizens can be directly engaged in city matters and find their roles as active citizens and feel more responsible in the aspect of urban problems. When citizens are involved in urban issues of whole city as a backbone, and they develop a sense of responsibility and making decisions, therefore it would be much easier for the wardens of the city to solve the urban problems. (Journal of Council, 2000)

A neighborhood is also a social pyramid that makes the pillars of a bigger pyramid which is the city and it also contains other social elements of the city. Neighborhood is a social context and it includes a public discipline. A part of this public discipline is public duty and the other part of it, is insured by an efficient city governor. Overall, the feeling of belonging to a particular place increases one's feeling of responsibility towards preserving and retaining the social discipline of the neighborhood. And because of this, city governors have less problems towards this matter. (Mashhadizadeh Dehaghani, 1999).

Among industrial countries, France is one the successful countries in the discussion of participation subject. Statesmen of France (Prime Minister and Mayor) have carried a program entitled "neighborhood community development". The innovation of this program is the close cooperation between government and urban agencies and role of citizen in the process of city development. (Athari, 2002).

The subject of citizen participation in urban areas in third world countries such as Iran, due to low appropriate cooperation in both legal and social parts, still considers as a new phenomenon that has not been properly in right theoretical or practical position. It is essential to search for the forms of the participation in order to have more attention to sustainable development in urban areas.(Yavar,2001). Participatory planning was introduced in 1940s by using people's opinion about the urban municipal comprehensive over Europe. And 1960s may be considers as the most important decade in formation of philosophical and theoretical issues involved in urban planning and participation. (Moradi,2001).

Azadi (2001) has come to results such as the importance of widespread public participation in planning, equipping, managing, implementing, maintenance and comprehensive public management assessing in his thesis named "The role of participation in integrated management and sustainable development".

And also Eyvazi Abdullahi (2005) have reached to this conclusions that there is a straight and positive relation among membership in organizations, more communicating with information resource incentives, council's view of training and advancement planning, council's technical knowledge in sustainable development and the severity of natural resources damage and environmental degradation in his thesis entitled " Analysis of public organization participations in extension plannings toward permanent development". Hodseni (2006) indicates in his master's thesis which named "urban structural-spatial improvement in urban permanent development( sample case Jolfa neighborhood)", that creation of ethnic social networks as communities and urban groups and creating the necessary context for communication among residents can solve urban problems and improve environmental situation for residents, as an effective feedback.( masomii, 2011).

Since the most important gauge for a sustainable city, is creating mental and spiritual relaxation and providing citizen's needs, Therefore, in urban planning, planners should pay attention to ecological limitations, economical issues, social, life quality, cultural issues, moralities, gregariousness, social profit and loss, citizen political development and etc. And with today's emphasis on importance of public participation as a key strategy for sustainable development which occurs at any scale, it will be clear that the urban development can play a sustainable role. (Khaksari, 2006).

## II. Theoretical framework

### 2.1. Urban management

There is no general principle for urban management concept and the main meaning of this term is very confusing. Stern believes that, urban management doesn't have a specific definition and content (Stern, 1993). According to the tastes, perception of people and also political-social demands of different eras had different meanings. We can still see these differences in meaning and concept in the recent era. The World Bank defines urban management as a quasi-commercial activity for governments. In other words, urban management means, managing urban affairs and high performance in order to use the World Bank loans. Urban management is sometimes considered as a tool for implementing the urban policies, which means urban managing science. *Van Dijk* defines urban management as an effort for coordinating and integrating the public and private actions for overcoming problems that urban residents encounter, and creating more competitive, fairer and more stable cities. *Van clink* and *Bramesta* also defined modern urban management as the process of implementing, coordinating and assessing the integrated strategies with city's authorities' help, by considering the private section objectives and citizen's benefit, in a political framework that in higher levels of government, is being edited for approaching the sustainable economic development potential (Van Dijk,2006).

### 2.2. Participation

Citizen participation is one of the core values of democracy. Democratization means an increase in citizen participation in public affairs (Don-yun, 2003). In fact, Citizen participation plays a critical role in building healthy communities by creating more empowered constituencies who can leverage greater and more equal access to available resources (Pennie G, 2009).

In urban management, participation has two meanings, the first meaning of participation concept, can be considered cooperation between private sectors and municipality. In this kind of cooperation, the private sector which acts according to the market rules, in order to get economical profits and by receiving service cost that presents, cooperates with municipality and, hence, in performing duties, helps the municipality. Municipality monitors the activity of this section and giving part of duties to the private section does not mean that the municipality is not responsible toward the quality of the presenting services. The second concept of the participation emerges in the cooperation of community sector with municipality. This sector has other names such as social sector or private non-for-profit sector (mozayyeni, 1997).

### 2.3. Participation approach in Urban Management

In the recent two decades, many organizations and institutes that intervene urban management and planning at global levels, have emphasized on promoting the participation view for encouraging a kind of management and planning approach "Bottom-up" and enabling community in order to monitor development actions and had considered to make decision in solving urban problems based on local communities to fulfill the necessary conditions for citizen's welfare. From 1990, urban development approach, has experienced an important revolution in its paradigm; learning from previous experiences and "top-down" conventional view, would give a pattern that lies on the approach different from the past, and that is "down to up" approach; shift from a prescriptive view to the participative one based on government-oriented solutions for problem solving

methods with emphasis on civic society is one of the features of new development pattern, which has fundamental emphasis on the role of people, local communities and civic society (Haji pour, 2006).

According to the capacity and power of citizens, the urban management should be on the basis of the principles that in fact create the fundament of this structure. These principles can be listed as follows:

- Principles of urban civility and citizens' education
- Principles of continuous poll from citizens
- Principles of codified rules for informing and guiding citizens
- Principles of gaining trust of public and private sector
- Principles of verifying and revising the actions which have been done (Mozayeni, 2000).

### III. Research method

This research is applied and the research method is "descriptive – analytical". The method of data collected is field and questionnaire. In order to was used from libraries resource, organizations internet and papers (eshraqi, 2001:45). So the research hypothesis is:

- There is oriented relation between sexual and participant.
- There is oriented relation between citizen participant and economic and social condition
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### IV. Studied area

Aligoudarz is a city in and capital of Aligoudarz County, Lorestan Province, Iran. At the 2006 census, its population was 78,690, in 18,115 families. Aligoudarz is located 503 km from Tehran and situated in a region which is a mixture of plain and foothill, thus enjoying a mountainous mild climate. Oshtorankuh Mountain range and Aligoudarz River are situated here. The origins of the city are unknown. The city of Aligoudarz was once called Al-e Goodarz (meaning sons or tribe of Goodarz, a mythical Iranian hero from the Persian national epic Shahnameh). In the past, the monastery of this city was a religious training center for the Kizilbash and darvishes.

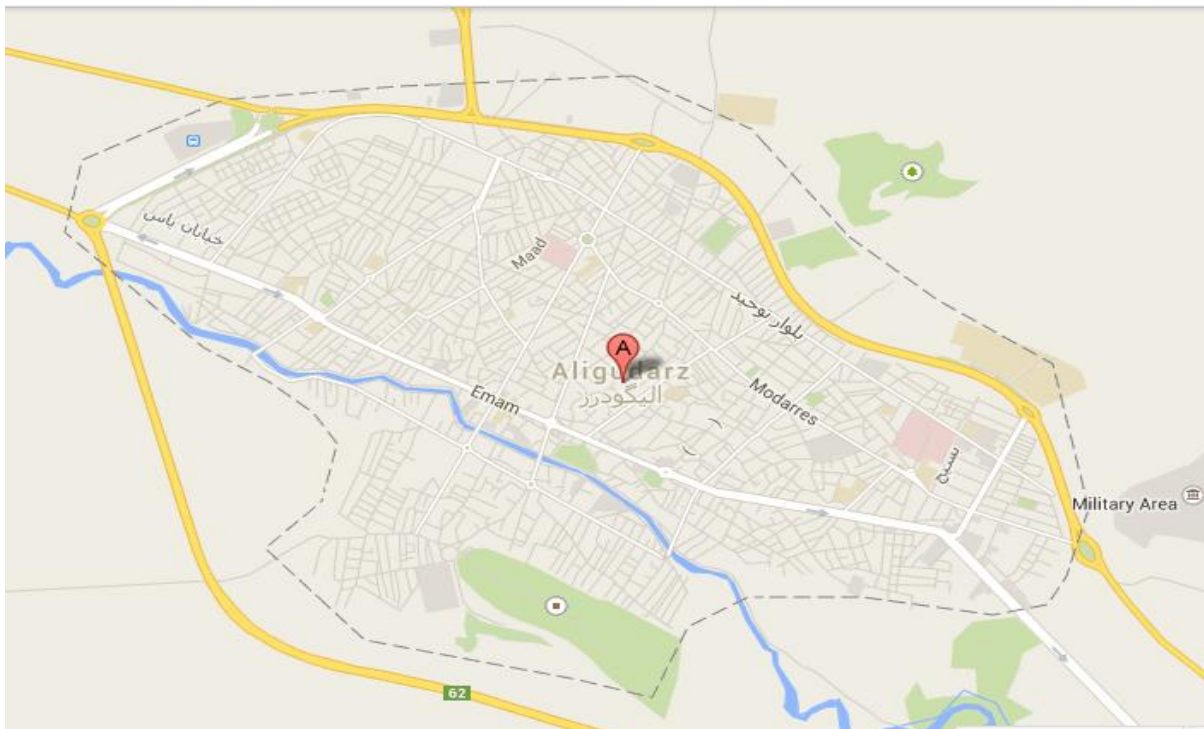


Figure 1: Aligoudarz city

### V. Findings

This section was divided two sections. Descriptive findings and analytical findings. So in continue explain them.

#### 5.1. Descriptive findings

In order to descriptive statistical society, indicators were defined in questionnaire. Thus was used from descriptive statistical. Therefore the graphs show relation between studied indicators. Indicators are, sexual, economic (income) condition, satisfaction of local governance function

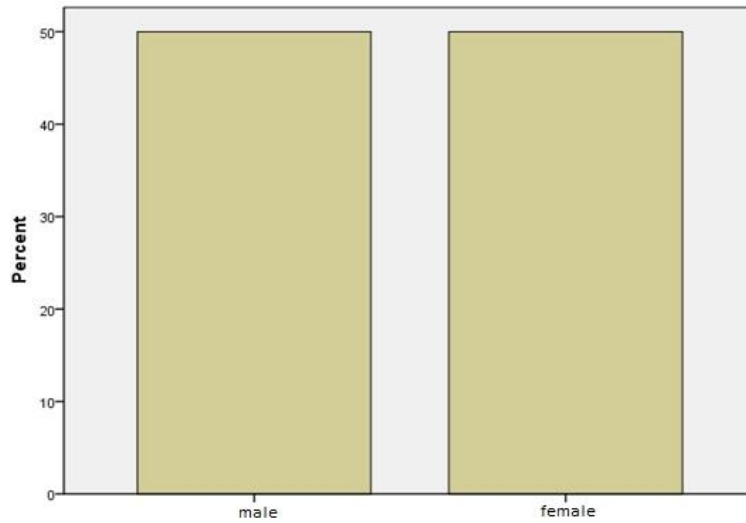


Figure 2: sexual condition

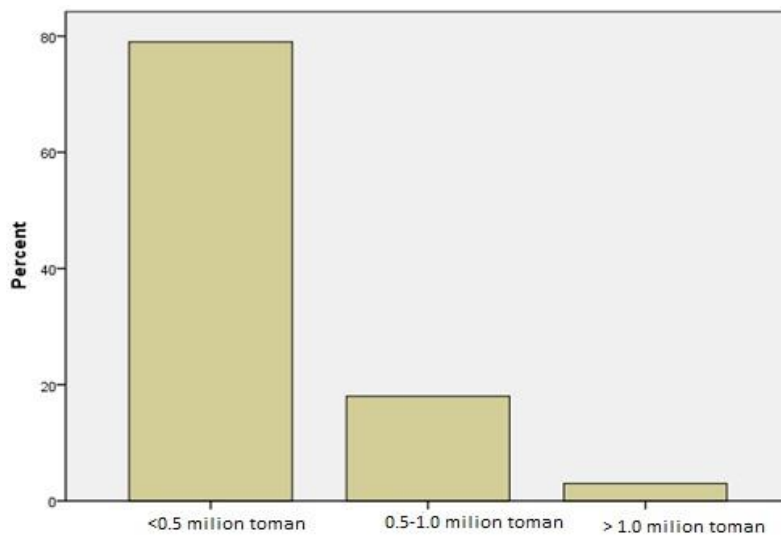


Figure 3: income condition

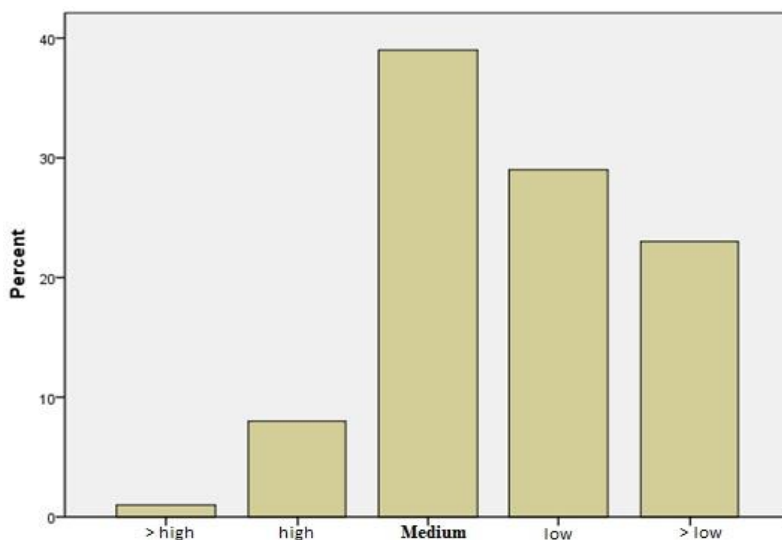


Figure 3: satisfaction of local governance function

### 5.2. Analytical data

In order to detecting relation between indicators should be used analytic statistic. So, we use from Pearson's coefficient of contingency method. Mentioned method show contingency between indicators . The amount is between -1 to 1. Thus, is studied relation between defined indicators.

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
<b>The relation between participate and income</b>	100	100.0%	0	.0%	100	100.0%

#### Pearson's coefficient of contingency

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Contingency Coefficient	.107	.562
N of Valid Cases		100	

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
<b>Sexual &amp; participate</b>	100	100.0%	0	.0%	100	100.0%

#### Pearson's coefficient of contingency

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Contingency Coefficient	.025	.806
N of Valid Cases		100	

According above table there is oriented relation between indicators. Also, the amount is positive. They are 0.8 and 0.5. So the hypothesis is true.

## VI. Conclusion

City councils establishment in Iran is an important step moving from a centralized system to a decentralized planning system and urban management based on citizen's participation. Concurrent with city council establishment, neighborhoods council associations also were established in order to citizens are in contact with their representatives directly.

According to this study, we have come to this result that the rate of citizen participation of Aligoudarz city is pretty good. Thus citizens feel responsible for their neighborhood and are trying to keep it. Also they want the security of their neighborhood and are interested in decision making and participating in plans which are made for the neighborhood's development. According to this survey the long living term has not had a big effect on participation. One of its reasons can be, being un familiar with urbanization culture, uneven distribution in some neighborhoods, new buildings and lack of appropriate services. And in the participation subject, we have come to this result that most of the citizens are likely tend to participate.

And this shows that participating for citizens is somehow a crystallization matter. On the other hand, the officials of the city did not provide much opportunity for them. Some researchers have been working in this field, including Majla, he came to this conclusion in his survey about participation that citizen participation rate have an outstanding effect on planning, city development and improvement and urban management. (Taghva, 2011, p, 305) In the participation aspect, the positive respondents results shows that most citizens believe that income increase does not affect sustainable development individually, but increasing the citizen's social and economical database simultaneously in training, income and employment will be affective. On the other hand, the hypothesis is true. There is oriented relation between indicators.

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