



Analysis of the Model of Sustainable Development Planning in Rural Economy of Iran (Case Study: Yazd Province)

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Abstract

Purpose- The present study was undertaken to explore the model of the sustainable development planning of rural economy in Yazd province.

Design/methodology/approach- This is an applied research that draws on an exploratory approach for data collection and is descriptive-analytical with regard to the description of characteristics. The main research instrument was a questionnaire coupled with semi-structured interviews. The statistical population of the study consisted of government actors in Yazd province, who were selected using multi-stage sampling method.

Findings- The findings of this research indicated that planning sustainable development of rural economy in Yazd province has been consistent with the rational approach in terms of characteristics and compatible with the operational planning in terms of pattern. The central planning process has been top-down, and therefore, the local communities have not been involved in any of the planning processes.

Research limitations / implications- The dominance of the traditional views on planning and the absence of stakeholders and locals in the planning framework has led to seven decades of ineffective development programs in Iran. Therefore, changing the planning pattern from the traditional (rational) to new (interactive-communicative) approach, which would lead to decentralization and the establishment of a public involvement in the planning system, especially in rural development, can help cope with the shortcomings of seven decades of rural development programs in Iran in general, and Yazd province in particular.

Practical implications- Trusting people and utilizing the knowledge of rural people, especially the educated and young people, not only in planning but also in managerial positions such as district deputy in which the candidates are chosen among the local people, use of regional potentials such as Basij of Engineers to set up small knowledge-based circles at the city level and specialization of rural districts are some of the solutions that can trigger rural development under an interactive pattern.

Originality/value: It is also important to identify the model that is employed by the dominant approach to development planning in a country. Based on this model, many features such as the extent of concentration and the role of people in the planning system, the role of local potentials and the limitations in planning, the place of monitoring and evaluation, among other things, in fostering development can be identified.

Key words: Sustainable development, Rural economy, Core pattern, Operational planning, Yazd.

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1. Introduction

In Iran, planning for development began in 1937 with the establishment of the Economic Council. Although before that a seven-year development plan had been proposed by Zahedi for the period of 1931-1937, when a development plan in its modern sense has not been adopted in any part of the world, this plan did not receive the official attention it deserved (Azimi Arani, Noor Mohammadi, 2012). Therefore, the history of planning in Iran precedes many countries. In addition, four other development programs were authorized and implemented before the Islamic Revolution in Iran, but the main objective of the planning (i.e development) , was not accomplished. Many reasons can be cited for this failure. One is the priority given to foreign interests in development planning and the absence of a nexus between the planning and the social structure of Iran, the authoritarian ruling system, the reduction of development to physical planning, discontent with the planning rules, non-acceptance of the programs presented by the planning organization, the conflict between the planning organization and the government, and the over-reliance of the development planning on oil. The planning in this period was largely unsuccessful, therefore, undoubtedly these plans could not be expected to contribute to the development of rural areas, as rural areas had a trivial share in the developmental programs. In the first, second, and third development plans, there was no specific section dedicated to rural development, and in the fourth and fifth plans, where rural development was taken into consideration, no development plan had been envisaged for villages with a population of less than 250 people, which covered 40 percent of the villagers (Ghadiri Ma'soum, Aligholizadeh Firouzjaie, 2003). After the Islamic Revolution, the rural development was pursued through five socio-economic development programs. Despite tremendous efforts and positive outcomes, including development in the agricultural sector and improved productivity, massive construction and infrastructure activities in the villages, progress in health and hygiene (Shakouri, 2012), Iran was still among the developing countries, and rural areas struggled with a plethora of problems,

such as migration, unemployment, change in age composition of population, lack of economic diversification, failure to exploit local potentials and capabilities and high vulnerability, among other things (Roknodinn Eftekhari , Sajasi Qeidari, 2014). That is, although development planning in Iran in general and rural planning in particular have a long-established history and Iran has been one of the pioneers of developing development plans, today this country is facing stagnation and undesirability of economic growth (both in cities and villages). At the same time, there are countries with less than two decades of planning experience, which are several decades ahead of Iran in terms of growth and development criteria. Now, the question is why, despite creation of the conditions for growth and development, and the long history of planning and dedication of national resources to formulating development plans, Iran always struggles with the problem of non-execution of plans and ineffectiveness of programs (Economic Research Center, 2014). Several studies have identified factors such as disregard for the role of the villages in national planning system; non-consideration of environmental and geographical conditions of rural areas in the planning system; lack of needs analysis in rural areas; and the formulation of rural development goals based on needs and issues that are generally associated with the focus of the planning system as the factors contributing to the ineffectiveness of planning in rural areas (Rezvani, 2001). However, in the Fourth Development Plan of Iran, the Provincial Development Plan was drafted based on an executive mechanism (Articles 72 and 83). The implementation of the provincial development plan introduced a bottom-up approach to the top-down view of the Fourth Development Plan of the country and contributed to the decentralization of the development planning system. Nevertheless, recent evidence suggests that these programs have failed to accomplish their envisaged goals. Therefore, the present study, in the light of the above issues, (first, after several decades of construction and development programs in the country, villages still face many problems and the number of abandoned villages are increasing each year. Second, since the Fourth Development Plan and based on the above Articles, greater attention has been paid to decentralized planning and formulation of the provincial development

document, but the programs have not yet achieved their goals) aims to analyze the sustainable development planning system of rural economy in Yazd province.

According to statistics, Yazd province is one of the main provinces that struggle with rural population instability in Iran. The ratio of ruralization in this province has dropped from 20% in 2006 to 17% in 2011 and 14.64% in 2016, which manifests the growing rate of abandoning villages in the province. In addition, the annual growth of rural population in Yazd province is 1.66%. Observations in the province suggest that although social development programs have improved social services such as health and education, they have not been able to reach economic goals and promote economic sustainability in rural areas. Therefore, despite the relative improvement of the social status of rural areas in Yazd province, due to unemployment and low income levels, on the one hand, and industrialization of cities, on the other hand, rural-urban migration has been increasing in the province. In other words, during the past years, lack of planning, disregard for the living conditions and livelihoods of the villagers and the lack of necessary support has increased the rural-urban migration in this province. The outcome of this trend is vacant villages, migration of young and productive labor force from villages, and, as a result, decreased production of agricultural goods and livestock, aged population dominated by women in the rural areas, and at the same time social and demographic pressures such as increase in slum and squatter settlement, intensified social and moral vices, and the spatial problems induced by over-crowding in cities. Therefore, in this research, attempts have been made to answer the following two questions using descriptive-analytical approach and designing a questionnaire and conducting interviews:

1. What are the characteristics of the dominant model of sustainable development of rural economy in Yazd province?
2. What model of sustainable development is adopted by the planning system for rural economy in Yazd province?

2. Research Theoretical Literature

A few studies have addressed the issue of rural development planning and its dominant models. Most studies have focused on the shortcomings and drawbacks of development planning system

and tried to criticize the planning system by discussing the theoretical deficiencies of the planning. For example, [Zahedi et al. \(2012\)](#) in a paper on theoretical shortcomings of rural development planning in Iran, used a qualitative research method based on Delphi technique to investigate the weaknesses of rural development planning in Iran after the Revolution, concluding that there is no shared understanding of development in the rural development planning of Iran, and such plans are flawed from the intellectual, rational and theoretical aspects. In fact, it seems that this theory still does not have the essential theoretical and richness to reinforce sustainability of rural development. According to the research, the major drawbacks of rural development planning system in Iran are: the dominance of an exogenous development approach, the dominance of the positivistic and quantitative methods with the planners playing the central role, the imperative and top-down nature of plans, centrality of idealistic views in planning system, unclear rural development policies and strategies, the idealistic nature of rural development plans, and the uncertainty of some decision shapers and decision-makers about the necessity of rural development. In a study titled "The development experience of Turkey with emphasis on development plans and its comparisons with Iran", [Gholipour and Aghajani \(2014\)](#) utilized a comparative and a descriptive-analytic research method to explore the causes of Turkey's success in development and the characteristics of the development programs in Turkey. They reported that all policies of the Turkish government have been in line with development goals set by the [Ministry of Development](#), all long-term (five-year perspective and vision plans) and short-term (medium-term programs and annual plans) development plans have taken into account the diversity and rationality of plans, and goals have been meticulously defined by quantifying them. These factors, authors noted, were the main reasons for the progress of Turkey in recent years. "An opportunity to address the concept of planning in Iran," is the title of an article written by [Motewaseli et al. \(2017\)](#), who examined the requirements and challenges of designing, drafting, and implementing an effective planning in Iran. The results of this research, which draws on a descriptive-documentary approach, demonstrated

that in order to realize development goals, an institution-oriented approach to planning should be adopted which is a collaborative and bottom-up approach, rather than a non-collaborative and top-down approach.

In general, according to the existing theoretical concepts of planning, in planning the process of development, two parameters should be clearly distinguished: a) the views, goals and approaches dominating the development process; and b) the process dominating the process of planning the work.

In the realm of theory, these two parameters represent two sets of theories, the former "theory of planning" and the latter "planning theory". Theory of planning refers to independent theories in various scientific disciplines, such as social and economic theories, which lay the basis for formulating development plans whereas planning theory focuses on the elements, stages, and execution of the planning process, which demonstrates the nature and process of planning. (Behzad Nasab, 2010).

The focus of this research is on the planning theory. Based on document analysis and inclusion of components, stages, and execution methods, seven common models of planning are defined as follows: Advocacy planning, Strategic planning, Participatory planning, Operational planning, Core planning, Institution-oriented planning, and Rolling planning.

The advocacy planning was a term coined by Paul Davidoff in an article published in the Journal of the American Planning Association. In his model, Davidoff suggests that different social groups should be allowed to propose rival plans and programs for development of a city, region or neighborhood. These designs can compete with each other to obtain the best plan or program for development (Clavel, 1994; Marris, 1994; Checkoway, 1994; Harwood, 2003; Gamal, 2010). Strategic planning is an approach that allows the planning process to be founded upon reliable understanding and realistic possibilities, and the decision-making process, rather than being deterministic, is geared toward amending the actual and progressive trends.

According to this model, planning should be a step-by-step process for accomplishing goals. As a result, strategic planning was emerged in response to the inherent flaws of comprehensive plans in meeting the needs and guiding future growth and

development (Wu, 2007; Hall, 1994). Participatory planning involves planning with the contribution of people. These people can embrace a wide range of stakeholders depending on the subject and field of work. In other words, participatory planning could be defined as: a set of processes through which different groups and desires interact to reach consensus on a plan and its execution method (Khadem al-Husseini, Arefipour, 2012; Mousavi Jahromi, 2012).

Operational planning is a model in which general objectives are swapped with operational goals and the process of achieving these goals is predicted in terms of a series of operations. In operational planning, the partial goal is developed into an operational plan and the procedure of attaining the goal is stated in details (Mobayeni Dehkordi, Salmanpour Khoei, 2006). Core planning lies at the heart of development planning and is based on directing cores and executable programs. The latter is a set of objectives, specific projects, arrangements and executive organization to dismantle a development barrier or to erect a development hub. No development plan could be executed without specific projects at the heart of executive programs (Mahmoudi, Majed, 2012; Derakhshan, 2004; Tofigh, 2004). Institution-oriented planning is the type of planning which is based on the coordination between official and unofficial institutions and which is done by negotiating individual, organizational, sectoral, regional and national considerations, harmonizing short and medium term trends and considerations with long-term concerns, coordinating institutions, policies and strategies within the government, linking government and the market public and private enterprises, and managing their affairs (North, 2003; Motewaseli, 2017).

Rolling planning is a model in which, after defining the time horizons (5 or 10 years), every 2 to 3 years, or even annually, the entire program is reviewed and proportional to the extent of progress and the depletion or accumulation of financial resources. The program is re-structured according to the same time horizon, but based on new statistics and information (Parliament Research Center, 2011).

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Geographical Scope of the Research

Yazd province with an area of 74493 square kilometers is located in the central part of Iran's plateau at 29° 35' to 35° 7' north latitude and 52° and 50' to 58° and 16' east longitude. In terms of the area, it is the eighth largest province in Iran. Geographically, this province is positioned in the center of Iran and is surrounded by the provinces

of Semnan, South Khorasan, Kerman, Fars and Isfahan. According to the latest administrative divisions of the country in 2015, Yazd province has 10 cities, 21 towns, 21 districts and 45 villages (Statistical Yearbook of Yazd Province, 2016). Based on the results of the latest population and housing census conducted in 2016, the population of the province was 1138,533 (Figure 1).

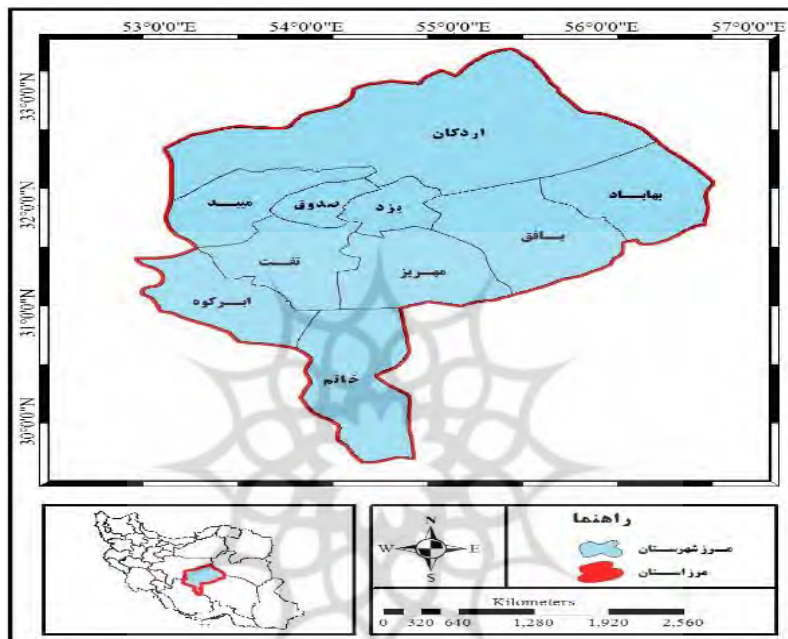


Figure 1. Political situation of cities in Yazd province

(Source: Management and Planning Organization of Yazd Province, 2018)

3.2. Methodology

This is an applied research and the research method involves a descriptive-analytical procedure. The data collection was based on library resources (note-taking, Internet search) and field study (questionnaire, interview). In the present study, theoretical foundations were compiled by deductive method and the results were generalized on an inductive basis. The statistical population consisted of 146 members of the planning council of Yazd province, planning council of cities and towns of Yazd and Rural Development and Sustainable Development Task Force, who were selected through purposive sampling. The purpose of this study was to analyze the characteristics of the model used in the sustainable development planning of rural economy in Yazd province and to identify the dominant model. Accordingly, selection of the

indicators for operationalizing these two objectives was primarily based on document analysis, which indicated that the rural planning model as a system, like any other model as a system, comprises of three parts: 1. Planning and designing the model (architecture), which embraces principles, framework and process; 2. Managing the model (Architectural execution) and 3. Monitoring and evaluation of the model (Roknodin Eftekhari, Pourtaheri, Rahmani Fazli, Khalifeh, 2016). After identifying the components of planning, we also considered consensus at the level of international organizations and institutes as well as development planning experts in relation to these indicators. Hence, the main indicators of development planning models employed by organizations, institutions and international bodies were ranked (Table 1). After extraction, the validity and reliability of indices were assessed by eight

university professors and provincial specialists. After revising and improving the indices based on feedbacks received from professors, they were incorporated in a questionnaire on a Likert scale to identify the characteristics of the dominant model for sustainable development of rural economy. Following the verification of content validity by 15 senior provincial planners, who were part of the study population, they were analyzed and evaluated by the community of state actors (146 people). It should be noted that in the analysis of information, descriptive findings including frequency and mean and inferential findings including one sample *t*-test were used.

4. Research Findings

The research findings include descriptive and inferential findings which are presented in two separate sub-sections.

4.1. Descriptive Findings

Based on the analysis of documents and also comments received from a panel of 15 specialists of rural planning, the components of the planning system and their relevant indicators were identified and assessed by government actors (146 members of the Provincial Planning Council, the Rural Development and Sustainable Development Working Group). The descriptive results of this assessment suggest that according to the local government actors, out of the 33 features under study, only three features including “considering vision document and the macroeconomic plans of the country in designing and finalizing a sustainable rural development program” ($M=3.16$); “the legal status of rural management in the

implementation stage” ($M=3.21$), and “the central government's impact and the influence of its economic goals on defining provincial-level program goals” ($M=3.21$) were above average.

According to the results, the highest mean for the framework indicator was obtained for “considering vision document and macroeconomic plans of the country in designing and finalizing a sustainable rural development program in Yazd province” ($M=3.16$). For the principle indicator, the highest average was related to “the legal status of rural management in the design and execution of the development program” ($M=2.85$). As for the process indicator, the highest average was achieved by “the extent of consideration of all aspects of rural economy in Yazd province in designing and drafting the program” ($M=2.78$). With respect to the management and execution indicator, the highest average was associated with “the extent of consideration of all legal requirements in the implementation process” ($M=2.81$). Among the indicators of evaluating the program prior to, during and after execution, “the extent of monitoring the decision-making and goal-setting in rural development planning” ($M=2.86$), “the extent of monitoring and evaluation of the proper execution of the program, and accomplishment of objectives” ($M=2.51$) and “benefiting from participation of local communities and other stakeholders at the monitoring and post-execution evaluation stage” ($M=2.82$) obtained the highest average. The average of other characteristics is given for each indicator in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Descriptive Evaluation of Features of Rural Development Planning System in Yazd Province
(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Framework	The extent of considering the decision-formation and decision-making principle	0	41	88	17	0	2.83	0.61
	Transparent role of each organization, institution and agency in the decision-making process	0	57	89	0	0	2.60	0.48
	Considering the vision document and macroeconomic plans of the national economy in designing and drafting	0	40	42	64	0	3.16	0.83
	Considering the current obligations (existing potentials and capacities) to execute the program	0	14	112	20	0	2.39	0.49

Table 1.

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Framework	Impact of central government and government economic objectives on designing provisional program goals	0	11	93	42	0	3.21	0.56
	Adherence to the top-down trend in the development planning system of Yazd province	37	51	58	0	0	2.14	0.79
	Considering the feasibility of the program at the decision-making stage	0	20	126	0	0	2.86	0.34
Principles	Planning based on the needs and demands of local communities in the province	0	74	72	0	0	2.49	0.50
	Benefiting from participation of community and other stakeholders in development planning	37	51	38	20	0	2.28	0.99
	Legal status of rural management in the preparation and compilation of the development program	4	42	71	29	0	2.85	0.76
	Considering spatial and economic trends and variations in planning of province development	37	0	109	0	0	2.49	0.87
	Including all stakeholders in planning sustainable development of rural economy	0	72	74	0	0	2.50	0.50
	Considering strategic perspective in the regional development vision for sustainable development planning	37	17	92	0	0	2.37	0.86
	Considering endogenous factors in sustainable rural development planning	57	52	37	0	0	2.47	1.24
Process	Considering the temporal aspect (timely execution of the program) in implementing the program	0	57	89	0	0	2.6	0.48
	Flexibility of the decisions and program against temporal conditions	0	125	21	0	0	2.14	0.35
	Considering the time schedule of the program (steps defined to reach the goals)	0	57	89	0	0	2.60	0.48
	Considering all aspects of rural economy of Yazd province in drafting programs	6	54	52	34	0	2.78	0.85
Management and execution	The extent of involving local people and other stakeholders in the execution phase	0	111	35	0	0	2.23	0.42
	Legal status of rural management during the execution phase	0	23	71	49	3	3.21	0.72
	Integration and coordination (vertical connection) of organizations with legal status	20	54	72	0	0	2.35	0.71
	The sessions and workshops held by relevant organizations	0	71	38	37	0	2.76	0.83
	The extent of considering legal requirements in the execution process	3	46	72	25	0	2.81	0.73
Pre-execution evaluation	The extent of monitoring decision-making and setting goals in rural development planning	0	20	126	0	0	2.86	0.34
	The extent of overseeing the compatibility of the decisions made with the goals of relevant communities	37	37	72	0	0	2.23	0.83
	The extent of monitoring the feasibility of decisions	0	37	109	0	0	2.74	0.43

Table 1.

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
	The extent of monitoring to evaluate the results of decisions with defined goals	0	20	126	0	0	2.86	0.34
Evaluation during execution	The extent of monitoring and evaluation of the process and proper execution of the program	0	71	75	0	0	2.51	0.50
	The extent of involving local communities and other stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation phase	37	88	21	0	0	1.89	0.62
	The extent of considering the review cycle (periodic evaluation of plan progression and compliance with the conditions)	57	0	89	0	0	2.21	0.97
Post-execution evaluation	The monitoring and evaluation of the program to determine the extent to which the program's goals have been realized	0	88	58	0	0	2.38	0.49
	The extent of involving community and other stakeholders in the monitoring and final evaluation phase	3	46	70	27	0	2.82	0.74

In the next step, to determine which conventional models of development planning match the characteristics of Yazd development planning model, after studying the documents and using a panel of eight faculty members, seven patterns were identified and the characteristics of each pattern were extracted and subject to the analysis of content validity. Then, the characteristics of each pattern were incorporated in a questionnaire, and the study population (state actors) was asked to score characteristics of each model based on its

compliance with characteristics of planning sustainable development of rural economy in Yazd province. The results of descriptive evaluation of the statistical society score can be presented as follows:

1. The mean values of four characteristics of the advocacy planning model were lower than the average, and the mean of the only planning element that embraces social and economic aspects, not mere physical planning, was higher than the average (3.10) (Table 2).

Table 2. Descriptive Findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of advocacy planning model
(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Advocacy planning model	The selection of optimal development plan from among several plans developed by different organizations	44	63	34	2	3	2.02	0.88
	The bottom-up planning process in line with the participation of actual stakeholders, especially disadvantaged classes	64	22	47	4	9	2.13	1.19
	The planner is the representative and proxy of the local people and fully cognizant of their needs and demands	30	39	70	7	0	2.36	0.86
	Planning is entwined with the values and priorities of people	31	55	46	14	0	2.29	0.91
	Planning involves social and economic aspects, not just physical planning	7	19	81	30	9	3.10	0.87

3. In the operational planning model, the mean of two features of “short-term horizons of the program in the operational planning model” with an average of 2.80 and “addressing the priority

problems in the region with an average of 2.95” is below average while the mean value of other features are above the average (Table 3).

Table 3. Descriptive Findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of operational planning model

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Operational planning model	The time horizon of the program is short-term	4	41	80	21	0	2.80	0.70
	Objectives are related to specific a subject and group	5	22	35	71	13	3.44	0.96
	Achievement of predefined goals is confined to a certain time period	10	31	47	45	13	3.13	1.06
	Priority problems in the region are investigated	10	36	55	41	4	2.95	0.95
	Planning is based on an initial assessment of the internal and external context in an area	15	25	45	60	1	3.04	1.01
	Planning is made at high organizational levels and participation of people in decision making is limited	15	18	10	53	50	3.71	1.32
	The goals of this model are quantitative and aimed at effectiveness and usefulness rather than efficiency	17	18	10	52	49	3.67	1.36
	It is in line with high-level goals of the planning	10	23	28	68	17	3.40	1.09

4. The participatory planning model consists of seven characteristics, which based on the evaluation, the mean values of seven

characteristics were below the average. In this model, the lowest mean belonged to “the bottom-up planning process” with a mean of 2.08 (Table 4).

Table 4. Descriptive Findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of participatory planning model

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Participatory Planning model	The planning process is bottom-up	52	57	20	7	10	2.08	1.14
	People have an active role in planning (preparing, drafting and implementing); people as the fourth pillar of government	6	67	65	8	0	2.51	0.66
	Planning is based on the needs and demands of the community and the local people	57	41	8	29	11	2.28	1.35
	The program is flexible and can be modified proportional to the progress in the field operations	46	43	25	9	3	2.04	0.96
	There is a hierarchy of policymaking levels and an integrated relationship between different levels of planning	43	25	37	34	7	2.56	1.26
	The high-level organizations play a vital role in the preparation and formulation of the program	67	31	8	39	1	2.15	1.27
	Local executives have a role in the execution and assessment of the program	33	66	32	11	4	2.22	0.97

5. The mean values of twelve characteristics of the strategic planning model were below the average. In this model, the lowest average was associated with the “prospective nature of the program

(outlining the vision)” with a mean of 2.16 and the highest average belonged to the characteristics of “delivering heterogeneous services and conducting

studies tailored to conditions of each region for planning” with a mean of 2.46 (Table 5).

Table 5. Descriptive Findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of strategic planning model

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	Very high	AVER	STD
Strategic planning model	Strategic planning is based on internal and external capabilities	24	38	64	20	0	2.54	0.92
	Prospective nature of the program (outlining the vision)	40	60	28	18	0	2.16	0.96
	Considering the beneficiaries and emphasis on community involvement in planning	66	25	24	31	0	2.13	1.20
	The hierarchy of policy-making levels and the relationship between different levels of planning	33	44	49	11	9	2.44	1.10
	The emphasis on flexibility, dynamism and modifiability of the program or its local revision	56	23	31	36	0	2.32	1.22
	Awareness of regional issues and goal setting based on these considerations	43	46	30	21	6	2.32	1.16
	Providing services and conducting studies with regard to specific conditions of each area for planning	28	56	28	34	0	2.46	1.05
	Considering the role of people in the stages of preparing and drafting plans and ensuring the compatibility of the goals of program with public demands	37	36	55	18	0	2.36	0.99
	Considering an active role for local institutions in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the program	36	40	46	24	0	2.39	1.03
	Preparing the plan based on national and regional policies and changes and descriptions of the program relative to regional conditions	57	29	36	18	6	2.22	1.20
	Considering the concept of revision and modification in the executive process and the proposed system	34	58	27	27	0	2.32	1.03
	Investigating the feasibility of the program based on studies	60	28	36	16	6	2.17	1.20

6. Among the features of planning, the mean value of “planning based on key stimuli” ($M=3.27$) was above the average level, while the average of other features was lower than the average (Table 6).

Table 6. Descriptive findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of rolling planning model

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Rolling planning model	It has short-term horizons (18 months)	64	25	28	24	5	2.18	1.25
	The dominant process in this model is bottom-up	58	42	17	15	14	2.21	1.32
	It is based on recent conditions and awareness of regional changes	28	47	58	13	0	2.38	0.89
	There is a high level of flexibility in revision	46	62	27	11	0	2.02	0.89
	The process of continuous planning and future outlook in planning is systematic	50	26	49	21	0	2.28	1.08
	It is based on key drivers	2	22	65	48	9	3.27	0.84

7. The core planning model is composed of nine characteristics, among which, the mean values of six features including “relying on the prioritization of plans based on expert opinion in each region”, “recognition of the status quo by consulting experts and organizational specialists”, “planning based on propelling and developmental cores”, “constrained participation of people that is limited to consideration of local elite”, “the top-down planning process based on comprehensive goals and strategies”, and “quantitative nature of goals with assessment ability” were higher than the average (Table 7).

Table 7. Descriptive findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of core planning model

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Core planning model	It is based on fundamental needs of each region.	32	19	78	8	9	2.60	1.07
	It relies on the prioritization of plans in each region and views of experts.	0	5	102	39	0	3.23	0.49
	The status quo is evaluated based on views of specialists and organizational experts	1	22	56	65	2	3.30	0.76
	It is based on a propelling and developmental core aimed at regional development	14	23	75	25	9	3.08	1.05
	The program is limited to the main challenges and potentials	9	35	78	24	0	2.80	0.78
	People's participation is limited to consideration of local elites' views	0	22	41	79	4	3.44	0.77
	The planning process is top-down and the program is based on comprehensive goals and strategies.	5	12	47	76	6	3.45	0.83
	Objectives are quantitative and possess high evaluation capability.	1	24	53	54	14	3.38	0.89
	The planning levels are adaptable and integrated	25	20	62	39	0	2.78	1.02

8. The institution-oriented planning model consists of four characteristics. The mean values of these four characteristics were below the average level.

The lowest mean in this model is related to "bottom-up trend of planning" with an average of 2.17 (Table 8).

Table 8. Descriptive findings concerning the compatibility of features of Yazd Development Pattern with characteristics of institution-oriented planning model

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

	Feature	None	Little	Medium	High	very high	AVER	STD
Institution-oriented planning	It is based on fundamental needs of each region.	42	52	40	8	4	2.17	1.00
	It relies on the prioritization of plans in each region and views of experts.	37	65	20	24	0	2.21	1.00
	The status quo is evaluated based on views of specialists and organizational experts	42	46	47	11	0	2.18	0.93

Based on the overall descriptive results presented in this section, the mean values of the proposed features (including planning is at high organizational levels; the role of people in decision-making is constrained; the goals of planning are quantitative and prioritize usefulness and effectiveness over efficiency; planning is in line with higher-level goals; planning relies on key drivers; the planning process is top-down; planning is based on comprehensive goals and strategies; planning is based on an initial assessment of the internal and external conditions of a region based on the views of experts) were above average and mean values of the other characteristics were below the average.

4.2 Inferential Findings

A one-sample *t*-test was adopted for inferential evaluation of the features of rural development planning system in Yazd province. For this purpose, the features identified by state actors were analyzed in the form of components (framework, process, principles, execution and evaluation in the three phases of prior to, during and after the execution of the program) by one sample *t*-test. According to this test, the characteristics associated with each component are considered as the premise and are confirmed or rejected in accordance with the views of the community of public actors. The results of this test at 99%

confidence level indicated the characteristics of all studied elements were rejected (Table 9). The results of this test validate the descriptive findings of the research. The averages obtained from descriptive findings of the study suggested that out of 33 characteristics studied, only three had an average above the optimal level and the average of other characteristics was lower than the optimal level, thereby indicating the undesirability of the features in the sustainable development planning of rural economy in Yazd province (Table 9). In general, based on the findings of the research and interviews, the characteristics of the sustainable development planning of rural economy in Yazd province can be presented as follows:

Preparation and compilation. Some of the characteristics of preparation and compilation component include:

1. Non adherence of the Yazd province planning system to the principle of decision shaping at the low organizational level and decision-making at the top organizational level- which is one of the characteristics of new planning (interactive-communicative). Evidence suggests that decision-shaping and decision-making in relation to rural economic planning in Yazd province take place at high organizational levels and sometimes without any knowledge of rural areas or based on out-of-date information.

2. The unclear role of each organization, institution and department in the decision-making process. Some council members, who have played a pivotal role in rural development, have pointed out that some tasks, subject to their area of expertise, fall on certain organizations, which are not only in charge of investigating and determining the objectives but also in charge of their execution.

However, in the planning system of the province, some roles are delegated to organizations that lack sufficient expertise in that field, or some specialized roles are assigned to several organizations at the time of execution. Not only does this cause dissidence between organizations involved in execution and achievement of goals, but also lead to disruptions in monitoring and evaluation, and accurate reporting of the program progress.

3. Lack of consideration of the obligations and commitments (existing potentials and capabilities of the organization) for execution of the program in the preparation and designing of the program. In the decision making process, given that the

decisions are taken at top organizational levels, and are imperative for low-level organizations during execution, the organizations are often given instructions irrespective of their potentials and capacity. It is usually due to lack of awareness at the decision-making level or distortion of the organizational face.

4. The impact of the central government and its quantitative economic objectives on the formulation of objectives at provincial-level planning. The planning of provincial economy development should be tailored to capabilities and in the light of the problems in the province. Evidence has long revealed that, at the rural level, irrespective of regional capabilities and constraints in accomplishing the government's quantitative goals, some activities are initiated that may be effective in the short run and help attain the quantitative goal, but in the long run, they would not be economically justifiable and pose a threat to the survival of the village.

5. Following a top-down approach in Yazd province's development planning system. According to the results, the development planning system of Yazd province is based on a top-down approach so that decisions are taken at the top organizational level, and bottom-line organizational tiers are under obligation to adhere to these policies.

6. Lack of attention to integrated relations of different levels (national, regional and local) in planning. With regard to the planning of rural development in Yazd province, the evidence demonstrated lack of an integrated association between planning levels. Based on the evidence and the results of interviews, it can be argued that in Yazd province planning system, the local level is only considered in the execution stage, where the emphasis is only on the legal status of rural managers in implementation. In other planning phases, the local level goes unnoticed. There are also no integrated and bilateral relations at the national and regional levels, and most of these relationships are imperious in nature so that the programs are executed at the regional level to achieve state-level macroeconomic goals.

7. Lack of integrity and coordination (vertical connection) among organizations with legal status in planning. The results and evidence suggest that in the planning system of Yazd province, in addition to absence of integrated relationships between planning levels, there is poor vertical

relations between decision-making and planning institutions at the provincial level.

8. Inconsistency of planning with needs and demands of local communities in the province. Evidence indicated that the needs of local communities in the planning and decision-making stage are not taken into account and the demands and aspirations of the villagers are not recognized. The results of interviews revealed that none of the organizations in charge of rural affairs had ever made an effort to analyze the economic feasibility of plans.

9. Non-participation of local communities and other stakeholders in the development planning. The centralization and the top-down view of planning in Yazd province, as mentioned earlier, has hampered the involvement of local communities in the province's planning system.

10. The legal status of rural management at the phase of preparation and design of the development plan. Councils and rural villagers are in charge of rural management at micro level. Results demonstrated that in the Yazd province planning system, rural management enjoys legal status only at the execution stage.

11. Lack of attention to the strategic vision of the regional development outlook in planning sustainable development of rural economy. According to the results of the test and interviews, some rural economy decisions are taken irrespective of the development outlook of the region and executed simply based on the managers' periodic performance.

12. The inflexibility of the decision-making and planning against time conditions. In this regard, the interviewees stressed that the adopted programs and decisions were practically inflexible and in the span between execution and completion of the program, the decisions taken at the outset of the program are virtually pursued, although the importance of decisions may have tapered off over time, or, in case of periodic evaluations, goals have not been met.

Program Management (Execution). Some features of the program management element (program execution) in the planning system of Yazd province are as follows:

1. Non-participation of local people and other stakeholders in the execution phase of the development plan. In the planning stages of rural planning, whether in terms of preparation and formulation or management and execution and even monitoring and evaluation, local people are

not involved and the process of development planning in the Yazd province is top-down.

2. The legal status of rural management during the execution phase. Based on the evaluation and results of the research, the presence of this feature in the planning system of Yazd province is approved so that the rural management possesses a legal status at the execution stage of the program, and at the execution stage of the program, consistent with goals and decisions taken at top-level centers, rural management is consulted to obtain defined goals. Given that in the view of state actors, the legality of rural development rights in the planning system of the province is only confined to the execution stage and rural management potentials remain untapped at the decision-making, monitoring and evaluation stage, it can be concluded that provincial planners have an instrumental approach to the participation of rural managers.

3. Failure to comply with legal requirements in the implementation process. The results of the study suggest that the legal requirements associated with the execution of program in Yazd province are largely ignored. The requirements ensure the implementation of policies and the realization of goals. In the absence of legal and executive requirements, the decisions made in the program either remain unexecuted or are conducted improperly. In this context, the decisions made in the areas of agricultural facilities can be mentioned. In the absence of specific legal and operational requirements, it is observed that relations, power, paperwork and banking policies in providing facilities hinder the realization of the goals associated with these decisions.

Monitoring and Evaluation. This element embraces three indicators of monitoring and assessment prior to, during and after execution. Some characteristics of this indicator in the planning system of Yazd province are as follows:

1. Monitoring the decision-making and goal setting in rural development planning. The results of *t*-test rejected this feature in Yazd province. This means that in the rural development planning system of Yazd province, there is no supervision over decision-making and goal-defining in the planning of rural development by institutions specialized in rural affairs. The findings of interviews suggest that the decision-making and setting of rural development goals are undertaken in the absence of any monitoring simply based on decisions of high-level organizations and the priority issues of

the province, and the supervisory bodies are the same top-level planning organizations. At the decision-making stage, none of the relevant organizations have any mechanism at place for monitoring decision-making process.

2. Lack of assessment of the compatibility of decisions with the goals of beneficiary communities at the decision-making phase. In the absence of any monitoring of decision-making, the consistency of decisions with the goals of relevant communities, the feasibility of decisions and the evaluation of their results compared to objectives are not evaluated.

3. The absence of any monitoring and evaluation for the proper execution of the program. In connection with this feature, the results demonstrated that during the execution phase of the program in Yazd province, there is no mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the appropriate execution of the program. Apparently, what really matters is only the implementation of decisions.

4. Failure to consider review cycle (periodic assessment of the plan's progress and its compatibility with changing society conditions). The review cycle in the program improve the attainment of goals and adaption to the shifting conditions of the community during the program. The results suggested that in Yazd province, the assessment of the plan's progress and its consistency with changing conditions of the society are not taken into account. It should be

noted that, as raised in some interviews, the periodic evaluation of the plan is merely in response to the demand of planning organizations for provision of statistical figures of the project and they are based on usefulness and effectiveness rather than efficiency.

5. The results revealed that in the Yazd province planning system, people do not have a say in the monitoring and evaluation phase of the programs and organizations preclude the intervention and engagement of local communities, elites and rural managers.

All of the above features are indicative of the top-down trend and centralization in planning in Yazd province, which based on the theoretical concepts of the research, indicate to the rule of traditional planning (rational) approach and disregard for the interactive and communicative approach in the planning system of Yazd province. In light of the above characteristics, the planning of rural economy in Yazd province follows a centralized approach and based on interviews with a number of informants, the development documents of the province are the only source of information for planning council of the province that notify planners about rural areas of the province and towns. Regrettably, the findings of this paper suggest that these developmental documents are out-of-date and local communities do not have a place in the preparation of these programs.

Table 9. Inferential evaluation of the characteristics of Yazd province planning system

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

Element	Index	Test statistics	Degree of freedom	Significance	Mean difference	99% confidence interval	
						Lower limit	Upper limit
Preparation and compilation	Framework	-12.283	145	0.00	-0.25771	-0.2992	-0.2162
	Principles	-9.618	145	0.00	-0.50294	-0.6063	-0.3996
	Process	-17.290	145	0.00	-0.46404	-0.5171	-0.4110
Management	Execution	-12.308	145	0.00	-0.32055	-0.3720	-0.2691
Evaluation	Pre-execution	-16.190	145	0.00	-0.32192	-0.3612	-0.2826
	During execution	-15.017	145	0.00	-0.79224	-0.8965	-0.6880
	Post-execution	-15.109	145	0.00	-0.34247	-0.3873	-0.2977

In order to identify the sustainable development planning model of rural economy in Yazd province among the common patterns of development planning presented in the Section of theoretical concepts and descriptive findings, a one-sample *t*-test was used. The results of this test at 95% confidence level confirmed the means in the descriptive findings of the research. Based on the overall results of this section, it became clear that

the sustainable development planning model of rural economy is characterized by features such as “planning at high organizational level, limited role of people in decision-making, quantitative planning goals that prioritizes usefulness and effectiveness over efficiency, planning is aimed at high-level goals, planning is based on key stimuli, planning trend is top-down and based on comprehensive goals and strategies, planning is underscored by an initial

assessment of the internal and external setting of a region in line with expert opinions”.

The aforementioned features are among the operational and core planning characteristics. Based on the results of the above test, Yazd province planning model characteristics are consistent with the features of operational and core planning models at 95% confidence interval but they are inconsistent with the other models.

The confirmation of test indicates that characteristics of the dominant model of sustainable rural development planning are

compatible with the operational and core planning models. Based on the test statistics, the highest compliance belonged to the operational planning model with 7.464 and then core planning model with 2.788. In other words, based on the results of this test, the operational-core model is the dominant pattern of sustainable development planning of rural economy in Yazd province, as the evaluated features for sustainable rural development planning displayed the most adaptability with the characteristics of these two models (Table 10).

Table 10. Inferential evaluation of the consistency of the characteristics of the planning system of the province with planning patterns (pattern identification)

(Source: Research finding, 2018)

Model/approach	Test statistics	Degree of freedom	Significance	Mean differences	Lower limit	Upper limit
Advocacy	-16.775	145	0.00	-0.61781	-0.6906	-0.5450
Strategic	-15.860	145	0.00	-0.67523	-0.7594	-0.5911
Operational	7.464	145	0.00	0.27312	0.2008	0.3454
Collaborative	-18.907	145	0.00	-0.73288	-0.8095	-0.6563
Rolling	-18.021	145	0.00	-0.60731	-0.6739	-0.5407
Core	2.788	145	0.00	0.8219	0.0239	0.1405
Institution-oriented	-15.611	145	0.00	-0.80308	-0.9048	-0.9048

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The present study was undertaken to analyze the sustainable development planning model of rural economy in Yazd province. In this regard, two main questions were proposed. The first question focused on the characteristics of the sustainable development planning model of rural economy and the second one was concerned with selecting a model for sustainable development of rural economy planning from among the common development patterns in Yazd province.

These questions were answered based on quantitative and qualitative data, with the results indicating that the development planning of Yazd province was top-down with a centralized planning approach. According to the descriptive and inferential findings of the one-sample *t*-test (based on the test statistics, the upper and lower limit of all the indexes was negatively evaluated which, according to the assumptions of the test, illustrates the undesirability of studied characteristics in Yazd province), the subjects stressed that in the preparation and formulation phase of the planning, which includes framework, principle and process indices with a test statistic of 12.283, 9.618 and 17.290, respectively, objectives were not in

keeping with the needs and demands of rural people. The contribution of local actors, including rural people, rural executives and elites were insignificant at all three parts, and in this regard there was no mechanism for monitoring decisions, compliance with regional demands, feasibility of decisions, etc. The goals of the rural economy are defined irrespective of the geographical location of the region and the demands of indigenous people, are merely based on the general objectives of the country's medium-term development plans. The management and execution phase of the planning, with a test statistic of 12.308, besides taking advantage of rural management, suffers from many shortcomings, so that in addition to the limited role of people and stakeholders, there is no integration and coordination (vertical association) among organizations with a legal status in the execution of the program.

Also, based on the results of the study, the evaluation and monitoring of the program in Yazd province in pre-execution stage (16.190), during execution (15.017) and post-execution stage (15.109) was not satisfactory and according to the results of interviews, there is not any organization in charge of this task and planners tend to monitor

and evaluate the program quantitatively (with statistical figures) only after the execution of program. Some other features of rural development planning system in Yazd province are failure to consider the exhaustiveness of the aspects of rural economy of Yazd province for prioritizing the development of the program; absence of a timeline for program execution (certain steps to achieve program objectives); absence of integrated relationships between different levels (national, regional and local) in development planning; the unclear role of each organization, institution and body in the decision-making process of rural planning; disregard for tendencies and spatial-temporal trends and diversities in the development planning of Yazd province; and exclusion of time factor (timely execution of the program) during the execution of development plan. According to the results of one-sample *t*-test, it became clear that the model of sustainable development planning of rural economy of Yazd province is compatible with the operational-core planning models in terms of characteristics and adheres to rational approach in planning.

According to the results, the inefficiency of rural development programs in Yazd province can be attributed to the centralized planning system of the province, which is executed irrespective of local conditions and capabilities. Therefore, since the experience has demonstrated that planning without involvement of people and local capabilities is doomed to failure, it is suggested that in Yazd province, instead of using the operational-core planning model, a participatory-strategic model is adopted, which is based on the assumptions of the interactive-communicative approach. According to this model, local communities are involved in the planning process and planning is made based on local potentials, capabilities, and constraints. In order to achieve this model, the following solutions are presented.

- *Establishing a legal status for representatives of local communities at the City Planning Council.* The analysis of documents related to the members of the City Planning Council shows that local communities have no place in this council. Therefore, it is not surprising that sustainable rural development planning in the province are not compatible with needs, capabilities and constraints of local communities, while at the lowest level of planning, local communities have no say. Therefore, it is suggested that representatives of local communities are granted a legal status and the voting right at least in relation to rural development meetings in the Planning Councils for cities of Yazd province.
- *Setting up small knowledge-based circles at the provincial level.* Considering that the development documents of cities are one of the major sources of sustainable development planning of rural economy at the provincial level and are in keeping with the decentralization of planning, it is suggested that small and focused circles of experts and specialists in rural planning and development are established in order to capitalize on benefits such as indigently and familiarity with the region and its demands in drafting the development document of the city. The analysis of the development documents in 10 regions of the province showed that all documents were drafted by the companies, which in some cases had no affiliation to that city. Given the large number of native graduates, it is possible to set up these small knowledge-based circles to exploit the capacity of rural planning.
- *Selection of executive officials of rural development at the lowest organizational level based on their expertise in the province.* The author's observations in the province illustrated that the majority of district deputies, who as the lowest organizational rank in the Ministry of the Interior are affiliated with rural affairs, had no academic background in fields related to rural affairs and their choice is primarily motivated by political considerations. However, the district deputy should be a specialist of rural affairs as one of the most important people in rural planning and development. The appointment of people with irrelevant qualifications not only hampers rural development, but also in many cases triggers conflicts between rural and district managers.
- *Specialization of village manager at rural levels in the province.* Village managers are recognized rural managers who act as the liaison between villages and planners, administrators, and rural-scale supervisors. Therefore, it is reasonable to appoint Village manager according to certain indicators to eschew from ethnic-tribal appointments that prevails at villages in relation to the councils and Village manager. Observations in Yazd province suggest that in some villages under study, the councils make appointment on the basis of ethnic-tribal concerns, which resulted in recruitment of unqualified, people. Therefore, it is crucial to set requirements for

selection of Village manager such as relevant academic degrees.

- *Establishing a theoretical and conceptual base for rural planning in the province.* Development planning in Iran has a long history, but there is still no common understanding of the concept of development and in particular rural development planning in the country. Although the development programs are focused on these concepts, none of these programs provide a clear definition of these concepts, dimensions and features. However, these concepts should have been proposed, defined and verified by experts from the outset of the planning in Iran. Moreover, there are different perceptions and conceptions of development in the country, some of which include development as an operational plan, development as a process or development as a product. Reference to each of these conceptualizations illustrates the processes that should be undertaken in development planning, people that should be engaged and the results that should be obtained. Therefore, what is necessary at the onset of rural development planning, especially at the provincial level, is to define the concept of rural planning, indicators, goals, paradigms, stakeholders, relevant organizations, planners and program managers, which should achieve national consensus among

experts and thus become the ideology of the rural planning system.

- *Promoting the status of stakeholders in the province's planning system.* In order to promote all aspects of rural development, especially the economic dimension, all stakeholders engaged in sustainable development planning (state and non-state) should be identified at the province prior to the commencement of the program. In this way, the human and organizational capacities associated with rural development are identified. Not only does it allow the adoption of policies / strategies and realistic and efficient goals tailored to the needs and capabilities approved by all stakeholders at the decision-making level, but also the execution of the program based on recognized organizational and human capacities. In other words, a variety of actors are involved in the rural development at provincial level, and the sustainable rural development program has a bearing on the performance of these actors. Therefore, when drafting a program, a consensus between these actors about the priorities and rules of this program is necessary.

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تحلیل الگوی حاکم بر نظام برنامه‌ریزی توسعه پایدار اقتصاد روستایی ایران

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چکیده مبسوط

۱. مقدمه

از برنامه چهارم توسعه کشور، تهیه و تدوین سند ملی توسعه استان سازوکار اجرایی گرفته (ماده‌های قانونی ۷۲ و ۸۳) و علی‌رغم دیدگاه همیشه غالب برنامه‌ریزی بالا به پایین با اجرایی شدن سندهای توسعه استان دیدگاه پایین به بالا نیز در کنار دیدگاه قبلی در برنامه‌ریزی کشور و غیر متمرکز شدن نظام برنامه‌ریزی توسعه نیز بر حسب ظواهر امر مد نظر قرار گرفته است. اما با این وجود شواهد چند برنامه اخیر نشان می‌دهد که برنامه‌ها به اهداف خود دست نیافته‌اند. از این رو پژوهش حاضر با آگاهی از موضوعات فوق (اولاً: با گذشته چندین دهه از برنامه‌های عمرانی و توسعه در کشور همچنان روستاها با مشکلات بسیاری روبرو بوده و هر سال بر تعداد روستاهای خالی از سکنه افزوده می‌گردد و دوماً از برنامه چهارم توسعه بر اساس ماده‌های قانونی نام برده شده برنامه‌ریزی غیر متمرکز و تدوین سند توسعه استانی مد نظر قرار گرفته است اما هنوز برنامه‌ها به اهداف خود دست نیافته‌اند) به تحلیل و بررسی نظام برنامه‌ریزی توسعه پایدار اقتصاد روستایی استان یزد پرداخته است. چرا که آمارها نشان می‌دهد استان یزد یکی از استان‌های مطرح در زمینه ناپایداری جمعیت روستایی در ایران محسوب می‌گردد. نسبت روستانشینی در این استان از ۲۰ درصد در سال ۱۳۸۵ به ۱۷ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۰ و ۱۴/۶۴ درصد در سال ۱۳۹۵ کاهش یافته است که نشان از شدت تخلیه روستاهای استان دارد. ضمن اینکه رشد سالیانه جمعیت روستایی استان یزد نیز ۱/۶۶-

درصد است. مشاهدات در استان نشان می‌دهد هر چند برنامه‌های توسعه از نظر اجتماعی موجب بهبود برخی از خدمات اجتماعی همچون سطح بهداشت و آموزشی گردیده، اما از نظر اقتصادی نتوانسته است به اهداف خود دست یافته و موجب پایداری اقتصادی در روستاها گردد.

۲. مبانی نظری

در فرآیند برنامه‌ریزی توسعه دو بخش شامل: الف) دیدگاه، اهداف و رهیافت‌های حاکم بر فرآیند توسعه و ب) فرآیند حاکم بر روند و چگونگی عمل برنامه‌ریزی به وضوح از یکدیگر قابل تفکیک و همزمان نیازمند توجه است. این دو مقوله در عرصه نظری به دو گروه از نظریه‌ها باز می‌گردند که اولی به "نظریه در برنامه‌ریزی" و دومی به "نظریه برنامه‌ریزی" معروف هستند. به نظریه‌های مستقل در رشته‌های مختلف علمی مانند نظریه‌های اقتصادی و اجتماعی که اساس کار برای تدوین برنامه‌های توسعه به دست برنامه‌ریزان هستند، نظریه در برنامه‌ریزی گفته می‌شود؛ اما نظریه برنامه‌ریزی معطوف به عناصر، مراحل و نحوه انجام برنامه‌ریزی است که ماهیت و چگونگی فرآیند و عمل برنامه‌ریزی را نشان می‌دهد. مبحث مورد نظر این پژوهش نیز در ارتباط با نظریه برنامه‌ریزی می‌باشد. بر اساس مطالعه اسنادی به توجه به عناصر، مراحل و نحوه انجام برنامه‌ریزی؛ هفت الگوی رایج برنامه‌ریزی شامل برنامه‌ریزی وکالتی، راهبردی، مشارکتی، عملیاتی، هسته‌ای، نهادگرا و غلطان در دنیا قابل شناسایی است.

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۳. روش تحقیق

پژوهش حاضر از نظر ماهیت کاربردی است. روش تحقیق آن توصیفی - تحلیلی و داده‌های آن از طریق منابع کتابخانه‌ای شامل (فیش‌برداری، اینترنت) و میدانی (پرسشنامه، مصاحبه) فراهم گردیده است. در پژوهش حاضر جمع‌آوری مبنای نظری به روش قیاسی و تعمیم نتایج به صورت استقرایی بوده است. جامعه آماری تحقیق شامل ۱۴۶ نفر از اعضای شورای برنامه‌ریزی استان یزد، شورای برنامه‌ریزی شهرستان‌های استان یزد، کارگروه تخصصی توسعه روستایی و توسعه پایدار بوده است که به صورت هدفمند انتخاب گردیده‌اند. هدف از پژوهش تحلیل ویژگی‌های الگوی حاکم بر نظام برنامه‌ریزی توسعه پایدار اقتصاد روستایی استان یزد و شناسایی الگوی حاکم بوده است که در این راستا انتخاب شاخص‌ها در جهت عملیاتی کردن این دو هدف در درجه اول بر اساس تحلیل اسنادی و در نهایت متکی بر مصاحبه نیمه ساختاریافته و پرسشنامه می باشد.

۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

به منظور ارزیابی ویژگی‌های نظام برنامه‌ریزی توسعه روستایی در استان یزد از آزمون T تک نمونه‌ای استفاده گردیده است. بدین منظور ویژگی‌های شناسایی شده و پرسش شده توسط جامعه آماری کنشگران دولتی در قالب عناصر (چارچوب، فرایند، اصول، اجرا و ارزیابی در سه حالت قبل از برنامه، در حین اجرای برنامه و پس از اجرا) توسط آزمون T تک نمونه‌ای مورد ارزیابی قرار گرفته است. بر حسب این آزمون ویژگی‌های مرتبط با هر عنصر به عنوان یک فرض در نظر گرفته شده و بر حسب نظرات جامعه کنشگران دولتی مورد تأیید یا رد قرار گرفته است. نتایج این آزمون در سطح ۹۹ درصد اطمینان نشان از رد ویژگی تمامی عناصر مورد مطالعه دارد. نتایج این آزمون تأیید کننده یافته‌های توصیفی پژوهش می‌باشد. چرا که بر اساس میانگین‌های به دست آمده در یافته‌های توصیفی پژوهش مشخص گردید که جامعه آماری کنشگران محلی از ۳۳ ویژگی مورد بررسی تنها میانگین سه ویژگی را بالاتر از مطلوبیت عددی ارزیابی

کرده و میانگین سایر ویژگی‌ها پایین‌تر از سطح مطلوبیت ارزیابی گردیده است، که نشان از عدم مطلوبیت ویژگی‌های مطرح در نظام برنامه‌ریزی توسعه پایدار اقتصاد روستایی در استان یزد دارد.

۵. بحث و نتیجه گیری

بر اساس افته‌های تحقیق در این پژوهش مشخص گردید که برنامه‌ریزی توسعه استان یزد یک روند بالا به پایین با نگاه مرکزیت بر برنامه‌ریزی دارد. چرا که جامعه آماری پژوهش تأکید نموده‌اند که در مرحله تدوین و طراحی برنامه، اهداف بر اساس نیازها و خواسته‌های مردم روستایی صورت نمی‌گیرد. سهم مشارکتی کنشگران محلی شامل مردم روستایی، مدیران روستایی و نخبگان در هر سه بخش تهیه و تدوین، اجرا و پایش و ارزیابی بسیار ناچیز بوده و در بخش تهیه و تدوین هیچ نظارتی بر نحوه تصمیم‌گیری، تطابق تصمیم‌ها با نیازهای منطقه، قابلیت انجام تصمیم‌ها و غیره صورت نمی‌گیرد. اهداف اقتصاد روستایی بدون در نظر گرفتن شرایط جغرافیایی منطقه و نیازهای مردم بومی بر اساس اهداف کلی برنامه‌های میان‌مدت توسعه کشور نگاشته و بعضاً به اجرا در نمی‌آید. ارتباط عمودی مابین دستگاه‌ها تصمیم‌گیرنده در امور روستایی ضعیف بوده و برنامه‌ها فاقد قابلیت انعطاف در برابر تغییرات زمانی و فاقد چرخه بازنگری (ارزیابی دوره‌ای پیشرفت طرح و انطباق با شرایط متغیر جامعه) می‌باشد. بر حسب نتایج مشخص گردید که الگوی برنامه‌ریزی توسعه پایدار اقتصاد روستایی استان یزد بر حسب ویژگی با الگوی برنامه‌ریزی عملیاتی - هسته‌ای همخوانی داشته که از ویژگی‌های رویکرد عقلایی در برنامه‌ریزی پیروی می‌کند.

کلمات کلیدی: توسعه پایدار، اقتصاد روستایی، الگوی هسته‌ای، برنامه‌ریزی عملیاتی، یزد.

تشکر و قدرانی

پژوهش حاضر حامی مالی نداشته و حاصل فعالیت علمی نویسندگان است.

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