



The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection in the Rural Areas (Case Study: Rural Areas of County Roshtkhar)

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Abstract

Purpose-Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) being regarded as the clear representation of the participation of people, pave the way for fulfilling the objectives of sustainable development. The main goal of this study is to investigate the circumstances and consequences of local NGOs in empowering rural women in protecting the environment of Roshtkhar County (One of the southern Counties of Khorasan Razavi province).

Design/methodology/approach- The data needed for this study have been obtained through semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of the founding boards and active members of NGOs (n =27) .

Findings-The results of the current study that utilized the conventional coding process indicating that in the villages studied, NGOs protect and improve the environmental performance and lead to the economic empowerment of the rural women.

Research limitations / implications- Similar to other rural research, this research has encountered some general problems that have plagued other rural research in the country. Statistical problems and lack of cooperation and justification of Governmental organizations

Originality/value- As the results of most studies show, despite some difficulties and difficulties for the growth and development of such institutions in the country, most of them have an important role in women's empowerment. Although very little research has been done in the country, no research has been done in the study area.

Keywords: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Women's empowerment, Rural environment, Roshtkhar County.

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1. Introduction

Achieving sustainable development that entails environmental protection as one of its foundational pillars is considered to be impossible without women taking part in each and every related field.

Nowadays, the significance of gender equality is not only considered as an essential element of human rights, but it has also been confirmed to be of high significance in poverty reduction, the improvement of lifestyle standards, proper growth, and financial stability. As a result, the term "Women in Development" was replaced by the term "Gender & Development" in the 1980s (Barari et al., 2013). The concept "Gender and Development" does not exclusively involve topics concerning women, yet it is also related to a number of areas such as social construction, entrusting women and men with social roles and responsibilities, and certain expectations of the society about their activities. The concept also makes an analysis of the nature of women's participation in work environments at or outside home and takes the classification of working women into consideration being neglected when their job is done at home (Azkiya & Emani, 2009). The rural community is one of the human populations where the necessity of empowering women has been increasingly receiving a great deal of attention (Ali shahi et al., 2008); a community where the lack of development has created an environment in which rural women are considered as a part of the vulnerable classes in rural development plans despite the great extent they are involved in everyday economic and social activities. Therefore, women in general and specifically women in rural areas must be empowered in various fields so as to play their roles in the society more properly. To attain this goal, the concept of empowerment should be explored outside of mental frameworks and be turned into a supportive environment where women in rural areas will have the opportunity to undertake their responsibilities and cooperate in activities appropriately.

The realization of the aforementioned objective will not occur without forming effective groups and devising empowerment plans. Thus, the development of NGOs has been suggested as a solution for a type of public participation that includes women. In fact, such organizations are considered as one of the major tools of achieving development and realizing empowerment within international communities. For this reason, a number of fields, including social

sciences have been focused on this type of organizations both in theory and practice, since the 1990s. An NGO is active through a variety of ways globally and nationally as it refers to an organization that is not directly considered as a part of the government. Yet, it plays an utmost important role as the medium among the public, authorities, and the society itself (Shah Bahrami et al., 2011). Such organizations are established on the three main voluntary, non-profit, and apolitical pillars. As unofficial organizations in every society, active NGOs engaged in women's activities play a crucial role in facilitating women's participation in determining their fate by empowering them in social, financial, cultural, and political areas. Furthermore, studies have demonstrated that such organizations have a special position in increasing the level of public knowledge, developing human resources, and recognizing women's roles in a civil society (Abdollahi, 1999 cited in 2013). NGOs improve the efficiency of local resources while advocating civil rights and equality, and in the meantime reducing poverty. As a result, they can follow up on women's empowerment to confront women's vulnerability in rural areas. In the present study, it has been endeavored to explore and analyze the role of NGOs in women's activities and their effects on environment protection. Although women living in rural areas have potential capacities for environmental protection, they are faced with a set of individual, financial, and social issues that prevent the actualization of such capacities. Hence, NGOs can play a central role in environmental protection through welfare, developmental, educational, and supportive activities. To this end, the role of an NGO "Farmers Club" (*Bashgah-e-Keshavarzan-e-Javan*) in the villages of Roshtkhar County has been investigated and analyzed. This organization, established in 2007 in the villages of *Khorasan Razavi* province, is of a public structure with its main purpose entailing practicing entrepreneurship, developing the agricultural sector, and providing environmental protection in rural regions by introducing an infrastructure where the capacities of minds, personalities, skills, and knowledge can be realized.

The development of disruptive tether and the application of modern technologies without regard to environmental considerations have led to the peaceful coexistence of human beings and nature and the destruction of natural resources, which has caused enormous environmental impacts. Today,

global and local communities have recognized the importance of environmentally sound practices and are seeking to reduce and coordinate environmental degradation. The Young Farmers' Club, as a grassroots and local organization, seeks to educate and implement ways of peaceful use of nature and reduce the irreparable effects of environmental degradation. The women of this NGO, like the mother of nature, play a vital role in achieving a sustainable environment as the mothers of this land in rural areas. This study seeks to identify and analyze the role of the organization in the empowerment of rural women for environmental protection in the study area.

2. Research Theoretical Literature

Institutionalism is a relatively old ideology that dates back to the early 20th century (Coulson, 2007). The origin of the concept of "organization" and its theoretical notions can be traced back to political sciences, sociology, geography, planning, and particularly, in areas associated with governance and institutions (Cernea, 2007). Theories, evidences, and present experiences show that organizations play a significant and fundamental role in enhancing sustainable development. Since the 1960s and 1970s, local NGOs have been engaged in the major activities of national policymaking, providing social services, and performing other local functions such as women's empowerment (Brown, 1992). Much attention has been paid to new institutionalism in the field of development as a response to the inability and failure of classic approaches to the local and regional development in explaining the causes of regional discriminations and providing proper guidelines (Korten, 2003). In other words, new approaches have been employed to solve regional and local issues, the most important of which are the bottom-up approach that focuses on institutionalism developed within such a paradigm (Roknodin Eftekhari, 2013).

Women's empowerment implies fighting women's powerlessness. The concept refers to the more provision of and dominance over resources and consideration of benefits for women (Key Issues in Development, 2005). Women's empowerment is a process through which women gain more control over and access to the sources of power and become able to partake in making decision about resources and the environment. Empowerment will be obtained only after a set of changes occur to individual, structural, and relational fields. In terms of the individual field, weaker women (financially, informationally, and

ability-wise) would be able to put their lives in perspective and make decision through achieving awareness, skills, knowledge, and self-confidence. In terms of structural changes, women and men would be able to challenge customs, traditions, rules, unjust family values, and kinship structures both at a personal and at a public level, and adopt behaviors through which gender equality would become attainable. Simply put, institutes are able to provide equal rights and opportunities for women so as to help them show their potential abilities. In terms of politics and gender equality policies, governments can increase the extent of the access by women and girls to the resources including education, healthcare and welfare services. Concerning the relational changes, women and men may form new relations with other social actors. By extending the range of alliances, the mutual support can become a factor of change, and it may alter and improve the structures and their status, accordingly (Rezezi, 2011).

Rural development activities may not lead to dynamic sustainability unless the overall active structures such as NGOs cooperate with one another and make use of facilitative processes in line with the realization of sustainability. Governments at local and national levels, private entrepreneurs, and public institutions are regarded as a part of the structures deemed as partners by the majority of NGOs, with interactive relationships with each other. Thus, NGOs endeavor to be influential in the processes officially designed for the rural development by considering the strategies of participation and employing facilitative and mediational roles. To this end, the present establishment of NGOs is focused on solving fundamental problems such as realizing sustainability in exploiting national resources leading to the effectiveness of operations in terms of poverty reduction in rural regions (Brown, 1992). In a study conducted by Alexander Osterwalder (2003), it has been indicated that the majority of NGOs in developed countries believe that their developmental activities are more effective at an executive level, since problem solving would be more feasible through the participation of local people instead of relying on external aids and contributions. Furthermore, in a study by Ansari (2014) titled *Women and Environment* conducted through investigating non-governmental establishments, independent activists, websites, and blogs, the mythical procedure of the women's relationship with the environment and the role they can play in transferring the spiritual heritage of environment

protection to the future generations have been focused. In a study conducted in the village of Keykha located near the city of Zabol, Sobhi Moghadam (2015) has concluded that the establishment of NGOs has provided the platform for initiating interactions between authorities and the public leading to certain consequences in various fields (i.e., education and learning, women’s empowerment, environment, and healthcare) for the people. Mara and Little (2015) investigated the innovations of NGOs and the complex procedures of women’s empowerment in the north of Tanzania. The results of the study indicated that such organizations had been proven effective in altering social norms towards gender and had facilitated women’s empowerment. Newaz (2000) studied the effects of NGOs’ plans and their economic arrangements in particular in terms of women’s empowerment; in a qualitative paradigm, he conducted in-depth interviews with 20 women who had been involved in such plans in a four-year period in two villages of Bangladesh. The results demonstrated the fact that women’s understanding of themselves and their control over material resources and social relationships had improved, and that the level of their knowledge and education had increased. Islam and Sultana (2005) explored the effects of NGOs’ plans on women in rural areas, with their results showing that such plans had caused women to reflect upon their rights as a human being; thus, they had attempted to change their lives and conditions more

vigorously. Handy and Kassam (2006) also concluded. NGOs’ plans would increase the efficiency of women. The results of conducting interviews with 27 women in India in the study demonstrated that taking part in programs provided by NGOs had resulted in the improvement of “self-empowerment”, “self-efficacy”, and “self-optimization” in women. All of the aforementioned instances indicate that although certain internal problems exist within NGOs, they have brought about positive influences and consequences in sustainable development and women’s empowerment in rural areas.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Geographical Scope of the Research

Roshtkhar County located in the northeast of Iran and in the southern part of Khorasan Razavi Province, with its longitude and latitude being 59°03' to 59°55'E and 34°30' to 35°13'N, respectively. The County is located at a distance of 200 kilometers from Mashhad, the center of Khorasan Razavi Province, with an area of about 4256 square kilometers. According to the National Population and Housing Census conducted in 2011, the total population of the 10 villages under study is 17512, among which 6866 individuals are women. Only 800 individuals from the total population of the regions under study (11.6%) are the members of NGOs.

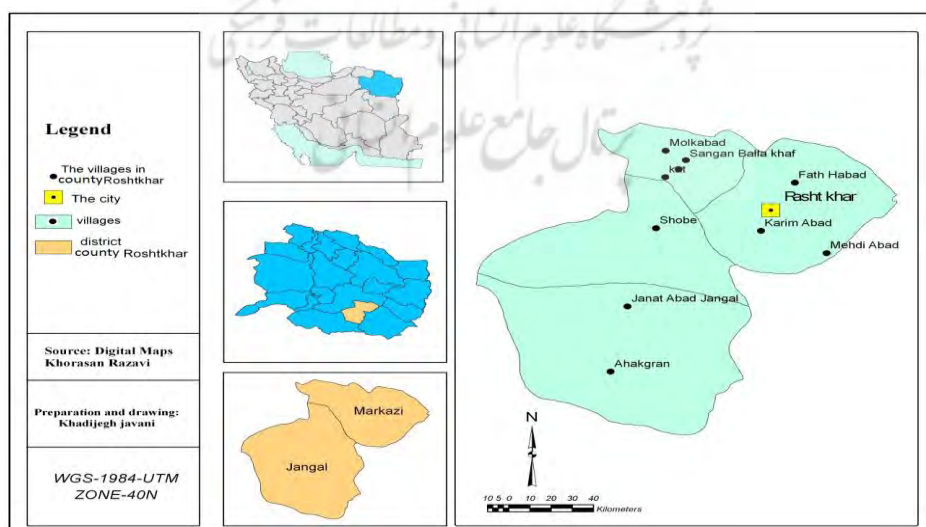


Fig. 1. A view of study area.
(Source: Research findings, 2018)

3.2. Methodology

The present work is an exploratory research conducted in a qualitative paradigm by employing the Grounded Theory and using qualitative, semi-structured, and deep interviews for data collection. The interviewees included the organization members and the founding board of a local NGOs (i.e. Young Farmers Club) in 10 villages of Roshtkhar. Two approaches of the combined purposive sampling of the typical cases (conducting interviews with experienced and capable individuals prepared for presenting information) and snowball sampling (conducting interviews with individuals introduced by other samples) were applied in the current study. The sample size and the data collection process reached the level of theoretical saturation, i.e. the usefulness threshold of the information available. Within this framework, some interviews were conducted with 27 samples ($n=2$), with 17 and 10 of which being men and women, respectively. An aggregate of 33 interviews (including 27 interviews at the first stage and 6 repeated cases) were conducted in the study. Following the formulation of the overall framework of the study and conducting the sample selection task, in order to reach the required validity and reliability, in addition to the purposive selection of the samples and the systematic revising of various phases of the study, the purpose of the study was firstly

explained to them and the intended questions were put at their disposal. Besides, a set of actions, including the repetition of the interviews in certain cases, the diversification of the questions and the method of posing them as well as the diversification of the approaches of conducting interviews, and the sample selection task were conducted, and the interviewees were ensured about the confidentiality and integrity of the information presented through the initial review.

4. Research findings

Basic theory is derived from data that has been systematically collected and analyzed during the research process. In this way, generalizability is not effective. Rather, it is about understanding the phenomenon. The fundamental difference between fundamental theory and other qualitative research methods is its emphasis on the development of theory (Giddens, 2007).

In the current study, the findings were obtained from the analysis and presentation of the interviews conducted on the basis of a combination of thematic classified coding procedures, and the common coding processes followed in the Grounded Theory, including the open coding, axial coding, and selective coding processes. Hence, the results were an integration of the themes and concepts.

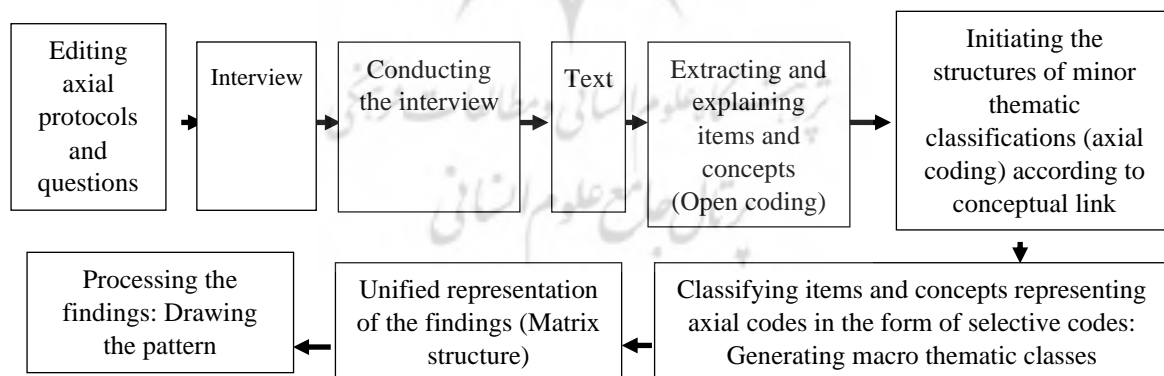


Fig. 2. Methodological process of information and data analysis

(Source: Research findings, 2018)

4.1. Coding interview texts

During the process of coding in this study, some of the codes, or in fact themes, and concepts were directly derived from interview texts and interviewees' statements (emerging codes). Other codes were produced by the researchers themselves

with regard to the concepts and themes derived from reviewing theoretical foundations, the common literature in the field of NGOs, and the empirical evidence. For instance, the respondents' viewpoints have been represented in Table 1 in the form of common concepts.

Table 1. A typical part of the first stage in processing the results: coding interview texts
(Source: Research findings, 2018)

Interviewee	Content of question	Response	Extracted codes (open coding)
1	The purpose of establishing the NGO (Young Farmers Club)	Bearing in mind the main concerns of the youth in rural areas along with the absence of a comprehensive NGO in various areas, the necessity of establishing this NGO was sensed to make use of the collective wisdom, the overall thoughts and capacities of the youth as well as the indigenous knowledge of women and men in rural areas.	Paying attention to the needs and requirements of the youth, making use of the overall capacities of the rural community and indigenous knowledge;

4.2. Age status

The age requirements of the board of directors and the founding board of the NGO (Young Farmers' Club) are as young as a spectrum. As shown in Table (2), the age groups younger than 30 years

and 30-40 years are the highest percentages. In other words, about 36.4% and 45.5% are in these two age groups, respectively. It illustrates the purpose and strategy of the organization to use young and educated rural people.

Table 2. Age Characteristics (Board and Founder)
(Source: Research findings, 2018)

age	percent	frequency
Less than 30 years	12	36.4
30-40 years	15	45.5
40-50 years	4	12.1
50-60 years	2	6.1
Total	33	100

4.3. Level of Education

The level of education of the board of directors and the board of directors is one of the important factors in the performance of this organization. One of the primary goals of the organization's founder was to use educated indigenous rural

youth for rural development. As shown in Table (3), 6% of them have a master degree, 36% have a bachelor' degree, and 15% have an associate's degree. Overall, 56 percent have a college degree, which is one of its potentials

Table 3. Academic Profile (Board of Directors and Founder)
(Source: Research findings, 2018)

Literacy	percent	frequency
Elementary school	1	3
High school's degree	3	9
Diploma's degree	10	30
Associate's degree	5	15
Bachelor's degree	12	36
Masters's degree	2	6
Total	33	100

4.4. Purposes of establishing an NGO

After obtaining the open codes directly derived from the interviewees' statements through a qualitative content analysis, axial and general concepts were selected using axial coding. Meanwhile, attempts were made to select codes

capable of representing and covering other codes and forming categories. Such codes acted as components in drawing the pattern of the situation of the NGO in rural regions. According to the findings presented in Table (4), the purposes of establishing such organizations in rural regions,

13 loaded codes have been summed in three partial thematic classes or axial codes including making use of the overall capacities, realizing the empowerment of women and youngsters, and retaining the youth in rural areas. The highest

frequency among all items belonged to paying attention to the needs of the youth "targeting the youth for creating jobs for them" and "making use of the overall capacities of the rural community".

Table 4. The data analysis matrix and the main information on the purposes of establishing the Young Farmers Club as an NGO

(Source: Research findings, 2018)

No.	open codes	frequency	percent	axial coding	select codes
1	Using indigenous knowledge	7	21	Making use of the overall capacities	Purposes of establishing an NGO
2	Making use of the overall capacities of rural community	31	94		
3	Using collective wisdom	20	61		
4	Using women's abilities in rural areas in various aspects	14	42	Empowerment of women and the youth in rural areas	
5	Creating teamwork among women	10	30		
6	Facilitating cooperation and interaction between men and women in rural areas for the protection of the rural environment	15	45		
7	Increasing educational courses (such as arts, ethics, healthcare and environmental classes) for women	25	76		
8	Boosting the morale of women and girls in rural areas	27	82	Retention of the youth in villages	
9	Paying attention to the needs of the youth	32	97		
10	Updating information and empowering the youth	15	45		
11	Offering guidelines for filling the leisure time of the youth	10	30		
12	Targeting the youth for creating jobs for them	30	91		
13	Countering village aversion	20	60		

4.5 Environmental effects of NGOs

The environmental effects of NGOs are other cases of major thematic classes, and their results have been demonstrated in Table (5). They include the four minor thematic classes of making use of the indigenous knowledge to eliminate pests, participation towards environmental protection, improving waste management by women, and preventing the loss of water resources. The highest frequency belongs to "countering agricultural pests using indigenous knowledge" with 91% that is believed to be applicable by

people. The other case from among the aforementioned ones being of the highest frequency was "compost production training at home for women in rural areas" that has been welcomed due to the fact that it can be used on the families' farmlands and provide an income for families through selling the compost to other farmers. "Elimination of vegetable pests by building a pool" and "providing instructions for waste separation at home" are other cases with 61% frequency, being considered as a significant number in the context of environmental protection in rural areas.

Table 5. Data analysis matrix and the main information of environmental effects

(Source: Research findings, 2018)

No.	open codes	frequency	Percent	axial coding	select codes
1	Countering agricultural pests using indigenous knowledge	30	91	Using indigenous knowledge to eliminate pests	Environmental effects
2	Eliminating vegetable pests of the products by building pools ¹	20	61		

1. According to an explanation provided by one of the interviewees, building pools for birds such as starlings would cause them to gather around them to drink water and as a result, various pests like grasshoppers would be eliminated. Such knowledge has been passed through from older generations.

No.	open codes	frequency	Percent	axial coding	select codes
3	Accepting environmental protection plans by residents	16	48	Improving cooperation and understanding of the public towards environmental protection	
4	Assessing the level of the public's sympathy towards environmental plans	4	12		
5	Training women in producing composts at home	29	88	Improving waste management by women	
6	Providing instructions for waste separation at home	20	61		
7	Gathering water resources	13	39	Preventing the loss of water resources	
8	Preventing the loss of water through modern irrigation methods	23	70		
9	Preventing the cultivation of water-intensive products (beets)	28	85		
10	Providing instructions for proper water consumption by women at home	4	12		

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The results of the current study indicate the multiplicity of the NGO-related dimensions and factors effective in the public's living conditions in rural areas; the results also indicate the influence of internal and external factors on the development of such organizations. Accordingly, it is worth noting that the *Young Farmers Club* in the villages under study is not an unofficial and extensive organization, neither is it exclusively a medium between individuals and authorities, yet it involves executive and active functions in various social, cultural, financial, and environmental areas. This shows the multifunctional nature of active NGOs in rural areas. One of the potentials of this NGO is youthfulness and the tendency to welcome young people (i.e., 82 percent are under 40 years old) and educated women and girls, into the group. This brings the strength and sustainability of the NGO's rural education and training programs. From the perspective of the pattern drawn in Fig. 3, the situation of NGOs in rural areas is similar to a process; their establishment and continuity in rural areas are ensured through the convergence and synergy of various systems in a particular context with certain purposes such as retaining the youth in rural areas, making use of the

overall capacities, and pursuing the empowerment of women and the youth in rural areas. Furthermore, the establishment of such organizations in suitable rural areas brings about various financial, social, and environmental effects, which together with the women's empowerment in rural areas being the focal points of the current study. These points include: 91 percent of them making use of "indigenous knowledge to eliminate pests" and "increasing the public's understanding and participation in environmental protection", 70 percent of them learned preventing "the loss of water resources" through various ways. Also, 88 percent of women were familiarized with "waste management" and production of organic fertilizers for domestic use or sales, which has been financially appreciated by the women in rural areas. In this regard, certain researchers such as Islam and Sultana (2005), Newaz (2000), Ansari (2014), Batti (2014), Subhi Moghaddam (2015), and Mohammadi (2020) have emphasized the role of NGOs in women's empowerment demonstrating that their activities in environmental protection have been consistent with the results of the present research.

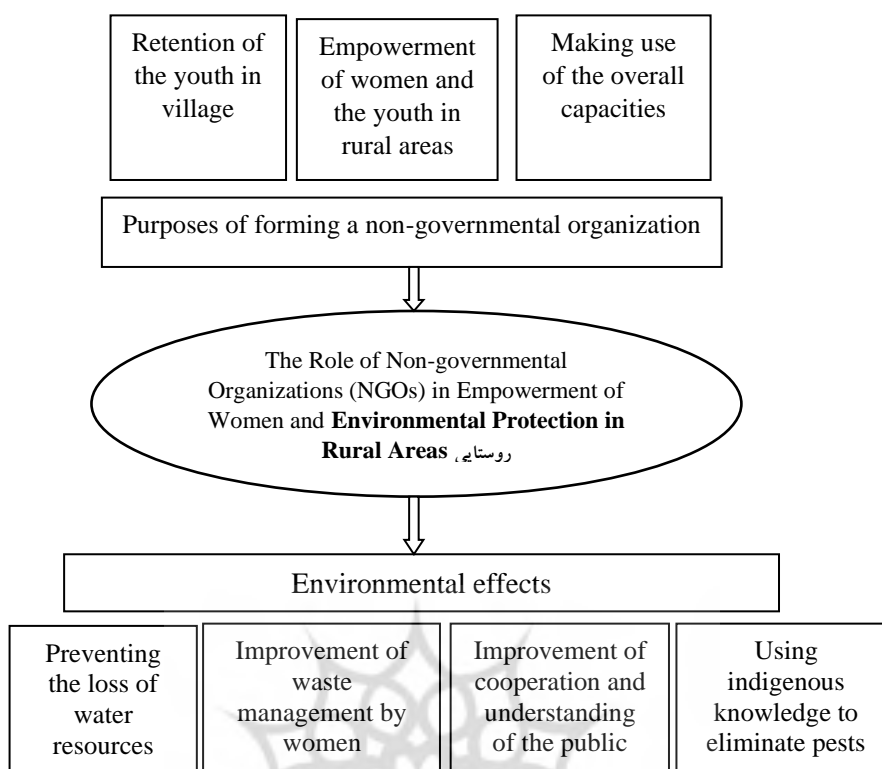


Figure 3. Status of NGOs in rural areas.

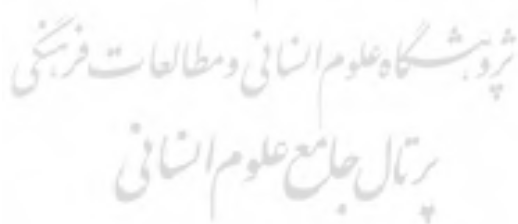
(Source: Research findings, 2018)

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نقش سازمان‌های مردم‌نهاد در توانمندسازی زنان روستایی جهت حفاظت از محیط زیست (مطالعه موردی: روستاهای شهرستان رشتخوار)

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چکیده مبسوط

۱. مقدمه

سازمان‌های مردم‌نهاد فعال در حیطه فعالیت زنان به عنوان سازمان‌های غیررسمی در هر نظام اجتماعی با هدف جلب مشارکت زنان در تعیین سرنوشت خود از طریق توانمندسازی در ابعاد اجتماعی، اقتصادی، فرهنگی و سیاسی آنان، توانسته‌اند نقش مؤثری ایفا کنند. از این رو در این پژوهش تلاش شده است تا نقش این سازمانها را در توانمندسازی زنان روستایی و حفاظت از محیط زیست روستایی بررسی و تحلیل شود.

۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

ابتکارات و فعالیتهای توسعه روستایی بلند مدت به پایداری پویا نمی‌رسد، مگر این که کلیه ساخت‌های فعال در توسعه روستایی از جمله سازمان‌های غیردولتی با همدیگر همکاری و مشارکت نمایند و از فرایندهای تسهیل‌گرانه برای انجام تغییرات مؤثر در راستای پایداری توسعه در سطوح منطقه‌ای یا ملی بهره‌گیرند. دولت‌ها در سطوح محلی و ملی، کارآفرینان خصوصی، نهادهای مردمی از جمله ساخت‌هایی هستند که بسیاری از سازمان‌های غیردولتی آن‌ها را به عنوان شریک دانسته و روابط تعاملی با هم دارند و سازمان‌های غیردولتی با عطف به راهبردهای مشارکتی، بیشتر متوجه ایفای نقش تسهیل‌گری و میانجی‌گری بوده و کوشش می‌نمایند که بر فرایندهای رسماً طراحی شده توسعه روستایی تأثیر گذار شوند و در این راستا نسل حاضر NGOs متوجه حل مسائل ریشه‌ای همانند پایداری فرایندهای بهره‌برداری از منابع طبیعی، تعمیق پیامدها و اثربخشی کارکردها برای

فقرزدایی ریشه‌ای و اتخاذ رویه‌ای پایدار برای تأمین هزینه کارکردهای روستاها هستند.

۳. روش تحقیق

این پژوهش از منظر پارادایم تحقیق جزو تحقیقات کیفی محسوب می‌شود و با هدف اکتشافی (آثار و پیامدهای شکل‌های مردم‌نهاد در روستاها) به انجام رسیده است. در این پژوهش، از روش نظریه بنیانی و شیوه مصاحبه کیفی و نیمه ساختارمند برای گردآوری اطلاعات و داده‌ها استفاده شده است. مشارکت کنندگان در پژوهش را اعضای هیات مدیره و هیات مؤسس سازمان‌های مردم‌نهاد (باشگاه کشاورزان جوان) در ۱۰ روستا از شهرستان رشتخوار تشکیل داده است. در انجام مصاحبه‌ها از روش نمونه‌گیری هدفمند ترکیبی موارد نوعی و بارز (مصاحبه با افراد با تجربه، شناخته شده و با توانش و آمادگی ارائه اطلاعات مورد نیاز) و گلوله‌برفی (مصاحبه با افراد معرفی شده از سوی سایر نمونه‌ها)، بهره گرفته شده است. اندازه نمونه و فرآیند گردآوری اطلاعات تا سطح اشباع نظری یا آستانه سودمندی اطلاعات قابل دسترس ادامه یافت. بر این چارچوب، ۲۷ نمونه مورد مصاحبه (n=۲۷) قرار گرفت که از این تعداد ۱۷ نفر مرد و ۱۰ نفر زن بودند. در مجموع، ۳۳ مورد مصاحبه (شامل ۲۷ مصاحبه در مرحله اول و ۶ مورد تکرار مصاحبه) انجام شد.

۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

یافته‌های این تحقیق نشان‌دهنده تعدد ابعاد و عوامل تأثیرگذار سازمان‌های مردم‌نهاد بر زندگی مردم در مناطق روستایی و به طور متقابل تأثیر عوامل داخلی و خارجی بر ایجاد این نهادهاست. توسعه

*. نویسنده مسئول:

دکتر خدیجه بوزرجمهری

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جمله پتانسیل‌های این سمن، جوان‌گرایی و استقبال جوانان و زنان و دختران تحصیل کرده روستایی است به طوری که ۸۲ درصد آنها کمتر از ۴۵ ساله بودند که از نقطه قوت و ماندگاری و کارآمدتر شدن برنامه‌های آموزشی - ترویجی سمن در روستا محسوب می‌شود. به طور کلی از منظر الگوی ترسیم شده شکل (۳)، وضعیت سازمان‌های مردم‌نهاد در مناطق روستایی بسان یک فرآیند است که شکل‌گیری و تداوم آن در مناطق روستایی از همگرایی و هم‌افزایی نظام‌های مختلف در یک بستر معین با اهدافی مشخصی است که ماندگاری جوانان در روستا، استفاده از تمام ظرفیت‌ها و توانمندسازی زنان و جوانان روستایی را به همراه دارد.

کلیدواژه‌ها سازمان مردم‌نهاد (سمن‌ها)، توانمندسازی زنان، محیط زیست روستایی.

تشکر و قدردانی

پژوهش حاضر برگرفته از رساله دکتری نویسنده دوم (خدیدجه جوانی)، گروه جغرافیا، دانشکده ادبیات و علوم انسانی، دانشگاه فردوسی مشهد، مشهد، ایران است.

این سازمانها در مناطق مستعد روستایی به آثار اقتصادی، اجتماعی و همچنین آثار زیست محیطی مختلفی منجر می‌گردد که در این تحقیق به آثار زیست محیطی سمن‌ها ناشی از توانمندسازی زنان روستایی است، تاکید شده است. مهمترین نتایج زیست محیطی نشان می‌دهد که، ۹۱ درصد زنان، روش‌های بومی مبارزه با آفات نباتی را فرا گرفته و به کار می‌برند، ۷۰ درصد با روش‌های جلوگیری از هدر رفت آب آشنا شده‌اند از جمله: حذف کشت اقلام پرمصرف آب، آشنایی با شیوه‌های نوین آبیاری و فرهنگ سازی مصرف بهینه آب. همچنین ۸۸ درصد روش‌های مدیریت پسماند را آموخته و کود کمپوست برای مصرف و یا فروش تولید می‌کردند که ضمن درآمد زایی برای زنان روستایی سمن، به حفاظت و بهبود عملکرد محیط زیست منجر شده است.

۵. بحث و نتیجه گیری

بر اساس یافته‌های تحقیق، سازمان مردم‌نهاد روستایی (باشگاه کشاورزان جوان) در روستاهای مورد مطالعه صرفاً یک نهاد غیر رسمی ترویجی و واسط بین فرد فرد مردم و قوای حاکم نیست، بلکه همزمان از کارکرد های اجرایی و فعال در حوزه‌های مختلف اجتماعی و فرهنگی اقتصادی، زیست محیطی نیز برخوردار است از

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