



## Investigating Barriers to Participation of Rural Women from the Perspective of the Community-Oriented Approach (Case Study: Rural Women of Lasht Nesha District)

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### Abstract

**Purpose-**Women's participation in decision-making processes is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development in local communities. However, despite the importance and necessity of involving all members of society in various aspects of development, unfortunately, due to various reasons (economic, social, cultural, and institutional), insufficient attention has been given to this matter. Consequently, the role of women's participation in rural development is significantly weak. Therefore, one crucial aspect of rural development planning is to focus on the participation of rural women and examine the obstacles they face.

**Design/methodology/approach** -This research is descriptive-analytical in terms of its practical purpose and methodology. The data collection tools consisted of questionnaires and interviews conducted with a sample of 378 women from the villages of Lasht Nesha district in Rasht city. Descriptive statistics and exploratory factor analysis were used to analyze the data.

**Findings**-The test results revealed that five categories of factors constitute the primary obstacles to rural women's participation in the villages of Lesht-nesha district. These categories include: the status of social capital, education, health, and social characteristics, explaining a variance value of 17.32% motivation, self-awareness, and cognitive characteristics, explaining a variance value of 16.83% financial and economic status and characteristics, explaining a variance of 12.43% beliefs, community customs, and cultural characteristics, explaining 8.86% of the variance; and justice, gender equality, and institutional-political characteristics, explaining 8.55% of the total variance.

**Originality/value** - Overall, the results indicate that the barriers related to the social capital status, education, health, and social characteristics are more relevant to the participation of rural women.

**Keywords:** Women's participation, Community-oriented, Lasht Nesha, Exploratory factor analysis.

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## 1. Introduction

Today, rural areas are again presented as the key to economic and social development (Hajinejad & Mozafari, 2015) and one of the issues of interest among all rural development thinkers is the development and improvement of suitable conditions for the life of rural residents and infrastructure development. It is for the empathy and companionship of all the social groups living in the village in the processes related to rural development, which is according to the new approaches of rural development and specifically through the accepted community-oriented approach based on a participatory approach and the participation of all members of the society. Rural areas have been emphasized in development processes because one of the most important reasons for the failure of development plans is the lack of attention to local and popular participation (Hajinejad et al., 2014). Based on this, the issue of participation as a key point is trusted and agreed upon by many thinkers in this field and they believe that the achievement of socio-economic development largely depends on the maximum participation of people, both men and women. Consequently, the participation of women in decision-making, through gender-sensitive policies, is crucial for achieving sustainable development in local communities in developing countries (Saidul Huq, 2016). Empowering women and promoting gender equality are integral to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and serve as effective means to accelerate sustainable development (Djufry et al., 2022). Increased women's participation in decision-making can enhance their bargaining power and yield improved development outcomes for women and their families, as well as facilitate faster economic growth, reduced social inequalities, and decreased environmental degradation worldwide (Qanti et al., 2021).

In order to encourage greater participation in development activities and community welfare initiatives, policymakers and development institutions strive to foster stronger cohesion and coordination within local communities compared to the past (Woolcock, 2019). Applying participatory approaches in implementing social development projects in rural areas is vital to ensure they meet the needs of the people (Tantoh et al., 2020). Such approaches are collaborative, deriving from the

desires and opinions of stakeholders, and receive their support. Conversely, when projects are implemented without coordination and input from stakeholders, they fail to seek support from these groups and often clash with their cultural values and norms (Breuer, 2002). In other words, to garner support for development projects from the target audience (Breuer, 2002), community organizers must incorporate genuine participation of local people in decision-making, planning, and project implementation. In general, community participation involves identifying people's felt needs, defining stakeholder responsibilities, establishing trust, and fostering support and collaboration (Gyan, 2013; Gyan & Ampomah, 2016; Gyan & Baffoe, 2014).

However, despite the significance and necessity of involving all members of society in various aspects of development, insufficient attention has been devoted to this matter due to various reasons (economic, social, cultural, and institutional). As a result, women's participation in rural societies' development efforts remains significantly weak. In Iran, cultural, social, and political structures, along with existing limitations for different social groups, particularly women, pose obstacles to women's participation in all development activities in rural communities. Identifying these obstacles can facilitate women's participation in rural development processes. In the rural areas of Gilan province, despite the active involvement of women in economic activities within rural households, particularly in the agricultural sector, they do not effectively contribute to various economic, social, and cultural aspects of rural development and decision-making. Their participation is limited. Therefore, the main goal of rural women's participation in the process of rural development, as investigated in this research, is to diagnose the obstacles that hinder their engagement despite their active involvement in household economic activities. The article aims to shed light on the factors that limit women's participation from the perspective of community development. By identifying these barriers, the research aims to facilitate and enhance rural women's participation in various aspects of rural development, thereby promoting gender equality, empowering women, and achieving sustainable development in rural communities.

## 2. Research Theoretical Literature

### 2.1. Literature Review

A review of the conducted studies shows the penetration of research on the barriers to women's participation in various activities, but at the same time, studies related to the role of women's participation in local or rural communities have been more limited from the point of view of the community-oriented approach. [Gyan & Kartiyoub \(2021\)](#) in a descriptive research conducted with a qualitative method and a phenomenological interpretative approach, and the indicators that inhibit women's participation are financial restrictions and poverty; Existence of gender discrimination in society, low self-esteem; household responsibilities; Western intervention - capitalism and neoliberalism; Colonization through education; and have considered patriarchal relations. They have identified the most important obstacles for the participation of rural women as the influence of the West and the structural factors of society. [Wulandari & Viliano \(2021\)](#) In a qualitative study, they analyzed the driving factors and limitations of women's participation in mixed livestock and palm cultivation. They divided the factors driving women's participation into three groups: personal factors (including education level, experiences, perception, entrepreneurial skills), economic factors (including home farm size, household income, income from non-agricultural activities, employment/doing any kind of work with rights, access to property) and social factors (including access to credit, services, access to technology, social capital). The results showed that the many limitations faced by women's participation include lack of knowledge, lack of entrepreneurial skills, limited access to assets, lack of access to credit, limited access to expansion, lack of access to technology and limited network. [Qanti et al. \(2021\)](#) in a study entitled "Social norms and perceptions guide women's participation in agricultural decisions in West Java, Indonesia" addressed the role of social norms and contexts in women's participation. In this study, the participation rate of men and women was discussed according to the following indicators: age, education, membership in agricultural organization, off-farm activities, difference between husband and wife, number of children under 5 years of age, sex ratio of society, land size., household assets index, etc. Their results state that the social norms consider men as the head of the household and the main decision makers, therefore, governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that promote women's

empowerment in agriculture are encouraged to design interventions to promote the collective awareness of the role of women in agriculture and the value of their participation in agricultural activities in the society and at the national level. [Syedal Huq \(2016\)](#) in a study titled "Women's participation in local governments: a tool for sustainable development of Bangladesh" has discussed women's participation in local governments. The indicators examined in this study include: protective laws, supporting institutions, access to resources and information, cooperation between men and women, level of education and freedom in decision making. The result of this study showed that meaningful development is not possible without the participation of women at the grassroots level and it was statistically proven that there is a significant relationship between the strengthening of local government and the empowerment and participation of women with one-way variance analysis and therefore the status of women's participation is vital and It deserves special attention to empower them, otherwise sustainable and cooperative development cannot be guaranteed. [Atmis et al. \(2007\)](#) in a study entitled "Effective factors on women's participation in forestry in Turkey" analyzed women's participation in forestry in Bartın Province, located in the Western Black Sea region of Turkey, and analyzed indicators such as socio-economic characteristics (I.e. age, marital status, education level, number of families, number of pregnancies, income), the share of women's labor force in the family economy, decision-making, types of work by women were used. They concluded that age, marital status, population growth rate and wealth are important variables to explain variation in participation levels. [Toulabinejad et al. \(2023\)](#) analyzed the challenges of rural women's participation in agricultural entrepreneurship activities in Khorram Abad city in a qualitative study. The purpose of their study was to identify the challenges of participation of rural women in entrepreneurial activities. The results of their research showed that four general challenges can be identified in the participation of rural women, which were economic/financial, cultural-social, personal-psychological and institutional structural challenges; Among these four challenges, financial, economic, social, and cultural, there has been more adaptation to the business situation of rural women. In a study entitled "Analysis of the Challenges of Women's Participation in the Management of Rural Areas", [Faraji Sabokbar et al.\(2021\)](#) have identified and analyzed the most important obstacles and



challenges facing women's participation in the management of villages in the small Lavasan district. The indicators used in this study include 1) individual characteristics (not having enough motivation for activity, lack of interest in the village and geographical limitations (geographical isolation), disruption in household affairs, lack of intellectual independence, too many preoccupations related to household affairs, weakness and limitations Physical, lower literacy level, less knowledge and awareness, less management ability and skill, lack of experience, lack of self-confidence, lack of risk taking, fear of failure, lack of ability and skill to face difficult situations, lack of bargaining power, weakness in social relations, less familiarity with new technologies), 2) Social indicators (restriction in trips outside the countryside, less access to means of communication, the need for men's permission, men's fear of women's participation, the traditional and unfavorable view of the family, the traditional and unfavorable view of the society, the existence of biased norms and prejudices Women's activity, society's lack of trust in women's capabilities, lack of support for women, women's mistrust of each other, male selection approach, lack of recognition by men in the work environment, lack of a suitable and safe space in the context of society, lack of health in the work environment , less access to formal and informal education, less access to information and communication technologies, less opportunities for education) and 3) economic indicators (lack of independence and financial ability, lack of ownership, less access to credits and facilities, low level wages, women's poor access to production resources such as capital, less access to the market, low status of agricultural jobs for women, less access for women to high-paying jobs) Have used. The findings show eight factors; Social structures, women's individual characteristics, lack of sufficient skills and knowledge, limited access, culture and tradition, inequality in opportunities, limited mobility and deterrence and dependence have been identified as the most important obstacles and challenges of women's participation in the rural management of Lavasan Kochuk Dehstan. [Atai et al. \(2021\)](#) in a study entitled "Evaluation of socio-economic factors affecting the participation of rural women in creating home businesses in Kermanshah province" investigated the level of participation of rural women in creating home businesses based on socio-economic variables. They are economic indicators (cost reduction, income level, job creation, access to facilities) and social indicators (social cohesion, social dignity, social awareness,

communication and information channels, social base, confidence in individual ability and skills, participation in educational programs ) used. The findings showed that among social and economic variables, respectively, social base, social status and income had a high power in differentiating the levels of women's participation in household jobs. [Aghahi et al. \(2017\)](#), in a study entitled "Investigation of personal and family barriers to women's participation in political and social affairs of the village" investigated the personal and family barriers to women's political and social participation. The indicators used by them include family obstacles (including acceptance of dominated positions by women, involvement in girls' education, lack of experience in political and administrative affairs, inability to communicate with others, physical problems and weakness, illiteracy and lack of sufficient literacy, old age Women's unwillingness to manage, celibacy, lack of self-confidence in women, large amount of activity in the agriculture and animal husbandry sector, lack of desire to progress, women's unsuccessful experiences in doing village affairs, women's belief in their inability to do things political) and personal obstacles (including the large amount of women's activities inside the home, the time-consuming nature of raising children, the dissatisfaction of father and husband, the number of family members, lack of support and support from father and husband, early marriage). The results showed that in order of importance, women's belief in their inability to do political affairs, inability to communicate with others, physical problems and weakness, large amount of women's activity inside the home, large amount of activity in agriculture and animal husbandry sector, acceptance of authority Under domination, lack of experience in political and administrative affairs and women's unwillingness to manage compared to men were the main obstacles to women's political and social participation. [Ghaffari & Turki Harchgani \(2011\)](#) investigated these factors in a study titled "Investigation of factors affecting the participation of women and girls in the development of rural areas of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province". They use socio-cultural indicators such as literacy level, marital status, social base, peer group, the introversion of villagers, the use of mass media, the expansion of the relationship between the village and the city, the desire of women and girls, the awareness of women and girls and economic indicators such as the situation Occupation, income and household income have found that the factor of increasing the level of literacy has a positive effect on the

participation of rural women in development affairs. Also, there was a significant relationship between the introversion of villagers and the decrease in participation. A significant relationship was also seen between the employment status, income increase, women's awareness of participation and willingness of rural women and girls with the participation rate of rural women. Mousavi et al. (2010), in a study entitled "Investigation of barriers to rural women's participation in agricultural production activities" investigated the barriers to women's participation. They use indicators of social structure (lack of access to promotional publications and media, housework, lack of organization or organization to support women, long distance from home to farm, lack of participation in symbolic events such as Jihad Keshavarzi Week, lack of membership in organizations, cooperatives, etc., non-participation in gatherings, upbringing and education of children, ignorance of the social consequences of participation, lack of access to service centers and agricultural jihad)/cultural structure (village customs and traditions, lack of consultation with women before implementing plans, lack of trust of the family man towards women's management, class inequality between men and women, past absurd ideas regarding women's work being worthless, not valuing women's local experiences and knowledge) / economic obstacles (uneconomical participation, lack of material motivation for Action to participate, low wages of temporary and seasonal jobs, work related to animal husbandry and handicrafts) / educational obstacles (lack of attention to educational needs, lack of necessary promotional and educational classes, lack of sufficient literacy, weakness of promoters and experts) / the structure of agricultural land Lack of land ownership, small land plots, scattered land plots) showed that social and cultural barriers are the most important factors in the non-participation of rural women in agricultural production activities.

## 2.2. Theoretical aspects

Community-oriented development has always existed at the heart of society since the beginning of human civilization, but it was officially introduced in the 1930s in America as part of a policy to encourage community participation in rural planning (Ajayi & Otuya, 2005). This type of development does not take place through force and command, but rather when all actors participate equally and share their ideas, views, and responsibilities to guide and implement development projects that reflect the needs and aspirations of the community or village. It is a

development approach that is by the people and for the people, ensuring that all stakeholders, particularly women, have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes (Gyan, 2021).

In other words, the community-oriented approach aims to create sustainable rural development by providing equal opportunities for all members of the local community, including both men and women, to make decisions and shape the future of their community (Ajayi & Otuya, 2005). One key aspect emphasized in the community-oriented approach is the need for an equal and gender-inclusive perspective, allowing for equal participation opportunities for both men and women. The unique contributions of women in collaborative activities should be recognized. Therefore, a community-oriented approach with a gender-adjusted view and principles of equality and justice is essential for effective cooperation with the community at all stages. This approach recognizes and utilizes the capacities, skills, and resources of the people involved, relying on them to protect and provide solutions, and supporting community goals.

The community-oriented approach is not limited to a specific function or sector, but rather it should guide everyone involved. This requires an understanding and consideration of the political and social context, gender roles, community dynamics, as well as the risks, concerns, and priorities of the community. By doing so, this approach serves as a protective framework. It empowers societies to address the problems that arise by fostering direct action from within the community, rather than relying solely on external actors. The goals of the community-oriented approach are to strengthen the dignity and self-esteem of individuals and empower all members of society to work collaboratively in supporting each other to exercise and enjoy their human rights (UNHCR, 2008). Therefore, in this approach, participation is considered an important indicator that requires the principle of equality to ensure that individuals who lack equal access to natural resources, economic opportunities, and social benefits can protect their interests (Orapin, 1996). Local participation is seen not only as a solution to promote improvement, especially in the context of poverty alleviation (Boakye-Agyei, 2009), but also as a prerequisite and catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development and overall community well-being. It is believed that local people themselves possess a better understanding of their economic and social environment and have insights that can contribute to shaping plans that truly benefit them.

It is emphasized that comprehensive and inclusive development of society cannot be easily achieved if all stakeholders, especially women, do not participate in decision-making processes. Despite the undeniable impact of community participation, women face specific challenges and limitations in their level of involvement. These challenges have the potential to reinforce existing gender prejudices and power dynamics. Recognizing the importance of gender and gender relations is crucial for the development of an inclusive society, as men and women are affected differently by societal structures and norms (Gyan et al., 2021). Considering that women and men bring different experiences, knowledge, skills, perspectives, and concerns, their active participation is essential for ensuring well-rounded development. Therefore, planners and researchers should incorporate gender concepts to promote balanced growth in the field of rural development (Mukta). In fact, the goals of community-oriented sustainable development, such as "participation," "gender equality, and women's empowerment," can be better achieved by ensuring the active participation of rural women in both agricultural and non-agricultural production activities (Nishi et al., 2019). However, it is evident that the role of women in rural development is not adequately recognized, and there are numerous barriers to their participation that span various domains, including institutional, socio-cultural, technical, and logistical (Botes & Rensburg, 2000). These obstacles are influenced by the specific conditions and context of the society and can arise both internally and externally. For instance, internal barriers may arise from conflicts among local community members over their interests, while external barriers can be linked to the role of development specialists and government policies in promoting participation. In

many cases, a combination of internal and external barriers may exist. Moreover, communities may be reluctant to participate due to previous experiences where their expectations were not met (Botes & Rensburg, 2000).

To address these challenges, opportunities must be created for the active participation of rural women in productive activities and the provision of rural services (Sarkar & Devi, 2014). In a patriarchal and underdeveloped society, women often face the greatest hardships. Consequently, different approaches have been introduced to enhance women's participation. The concepts of "Women in Development (WID)" and "Women and Development (WAD)" emerged in the 1970s. The WID perspective focuses on women's roles in education, development, employment, and health services, with the belief that gender roles will change through equal opportunities for women. Active participation of women is seen as efficient and effective for development (AusAID, 1997). On the other hand, the WAD approach emphasizes the importance of social class and exploitation in the third world, arguing that institutions must be transformed to increase women's participation. However, this approach does not fully address the subordination of women and undervalues the work women do within the household (Chitthalth, 2006). Considering the structure and conditions of our society, as well as the range of gender approaches and the neoliberal perspective on women's contribution to participation, rural development, and overall development, it appears that a gender-adjusted approach within the framework of community-oriented planning is appropriate. Based on this understanding, a conceptual model for the research has been developed and presented in Figure (1).

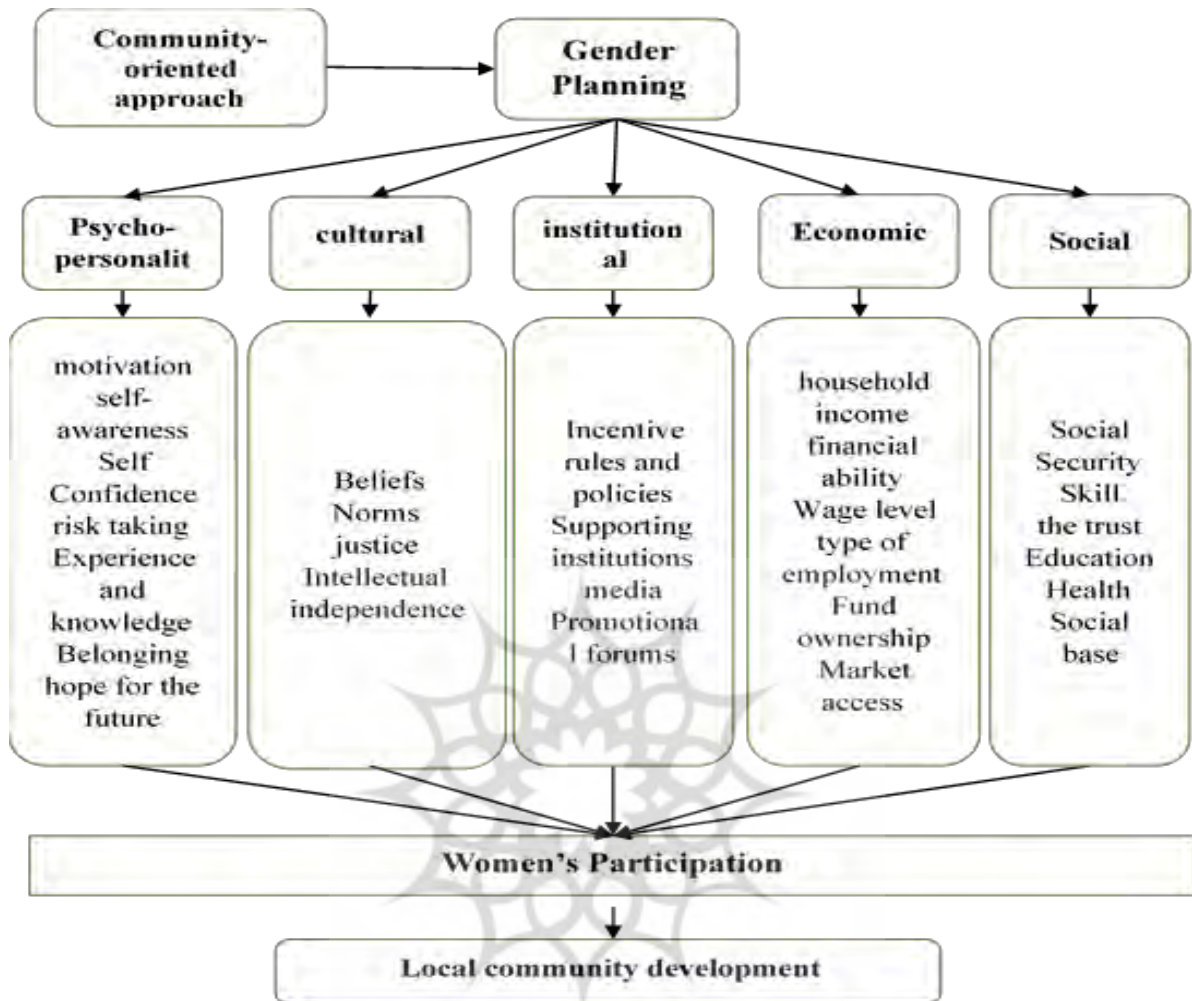


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the study

### 3. Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Geographical Scope of the Research

The study focuses on the three main region with several villages of Lashte Nesha district, which is subdivision of Rasht city. Lesht Nesha district spans an area of 162 square kilometers and is situated 18 meters above sea level. It is a fertile

district located 25 kilometers northeast of Rasht city. The district comprises three main regions: Jirahande, Aliabad, and Gafshe, and is home to a total of 45 inhabited villages. According to the 2015 census data, Lasht Nesha has a population of 42,212 rural residents, consisting of 20,678 women and 21,534 men. The location of the study area is depicted in [Figure \(2\)](#).



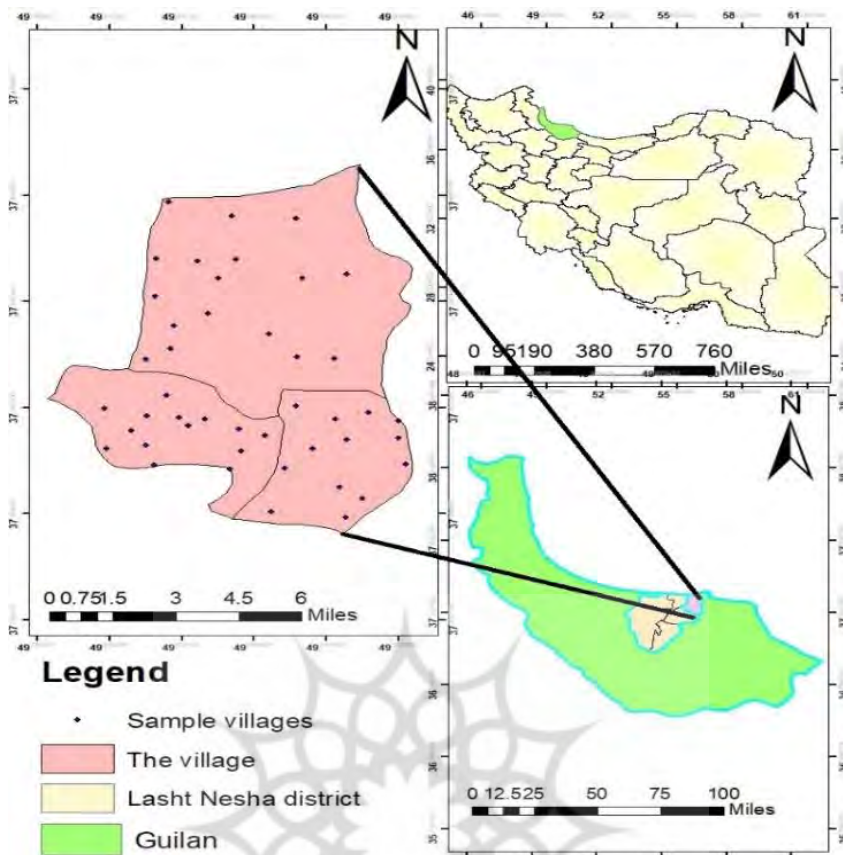


Figure 2. Location of the studied area, authors, 2023

### 3.2. Methodology

The current research is applied in terms of purpose and its method is descriptive-analytical. Theoretical studies using the library method, field data were also collected through questionnaires

with a Likert scale and interviews with rural women. The statistical population is rural women in Rasht city, Lasht-nesha district in Gilan province (N=20678) and 378 rural women were selected using the Cochran formula. [Table 1](#)).

Table 1. Demographic characteristics and number of samples of the studied rural areas

Region	District	Number of villages	Number of households	Number of women	number of samples
Lashte Nesha	Aliabad	12	5398	7354	134
	Jirhande	16	4226	5716	104
	Gafshe	17	5670	7608	140
	total	45	15294	20678	378

Source: Iran Statistics Center, 2016 and research findings, 2023

Statistical methods (descriptive and inferential) were used to analyze the data. Exploratory factor analysis was used to analyze inferential statistics. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by several experts in this field using content validity. To measure the reliability, a pre-test sample of 30

questionnaires was taken and the reliability coefficient was calculated using Cronbach's alpha method. The total validity was 0.92 and higher than 0.70 and it can be said that it has an acceptable reliability scale. [Table \(2\)](#).



**Table 2. The amount of alpha calculated for women's participation factors**

Dimensions	Number of items	Cronbach's alpha
Economic	11	0/96
Social	17	0/94
Institutional-management	9	0/92
Cultural	10	0/89
Personality-psychology	16	0/96
Total	63	0/92

#### 4. Research Findings

The distribution of personal and professional characteristics of the respondents showed that the most frequent age group is 31 to 40 years with

39.9%. In terms of education, 39.6% had a diploma. 50.3% of the respondents were married and 90% of the respondents stated that they own their own housing (Table 3).

**Table 3. Frequency distribution of the studied population**

Profile of the respondent	Most responsive	Number	percent
Age	40 - 31	148	39/9
Education	Diploma degree	147	39/6
Marital status	married	186	50/3
Home ownership	Personal	334	90

In order to examine and describe the data obtained from the respondents, central and dispersion indices were used (Table 4). Based on the results obtained in this table, considering the minimum score of 1 and the maximum score of 5, the obtained averages are higher than 3; And this result shows the situation above the average level of the research variables, from the point of view of the respondents regarding the barriers to women's

participation. As can be seen in table (4), the highest average related to the variable of beliefs, customs and cultural characteristics with an average of 4.03 and a deviation of 1.07 and the lowest average to the variable of status and financial and economic characteristics with an average of 20 3.0 and the standard deviation is 1.27.

**Table 4. Mean and standard deviation of each research variable**

Variable	frequency	Mean	standard deviation	Min and Max
Financial and economic status and characteristics	378	3/20	1/27	5-1
Social capital, health status, education and social characteristics	378	3/49	1/13	5-1
Gender justice and equality and institutional-political characteristics	378	3/64	1/02	5-1
Motivation and self-awareness and cognitive characteristics	378	3/73	1/12	5-1
Beliefs and customs and cultural characteristics	378	4/03	1/07	5-1

Also, in order to investigate the barriers to the participation of rural women, exploratory factor analysis was performed on the responses of 371

subjects in the sample, using principal component analysis and varimax rotation. This method pursues two main goals, first, identifying the underlying

factors or underlying variables; In this regard, the common factor of the variables is identified according to the common variance and then named by the researcher. The second goal of factor analysis is to identify the relationships between new variables (factors) that are less considered. Despite the ability of this method in data analysis, it is not possible to use it in every situation. Because data are suitable for factor analysis that have the necessary competence for this work; And

before using this method, it is necessary to ensure that the correlation coefficients of the scores between the questionnaire questions are high. For this purpose, Bartlett's test and KMO coefficient are used. If the value of KMO is higher than 0.5, factor analysis can be used with confidence. In this study, for this purpose, the sampling adequacy indices of Kyers, Mayer and Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's sphericity test were investigated (Table 5).

**Table 5. Results of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's sphericity tests**

KMO	Bartlett's sphericity	df	sig
0/868	23692/714	2016	0/000

Table 5 shows KMO and Bartlett's sphericity tests to check sampling adequacy. As can be seen, the value of the KMO index is 0.868, which is an acceptable figure for this index; Acceptable value for KMO is more than 0.6. Also, the chi-square statistic value for Bartlett's sphericity test is 23692/714 and with 2016 degree of freedom is significant ( $P \leq 0.000$ ). Therefore, it can be said that the sufficiency of sampling has been observed for conducting exploratory factor analysis and it can be concluded that conducting factor analysis is justified.

After making sure that the data were suitable for factor analysis, this analysis was performed using the principal components method and using varimax rotation, on the subjects' answers to 63 questions of the questionnaire. The extracted sharing values of no question were less than 0.5, so no question was excluded from the analysis. After

observing the results, eigenvalues higher than 2 were considered as selection criteria for extracting the factors.

The results of the analysis led to the creation of 5 factors that explained 63.95% of the total variance of the questionnaire. Therefore, considering that the value of variance is usually more than 60% as a criterion for determining the number of components, the number 5 was considered as the final number of factors.

In Table (6), the extracted factors, the percentage of explained variance and the compressed variance explained for each of these factors, before and after Varimax rotation, are given. As can be seen in this table, the final factor analysis led to the extraction of 5 factors, which explain a total of 63.9% of the variance related to the barriers to the participation of rural women in Lashtnesha section of Rasht city.

**Table 6. Components extracted from the factor analysis of rural women's participation barriers questionnaire**

Component	Primary extraction			Extraction after varimax		
	total	Percentage of variance	Density percentage	total	Percentage of variance	Density percentage
Social capital, health status, education and social characteristics (factor 1)	12/68	19/82	19/82	11/03	17/23	17/23
motivation and self-awareness and cognitive characteristics (factor 2)	9/86	15/41	35/24	10/77	16/83	34/06
Financial and economic status and characteristics (factor 3)	7/79	12/18	47/42	7/95	12/43	46/50
Beliefs and customs and cultural characteristics (factor 4)	5/55	8/67	56/10	5/69	8/89	55/40
Gender justice and equality and institutional-political characteristics (factor 5)	5/02	7/85	63/95	5/47	8/55	63/95

Each of the aforementioned factors is composed of several variables. In Table 7, the factor loadings of

each of the questions of the questionnaire of barriers to the participation of rural women are

presented; To assign each question to a component, factor loadings higher than 0.5 have been considered.

After determining the extracted factors, each factor was named according to the content of the questions (Table 7).

**Table 7. Variables related to each of the factors and the amount of factor loadings obtained from the rotated matrix**

Factor	Variable	
Social capital, health status, education and social characteristics (factor 1)	Satisfaction with the business environment	0'847
	Satisfaction with living space	0'846
	The amount of freedom of movement outside the village	0'803
	The amount of freedom of movement at different hours of the day and night	0'836
	Theft occurred	0'834
	Occurrence of ethnic conflicts	0'814
	The amount of communication with neighbors	0'739
	The degree of willingness to accept responsibility in the village	0'630
	The level of cooperation and solidarity between the villagers	0'695
	The level of trust people have in each other	0'711
	The level of people's trust in local institutions	0'858
	The level of access to education and skill training of women in the village	0'868
	There are various gatherings and meetings in the village	0'754
	The level of satisfaction with your physical health and the role of your physical health in participation	0'866
	Having a physically or mentally disabled member in the family	0'776
A member of a family belonging to a trusted tribe and family in the village	0'818	
Motivation, self-awareness and cognitive characteristics (factor 2)	The level of motivation to attend the community	0'790
	Motivation to create personal income	0'800
	Awareness of your abilities	0'872
	Awareness of the impact of women's role in society	0'831
	Ability to provide logical solutions to problems	0'757
	Self-confidence in decisions, management and participation in society	0'832
	Risk tolerance in insurance and investment	0'839
	Knowledge and experience in village economic activities	0'818
	The experience of attending associations and organizations	0'835
	Skill and experience in handicrafts	0'756
	Skill and experience in growing agricultural products	0'782
	Skill and experience in animal husbandry and animal products processing	0'889
	Interest in the place of residence	0'693
Desire to migrate to another place	0'808	
Optimism for the future	0'827	



Factor	Variable	
	Security of mind from the future	0'837
Financial and economic status and characteristics (factor 3)	Satisfaction with income	0'880
	Satisfaction with the place of business	0'878
	Enjoying various jobs in the village	0'798
	financial independence	0'891
	Ability to buy new land, machinery and housing	0'859
	Investment power	0'828
	Ownership of house and land	0'824
	Access to local markets	0'885
	Product transportation facilities to the market	0'906
	Having shares in various industries	0'828
	The amount of savings	0'716
The state of beliefs, customs and cultural characteristics (factor 4)	Adherence to religious and traditional beliefs	0'710
	The past beliefs regarding women's work as worthless	0'820
	acceptance of the patriarchal system in the society	0'712
	Lack of intellectual independence	0'688
	Not valuing women's experiences and knowledge	0'724
	The lack of trust of the man of the family towards the management of women	0'769
	Putting women in the second place by society	0'725
	Lack of independence in decision making	0'796
	Consultation with women before implementing plans and programs	0'769
	Class inequality between men and women	0'742
Gender justice and equality and institutional-political characteristics (factor 5)	Prominence of gender in laws and policies	0'798
	Providing rural services and Islamic councils equally to men and women	0'871
	Involving women in making decisions or implementing village development plans	0'832
	Membership of women in cooperative companies and use of facilities	0'631
	Satisfaction with the support of handicrafts and workshops	0'814
	The existence of institutions supporting women's rights	0'713
	The existence of skill training forums	0'821
	The existence of women's awareness associations	0'650
	The difference in payment of facilities between women and men	0'767

The first factor: the state of social capital, education, health and social characteristics- According to [table 6](#), satisfaction with the living and business environment, the degree of freedom in commuting outside the village and at different

hours of the day and night, the occurrence of theft in the village as well as ethnic conflicts, communication with neighbors and trust in them, people's trust in Each other and local institutions, educational access, health status of self and family

and social base are among the variables that make up this factor. This factor alone explains 17.23% of the total variance, to put it simply, 17.23% of rural women's participation barriers are related to the status of social capital, education, health and their social characteristics.

The second factor: motivation, self-awareness and cognitive characteristics- As Table 6 shows, this factor (motivation, self-awareness and cognitive characteristics) explains 16.83% of the total variance; In other words, 16.83 percent of rural women's participation barriers are related to motivational barriers, self-awareness and their cognitive characteristics. The level of motivation to be in the community and create personal income, awareness of one's ability and the impact of women's role in society, the ability to provide logical solutions to solve problems, self-confidence in decision-making, management and participation in society, the level of risk-taking, knowledge and experience, skill, Tughlaq Khat and optimism and hope for the future are among the variables that make up this factor.

The third factor: financial and economic status and characteristics- Based on the data in Table 6, the factor of financial and economic status and characteristics alone explains 12.43% of the total variance. In other words, 12.43 percent of women's participation barriers are related to their financial and economic issues. Among the variables included in this factor are satisfaction with the business and life environment, variety of jobs in the village, savings, ownership of houses and land and machinery, having shares and the possibility of investment, transportation facilities and Transportation and access to local markets mentioned.

The fourth factor: the state of beliefs, beliefs, customs of society and cultural characteristics- The variables included in the fourth factor are: adherence to religious and traditional beliefs, past beliefs regarding women's work being worthless, acceptance of the patriarchal system, lack of intellectual independence, not valuing women's experiences and knowledge, lack of trust in men, the family towards women's management, placing women in the second position, independence in decision-making, consulting with women before implementing plans and programs, and class inequality between men and women; As shown in Table 6, its variance is equal to 8.86% and it shows

that this factor explains 8.86% of the total variance of the variables under investigation.

The fifth factor: justice, gender equality and institutional-political characteristics- As shown in Table 6, the factor of justice, gender equality and institutional-political characteristics explains 8.55% of the total variance. In other words, 8.55% of the barriers to rural women's participation are related to problems related to justice and gender equality and the lack of support from institutions, laws and policies for women.

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

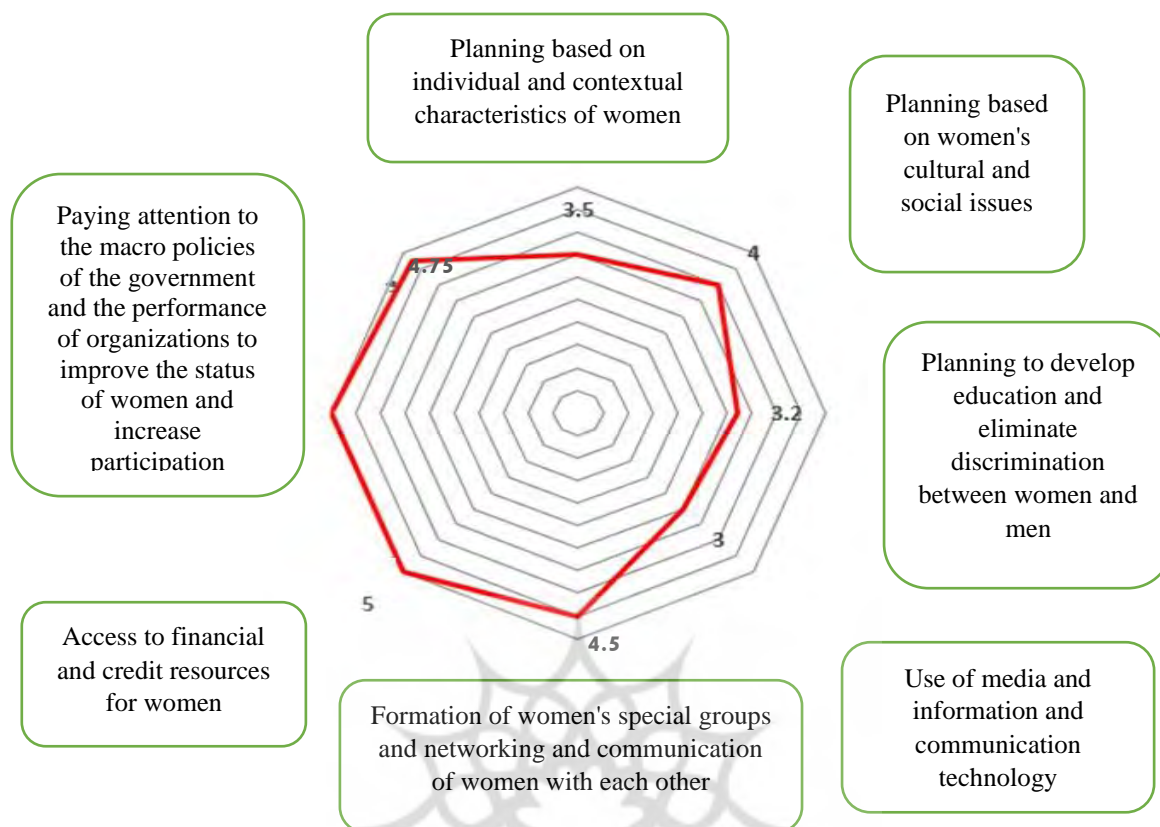
Through the community-oriented approach, participation of all members of the rural community in development processes is emphasized and participation is considered as a key point in this approach; Thus, promoting the presence and participation of women in various economic, social, cultural and institutional fields is a necessary condition for sustainable development. Therefore, women's participation through specific gender-sensitive policies is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development of local communities in any developing country. At the same time, women, especially rural women who make up half of the population of rural society, have always faced many obstacles and problems to participate in various activities. Therefore, in this research, barriers to rural women's participation were investigated, and in this way, the exploratory factor analysis method was used.

Based on the results, 5 categories of factors were identified and categorized as barriers to the participation of rural women, which include the status of social capital, education, health and social characteristics, which are the first and most important factor with a variance of 17.32%. is identified; Motivation, self-awareness, and cognitive characteristics are the second most important factors in rural women's participation barriers, with a variance value of 16.83%; Financial and economic status and characteristics, which ranked third after social and cognitive factors, with a variance of 12.43; The state of beliefs, beliefs, community customs and cultural characteristics with a variance of 8.86% was the fourth factor identified in this research; and finally, justice, gender equality and institutional-political characteristics with a variance of 8.55% were the fifth factor. Identified in relation to the barriers of participation of rural women. If the more detailed

results showed that rural women always face more social restrictions than men to participate in rural activities, restrictions such as lack of equal access to skill training, business environment security, The lack of trust in women's management and the lack of trust between people and local institutions, which lead to women's lack of motivation to participate in various village activities, have been identified as social barriers to women's participation. Also, in the rural areas of Lasht Nesha district of Rasht city, women's lack of awareness of their abilities, which is the result of lack of self-confidence, and such a low level of risk-taking, despite having the motivation to be in the community and earn personal income, cause the emergence of cognitive barriers for rural women to participate in rural activities. On the other hand, rural women usually have little initial capital and are less financially capable than men, so even though these things can be used as an incentive and motivation for women to participate in rural activities, but the difference in wages and not having adequate initial capital shows as an obstacle to participation. In addition to the obstacles mentioned for the participation of rural women in the study area, there are some cultural obstacles such as religious and traditional beliefs, devaluing women's work, lack of intellectual independence, lack of consultation with women to carry out plans, and also institutional obstacles such as the absence of laws and Supportive and non-gender policies, lack of holding classes and educational associations for women, lack of institutions supporting women's rights have caused many rural women in the region to have a lot of knowledge about participation and the impact of women's role in participating in rural activities. Do not have. This, if realized, can cause the prosperity and sustainable development of local communities in addition to removing the obstacles facing women's participation.

In order to investigate the barriers to rural women's participation and after identifying the most important barriers, strategies for increasing women's participation were examined in the form of a proposal, which is to realize the real participation of rural women in rural activities in line with the development of local communities from the perspective of experts and women themselves. Village is used. To investigate this, interviews with 15 women were used, and after identifying the important strategies of women's participation based on the opinions of the interviewees, a score between 1 and 5 was given to the opinions and each strategy, and the average opinions of each interviewee about each strategy were added together. The average score of each strategy was calculated and presented in the form of a radar model. Based on this, the findings of the research showed that eight major categories of strategies were identified for the realization of women's participation in rural activities in line with the development of local communities, which include planning based on the individual and contextual characteristics of women, planning Planning based on women's cultural and social issues, planning for the development of education and eliminating discrimination between women and men, using media and information and communication technology, forming special women's groups and networking and connecting women with On the other hand, access to financial and credit resources for women, the possibility of participating in microcredit projects, and paying attention to the financial independence of women, and paying attention to the macro policies of the government and the performance of organizations to improve the status of women and increase their participation. The prioritization of strategies to realize women's participation in rural development projects is different in the mentioned stages, and the score of each of these strategies is given in [figure \(3\)](#) and the radar model.





**Figure 3. Radar model of strategies to increase women's participation**

The findings of this research in the field of social barriers to women's participation are in line with the results of Wulandari & Viliano (2021), Tulabinejad et al. (2023) and Atai et al. (2021). In the field of cultural barriers, it has been aligned with the results of Faraji Sabokbar et al. (2021). In the field of economic barriers, it has been in line with the results of Wulandari & Villiano (2021) and Tulabinejad (2023), and in the field of personal and institutional barriers, with the results of Saidal Houk (2016), Wulandari & Villiano (2021), Tulabinejad et al. (2023) and Faraji Sobokbar et al. (2021).

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#### **Authors' contributions**

The authors equally contributed to the preparation of this article.

#### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## بررسی موانع مشارکت زنان روستایی از منظر رویکرد اجتماع محور (مورد مطالعه: زنان روستایی بخش لشت نشا)

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### چکیده مبسوط

#### ۱. مقدمه

توسعه ای برای مردم و با مردم که تمام ذینفعان به ویژه زنان در آن تصمیمات مشارکت داشته باشند. به عبارتی این رویکرد در پی ایجاد توسعه پایدار روستایی از طریق فرصت دادن برابر به تمام افراد جامعه محلی اعم از زن و مرد برای تصمیم گیری و برنامه ریزی آینده جامعه خویش است و یکی از وجوه مورد تاکید در رویکرد اجتماع محور این است که می باید نگاه برابر و رویکرد جنسیتی به شکلی باشد که فرصت مشارکت برای هر دو گروه زن و مرد به شکل برابر وجود داشته باشد و در واقع سهم زنان در فعالیت های مشارکتی به شکل ویژه دیده شود. بنابراین رویکرد اجتماع محور با نگاه جنسیتی تعدیل شده و برابری و عدالت، روشی برای همکاری با افراد مورد نظر در تمام مراحل است؛ و تاب آوری، ظرفیت ها، مهارت ها و منابع افراد مورد نظر را تشخیص می دهد، بر این موارد برای حفاظت و ارائه راه حل ها تکیه می کند و از اهداف جامعه حمایت می کند. در واقع، اهداف رویکرد اجتماع محور، تقویت کرامت و عزت نفس افراد و توانمند ساختن همه اعضا جامعه برای همکاری با یکدیگر برای حمایت از اعضای مختلف جامعه در اعمال و برخورداری از حقوق انسانی خود است

#### ۳. روش تحقیق

پژوهش حاضر از نظر هدف، کاربردی و روش انجام آن توصیفی-تحلیلی می باشد. مطالعات نظریه ای با استفاده از روش کتابخانه ای، داده های میدانی نیز از طریق پرسشنامه با طیف لیکرت و مصاحبه با زنان روستایی جمع آوری گردید.

امروزه یکی از مسایل مورد توجه در میان تمام اندیشمندان توسعه روستایی مقوله توسعه و ارتقای شرایط مناسب برای زیست ساکنان روستایی و بسترسازی برای همدلی و همراهی تمامی گروه های اجتماعی ساکن در روستا در فرایندهای مرتبط با توسعه روستایی است که این امر با توجه به رویکردهای نوین توسعه روستایی و به طور مشخص از رهگذر رویکرد پذیرفته شده اجتماع محور مبتنی بر نگاه مشارکتی و سهیم کردن تمامی آحاد جامعه روستایی در فرایندهای توسعه مورد تاکید قرار گرفته است. بر این اساس مساله مشارکت به عنوان یک نکته کلیدی مورد وثوق و توافق بسیاری از اندیشمندان این حوزه می باشد و معتقدند دستیابی به توسعه اجتماعی- اقتصادی تا حد زیادی به مشارکت حداکثری از مردم، اعم از زن و مرد بستگی دارد. لذا مشارکت زنان در فرآیند تصمیم گیری از طریق سیاست های خاص حساس به جنسیت، پیش نیاز دستیابی به توسعه پایدار اجتماعات محلی در هر کشور در حال توسعه ای است.

#### ۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

توسعه اجتماع محور از آغاز تمدن بشری همواره در بطن جامعه وجود داشته است اما به طور رسمی از دهه ۱۹۳۰ در آمریکا به عنوان بخشی از سیاست برای تشویق مشارکت جامعه در برنامه ریزی روستایی معرفی شد. این نوع از توسعه با اجبار و بصورت آمرانه صورت نمی گیرد، بلکه زمانی اتفاق می افتد که همه بازیگران به طور مساوی مشارکت کنند و ایده ها، دیدگاه ها و مسئولیت های خود را برای هدایت و اجرای پروژه های توسعه جامعه یا روستا را بیان کنند؛

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عوامل عبارتند از: سرمایه اجتماعی، وضعیت بهداشت، آموزش و ویژگی‌های اجتماعی (عامل ۱)؛ انگیزه و خودآگاهی و ویژگی‌های شناختی (عامل ۲)؛ وضعیت و ویژگی‌های مالی و اقتصادی (عامل ۳)؛ باورها و عرف و ویژگی‌های فرهنگی (عامل ۴)؛ عدالت و برابری جنسیتی و ویژگی‌های نهادی - سیاستی (عامل ۵)

#### ۵. بحث و نتیجه گیری

مشارکت زنان از طریق سیاست‌های خاص حساس به جنسیت، پیش نیاز دستیابی به توسعه پایدار اجتماعات محلی در هر کشور در حال توسعه‌ای محسوب می‌گردد. در عین حال زنان به ویژه زنان روستایی که نیمی از جمعیت جامعه روستایی را تشکیل می‌دهند، همواره جهت مشارکت در فعالیتهای مختلف با موانع و مشکلات زیادی روبرو بوده‌اند. براساس نتایج بدست آمده، ۵ دسته عامل به عنوان موانع مشارکت زنان روستایی شناسایی و دسته‌بندی شدند که عبارتند از وضعیت سرمایه اجتماعی، آموزش، بهداشت و ویژگی‌های اجتماعی که به عنوان عامل نخست و مهمترین عامل با مقدار واریانس ۱۷/۳۲ درصد شناسایی شد؛ انگیزه، خودآگاهی و ویژگی‌های شناختی دومین عامل مهم در جهت موانع مشارکت زنان روستایی با مقدار واریانس ۱۶/۸۳ درصد؛ وضعیت و ویژگی‌های مالی و اقتصادی که پس از عوامل اجتماعی و شناختی، با واریانس ۱۲/۴۳ در رتبه سوم قرار گرفت؛ وضعیت اعتقادات، باورها، عرف جامعه و ویژگی‌های فرهنگی با واریانس ۸/۸۶ درصد چهارمین عامل شناسایی شده این پژوهش بوده است؛ و در نهایت عدالت، برابری جنسیتی و پنجمین عامل شناسایی شده در رابطه با موانع مشارکت زنان روستایی قرار گرفت.

**کلیدواژه‌ها:** مشارکت زنان، اجتماع محور، لشت نشا، تحلیل عاملی اکتشافی.

**تشکر و قدردانی:** پژوهش حاضر حامی مالی نداشته و حاصل فعالیت علمی نویسندگان است.

جامعه آماری، زنان روستایی شهرستان رشت، بخش لشت‌نشا در استان گیلان می‌باشد ( $N=20678$ ) و ۳۷۸ زن روستایی با استفاده از فرمول کوکران انتخاب شد. برای تحلیل داده‌ها از روش‌های آماری (توصیفی و استنباطی) استفاده گردید. برای تحلیل آمار استنباطی از آزمون تحلیل عاملی اکتشافی استفاده شد. روایی پرسشنامه با استفاده از روایی محتوا، توسط چند تن از اساتید متخصص در این حوزه مورد تایید قرار گرفت. برای سنجش پایایی ابتدا از ۳۰ پرسشنامه نمونه پیش آزمون گرفته و ضریب اعتماد با روش آلفای کرونباخ محاسبه شد. روایی کل ۰/۹۲ و بالاتر از ۰/۷۰ بود و می‌توان گفت که از مقیاس پایایی قابل قبولی برخوردار می‌باشد.

#### ۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

جهت بررسی و توصیف داده‌های به دست آمده از پاسخگویان، از شاخص‌های مرکزی و پراکندگی استفاده گردید. براساس نتایج بدست آمده در این جدول با در نظر گرفتن حداقل نمره ۱ و حداکثر نمره ۵، میانگین‌های بدست آمده بالاتر از ۳ بدست آمده است؛ و این نتیجه نشان‌دهنده وضعیت بالاتر از سطح متوسط متغیرهای تحقیق، از دیدگاه پاسخگویان در خصوص موانع مشارکت زنان است. براین اساس بالاترین میانگین مربوط به متغیر باورها، عرف و ویژگی‌های فرهنگی با میانگین ۴/۰۳ و انحراف ۱/۰۷ و پایین‌ترین میانگین به متغیر وضعیت و ویژگی‌های مالی و اقتصادی با میانگین ۳/۲۰ و انحراف معیار ۱/۲۷ تعلق دارد. همچنین جهت بررسی موانع مشارکت زنان روستایی، تحلیل عاملی اکتشافی، روی پاسخ‌های ۳۷۱ آزمودنی حاضر در نمونه، با روش تجزیه مولفه‌های اصلی و چرخش واریماکس انجام گرفت. نتایج تحلیل به ایجاد ۵ عامل منجر شد که در مجموع، ۶۳/۹۵ درصد واریانس کل پرسشنامه را تبیین می‌کردند. تحلیل عاملی نهایی به استخراج ۵ عامل انجامید که در مجموع مقدار ۶۳/۹ درصد از واریانس مربوط به موانع مشارکت زنان روستایی بخش لشت نشا شهرستان رشت را تبیین می‌نمایند. این



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