

Sociological Study of the Motivations of Migration from University to Hawza

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Abstract

The main concern of this paper is scientific migration from university to Hawza and knowing its motivations. Elite migration is one of the most important issues discussed in this paper. We conducted a qualitative research by a snowball sampling in Tehran and Qom, and interviewed 23 people episodically. We found a triple typology of the motivations. According to the findings, there are three different religious approaches, which are themselves linked to the instrumental motivations of profit-centeredness. The first type select the Hawza to protect the traditional forms of religiosity against the replaceable elements in current society. We gave them the title of “religious protectors”. The aim of the second type is to create a peaceful joint between religion and contemporary society’s issues. We gave them the title of “religious messengers”, and finally the third type sees religion as a safe shelter, which can be useful in achieving social excellence, security, and socio-political benefits. We called them “security seekers”. Finally, along with analyzing the motivations, the relationships between these three categories are explained.

Keywords: Hawza, Motivation, Religion, Typology, University.

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An Analysis of the Relationship between the Social Capital of the Anonymous Addicts and Their Commitment to Quit Drugs (Case Study: Addicts Participating in the NA Associations of Mazandaran Province)

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Abstract

This paper is aimed to study the relationship between social capital of the anonymous addicts participating in Narcotics Anonymous (NA) in Mazandaran province and their commitment to quit drugs. The population statistics of this study include all members of NA Association in Mazandaran. The research sample consists of 400 people selected through multi-stage cluster sampling. The method is survey and the data is collected using questionnaire. Based on the findings, the effect of the social capital (including the variables of social participation, norms of reciprocity, and sense of belonging) on the commitment to quit drugs among the anonymous addicts are confirmed. Results of multivariate regression analysis indicate that social participation, norms of reciprocity, and sense of belonging had the highest impact ($\beta=0/297$, $0/147$, $0/132$ respectively) and social trust had the lowest impact ($\beta=0/047$) on the commitment to quit drugs among addicts in the NA Association. The coefficient of determination show that the independent variables explain 0.28 of the variance in the dependent variable. So, by increasing social capital, it is possible to discourage tendency toward drug abuse, and instead encourage addicts to sustain their efforts in quitting.

Keywords: Anonymous Addicts, Norms of Reciprocity, Sense of Belonging, Social Capital, Social Participation.

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The Perception and the Lived Experience of Iranian Pilgrims Walking in Iraq (Case Study: Arba'een Walking of Azar 1393/Nov. 2014-Iraq)

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Abstract

From far away and along with tourism growth in recent decades, domestic and international pilgrimage travels in Iran has been one of the favorite religious activities. Arba'een walking pilgrimage is a recently appeared form of religious travel which was not known to this extent by Iranians. So, empirical research has not been conducted on the subject or at least not published yet. Adopting qualitative approach, 36 male and female pilgrims in the path from Najaf to Karbala were interviewed to explore their perception and lived experience of this travel. By analyzing the qualitative data, three main theme were identified: (1) The experience of materiality suspension, (2) The sacred suffering as meaning-maker, (3) The emotional stimulation of the communal pilgrimage ritual. These main themes includes six sub-themes: suspending instrumental rationality, suspending social classification, perception of the sacred supernatural power, expectation for reward, the sense of belonging to the religious community by simulating a suffering historical experience, and declaring belief and commitment in religion practically through simulating a suffering historical experience. The subtheme of suspending instrumental rationality itself includes two items: devolved liberty and reinterpretation of security.

Keywords: Arba'een, Pilgrimage, Religious Tourism, Rituals, Sociology of Pilgrimage, Walking Pilgrimage.

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Sociological Analysis of Lived Experience of Women Infected with AIDS

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Abstract

AIDS is not known just as a disease, and its vector is not just recognized only as a patient. Since the modes of disease transmission include particular behaviors which have been known as negative norms according to the public morals, there are some negative labeling and views toward this disease. So, the patients are labeled as deviant in the society, and they may face discrimination and prejudice from the public. This research aims to study the impacts of the disease and its labels, through the lived experience of the women who have AIDS or are HIV-positive. Data has been collected, applying the qualitative method and the basic theory and the semi-structured interview with positive HIV women, who visited “the association to protect the socially damaged people (revival of values)”. By analyzing the research findings, four factors were found as the main causes for “the patient’s sensitivity to social labeling”, including: “the present negative social attitude toward the disease”, “the immoral ways of disease transmission”, “lack of public knowledge about the transmission ways”, and “the absence of support from family and acquaintances”. Findings show that the labeling related to HIV/AIDS leads to prejudicious behaviors toward these patients, and consequently some problems and concerns for these women. The concerns are physical problems, psychological problems, isolation and depression, financial concerns, worrying about missing the job, stealth at work, rejection and missing friends and family’s support, limited cure availability, worrying about marriage, and limited social interactions. These problems beside the fear from revealing the disease and so the fear from being labeled, lead to decrease the level of life quality among these patients.

Keywords: AIDS, Emotional-Social Support, Social Labeling, Social Rejection, Women.

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Analysis of Written Media Effects on Employed Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Media play an important role in creating an appropriate cultural and social context in relation to empowerment of the individuals. The present paper aimed to study the effect of the print media on the socio-cultural empowerment of the employed women using documentary and survey methods, and data has been collected by two comprehensive questionnaires. The statistical population includes 1964 female physicians, nurses, paramedics, residents, as well as managers and owners of health care centers in Rasht and Anzali. The sample size of employed females is 321 persons which has selected by simple random method and stratified sampling in Rasht and Anzali. Sampling from the community of owners and managers of the centers is performed by simple random method. Based on the findings, print media have not necessary impact on the attitude of the audiences and beliefs of the society in terms of accepting and reflection of women empowerment in the society. Despite the positive attitude of the owners and the managers toward the empowerment of women in this field, the influence and reflection of the print media in this field has been neutral. Also, the print media has had the most influence on the two dimensions of social empowerment, awareness, and trust. Attention to the educational dimension of the cultural empowerment is observable in the content of the written media.

Keywords: Cultural Empowerment, Employed Women, Empowerment of Women, Social Empowerment, Written Media.

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A Study of Social Wellbeing among Kashan Women

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Abstract

This paper studies the social wellbeing among women using Keyes and Larson's theories. Social integration, social acceptance, social contribution, social actualization and social coherence dimensions from Keyes (1998) and social support and social adaptation from Larson (1992) are extracted. This research uses survey method. Research census is women in the city of Kashan. Confirmatory factor analysis shows the compatibility of Keyes model, and explanatory factor analysis demonstrates that Larson's model is also compatible. Chi-square test among social wellbeing and marital status and income is significant. The test is not significant for social wellbeing and education, and between social wellbeing and education depends on the used models (Larson's model is significant, but Keyes's is not).

Keywords: Social Adoption, Social Support, Social Wellbeing.

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A Qualitative Study of the Barriers and Challenges of Motherhood among Employed Women in Tehran City

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Abstract

Employed women face with a lot of difficulties and challenges in their motherhood process. The employed mothers usually have multiple roles, and they might be under the pressures of all these roles. In this paper, we aim to understand the perceptions and experiences of employed women from the motherhood process, and the challenges associated with it. Using the qualitative research method and in-depth interviews with 30 highly educated employed married women, who are between 20 to 40 years old in Tehran city, the data was gathered. Then the data has was analyzed via a conventional qualitative content analysis approach. Results are derived and discussed in four categories including: the difficulty and joyfulness paradox of the motherhood, multiple roles identity of the motherhood, the roles pressures of being both a mother and an employee, and the carrier barriers to the motherhood and childbearing. Findings indicated that educated employed women experience more difficulties and challenges than the other mothers due to having multiple responsibilities as a mother, a wife, an employee and in some cases even as a student as well. Moreover, these women suffer from lack of essential social and family supports. In general, despite all the problems that employed women are facing with, they consider motherhood as an important and valuable concept. However, this value is mainly led to having only one child due to the job conditions and lack of implementation of policies and support programs for these women.

Keywords: Childbearing, Family Friendly Policies, Motherhood, Qualitative Study, Role Pressure, Women's Employment.

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Analysis of Individual-Social Problems of Transsexuals

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Abstract

In all societies, transsexuals, due to their biological conditions, displaying unconventional behaviors and dominant sexist culture in the society, experience many problems throughout life. The present paper aims to study the personal and social problems of transsexuals. It tries to explore transsexuals' lived experiences in social interaction context, using GMT which is a qualitative approach. The sample includes 25 transsexuals in Yazd, Mashhad and Tehran, selected by purposive sampling of snowball. In-depth interviews were conducted with them, and then interviews texts were analyzed using analysis of theoretical coding. First, the issue of "instability of identity" emerged as the major phenomenon. Results showed that transsexuals faced negative judgments and stereotypes in their life, which brought an experience of instability of identity to them. Their action against social problems occur in the form of social isolation, leaving home, and interacting with each other. Among its outcomes are also the deviations increase, the decrease of individual-social health, and lack of social capital.

Keywords: Individual Problems, Role Duality, Sex, Social Exclusion, Transsexuals.

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