

Perceptual Understanding by Local Elites and People around the Zab River's Water Transfer to Urmieh Lake

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Abstract

The present research is carried out in a qualitative tradition using the grounded theory, and seeks to answer the fundamental question that how the stakeholders of the source of water transfer (Zab river) understand and realize the phenomenon of water transfer to Lake Urmia. In addition, from their perspective, how do the conditions, interactions, and consequences of this situation are represented. In order to collect and analyze data, deep interviewing technique (22 interviews) and group discussions (8 group discussions) were used by using purposive sampling. Results are categorized in the form of the original 90 fundamental concepts, 13 core concepts, and 1 nuclear category. The core categories include: the transformation of the livelihood of people at the origin, the increase of ethnic sensitivities, the prosperity of agriculture in the land of the water transmission route, irreparable damage to agriculture, biological problems and leaving rural areas in the origin, drying of Urmia Lake, health threats, changing the pattern of cultivation, security attitude toward water transfer, land price changes, ethnic divergence, mediatorial look at transfer, environmental strategy, the resonance of poverty at origin areas, and the cost of the transfer process. The central core of which other categories are formed around it, and the theoretical model based on it is the risks and consequences of the transfer of water, which has been interpreted as a timeline. Findings indicate that residents of the study area are sensitive to the inter-basin water transfer phenomenon and regard water as a political commodity, which could become the source of serious conflicts in the region. It seems that the issue of water transfer before being a technical issue it carries social and cultural issues that neglect of this issue, in addition to jeopardizing heavy investments in this area, may cause economic, social, political, and security consequences. According to the findings, excess water transfer in the Zab areas and in Sardasht and Piranshahr cities can be an ideal sustainable option in current social cultural conditions. So that in the first stage, the present capacities and potential of agriculture and industrial use of the area and in the next step, the unbalanced development between the regions reduce. In this case, while sustaining exploitation, the mentioned risks will be diminished.

Keywords: Grounded Theory, Social Risk, Sustainable Local Development, Urmia Lake, Water Transfer, Zab River.

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Virtual Networks, Rational Selection, and Online Political Participation

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Abstract

Participation in its dimensions, and in particular political participation, is seen as the most visible civil and political development in contemporary societies. From this perspective, it is inevitable to identify the participatory processes and its facilitating context for achieving development. The growth of modern media and social networks in recent years has led to the strengthening of new types of communication networks, as well as new forms of participation, which this study seeks to identify and analyze. In other words, this paper studies the mechanism by which mass media can influence the behavior of citizens' political participation. The research method is a cross-sectional survey (autumn 2017 and winter 2018). The statistical population of the research is citizens of 18 years old and above the multi-city areas of Sanandaj. The appropriate sample size was determined by the maximum dispersion and error rate of 5% based on the Cochran formula. A number of 384 individuals were selected and the sampling was done by multi-stage cluster sampling. The descriptive results of the study indicated that there was a high presence of respondents in cyberspace and a high ranking of respondents in spectator behaviors and somewhat moderate behaviors (such as voting, initiating a political discussion, trying to persuade another to vote in a particular way, etc.). Also, the results showed a significant and direct relation between online social capital and political participation in the three dimensions, especially its moderate (0.564). In addition, results of the study indicated that the rational choice variable (reducing the cost of participation, time and opportunity increase) as a mediating variable in the interface between presence in cyberspace and political participation, and the sum of these two variables was about 45% of the variation of variables political participation has been explained.

Keywords: Cyberspace, Participation, Rational Choice, Social Capital, Social Networks.

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Qualitative Exploring of Processes of Social Identity Construction among Balouch Students: Toward a Grounded Theory

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was qualitative explore processes of social identity construction among Balouch students at state universities. In this research, grounded theory has been used as one of the qualitative research methods. The research participants are Master and PhD Balouch students at state universities. Data are obtained through in-depth interviews. Interviews continued to reach theoretical saturation in the various interviewed subjects. Data analysis was performed using open, axial, and selective coding, which is a type of coding specifically for grounded theory. Result of data analysis is the achievement of five categories and a core category. The categories are: Religious dissonance and marginalized identity, bureaucratic rejection, bureaucratic removal of Balouch identity, the role of negative media representation in building marginal identity, undesirable location, the role of geography in the construction of marginalized identity, legitimacy of marginalization, and the role of law in the construction of marginalized identity. The core category is marginalized identity: the construction of marginalized social identity. Findings show that the context and sources, e.g. the religious situation of the Balouch, the ethnic and religious gap in the province, the undesirable geographical location, along with religion as the basis of politics, ethnic discrimination, administrative and managerial reversal, negative media representations, legitimacy legislation, living in the border, distance from the center, and the feeling of a lack of fair distribution of facilities, create a marginalized identity among Balouch students.

Keywords: Balouch Students, Grounded Theory, Identical Exclusions, Marginalized Identity, Process of Identity Construction.

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Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Street Children and Related Factors of Becoming a Street Child in Kermanshah: A Rapid Assessment of the Situation Study

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Abstract

Street children in Kermanshah, like many other provinces of Iran, work and live. In order to make any changes in the situation of street children, it is first necessary to assess their status and factors related to street planning. In this paper, using the quantitative and qualitative methods, the demographic characteristics and street children work have been investigated. This study is part of a rapid assessment and response study in 6 cities of the country, which was conducted in Kermanshah, Iran in 1994-1996 in two qualitative and quantitative phases. In the qualitative section with targeted sampling, 19 individual interviews with key information and 9 group discussions were conducted using semi-structured questionnaires with street children. Then, in the quantitative section after identifying 54 children street hangouts, through time-space sampling, using a questionnaire, 64 street children were gathered in their hangouts. Qualitative content analysis was used to analyze data in the qualitative section. Results showed that street children in Kermanshah are mostly boys (92.2%), and in terms of national-ethnic composition, they are all Iranian and belong to the three tribes of Lak, Koli, and Kurd. Most street children (81.3%) live in families and relatives, but about half of parents have divorced parents (26.6%) or one of them died (28%). Fathers are often illiterate (20.3%) or less literate (79.7%), and about 78% of them are unemployed. Addiction is one of the most common problems among the families of these children, and about 70% of fathers are the current or past consumer of drug. Also, about 60 percent of children are out of school, and often pay for small businesses such as handicrafts (86 percent), but about 36 percent of children are busy collecting waste. The most important cause of working for children is family support (70%), family coercion (68%), and orphanity (14%). These children are facing a number of problems on the street, the most common of which are cold and extreme heat, hunger and insults, and beatings from the policemen and the public. Kermanshah street children belong to families with very poor socio-economic conditions. Considering the basic and essential needs of these families and the reduction and control of the status of addiction and unemployment of family households, it seems necessary to reduce the work of children in the street. In addition, there are centers for children to use hot food and frost protection during the day. In addition, prevention of undesirable behavior by child-rearing agents is also needed to improve conditions for children on the street.

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Keywords: Child Labor, Iran, Kermanshah, Rapid Situational Assessment, Street Children.

Problematic of Self-Emancipation in Virtual Space Qualitative Exploration How Micro-Influencers of Instagram in Yazd Express Themselves

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Abstract

This paper attempts to study that how to express oneself among micro-influencers . Using the qualitative approach and grounded method ,a number of micro-influencers were selected and studied using theoretical and objective sampling. Sampling continued until the researchers concluded that new information would be the repetition of the former information. Data were collected through the study of sources and interviews with experts and technical notes. After refining the initial code (combining overlap and exemplifier codes ,(findings were presented in the form of a timeline (including 25 main categories and 1 core category) and a paradigmatic model. The research paradigm model represents the flow of processes and activities that have occurred in the context of the study. Generally ,micro-influencers 'stories from expressing themselves indicates that through the virtual base and their transcendental motives and in the context of the normative anomy of society ,their own virtualization experience comes with different dynamics. Such a situation involves the subjective and objective world of the participants, and their world becomes problematical. In other words, their self-emancipation is constantly being manipulated in the face of the audience of several thousand, and it forces them to rethink their strategies in confronting these audiences.

Keywords: Instagram, Micro-Influencer, Self-emancipation, Self-expression, Yazd City.

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A Study of the Gender Domination in Transsexuals' Social Lives

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Abstract

Transsexuality is a disorder in gender identity. Transsexuals consider themselves as belonged to the opposite gender. They discomfort with their own sexual-physical condition, and try to change for a better and more desirable situation by taking hormones and performing surgeries. The main goal of this paper is to study the aspect of gender domination in transsexuals' lives. Accordingly, twelve transsexuals (six FtM and six MtF) were interviewed in a structured in-depth way. Results were analyzed using grounded theory and were categorized to 16 main themes through data coding table. In addition, results include 3 primary themes and 43 secondary themes. The main themes contain family reaction to transsexuality, social interaction, and stigma because of transsexuality. A comparison of two groups of transsexuals shows the gender domination on their experience in different ways: MtFs report more social pressure than FtMs. Female-natured boys confront a more intense social rejection and financial boycott, because it is more difficult to accept a man who wishes to be a woman than a woman who is willing to be a man. Therefore, the behaviors of transsexuals are regarded as shameful more vastly among female-natured. The reason is it resembles losing "manly honor" that could be regarded as a kind of regeneration of "masculinity statement".

Keywords: Gender Domination, Grounded Theory, Sex Change, Transsexuality.

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The Effect of Urban Pavements Space in Youth Social Life (Case Study: Pavements of Amol City)

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Abstract

Utopia is a city which makes an effective relationship between people in open spaces exploiting the power of modern technology. The youth can meet their needs during their adolescence by having useful relationships in the city. This paper is to investigate the youth's social communications on the fulfillment of their needs in pavements space. This study was conducted as a survey research. The statistical population was all the 15-29 year-old youth in Amol. A number of 300 samples were chosen by using Cochran formula. Data gathered through questionnaire. For this space, four dimensions (social relationships, leisure time, safe feeling, and environmental features and facilities) were investigated. In investigating background variables, gender and educational level have a significant relationship with social communication in the pavement space. Age has been effective in two dimensions of social communication and leisure. In addition, the marital status is affected on the dimension leisure time in the pavement space in that way single people more use in this space for their leisure. In this paper, five independent variables were measured with four dimensions of pavement space that including social-economic base, cultural capital, social capital, range of space utilization, and utility of the space is used. Results show that social-economic base affects the social communication. Individuals' cultural capital is significant on dimension leisure time and environmental features. In addition, social capital, range of space utilization, and utility of the space is effective on social communication, safe feeling, and youth's attitude about environmental features this space.

Keywords: Facilities, Leisure Time, Pavements Space, Safety Feeling and Environmental Features, Social Relationships, Youth Social Life.

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Mehr Housing Project and Reproduction of Social Inequality (Living Experiences in Sadra)

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Abstract

Mehr Housing Project is known as the most extensive intervention of government in housing development after the Islamic revolution in Iran. The policy seemed to seek to improve the housing situation of low-income groups. However, the relationship between housing development policies and social practices, resulting from those policies, has not been much explored so far. The purpose of the study, therefore, is to address the lived experiences of inhabitants in Mehr Housing areas precisely. Moreover, the paper aims to answer the following questions: By living in such housing, what experiences could we explore in the life of those inhabitants? How experiences could be linked to the social inequalities? This paper employs an exploratory orientation, which is based on a qualitative approach, and data analyzing also is conducted through a thematic technique. Our data were collected by in-depth semi-structured interviews with some residents of Mehr housing in Sadra new town near Shiraz, Iran. Findings consist of five main themes including (a) the feeling of living in a camp; (b) the feelings of rejection and exclusion; (c) institutional distrust; (d) cultural confrontation and stigma. Our thematic findings are supported by the reality of low quality architecture and scarcity of residential facilities. This situation will lead to a polarized social and spatial city: a different result from what was propagated by the government.

Keywords: Camping Environment, Housing Policy, Mehr Housing Project, Sadra New Town, Social Exclusion, Social Inequality.

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