

The Impact of Urbanization on Occupation among Baseri Tribe in Iran

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Abstract

The present study deals with the changes in occupation of Baseri tribe in Iran as an impact of urbanization. This work includes a thick description about Baseri's occupation in traditional and city life followed by critically analyzing changes in occupation pattern among them as a consequence of urbanization and modernization. The economic structure of the Baseri tribe is generally based on pastoralist agriculture. The pastoral economy of the Baseri depends on the utilization of extensive pastures and the Baseri invest labor in anything else than the care of animals to satisfy the immediate needs for comfort of the household members. It requires organized and systematic division of labor within the tribe.

This study is essentially based on comparative approach of social-cultural anthropology and development. Comparison is made to analyze the changes in traditional occupation during migration among Baseri in rural and urban settings. The primary data were collected through direct interview of 400 Baseri households in Marvdasht city of Iran. The findings of research show the impact of urbanization on Baseri's occupation in urban life, and changes in nature of occupation of Baseri tribe. Today due to urbanization, development and adoption of modern life style the base of economy is changing.

Keyword: Urbanization; Occupation; Economic organization; Baseri tribe.

Introduction

The present paper deals with the impact of urbanization on occupation among Baseri tribe in Iran.

Raj (2007) says that, "Urbanization is the process by which, more and more people move to live in the city. It means the proportionate rise in the number of people living in cities in comparison to the number of people living in rural areas".[1]

Economic organization may be defined as the production, distribution and consumption, exchange and utilization of goods, capital, labour and property. The structure of the tribal and rural economy is generally based on

pastoralism, agriculture, hunting. The simple technology and division of labour is based on age and sex.

Polyani (1957) states that, "Economic organization is an interaction between man and environment that provides sustained provision of material means for satisfaction of wants. Satisfaction of wants is 'materials' when it requires the use of material means to obtain the needs".[2]

According to Raymond, Firth (1952), "Economic organization is a type of social action. It involves the combination of various kinds of human services with one another and with goods in such a way that they serve the given ends".[3]

Paddington, Ralf (1952) says, "Economic system is designed to satisfy material wants of people, to organize production, to control distribution and to determine the rights and claims of ownership within the community".[4]

Singh (1986) observed that, "rural to urban migration results in drastic change in the migrant's occupations than urban to urban

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and rural to rural streams".[5]

Further he said, "The level of literacy of rural to urban migrants is higher than that of rural to rural and lower than that of urban to urban migrants. The rural urban migration contributes to the process of industrialization, rapid urbanization, economic development, population redistribution, cultural diffusion, social integration, increased growth in slums and social change. It promotes a drastic change in the social economic and ecological set up in the cities".[5]

Todaro (1980) indicates, "Migrants tend to move from low-to-high-income regions, and surveys have repeatedly found that economic factors are most frequently cited as reasons for moving. These economic motives fall into two general classes, the search for employment and the search for higher incomes".[6]

Urbanization in Iran

According to Sheykhi (2007), "In Iran near to 39% of the migrants came to urban areas because of low level of income in their villages, also the major pull factors in the migration occurring in 1976 in Iran were related to the increasing income of villagers from non-agricultural activities in urban centers".[7]

Zanjiran (2000), observed "In Iran, in the Firooz Abad during the period 1961-1996 family size shrank, Population increase was not significant due to migration of villagers to the cities, especially after the Islamic Revolution, the main reasons for migration to cities included high paid jobs, inadequate farmland area in the village, water dearth, city life glamour and higher education opportunities for children".[8]

Baseris in the Process of Urbanization

Tavakoli (2000), "Baseri tribe as a result of industrial job opportunity and sufficient condition migrated to the cities".[9]

According to Barth (1961), "Fars Province is an area of great ethnic complexity and

admixture, and tribal units are best defined by political, rather than ethnic sharing distinctive cultural traits as a group in society or geographical criteria.[10] In these terms the Baseri are a clearly delimited to set out or establish the limits or boundaries of something group, recognizing the authority of one supreme chief, and treated as a unit for administrative purposes by the Iranian authorities. Economy is an important constituent of the community life as it is closely interconnected with the environment, subsistence base, demographic conditions, technology and division of labour of the society.

In this present study economic organization has been selected to measure impact of urbanization on life style of Baseri tribe in Iran.

Methodology and Location of Study

Present study has been undertaken in the city of Marvdasht in Iran, Marvdasht is one of the northern cities and also counties of Fars province.

The data were collected both primary and secondary sources. The approximate number of the Baseri households in these eight suburbs of Marvdasht city is 3998 Out of these 400(10%) Baseri households were included in the present investigation. In this research using Technique proportionate random sampling, the lists of the households was prepared and the samples were selected using systematic random techniques.

In the present study quantitative and qualitative data was collected through pre-tested semi-structured interview schedule.

Discussion and Analysis

The present study is the impact of Urbanization on the economic condition of Baseris has studied through understanding the continuity and change in various aspect of economic life of the Baseris.

Economic Organization of Baseris in the Tribal Life

In tribal life Baseris keep a variety of domesticated animals and greatest economic importance are sheep and goats, the products of which provide the main subsistence also economy of the Baseri depends on the utilization of extensive pastures. In tribal life mostly based upon pastoral and agricultural activities and less on hunting.

Baseri tribe, pastoralists were thus free to purchase land along their whole route of migration.

The household depends for its subsistence on the animals owned by its members. These must as a minimum include sheep and goats as producers, donkeys to transport the belongings on the migrations, and a dog to guard the tent.

The present study respondents stated that before migration they were living a pastoral life, while they mostly were keeping goats and sheep for this purpose. Each Baseri household had a mix of 100-200 numbers of goats or sheep as an average. The dairy and meat products that they produce in this way, in addition to their consumption will be exchanged by the other products or sold to either be an aid to their income or their other requirements.

Baseris had/have seasonal and temporary occupations. The household depends for its subsistence on the animals owned by its members. For the existence of their herds they were in need of providing the herds with enough and proper food (grassing). To reach this goal so they would have produced and harvested the required grass and transported it with donkeys. Dog would have been used to guard the tent. Also men aspire to own a riding horse.

Each household in addition to having the herd was in possession of pastures which were mostly communally owned. As far as they were so interested in conserving and increasing the herds as a part of their and most of pastoral people's life style, then the economic justification for the their whole

activities would be logically understood.

Division of labor in Baseri tribe based upon their gender was/is according to the improvement of pastures. This happened while they had/have the freedom of purchasing lands also. Most male and many female lambs and kids are slaughtered for meat. Today average price for the following are as follows: One alive sheep: 350,000T (7000 Rs), One kg milk: 1,000T (20Rs), which is eaten fresh, One kg meat: 20,000T (400Rs).

The hides of slaughtered animals are valuable; lambskins bring a fair price at market.

Wool was/is the third animal product of importance. Lamb's wool is made into felt, and sheep's wool is sold. Goat-hair is spun and woven. Hunting is of little importance in the economy, though hunting of gazelle and mountain goat was/is the favorite sport of some of the men. The Baseri tribe, products derived from sheep and goat are milk, meat, wool and hide. These products are variously obtained and processed, and are consumed directly or stored and consumed afterwards.

It can be concluded that the economy of Baseris in tribal life was/is mostly based upon pastoral and agricultural activities and less on hunting.

Impact of Urbanization on the Economic Life of the Baseris

The impact of urbanization on the economical life in recent years, as the population in cities sustained growth, the scales of major cities in each country around the world continue to expand; as a result, the phenomenon of urbanization is gradually becoming clear and is concerned by many experts in various areas. Urbanization has influenced on urban economic, consequently, job variety has divided into many various areas. In urban life, jobs are in different shape temporary and permanently. Mostly, they are looking for the prestige and other modern benefit of that. As continue, this cause having job opportunities more for women.

Many tribes in Iran have moved out into towns and cities in demands of contractual labour needed there. Today Baseri tribe has changed from emigrant tribe to a semi-migrating and have got settled in some parts because of economic issue. In other hand migration and urbanization impacted on economy of tribe and more of peoples of tribes have migrated to cities and village for job. Good opportunity more facilities in city, lack of facilities in tribe were reasons of migration from tribe to city life.

In this investigation the majority (74%) of respondents about reasons for migration said, they are able to have good job opportunities and chances in Marvdasht city, City causes growth and development for children, Better Health Condition, Facilities in city and Higher Standard of Living Most of respondents mentioned that they are self-employed; some of them said teaching is another opportunity for them. Majority of respondents said educational facilities are motivated reason, and a few of respondents said that there is possibility of being engineer, doctor and manager. The job opportunities mentioned above are available and lead Baseri to migrate to Marvdasht and lack of job opportunities, and ruination of the hereditary occupation, loss in business, lack of employment opportunities and lack of education in their native place.

In the present study, the majority of respondents (81.5%) said that in their family nobody doing traditional jobs such as pastoral, agriculture, hunting, while (18.5%) said that one of the member of his family or relatives doing some traditional occupation such as selling sheep, milk, dairy products, wool and agric-products. It is clear that nearly almost of all the participants mentioned that they are not any more interested in doing traditional occupation and only small portion of them said yes to this type of jobs.

About type of Occupation as it could be seen the (36.5%) of respondents have self-employment such as Butcher (0.5%), dairy (8%) constructor (4%), grocery (6%), stationary (5%), seller sheep, wool and agric-products (10.5%) driver (3.5%) compared to

rest of the job and the negligible of them are Professor at university.

Next preference is government officer (21.5%) for white collar jobs, usually in city life occupations are divided into temporary and permanent jobs such as (1%) professor, (6.5%) teacher, (9.5%) technical professions, (15%) worker and (10%) other. Hence one can conclude change of preference for jobs due to impact of urbanization on the respondents.

The respondents satisfied, from own occupation such as contracture, grocery, government officer, technical professions, teacher, Professor at university were of 54%. Because they were interested in their jobs for they were well-paid, and they had social prestige.

The respondents dissatisfied, own occupation such as driver, agric-products, worker were 46%. Because for not getting paid enough or lack of social prestige which will lead them to emotional and economical discomfort.

As the above data indicates more than half of the respondents are happy with their type of occupation like professor, teacher, technician, government officer and only 46% of them mentioned that they are not happy with their jobs. And the reason behind it is not having prestige and of course not being paid enough.

In the present study about aspiration for children's occupation majority of respondents (48%) would like their children are a doctor in the future, (21.8%) wish that their children be a professor at university, and (30.2%) would like their children be an engineer.

Generally in city life, parents' expectations about their children regarding to their educational career and future occupation are high enough as such they'd aspire to see their children as doctors, engineers or university professor. But what happens actually is that we don't see such results.

In this research (9%) of respondents said that the women in their family are working in positions like government officer, teacher or

social worker. Reasons for such will include goals like improving social, economic and marital status. (91%) of respondents said women in their families are not working. There are thoughts providing this attitude such as lack of emotional security for women, reduction of peace in familial life, scarcity of enough time and low level of payment for women which proves it not to work.

Conclusion

In this study discusses the occupation and economic organization of Baseri in tribe and urban life, their economic pattern and organization is different in tribe of Iran. In tribal life Baseri keep a variety of domesticated animals and greatest economic importance are sheep and goats, the products of which provide the main subsistence also economy of the Baseri depends on the utilization of extensive pastures. Each Baseri household had a mix of 100-200 numbers of goats or sheep as an average. The dairy and meat products that they produce in this way, in addition to their consumption will be exchanged by the other products or sold to either be an aid to their income or their other requirements.

It can be concluded that the economy of Baseris in tribal life was/is mostly based upon pastoral and agricultural activities and less on hunting.

But today in Marvdasht city, Majority of respondents (81.5%) said that in their family nobody doing traditional jobs such as pastoral, agriculture, hunting, while (18.5%) said that one of the member of his family or relatives doing some traditional occupation such as selling sheep, milk, dairy products, wool and agric-products.

They are able to have good job opportunities and chances in Marvdasht city, City causes growth and development for children, Educational Facility, Better Health Condition, Facilities in city and Higher Standard of Living Most of respondents mentioned that they are self-employed, The job opportunities

mentioned above are available and lead Baseries to migrate to Marvdasht and some of them said not good job opportunities and chances such as natural problem, lack of facilities.

The data shows on an average the Baseris are mostly self-employed such as: Butcher, dairy, constructor, grocery, tailor, stationary, seller sheep, wool and agric-products, driver, compared to rest of the jobs. This shows that the preference for having own job is quite high among the Baseris in Marvdasht. Next preference is for white colour jobs such as teaching jobs and government jobs. Hence one can conclude change of preference for jobs due to impact of urbanization on the respondents. Nearly half of the respondents are happy with their type of occupation like professor, teacher, technician, government officer and some of them mentioned that they are not happy with their jobs. And the reason behind it is not having prestige and of course not being paid enough.

In this research a few of respondents said that the women in their family are working in positions like government officer, teacher or social worker. Reasons for such will include goals like improving social, economic and marital status. Almost all of respondents said women in their families are not working. There are thoughts providing this attitude such as, low level of payment for women which prove it not to work.

The urbanization has led to change of occupation, economic organization and life of the Baseris in Marvdasht city.

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