



**Investigating the Status of Iran's Environmental Indicators
from a Sociological Perspective¹**

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Received: 2022/05/08

Accepted: 2023/06/17

1. INTRODUCTION

People's environmental behaviors are influenced by structural and social conditions that provide appropriate platforms for how to interact with the natural environment. In other words, one of the indicators that shows the performance of governments and people in relation to environmental issues is the index of values (material/extra-material). This is where the role of institutions, media, environmental organizations and social policymakers becomes prominent. This research analyzes and examines the status of Iran's environmental indicators with two critical and constructivist approaches and seeks to answer the question that according to the indicators raised in the data of (WVS); Iranian's people sensitive to environmental issues and are worry about the future of environment. In this regard, the Iranian researchers are reviewed in the following two categories. The first, investigates the social factors affecting the belongingness or indifference towards the environment. The second, focuses on environmental issues from a public and sociological point of view. Yet, the attention of most researches in the country has been drawn to issues such as the level of belonging or indifference of citizens, their awareness and attitude towards environmental issues and the lack of success in popularizing environmental issues. And there is less research that deals with environmental issues and concerns from the perspective of environmental values with a sociological approach (specifically constructivist and critical approaches). In this research has been tried to investigate this important issue with this approach and use the survey of global values, which has an example in the whole country.

1. DOI: 10.22051/IJOSED.2023.40319.1009

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2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is based on the secondary analysis of the data of the seventh wave (2017-2020) of the World Values Survey. The unit of analysis of this research is the country, and the data of the 7th wave has used in this study due to its newer and more complete data. In this research, it has been tried to measure the variables affecting the environmental concern with the available data and the use of variables related to the subject. Based on this, the main assumption of the research is that metamaterial values, membership and trust in environmental organizations and use of media are related to people's environmental concern and have an effect on it. It also seems that there is a relationship between education and gender with environmental concern. The dependent variable in this research is people's environmental concern. In order to measure this variable, the question of preference for environmental protection against the priority of economic growth has been used in WVS. The independent variables of the research include the values of post-materialism, membership in environmental organizations, trust in environmental organizations, access to information through news sources and media (television, mobile, internet, social networks), gender and education, which have been taken from the global databases.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this article, nominal bivariate logistic regression analysis was used to test the main hypothesis of the research. Bivariate nominal logistic regression analysis is used when the dependent variable is nominally bivariate and we intend to predict the presence or absence of a trait based on a set of independent variables. Out of a total of 9 independent variables, 4 variables have been entered the equation and had a significant effect on the dependent variable. In the first step, the variable of trust in environmental organizations has been entered into the model, and in the second step, the variable of education, in the third step, the variable of values, and finally, in the fourth step, the use of television media. In this way, based on the main assumptions of the research, the relationship between the independent variables of education and trust in environmental organizations, the use of television media and values, has been confirmed with environmental concern.

4. CONCLUSION

According to the findings of the global values research, 29.6% of people have material values, 55.6% have mixed values, and 13.9% have meta materialistic values in Iran. On the other hand, regarding the environmental protection variable, 64.8% voted for environmental protection and 29.8% voted for economic growth, and unlike other researches, there is no difference between men and women. According to Inglehart, the results show that people who have materialistic values voted more for economic growth and entrepreneurship, and those who have metamaterial and hybrid values are more



important to protect the environment the results of the research showed that are relationship between the independent variables of education and trust in environmental organizations, the use of television media and values, and environmental concern as a dependent variable.

The results of the research on the variable of education were in line with the results Klineberg et al., 1998; Jones, Fly, Talley, and Cordell, 2003; Olofsson & Öhman, 2006, who had higher education are environmentally friendly and concerned about the environment. Simultaneously with the increase in the level of literacy and education from primary to higher levels, environmental concerns and the need to protect the environment become people's concerns; While in lower education levels, the main priority of people is economic growth. In the case of the age variable, this trend is reversed. Younger people up to 29 years old, prefer environmental protection to economic growth, and with increasing age, The number of environmental concerns decreases and economic growth becomes a priority for people. The variable of trust in environmental organizations is also one of the variables affecting the concern and protection of the environment. In other words, the environmental organization is one of the organizations whose policies and warnings are be taken seriously if people trust it and can be effectively make people concerned about environmental issues, and they lead to the preservation of the environment.

Keywords: Construction of Environmental Issues, Survey of Global Values, Secondary Analysis.

JEL Classification: Z00.

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