

Factors Affecting the Quality of Life in Rural Areas. The Case of South Jafarbay, Turkman Township

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Abstract

Surveying of effective factors is one of the important aspects in studies of quality of life. In this research, the recognition of dominant on terms of community effective social, cultural, economic, racial, and political factors, include an important section of the studies. There is a difference between factors that fit different communities and cultures,. This is due to the specific characteristics of rural environments, a variety of economic, social, cultural, etc., and their effects on quality of life, becomes more necessary in subjective indicators especially. This study wants to use descriptive- analytical method with survey and documentary studies and questionnaire, survey to examine this issue in rural areas of south Jafarbay villages in Turkmen county. The statistical group of this study was the number of 18, 515 persons in 3712 rural households that living in rural areas of south Jafarbay villages in Turkmen county. For sampling here, was used Stratified random sampling method and then using the percentage method, 10% of all households were defined as samples. The number of households in the 8 villages is 2107, and taking into account the minimum number of 15 households in each village, the number of 228 households was selected as subject. Ten indicators were selected as independent variables, including sense of belonging to the village, sense of belonging to region, level of education, occupation, income and housing area, ethno-cultural characteristics, level of village's facilities, age and number of people employed in the household. To analyze the questionnaires used by mean, median and mode of stepwise multiple regression analysis using SPSS software. Also, to illustrate the impact of factors, path analysis model is used. The results indicate that through the selected indicators, four indicators including ethno-cultural characteristics, level of village's facilities, age and number of people employed in household explain about 42% of total households in the study area effective factors on quality of life in subjective indicators. This subject indicates that these are four most important effective factors on subjective quality of life in considered in the study area.

Keywords: Quality of life, Rural areas, Effective factors on Quality of life, Turkman Township, South Jafarbay villages.

Introduction

Today, particular attention is to check the quality of life in various branches of science as one of the relatively new areas of scientific and effective in human life. Since the early 90's, the UN reports, due to human development, after creating fundamental changes in the objectives of development, social well-being and quality of life were studied. Some others have divided quality of life subject to physical, social, mental, emotional, environmental dimensions. However, the precise and rational framework for measuring and evaluating the quality of life in rural areas is one of the deficiencies of the literature. On the other hand, in discussing factors affecting the quality of life, one of the main divisions is the mental factors that contribute more than anything the human mind. Thus, it is not easy to find the factors affecting it. So to define quality of life depends on the location of people's lives, their work and their cultural and ethnic origin. In addition, several areas have been set for this issue. Here the need for scientific research in this area arises to identify effective factors for each community. The importance of

this knowledge can be understood when considering the fact that our study population is more rural. The World Health Organization is of particular importance to the issue of quality of life in cultural and value systems of the people. There are views that emphasized on the role of social cohesion in the satisfaction of quality of life. This research seeks to answer this question of what factors affect the mental factors affecting the quality of life in the study area.

Methodology

The research methodology is descriptive and analytical one that was conducted using surveys, questionnaires and documentation review. Depending on the type of hypothesis, we applied regression analysis to test the hypotheses. The variables were used as independent variables included in the test 10 variables that 9 of them were gathered through questionnaires and 1 variable (the level of development) obtained via the potential models and calculations on 2005 census data. Information gathered using multivariate regression analysis to test the average stepwise method. Population of the study were 18515 persons in 3712 rural households, living in rural areas of South Jafarbay, Turkman township that are relatively homogeneous in social, economic and cultural dimensions. The selection of the number of villages in each category was based on natural breaks. Then due to the geographical dispersion of rural settlements in the county, they were selected. In the next step, ten percents of all households were defined as samples. Then, according to the number of households in each village, the number of samples was determined and finally the completion of the questionnaire was performed. Finally, a total of 15 questionnaires were completed from each selected village.

Discussion

To investigate the influence of independent variables in the study, the stepwise multivariate regression test was used. Based on statistical analysis, the influence of each independent variable on the dependent variable was determined on the basis of its quality of life, path analysis, including direct and indirect effects of the independent variable on the dependent variable. On the basis of 10 variables used in the study, four variables (i.e. ethno-cultural characteristics, level of village, age and number of people employed in the household) had a significant impact of the independent variable on the dependent variable and the other variables had little impact (subjective quality of life) and their impact is not significant. These four factors included more than 42% of the studied factors influencing subjective quality of life. In addition, it was found that the most important factor influencing subjective quality of life in the study area was ethno-cultural characteristics of residents of the region. The top of the respondents belonged to the village and the area of their lives as well as their agreement on the influence of ethno-cultural characteristics were observed.

Conclusion

To study the quality of life, understanding the factors affecting the social, cultural, economic, racial, and political value of the conditions of a community is very important. Such factors may vary depending on every society and every culture. To better understand this issue, this research was conducted by selecting one of the ethno-cultural communities to investigate the factors affecting the quality of life. The study showed that among 10 selected indicators, six indicators of belonging to the village, belonging to the region, education level, occupation, income and housing area have a significant effect on the dependent variable. In contrast, four other indicators of ethno-cultural characteristics, level of village, age and number of people employed in the household, respectively, were the most important factors in subjective quality of life study area residents making up more than 42% of the factors influencing subjective quality of life explained in the study area. The results showed that among the factors influencing subjective quality of life in the area studied, ethno-cultural characteristics had priority. So we can conclude that social and cultural conditions can contribute greatly to the satisfaction of the quality of life for local people. In other words, social and cultural conditions as a non-material factor are fading. On the other hand, it was also found that the improvement of public facilities and

infrastructure in the studied rural areas had a significant impact on people's satisfaction. This leads to more lasting satisfaction in villagers. This confirms the importance of employment and sources of income and reducing unemployment are the community's concerns. There is a direct relationship between age and satisfaction with quality of life. Sample of the study was older and had higher levels of satisfaction with the quality of their lives, on the contrary, the satisfaction of people at an early age, was lower. This can be attributed to the expectations of different generations typically younger generations to rural demand more from their society and life.