

## Comparative Study of Key Factors in Good Rural Governance Case of study: Birjand County

Mahmoud Fallsoleyman<sup>1</sup>, Mofid Shateri<sup>2</sup>, Narges Khosravi<sup>3</sup>

### Abstract

The issue of rural governance has recently assumed major prominence by researchers and development policymakers. The use of “rural governance” concept in the field of studies and actions in rural areas has always been accompanied by emphasis on some characteristics and principles, including the establishment of link and cooperation between different sectors affecting sustainable development, cooperation between administrative and political territories, increasing attention to sustainable participation of villagers, drawing goals and perspectives for participation, focusing on local and competitive advantages, capacity building and improving villagers' capabilities, etc. Due to some reasons such as the lack of participation of local residents in public affairs, partial and top-down policies, plurality of managements, task parallelism in organizations, etc, the role of governance at the village level has weakened and faded away. The methods covered in this survey-, documentary-based research are descriptive, correlational, causal-comparative with a developmental-applied nature. This study aimed at determining the current status of the good rural governance in Birjand County, and ranking the villages accordingly. The population of this study was consisting of all villages having rural municipality in Birjand County and all rural households in these villages. The sample of 41 villages and 206 households were selected based on Cochran's sample size formula. To examine the good rural governance in Birjand rural districts, a sample T-test was used. In addition, to rank the villages based on the good rural governance level and sustainable rural development, Topsis multi-criteria decision making approach and cluster analysis were used. The results of the study indicated that the intended area had no good condition in terms of good rural governance and sustainable rural development, and different rural districts of Birjand County were not in the same level in terms of good rural governance and sustainable rural development, hence had different rankings

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1. Associate professor, Geography department, Univesity of Birjand, Correspondent Author  
mfall@birjand.ac.ir

2. Associate professor, Geography department, Univesity of Birjand mshateri@birjand.ac.ir

3. Master in geography, University of Birjand narges.khosravi@birjand.ac.ir