

A Peer Reviewed Refereed Journal

## A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF AFFECTING FACTORS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF KHALKHAL CITIZENS (IRAN)

**ZAHRA NAZIRI<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Science, Khalkhal Branch, Islamic Azad University Khalkhal, Iran.

**DR. JALAL JAFARPOUR<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Doctor of Social Sciences and university lecturer (Iran)

### ABSTRACT

*This study aimed is sociological examine the affecting factors in the maintenance of public property from the perspective of Khalkhal citizens in 1394. This research is based on theories of networks of civic engagement by Patnam, Spill – over theory by Grünberg, Sense of community by Macmillan and Chaveas, family performance model by McMaster, Capital and operating by Pierre Bourdieu and Power control by John Hagan. The study was on 379 persons by a multi-stage cluster sampling method, using Navigational approach and library research and using a questionnaire. The results of multivariate regression shows that overall, independent variables means satisfaction of utilities, Sense of community, mode of family performance, Socio-economic base, predict 56 % of tendency changes of citizens in maintenance of public property. Among this participation in city affairs have a highest share in tendency of citizens to the maintenance of public property. Therefore, the state and urban management should provide citizen participant attraction context in different urban affairs.*

*Keywords: public property, satisfaction of utilities, participant in urban affairs, Sense of community, family performances.*

### INTRODUCTION

Today, one of the trappings of civilization and signs of intellectual maturity and behavior of citizenship is maintain of appearance and Care of public property. Unfortunately, although today speak about electronic city, advanced and fast transportation and citizenship culture but still, we seeing misconduct destruction of public property every day in the streets and alleys of the city. Maybe, many of these behaviors done so openly that lost its ugly and we don't show sensitivity to it, or even admit it's natural and expected somewhat. This is one of the problems of urban communities that emerged along rapid urban growth and haven't internal urbanization culture among different communities (Fadaee, 1387: 14). Undoubtedly damage to urban property is one of deviations or social disturbance where people aren't able to communicate through a system consisting of common rules and

trying to express their needs, emotions and their inner feelings by a manner that will do abnormal behaviors in unavailability of appropriate methods (Ibid: 14). In sociology literature deviations and social damage, Vandalism used in concept of having a sick mentality repeatedly, and expressed a desire to conscious destroy voluntary and Self-imposed of property, buildings and public facilities (Ghasemi et al., 1388: 70). In Amid dictionaries, Public property refers to some property that all people have the allowed to use it. *Dehkhoda* dictionary also knows the public property that people of the community are involved in the use of it. Also, in religious teachings, beat al-mal (public property) means the wealth and property that belongs to the public. However, in public expression public property is belonging to the public and doesn't for individual(s) and cause it's belongs to all called "Common Generic" in current rules. So people have no right to transfer them to another and all are involved and responsible in that's maintenance (Tabrizi, 1388: 8).

Destruction of public property, as an irreparable event on resources and facilities of modern societies, imposes substantial damages to national and public assets every year. The problem, in addition to the enormous costs that will be spent on compensate it, cause psychological problems for people and authorities, and threatened social cohesion. Instances of vandalism and destruction of city property including: writing mementos on the walls and trees, tearing up buses chairs, damaging to public telephone booths, breaking the glass, general passages lamps and tables and benches in the classroom, damaging to the stadiums facilities, removing road signs and writing mementos on public property or writing the obscene words and drawing scurrilous pictures, thieving of public facilities even if it discard such as stealing faucet of public lavatory, even Writing mementos on valuable historical monuments and etc. Thus, sabotage raised not only as a criminal act but as a problem or social issue in many communities (Mirfardiy et al., 1391: 186). In recent years, this problem observed in many countries and most of social workers try to identify and controlling it. In our country, some special cases happened or for very light happen every day (AzizabadiFarahani and Ebtehaj, 1391: 62).

Variety or the extent damage that can be seen in today's society is very broad and inclusive means can be seen it in all aspects of community. In offices, sport places, Shops, schools, Public resorts, facilities used by public ... and in each case has its own characteristics and style and even has its own unique reasons (Giddens, 1373: 105). In Khalkhal also can be seen examples of them everywhere; in parks, public places, wall writings of the alley, sticking ad on the walls of offices, mementos on the trees in the park, destruction of stadiums buildings, breaking lamps of public pathways, demolition and removal of tables and chairs in classes of schools and even universities. Intentional destruction of public property as a social problem is an issue that has occupied the minds of many professionals and social science researchers in communities such as Iran. Because can consider deliberate destruction of property as a social problem and one kind of deviation. Nowadays, destruction of public property examined in different aspects; psychologists studied about psychological and educational reasons, sociologists define this issue as a social anomaly due to class gap, scientists trying to estimate the economic costs on society and finally, managers and urban planners are try to designing and replacing the devices that reduce the motivations of counterproductive behavior and have a higher resistance and strength against these act's. Research conducted in this field, more emphasis on psychological factors and personal effective to destruction of public property and vandalism. This research at sociological approach aims to survey and identify the most important effective social factors on maintenance of public property and the main research question is: what are the most important social effective factors in maintenance of public property in views of Khalkhal citizens?

The aim of this study was investigating the sociological factors that affect the maintenance of public property in view of Khalkhal citizens in 1394. In addition to this, other goals considered which include:

- (1) Determining the relationship between participation in municipal affairs and the tendency of citizens to the maintenance of public property.
- (2) Determine the relationship between the satisfaction of municipal affairs and the tendency of citizens to the maintenance of public property.
- (3) Determine the relationship between sense of Community and the tendency of citizens to the maintenance of public property.
- (4) Determine the relationship between how family performance and the tendency of citizens to the maintenance of public property.
- (5) Determine the difference in attitude of citizens to maintenance of public property in term of economic and social base.
- (6) Determine the difference in attitude of citizens to maintenance of public property in term of background variables (age, sex, education and marital status).

In this study, to explain the effective factors in maintenance of public property in view of Khalkhal citizens, besides the sociological theories used of deviance (Performanceal constructionist theories: Sociability, constructionist view: structural pressure theories, subcultural theories, feminist, consolidated view: Structure and agency, urban sociology theories (Chicago doctrine and urban ecology) and destruction theories (vandalism). The study theoretical framework is a compilation of theories in theoretical foundations. In the theoretical framework of this research used the theory of civic engagement networks of Putnam to examine the relationship between participation in municipal affairs and citizens tend to maintenance of public property, Grünberg Spill – over theory to examine the relationship between the satisfaction of municipal affairs and citizens tend to maintenance of public property, sense of community theory by Macmillan and Chaveas to examine the relationship between the sense of to the community and citizens tend to maintenance of public property, Family performance patterns theory of McMaster to examine the relationship of how family performances and citizens tend to maintenance of public property and capital theory of Pierre Bourdieu to examine the relationship between economic and social status and citizen education and their tend to maintenance of public property and power control theory of John Hagan to examine the relationship between gender and citizens tend to maintenance of public property.

## METHODOLOGY

This study is quantitative research based on data collected and analyzed, and collect data method is navigational approach with two objectives describing and explaining Statistical population is peoples over 18 years (26477 people) in 1393, the Khalkhal city of these 379 people were selected as the sample size according to Cochran formula. The multi-stage cluster sampling method was used to select participants. Documentation and survey methods were used to data collection. In the theoretical section, after reviewing previous studies in this field and sociology theories, Social psychology, urban sociology, and Sociology of deviance have been used them in the development of theoretical framework and in the experimental section the relationship between hypotheses have

been examined using navigational approach. Data collection in the theoretical section is written documents in this field and in the experimental section is a researcher-made questionnaire.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study examined the sociological affective factors on maintenance of public property in 1394 in view of Khalkhal citizens. Overall results of the inferential statistics shows that between all independent variables examined in this study namely participation in municipal affairs, satisfaction of urban services, sense of community, how family performance, economic and social status of citizens, and demographic variables such as age, gender, and level of education have a significant relationship with dependent variable namely tendency of citizens to maintaining public property which are mentioned below:

According to the first hypothesis was a significant relationship between the participation of citizens in municipal affairs and their tendency to maintenance of public property, so that by increasing citizen participation in municipal affairs increased they tendency to maintenance of public property. Thus, citizens who are cooperate with the municipality, participating citizenship activities, tend to partnership with municipalities and participate in voluntary activities, have more tend to maintenance of public property. Putnam believes, networks of civic engagement are essential form of social capital. Whatever these networks denser in the community, is more likely citizens can co-operate for mutual benefit "(Putnam, 1380: 118). Participation in municipal affairs cause citizens enjoy to benefits (types of information protection, promote cooperation, education and empowerment of citizens, etc.). Furthermore, due to they are involved in municipal affairs and are aware of the problems, as a result, they are trying to maintain and monitor their achievements. This finding is corresponding with research results by Jan Right and colleagues (2001), MohseniTabrizi and Safari Shali (1385) and Alami and Khoshroo (1391).

Therefore state and municipality agencies can provide the context to participation of citizens in different areas of the city with the implementation mechanisms, such as open space of civil institutions activities, general and the public in urban management; creating cultural context and providing collaborative context with cultural programs; strengthening help council of neighborhood and interaction between help council and neighborhood people; training citizens to make demands of the citizens and strengthening its legal position; sharing participative people in part of the gains due to production of urban services; Tax exemption and reduction it or discounts for participative and privileged citizens; training short, medium and long-term to youth and adolescents in terms of attracting participation in municipal affairs, and thus contribute to maintenance of public property.

According to the second hypothesis there were significant correlations between the satisfaction of the citizens of urban services and their tendency to maintenance of public property. Accordingly, Citizens were satisfied of urban services in the social, cultural, health, welfare, technical and developmental dimensions were more inclined to maintenance of public property. This finding confirms the Spill – over theory of Grünberg. He believed people transferred Satisfaction or dissatisfaction from one part of their life to other parts. So, a citizen who is satisfied about life condition will be more willing to participate in social affairs (Rabbani et al., 1387: 95-94). According to this view citizens who are satisfied with urban services, will be more desire to maintenance the city public property. Also this finding is corresponding to research finding by MohseniTabrizi (1379) empirically.

According to the third hypothesis, there was a significant relationship between the sense of community and tendency citizens to the maintenance of public property and by increasing the citizen's sense of community increased their tendency to maintenance of public property. This finding confirmed the Macmillan and Chaveas theory. As a result, a sense of community and neighborhood participation, also preservation achievements and maintenance of local public property will increase. Due to the significant relationship between the sense of

belonging to the community and tendency to maintenance of public property, should resolved the fields of social instability (Such as people migrate to other regions and rural-urban migration as well as); should provide context for development of social capital; should provide their durability by supplying social welfare and mental health for all residents of the neighborhood and citizens; should provide access to all facilities for citizens by urban development and design new furniture, cultural and educational centers of community and neighborhoods Should be strengthen or create as the center of gravity of the neighborhood; public participation in decision-making and healthy living areas should strengthen and resolve neighborhood shortcomings.

According to fourth research hypothesis, there was a significant relationship between the how performance of family and tendency citizens to the maintenance of public property. The intensity of the relationship between two variables with (0.414) positive is direct and strong. Namely by increasing the how performance of citizens family, increase their tendency to maintenance of public property. McMaster about family performance believes in lower level of family performance the risk of vandalism in adolescents will increase and it must be considered that family performance is as an important predictor for subversively behavior or maintenance of public property. The results of this research correspond with the results of the research by Kobe & Schuster (1985), Lowenstein (1986), Goldstein et al. (1994); MohseniTabrizi (1379), Effati (1380), MohammadiBolbolanabad (1384), MohseniTabrizi and Safi Shali (1385), mirfardi et al. (1391), Allahyari and NamdarHosseini (1393). Studies have shown that monitoring and control are important factors in the positive and correct training of adolescents. Dialogue, communication, and meet the emotional needs of children, separation of roles and positive performance of family roles, clarifying and consolidating good and constructive relations between parents and adolescents, must be able to establish a positive and effective parenting style. Neglecting and over-reaction by parental, difficult environment and their aggressive could cause delinquency in adolescents.

According to the fifth hypothesis, tendency to maintenance of public property is different according to economic and social status of citizens. Meanwhile, the average orientation to maintenance of public property for respondents who have low socio-economic base is lower than other groups and the children of families with low base more destroy public property. LSD test shows the mean difference of maintenance of public property for respondents who have middle and upper socio-economic base is not significant due to significance level (0.918). This finding confirms capital theory of Pierre Bourdieu's. Accordingly, some people who have high economic capital, as a result of meeting their needs, haven't repressed needs that show the destruction of public property, and more try to preservation public property and monitor it. Empirically, these findings correspond with the findings of Kobe & Schuster (1985), Creswell (2005), and in domestic research is correspond with results of MohseniTabrizi (1379), Mirfardi et al. (1391), Heydari and Parsamehr (1392), Sharbatian&Parvaresh (1391) and Motlagh and Nadri (1392). In general we can say that vandalism behaviors are mainly caused by class gap and Vandals are people from the lower classes of society that the feeling of oppression, failure, dissatisfaction in their causes increased sense of revenge among them. The combination of revenge and aggressive behavior is destructive tendencies on property and public facilities. Overall, according to the above data we can say that the

key solution is defined reducing vandalism at the macro level that one of the most important is reduce the income gap and poverty elimination.

In term of gender amount of tendency citizens to maintenance of public property is different. Because the average of first group namely men are less than second group so we can say tendency to maintenance of public property by women is more than men. John Hagen believes that due women in the family are faced with more restrictions



possibility of crime is less for them, and another important issue is how socialization of girls. Girls from the beginning such trained that have a more tendency to family and child care or older members, and spent more time in the family and private environment compared to boys. The results of this study is in line with most previous research's; Wilson and Haley (1987), Mohammad Bolbolan Abad (1384), Alami and Khoshro (1391), Haidari and Parsamehr (1392), confirmed the relationship between these two variables.

In terms of marital status (Single and married), the amount of citizen's tendency to maintenance of public property is not different. These finding is correspond with the findings of Sharbatian&Parvaresh. The tendency citizens to maintenance of public property are different according to their age. Meanwhile we can see the average tendency of citizens to maintenance of public property is less in the age group 27-18 years than other groups and group older than 58 years have the highest tendency to maintenance public property. Therefore, educating young people in this field is necessary. These findings correspond with the findings of research by MohseniTabrizi(1379) and Mirfardy et al. (1391). The tendency citizens to maintenance of public property based on their education level is different. We can see the tendency of citizens, who have MA and higher degree, is more than other education groups. This finding confirms the Bourdieu act theory. Since people with higher cultural capital, have more information about the costs of public property destruction and trying to keep them. Results of multivariate regression analysis showed that in general, the independent variables (satisfaction of municipal services, participation in municipal affairs, sense of belonging to community, how the family performance, socio-economic status) predict 56% of the variance in the tendency of citizens to the preservation of public property as the dependent variable.

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