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Investigating patterns of local people participation in development Process of Mangrove Forests in south of Iran

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Abstract

According to empirical evidences, first step of any successful intervention in sustainable natural resources development process is identifying needs of local people and other stakeholders as well as recognition of their contributions in order to effectively participating in all steps of the process. With regard to this comment, in this paper as a result of a descriptive research based on a survey strategy, we tried to identify some patterns related to local people's participation in the development of mangrove forests in the south of Iran (Boushehr province coasts). The validity of the questionnaire as a data gathering instrument, confirmed by selected experts and Cronbach Alpha coefficient (equal to 67% - 79% range by different parts of the questionnaire) was used to confirm its reliability. Data collected were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) based on appropriate statistics. In descriptive findings, items and patterns related to mangrove forests utilizations, causes of forest degradation, local participation attitudes, participation areas and procedures, in process of several categories, information and communication channels were illustrated. Inferential tests (F and T-student) results showed differences in participative attitude of respondents based on some variables such as age, education level, participation in rural projects and membership of local institutions. Using stepwise regression led to a linear equation including age, number of livestock (ownership), recourse to governmental offices and membership period of local institutions as independent variables and R^2_{Ad} coefficient indicated that this linear equation explained about 60% variance of participative attitude of local people as a dependent variable.

Keywords: Local people's participation, Natural resources development, Participatory attitude, Mangrove forests, South of Iran