



Evaluation of Degree of Women's General Awareness On Citizenship Rights In Mid-Sized Cities of Bonab and Malekan by Emphasis on Stable Urban Development

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ABSTRACT: Stable urban development is one of important affairs in desired and efficient urban management and it is, nowadays, under the concentration by most planners and state officials. One of the important affairs building the milestones of realization of stable urban development is the quantity of the necessary conditions for application in the fields of law and regulations relating to cities and citizenship rights. Citizenship rights can have strong short-term and long-term effects on the spirit of cities during periods of time. The present article tries to show first, the amount of awareness of women at the ages of 20-35 in the cities of Bonab and Malekan about law, major citizenship laws such as the degree of their awareness of general citizenship laws, civil laws, trade regulations, and regulations relating to public green spaces, prevention of cutting down trees, and preservation of public places, and then it tries to show a relation of amount of effectiveness and efficiency of this awareness with desired urban management and its development. The research is descriptive-analytical and the method of collecting data is done in the field. Of course, in order to clarify the bases and principles of stable urban development, some documentary studies have been utilized. The number of the subjects in the sample societies is, on the basis of Kokeyan, 400 people. The results of the research show that the amount of women's awareness in the above –called cities is not so desirable and this in its turn, since half of the population in cities are women, can be a big obstacle in realization of stable development and then the way of these cities toward stable development will be lowered. The results of the research, also, points out that there is a meaningful relationship between amount of citizens' awareness of their rights and three factors of level of their education, the amount of their contribution in social activities, and their use of mass media.

Keywords: Citizenship Rights, Stable Development, Women Population, Mid-sized Cities, Bonab, Malekan

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

INTRODUCTION

Women are one main elements of stable development and this development would not be achieved without women's active involvement. Among the concepts discussed in stable development are citizenship rights (Lotfi, et al, 2009: 16), which is emphasized in social and political literature, taking into consideration citizenship rights in developing countries including Iran (Norouzi and et.al 2012: 16). In fact, lack of awareness of women about citizenship rights is an important reason of underdevelopment, dictatorship, and suppression (Abdi, 1992:143). It is because of this reason that scholars of human rights and sociology have interpreted women's awareness about citizenship rights as a united and solidarity world of recognition of behavior in everyday life (Bergerand Lamén, 2005: 34).

Today, women's freedom and their awareness about citizenship rights are among the most important indicators to evaluate democracy (Turner, 2003:17). There is no doubt that stable development on the basis of laws, regulations, and human rights that provide public, intergeneration, and outer generation's rights in different

times can be applicable. In modern planning literature, there are different indicators for evaluating the degree and rate of development. These indicators were, at first, considered economic ones, but today, they are somewhat a combination of financial and non-financial factors (Sastry, 2005: 17). In this regard, women's awareness of their citizenship rights can be considered as a means of enabling them to take part in main parts and roles of a desired city (Frick and Kaiser, 2004:17). In other words, in addition to the growth and increasing of women's awareness of their citizenship rights has a direct effect on the environment in which they live (Butler, 2007: 27). And this can cause to application of enabling society to achieve its goals and also improvement of its citizens' involvement in the society (Wallner, 2003: 178).

In this regard, in Iran, in urban life, depending on the region, there are different layers of awareness about civil rights and this can be because that there are different races and cultures in this country (Hafiznia, 2009: 25). And it is exactly in this relation that Act 21 of Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitutional Law states that government must care women's rights in all fields by obeying Islamic Share and law and must provide needed

conditions and situations through free education and other necessary factors to realize this purpose.

It can be said that three factors or variables of gender, level of education, and age of Iranian women citizens have different relationships with citizenship rights and urban regulations (Tavasoli, et al., 2004: 20). Concerning this point, lack of awareness of civil and citizenship rights on regional developmental planning and urban plans, social factors, and mass media are among important and effective factors on women's awareness of their citizenship rights (Tavakoli, 2001: 32). In middle-sized cities such as Bonab and Malekan, however, whose most women citizens are housewives (Population Census, 2011), effective factors can be involving in social activities, level of education, and using mass media (Jahangir, 2002: 27). Neglecting these factors will hinder realization of social – gender justice and equality and movement of these cities toward stable development will be in challenge.

The goal of this article is to recognize and evaluate the degree and rate of women's awareness of their citizenship and urban rights in some social and citizenship regulations. So having recognized the strong and weak points, we will eradicate and solve the shortcomings in this regard. By using this recognition of rate of women's awareness, we can also analyze the conditions and rate of realization of a desired urban management at present and in the future, and consequently, the realization of a stable development in these two cities can be acquired.

Related Literature

In Iranian legal and law literature, a research has done by Jafar Hezar Jaribi and Abolfazl Amaniyan on the rate of women's awareness in big cities including Tehran. According to the research's results 35.2% of the subjects have had a low level of awareness and information. 45.6% have had an average and 19.3% a high level of awareness of their citizenship rights. The amount of social contribution, using mass media, social and economic class, and attitude toward citizenship rights have had a meaningful relationship with the rate of women's awareness of their citizenship rights. Another research has been done by Rabo (1991) in Syria and Lebanon. Rabo believed that the obstacles of gender inequality, concerning their abundance, are not quantitative and formal, but qualitative. In fact, realization of citizenship passes through special stages, and gender makes up an internal and special border in it. The issue of women's rights is a complex one and it is not similar to that of men's. Women do not have the least position of citizenship and as free citizens are obliged to the law, and lastly, it is suggested in this article that women can enjoy benefits and interests of citizenship by omitting their binarities (Robo, A. 2007: 12). Shiyani, also, in her Ph. D. dissertation under the title of 'the situation of citizenship and its hinders of relation in Iran' has suggested major hinders of citizenship relation as a lack of adequate social source in macro level in this regard.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This research is descriptive – analytical concerning its nature and method. The procedure ruling this research is method of measurement using questionnaires. In order to strengthen theoretical basis and exactness in gathering information, an evidentiary method has been used. The questionnaire has been compiled by thirty subjects through two stages of test and post-test. The results of correlation coefficient showed that in the degree of 95%, there is a considerable correlation in the answers of the subjects and there is a high reliability in the questionnaire. (R=0.9). Sampling was done randomly and the subjects were among women at the said ages. While analyzing the data (descriptive and inferring analyses), SPSS and Min Tab software was used. The research was that of application and the subjects were chosen from populations of Bonab and Malekan cities, Azarbaijan-e-Sharghi Province. Periodical data of the research include some information relating to Bonab and Malekan in different periods, specially the information gathered from the census in 2011. Concerning the two dimensions of the research; social-legal and civil and also its urban management dimension, different documentary sources were used. In legal documents, some sources such as the Constitutional Law, municipality regulations, and etc were used. In order to recognize rate of practicality and programmability of laws relating to citizenship rights, different comprehensive urban detailed plans were utilized. The Kokorean formula was used to determine the number of volume of the samples (Hafiznia, 2010).

In this formula N is the number of the samples (the overall number of women's population in Bonab and Malekan.), It is the extent of variables in natural distribution, d is the real ratio of quality in society with the estimated extent, p is the percentage of distribution of the quality in society, q is the percentage of people not having the quality, N is the volume of the studied society. Population of Bonab in 2011 was 79894 of which 39640 were women (about 50%). At the same time, Malekan had 31487 people and 15959 of them were women (49%). (Population Census, 2011). Population of women in these two cities was 53176 and so the number of the questionnaire of this research would be:

$$n = \frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} \div \left(1 + \frac{1}{N} \left(\frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} - 1 \right) \right)$$

In order to increase the validity of the research, 400 samples were considered and finally in order to analyze data in descriptive, inferring statistics, SPSS was used.

Variables and indicators of the research are:

1. The rate of citizen's awareness about their citizenship rights in general,
2. The rate of women's awareness about their citizenship rights,
3. The rate women's awareness about the laws relating to business and trade,

4. Women's awareness about laws relating to prohibition of cutting down trees,
5. Women's awareness about citizenship rights in relation to laws of keeping public places.

Descriptive Findings

Rate of women's awareness about their citizenship rights in general: According to considerations on the rate of women's awareness about their citizenship rights, most of the women in the range of 20-35 years old have information on their general citizenship rights.

On the basis of co efficiency of clustered K analysis, we can divide rate of women's awareness about their citizenship rights in 6 levels. As it can be seen in fig. 1, the percentage of abundance of women in the two levels of 'more aware' and 'much more aware' is 2.4% of the total society. The field findings shows that the three levels of 'less aware', 'much less aware', and not aware' constitute 80.6% of the total and they are the greatest abundance and shows that much less awareness of women about their general citizenship rights in the cities of Bonab and Malekan.

Table1. Describe the population of cities and number of questionnaires

Sex city	Total population	Male population	Number of women	Percent of the woman Population	Number of questionnaires
Bonab	79894	40254	39640	21	271
Malekan	31487	15959	15528	79	110

Source: Census of Population and Housing in 2011

Table2. Rate of women's awareness about their citizenship rights in general (Bonab and Malekan)

Rate	Lack of awareness	Very low awareness	Low awareness	Intermediate awareness	High awareness	Very much awareness
percent of awareness	32.6	28	25	12	1.4	1

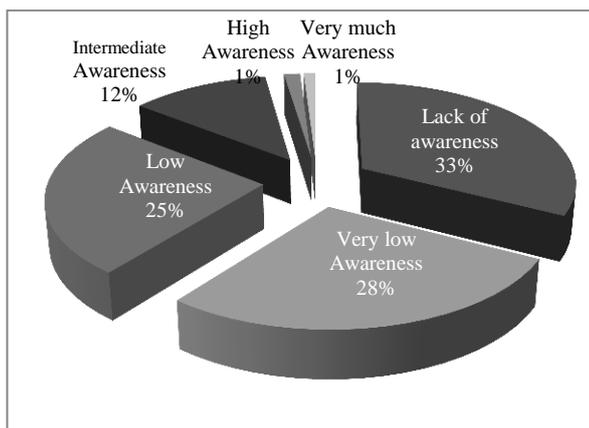


Figure1. Percent of female citizen's Awareness about their citizenship rights in general

Degree of women's awareness about their citizenship rights can be important in different aspects. Having no information about their rights can cause increase social harms to them and others and as a result it can make the society encounter numerous problems. The relationship between socialization of rights and generalizing women's awareness about their citizenship rights and also along with human development will be a stable urban development, is a bilateral one. Therefore women's lack of awareness about their general citizenship rights can be a hindrance toward urban development. In this regard, breaking laws, appearance of different social problems, and creation of social disobedience is an inevitable issue. Resultant of such a situation, in most instances, through legal carelessness, and also increasing of fines and punishments instead of omitting disobediences and etc. can lead to imbalance and disorder in cities. The second dimension of the resultant from lack of women's awareness about their general citizenship rights

will end in loss of their contribution and involvement in social activities. As it is clear, one of the necessities of realization of stable urban development is increase in public contribution in urban management so that planning will be done by people and it will be for people. As it can be seen in table 3, according to the results coming from the rate of Pearson Correlation, there is a meaningful relationship between the degree of women's awareness about their citizenship rights and their level of education, rate of contribution in social activities and degree of their use of mass media.

Table3. Correlation with the women's awareness about their citizenship rights and their level of education, rate of contribution in social activities and degree of their use of mass media

	Women's education	rate of contribution in social activities	These ofmass media	degree of women's awareness about their citizenship rights
Women's education	1	.999**	.998**	.999**
rate of contribution in social activities	.999**	1	.999**	.998**
These ofmass media	.998**	.999**	1	.997**
degree of women's aware- ness about their citizenship rights	.999**	.998**	.997**	1

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Women's awareness of citizenship rights in relation to civil rights

According to the researches done about the rate of general awareness of women about laws and civil and social rights and also by classifying them through the clustered analysis co efficiency of K in 6 different groups, it can be stated that a very little amount (4.2%) of the studied society of women has much awareness about their citizenship rights and most of the society (80.2%) has not had enough information in this regard.

Table4. Women's awareness of citizenship rights in relation to civil rights

Rate	Lack of awareness	Very low awareness	Low awareness	Intermediate awareness	High awareness	Very much awareness
Percent of women's awareness about civil rights	27	30	23	16	2	2

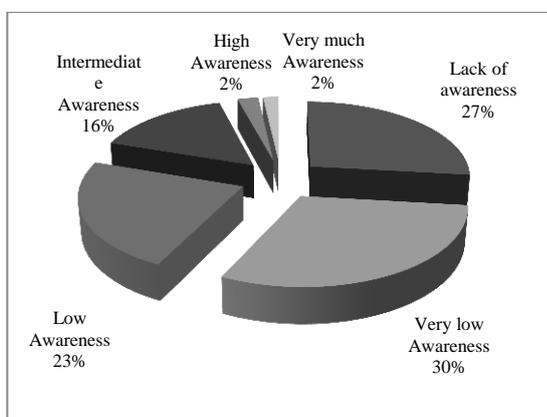


Fig2. Percent of female citizen's Awareness about their civil rights

Degree of awareness of women about their social rights in relation to desired urban management will have important results and effects. As it can be inferred from fig. no. 2, most of the women do not have much information of their citizenship rights. According to the researches done, those women who have appropriate information, are mostly among those who work a legal affairs or whose husbands are employees in one of the state offices, or at least were those who have already been involved in one of the municipality legal or similar offices and have had some legal problems in this regard. And because of these problems, they have been familiar with their civil rights.

Improvement of women's social positions resulted from their awareness about their civil rights will lead to more social contribution of women in social fields and this will result in society's advancement. Civil rights as one of the most important factors of individual rights in social, economic, cultural, and political inequalities play an important role in feeling of social justice and as a result, it will lead to increase of belonging to urban management and social system, and this finally, along with the increase in rate of citizenship contribution will end in social, economic, cultural, and political improvements.

Therefore, reforming of civil laws, and moving toward passing efficient and modern civil laws can pave the way toward contribution of women in different social and economic fields of the country. On the other hand, having insufficient awareness of women about their civil rights can lead to rise in social harms to them and others and then it will cause different serious problems to the society. According to the findings, on the basis of researches and examinations by Pearson Correlation, there is a meaningful relationship between women's awareness about civil rights and their level of education, the amount of their contribution in social activities and the amount of using mass media.

Table 5. Correlation with the women's awareness about their civil rights and their level of education, rate of contribution in social activities and degree of their use of mass media

	Women's education	rate of contribution in social activities	The use of mass media	degree of women's awareness about their civil rights
Women's education	1	1.000**	1.000**	1.000**
rate of contribution in social activities	.000	1	.999**	1.000**
The use of mass media	.000	.000	1	1.000**
degree of women's awareness about their civil rights	.000	.000	.000	1

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Awareness of women about their citizenship rights and the laws relating to business and trade

According to the researches done about degree of women's awareness of their citizenship rights and the laws relating to business and trade among the subjects at the ages of 20-35, there is the low amount of public awareness about common laws relating to business and trade. By clustered analysis K and classifying citizen's awareness about relating to business and trade, and by using field consideration, it can be pointed out that most of women at the ages of 20-35 had very little amount of information regarding the above mentioned laws. It is such that only 8% of the subjects are aware of the said laws.

Table6. Awareness of women about their citizenship rights and the laws relating to business and trade

Rate	Lack of awareness	Very low awareness	Low awareness	Intermediate awareness	High awareness	Very much awareness
Percent of Awareness	23	20	29	20	4	4

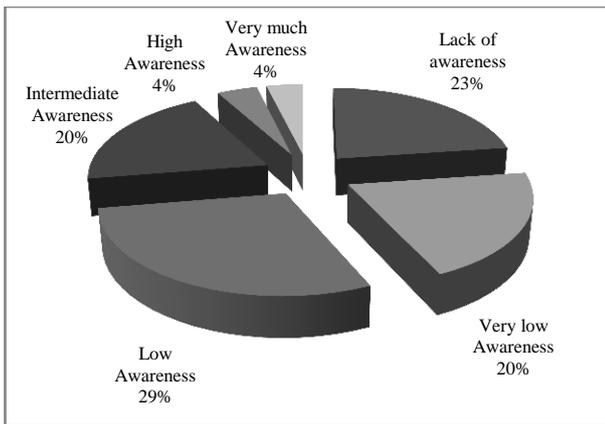


Figure3. Percent of female citizen's Awareness about the laws relating to business and trade

In urban life will have important results, Because of their low awareness about such rights in legal cases against municipalities, these women have faced financial losses. They are those who were mostly involved in business and had no information about their rights on business and trade in case of selling their shops (trade centers) to municipalities. Such lack of information will cause considerable financial losses to citizens and unfortunately because municipalities have some interests in this regard, this organization does not contribute to share information through mass media to people about such cases.

Therefore, creating appropriate bases toward informing people about civil laws relating to business and trade are practical and applicable in two aspects and taking them into consideration is necessary; first, the number of legal cases against municipalities will decrease, and second, time and money will be saved and used for better purposes.

Table7. Correlation with the women's awareness about trade rights and their level of education, rate of contribution in social activities and degree of their use of mass media

	Women's education	rate of contribution in social activities	The use of mass media	degree of women's awareness about trade rights
Women's education	1	1.000**	.999**	.859**
	400	400	400	400
rate of contribution in social activities	1.000**	1	1.000**	.862**
	400	400	400	400
The use of mass media	.999**	1.000**	1	.869**
	400	400	400	400
Degree of women's awareness about trade rights	.859**	.862**	.869**	1
	400	400	400	400

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

In the end, processing the data and findings on the basis of Pearson's Correlation indicates a meaningful relationship between women's awareness about trade rights and their level of education, degree of their contribution in social and public activities, and rate of their use of mass media.

Awareness of women about citizenship right son related laws to prevention of cutting down trees

According to the research, and also analyzing of dispersion co efficiency among different kinds of general citizenship laws, the research takes into consideration and shows that most dispersion and difference on women's awareness is in these kinds of laws. As a result, the lowest rate of information on usual urban laws relates to prevention of cutting down trees. By clustered analysis K and classifying citizen's awareness about laws relating to cutting down trees, and by using field consideration, it can be pointed out that most of women at the ages of 20-35 had very little amount of information regarding the above mentioned laws. It is such that only 1.2% of the subjects are aware of the said laws. Among the statistic community, 55.4% of them are unaware of the laws and they, in fact, constitute the highest proportion. On the other hand, the people who are relatively aware of the laws are only 5%. And lastly, as it is shown in fig. no. 5, only 0.5% of the population is fully aware of the laws relating to the prevention of cutting down trees.

Table8. Awareness of women about citizenship rights on related laws to prevention of cutting down trees

Rate	Lack of awareness	Very low awareness	Low awareness	Intermediate awareness	High awareness	Very much awareness
Percent of Awareness	55	20	18	5	1	1

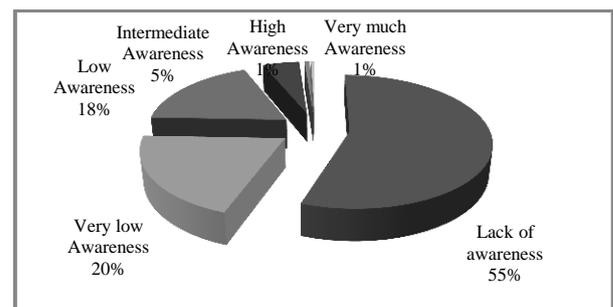


Figure 4. Percent of female citizen's Awareness about the laws to prevention of cutting down trees

One of the most fundamental problems of cities, especially Bonab and Malekan, is lack of public parks that will have bad effects on urban life in different aspects. Comparing with urban standards, it can be seen that in addition to this point that there are very few public parks in different cities of Iran, inappropriate diversion of parks causes some problems among which are unfair distribution of parks in cities and difficulty in accessing them. So urban managers, in order to respond and solve such problems imbalances and also to preserve

trees whose preservation is so costly, need to make people familiar and make people be self-informed about citizenship cultures, and consequently increasing awareness toward laws relating to preventing cutting of trees. Development and expansion of public green parks in different countries has much correlation with environment and also with the improvement of every country promotion of public awareness of citizens. Actually, preserving public parks and developing them and consequently having sufficient and suitable green park spaces in cities creates physical health, mental restfulness, job efficiency, and better quality of life. So there is a meaningful relationship between preserving public parks and prevention of cutting down trees. And also, according to the analysis of Pearson's correlation, there is a meaningful relationship between women's awareness about laws relating to prevention of cutting down trees and women's educational level, their contribution in social and public activities and degree of their use of mass media. It is such that a little percentage of the subjects who have relative awareness about these laws, often have had more communication in social and public fields and have used more mass media than others (Table 9).

Table9. Correlation with the women's awareness about laws to prevention of cutting down trees. And their level of education, rate of contribution in social activities and degree of their use of mass media

Rate	Lack of awareness	Very low awareness	Low awareness	Intermediate awareness	High awareness	Very much awareness
Percent of Awareness	19	20	21	26	9	5

Women's awareness about citizenship rights in relation to laws on preserving public places

According to the researches done about degree of women's awareness of their citizenship rights regarding preserving public places among the subjects at the ages of 20-35, there is the least amount of public awareness about common laws of preventing from cutting down trees. By clustered analysis K and classifying citizen's awareness about laws relating to cutting down trees, and by using field consideration, it can be pointed out that most of women at the ages of 20-35 had very little amount of information regarding the above mentioned laws. It is such that only 1.2% of the subjects are aware of the said laws.

One of the aspects of a balanced urban development and consequently reaching a stable urban development is considering the place and spatial aspects of city. One of the main elements of spatial frames of cities available to all people is public places. One of the indicators of urban development is to create a desired urban space, and most of this space is dedicated to public places. Therefore having lack of awareness about the related laws on preserving public places will cause a decrease in public observation and it will result in disqualification of public urban spaces. Resultant of such conditions will lead to inefficient urban management and slow move-

ment toward balanced advancement. There is a meaningful relationship between awareness about these laws and level of education, amount of their participation in public and social activities and rate of their use of mass media.

Table10. Women's awareness about citizenship rights in relation to laws on preserving public places

	Women's education	rate of contribution in social activities	The use of mass media	degree of women's awareness about laws to prevention of cutting down trees
Women's education	1 .000 400	1.000** .000 400	1.000** .000 400	.896** .000 400
rate of contribution in social activities	1.000** .000 400	1 400	1.000** .000 400	.896** .000 400
The use of mass media	1.000** .000 400	1.000** .000 400	1 400	.897** .000 400
degree of women's awareness about laws to prevention of cutting down trees	.896** .000 400	.896** .000 400	.897** .000 400	1 400

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

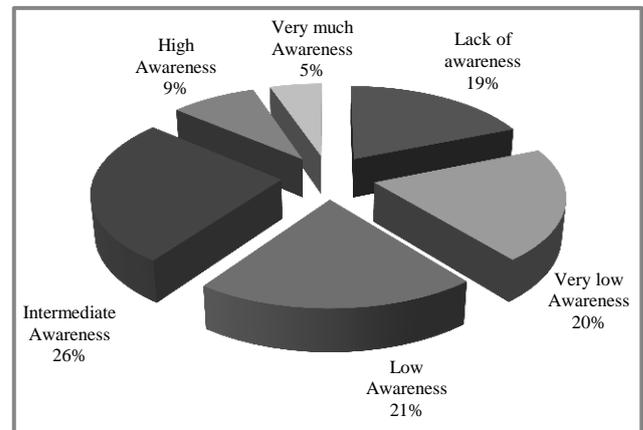


Fig5. Percent of female citizen's Awareness about the laws on preserving public places

By evaluating social activities of this group, it can be clearly seen that most of its members are involved in jobs relating to urban activities. They mostly have jobs such as house agency, house construction and salesperson of building materials, employees of municipality offices, and so on. Because of their jobs, they got familiarity with laws relating to urban and municipality affairs. As it can be seen in table 10, according to the results coming from Pearson Correlation, there is a meaningful relationship between awareness about laws of preserving public places and level of education, the subjects' participation in social activities, and the amount of their use of mass media.

Table11. Correlation with the women's awareness about laws on preserving public places and their level of education, rate of contribution in social activities and degree of their use of mass media

	Women's education	rate of contribution in social activities	The use of mass media	degree of women's awareness about laws on preserving public places
Women's education	1 400	.999** .000 400	.999** .000 400	.999** .000 400
rate of contribution in social activities	.999** .000 400	1 400	1.000** .000 400	1.000** .000 400
The use of mass media	.999** .000 400	1.000** .000 400	1 400	1.000** .000 400
degree of women's awareness about laws on preserving public places	.999** .000 400	1.000** .000 400	1.000** .000 400	1 400

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

As it was said, on the contrary to the principles of stable urban development, and in spite of the high level of education among the women at the ages of 20-35 in the two cities of Bonab and Malekan, the level of general awareness on legal fields and urban regulations is very low. The reason that some individuals have somewhat appropriate knowledge about the laws is that they are involved in jobs that are related to legal affairs, or they have acquired these experiences in legal cases against the municipalities. In order to achieve the goals stable development, much more attention and focus on overall development and growth of each individual is very essential and we should concentrate on decreasing gender inequalities in the related planning.

The results of sampling in this research points out that low level of awareness about laws relating to urban affairs is very common and even individuals having high levels of education, except related majors, are not exceptional. Therefore low level of awareness about laws, along with other shortcomings that can be seen in the field of urban laws causes failure in applying the laws properly and correctly, not following citizenship rights, not completely observing and supervising urban development, successful management, and other difficulties that our cities encounter with these days. The present research shows a meaningful correlation between the rate of women's awareness about different parts of citizenship rights and the three factors of level of education, degree of contribution in social and public activities, and also using mass media. It is such that as individuals' level of education is higher, the amount of using mass media by them and also rate of their contribution in social activi-

ties will be greater. And these three elements will directly influence general awareness of the subjects and will increase it. In the end, in order to raise awareness, correct enforcement of law, and decreasing of legal cases, the following are suggested:

1. Raising and increasing level of awareness of the society especially the young in legal fields and urban regulations by the help of mass media.
2. Publishing and distributing informative brochures by related organizations and offices.
3. Holding informative classes about current urban laws for citizens by related organizations.
4. Establishing methods of promotion, encouragement, facilitation of public contribution in law enforcement.
5. Eradicating probable contradictions in current laws by the Parliament.
6. Resolving ambiguities in some of the terms in laws that make misunderstandings and create disputes.
7. Updating the laws by the Parliament.
8. Reforming logically the laws and eradicating different fields in this regard.
9. Creating legal support for officials' actions.
10. Prevention of prevalence of occasional, sectional, parallel, unstable, and uncoordinated decisions.
11. Exact enforcing of laws punishing law breakers with no exception and neglect.
12. Determining qualified legal authorities for investigation, and the manner of punishing law breakers and introducing them to the public.

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