An Assessment of Street Children and Their Working Characteristics in Tehran

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Abstract

In Iran, Child Labor on the streets has been reviewed repeatedly but only a few studies have taken a qualitative approach towards the experience of child labor on the streets. This study has taken the characteristics of child labor in Tehran into consideration, using a set of qualitative and quantitative methods. The study has been carried out in the years 1391-92. We conducted focused group discussions, in-depth interviews and surveyed 289 children in order to collect the data from the key informants and the street children themselves. According to our findings, most of the children were engaged in customary works like colportage and semi customary works like waste picking. The children's work places were mostly in municipality districts of 12, 2 and 1 respectively. Half of the children were working two shifts a day (49%) and one fifth of them were working all day. The average of the street children's income was 200000 Rials a day and 79% of them handed all or part of their income to their families. The income of the street children has an important role in fulfilling the needs of the child and his/her family and is a serious barrier for cessation of the child labor on the streets. These findings emphasize the necessity of regarding the contextual causes of child labor in the strategies related to reducing the child labor and its priority over coercive actions like removal of children from the streets.

Keywords: rapid assessment and response, Tehran, child labor, street children, coercive action, removal.

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An Analysis of Neighborhood Conflicts and its Consequences in Tehran

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Abstract

Neighborhood is among the most important social units. It can strengthen the local social ties among the urban residents. On the other hand, it can cause suffering among the neighbors. In this paper, using Bourdiue's concepts of field and habitus, we have attempted to describe and explain neighborhood problems among Tehrani residents. We have used a qualitative method to conduct this research. Applying interviewing technique we have tried to provide a clear picture of neighboring conflicts and its consequences. Our findings show that most of the residents have some experience of disagreement and quarrels with the neighbors. Quarrels among the neighbors, causing inconvenice, and lack of mutual empathy are only part of the problems in the region under studied.

Keywords: neighborhood, altruism, neighborhood quarrels, apartment dwelling, field, habitus.

A Study of Social Factors Affecting the Consumption of Tobacco: The Case of Boukan Citizens

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Abstract

Tabacco smoking has affected a large number of people and taking its interaction with other social problems into consideration, can indicate a foundational treat. The aim of this study is to evaluate the tendency of tobacco consumption in the town of Boukan west of Azarbayejan. We evaluated three dimensions: cognitive, emotional, behavioral and social factors affecting the consumption of tobacco. Our conceptual framework is derived from approaches to lifestyle and leisure time proposed by Weber, Simmel and Bourdieu. We surveyed a sample of citizens of 18 years old citizens and over in Boukan, using a researcher constructed questioner to gather and analysis the needed data. The results show that the variables of socioeconomic status, modernistic leisure time, co usage taste, age and income level, have a positive and significant statistical relationship with the tendency toward tobacco consumption. Conversely, the relationship between traditional forms of leisure time with tendency to consume tobacco is found to be statistically negative. Therefore, we can say changing the form of leisure time is expected to reduce the tendency to consume tobacco. Also, multiple regression analysis indicated that independent variables explain 53 percent of variation explained on the dependent variable.

Keywords: substance abuse, tobacco, hookah, lifestyle, cultural consumption, leisure.

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Disability and Social Exclusion: A Case Study of Physically Disabled People Living in the City of Ray

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Abstract

This study sought to understand the factors affecting social exclusion among physically disabled people living in the city of Ray south of Tehran. Our main research question is how people with physical disability become systematically excluded from their community. Some social theorists argue that disability is a kind of oppression and social exclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of social life experience significant inequalities. Also, disabled people exclusion is influenced by social factors. Methodologically, this study is a combination of quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interview) approaches. We interviewed 31 persons with physical disability and surveyed a sample of 369 disabled people under the cover of governmental social welfare organization. We attempted to reach a deeper understanding of the lived experience of mental and physical disabilities through interviews. Our survey results show that the variable of social exclusion of disabled people from the community is statistically related to negative attitudes of other people, lack of relevant physical facilities, weakness of social support institutions, the degree of inner group support, lack of social trust, and a sense of social deprivation.

Keywords: social exclusion, inner group support, physical disability, negative attitude, physical facilities.

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The Impact of Cultural Understanding on Admission of Civil Right Laws Concerning Women

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Abstract

This research paper is based on a critical paradigm and the ontology of such a paradigm is based on historical realism. Following this line of thinking the relations of the world life of different classes of women and the approval of the civil legal system and the influential factors on these relations were addressed. Using grounded theory we interviewed 25 female thinkers teaching at universities. We attempted to find the women's cultural values and its relation with the acceptance of civil rights laws. From the viewpoint of interviewees, some parts of the law are in favor of women and some others are not. Furthermore, even those parts that are legally in favor of women, in terms of enforcement, are not guaranteed. The legal system is deficient regarding women's rights. This is because of the prevalence of masculine orientation and discrimination in the legislative system. They argue that the law is in accordance with the traditional community, civil law legislators, and avoiding aprofound attention to the women's life experience. Altogether, the civil legal system does not pay suitable attention to women's life-world.

Keywords: world-life, system, civil legal system, women's values, rethinking.

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Exploring the Relationship between Disciplinary Culture and Other Academic Aultures: The Case of Tabriz University

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to explore the relationship between disciplinary culture with other academic cultures. Following Bergquist we divide disciplinary culture into three dimensions of ascertained role, academic cooperation, and the atmosphere of supporting research activities. The research has been conducted by survey method and questionnaire technique. The statistical population of this study is composed of 690 faculty members in Tabriz University. The questionnaires were distributed among all faculty members and a number of 156 of them were returned. The findings indicate that there is a significant difference between the dominant academic cultures among faculties of Tabriz University. The production and interpretation of knowledge, supporting faculty research, academic freedom, a possibility for professors to study in their field of specialization, the dominance of rationality and autonomy, are known to be the main elements of the dominant culture named participative culture. Some other statistical findings are discussed.

Keywords: disciplinary culture, academic culture, Bergquist, collegial culture, rationality, autonomy.

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The Impact of the Approaches of Strategic Human Resources on Entrepreneurship and Innovative Performance in Iran: The Case of Higher Education

Ayat SaadatTalab¹, Ali Yasini³, Ismail Shirali^{2*}

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to examine the key aspects of the pattern of human resources management and the effects of this pattern on the and entrepreneurship organizational performance. innovative Methodologically, the data collection is descriptive in survey form, in which managers' experiences and the different aspects of the problem were studied at two state universities in Tehran. The population of the study consists of all high-level managers in the different faculties of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti universities. A purposeful sampling is used and 70 managers are selected to participate in the study. A structured questionnaire based on Likert scale is used for data collection. Descriptive indices of average, correlation and multiple regressions are used for data analysis. Research findings showed that the strategic and functional aspects of human resources have different impacts on organizational performance. Moreover, the level of success of individual and group entrepreneurship is different. Finally, the findings showed that both strategic and operational experiences under the human resources management influence the organizational effectiveness significantly. Particularly, experiences influence on innovative performance through strategic management of human resources is notable.

Keywords: entrepreneurship, innovation, human resources management, organizational performance, higher education.

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A sociological investigation of the Act of "Supporting Those Who Commanding to Good Deeds and Prohibiting from Wrong Deeds

Hassan Kheiri 1*

Abstract

Recently, the Act of "supporting those who commanding to good deeds and prohibiting from wrong deeds" has been adopted by the Islamic Parliament in Iran and has been imparted in the official newspapers. However, due to some problems the president requested the supreme leader to stop its running, but finally the Resolving Disputes Council decided to run and to fix its defects. Since this plan is now under review, from a sociological approach, this study tried to investigate "commanding to good deeds and prohibiting from wrong deeds" in general, and this Act in particular. This Act has been investigated due to the necessity of proactive and structural-based elements, ethical and legal suitability in relations between the individual, public surveillance and individualistic jurisprudence dominance. While underlining the Islamic value-bound system's differentiation is that individual responsibility cannot be neglected, legislation of an Act that highlights both social infrastructures and structures and functional actions simultaneously has been emphasized.

Keywords: commanding to good deeds and prohibiting from wrong deeds, the Act of "supporting those who commending to good deeds and prohibiting from wrong deeds", proactive, structuralism, individualism, public surveillance, good deeds, ethics, rights.

A Study of the Effects of Environmental Norms on Household Waste Recycling

Banafsheh Aghayee abianeh 1*, Sadegh Salehi², Abdolhosein Kalantari³

Abstract

Environmental problems in general and waste problem, in particular, are among the crucial issues in modern societies. Solving this problem needs inhabitant's participation in environmental activities. In addition, there are many psychosocial factors that affect inhabitant's behavior. One of these factors is environmental norms. Accordingly, the goal of current article is to study environmental norms, household waste recycling, and the relationship between these two variables in district seven of Tehran Municipality. For this purpose we used theories of environmental norms and distributed 400 questionnaires among the residents of district seven in Tehran. The gathered data were analyzed using SPSS software. Results revealed inhabitants of this part of Tehran support environmental norms at high level. They also showed a relatively high tendency toward waste recycling. In addition, a moderate positive relationship was found between these two variables. There was also a mutual relationship between these two variables which means one variable increases as the other increases.

Keywords: recycling, household waste recycling, household waste, environmental norms, Tehran Municipality.

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