



## Assessing attitudes of citizens of Qazvin city towards Afghan Refugees via Cybernetics

Hossein Keshavarz Ghasemi<sup>1</sup>  
Babak Naderpour<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

The aim of the present study is to assess attitudes of citizens of Qazvin City towards Afghan migrants using the factor analysis technique and the Bogardus Social Distance Scale. The data were collected via a questionnaire distributed among a sample size as 384 participants. Then, the collected data were analyzed via SPSS-23 and the factor analysis technique. As a result, 30 indices were summarized by factor analysis and reduced into 7 factors presented in combinatorial meaningful factors. The contribution of each factor affecting the attitudes of citizens of Qazvin City towards Afghan refugees using the mentioned technique. The research findings indicated that those 7 factors generally explain 60.21% of the citizens' attitudes towards Afghan migrants. The results obtained from the Bogardus Social Distance Scale showed that citizens of Qazvin City have no positive attitudes towards Afghans with the mean scores of negative answers with 77.66%. This issue indicates a great social distance between Afghan refugees and the research population.

**Keywords:** Migration; Afghan immigrations; the Bogardus social distance scale; factor analysis; Cybernetics.

### 1. Introduction

Migration has become a global issue in the today's world, which has received a lot of attentions from different scientific fields. For instance, having a glance over the increasing degree of research journals which have mainly concentrated on the issue of migration indicates its development. Migration is a form of geographical or spatial movements of a population between two geographical units (Zanjani, 2013: 5). Migration is a type of conscious behavior which can lead to diverse motivations such as finding jobs, continuing education, enjoying welfare, and avoiding wars and insecurity. The phenomenon of Afghans' immigrations into neighboring countries, particularly Iran, is a form of international migration having increased in recent decades. This type of migration can be significant from social, political, and economic perspectives (Jamshidiha & Anbari, 2004; as cited in Abdi Zarrin et al. 2009: 689). In recent decades, a lot of Afghans who having victimized by the Soviet–Afghan War and consequently civil wars, have sought refuges in Iran. Currently, Iran hosts more than 2.3 million Afghan refugees. 72% of these migrants live in urban areas, while only 2% of them lives in

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. Student of Political Sociology at Tehran Azad University, central branch, [hosseinkgh@gmail.com](mailto:hosseinkgh@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Dr., Faculty of Political Science, Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, [nader1642@yahoo.com](mailto:nader1642@yahoo.com)

camps (Abbasi Shwazi et al. 2015: 275). Statistics shows that more than 99% of Afghan refugees have illegally entered Iran via Iranian-Afghan borders (Isazadeh & Jahanbakhsh, 2012: 98).

Migration is not a social problem by itself, but it can be a solution for population crises. Migration can guide the overflow of a population to a place outside the a crowded are, move extra unemployed workforces into lands which need them, create structural population balances, be effective on foreign exchange balances via attracting some part of wages of workers working abroad, provide grounds for attracting investments and transferring technology, and make competition and improvement in the status quo through creating and reinforcing the spirit of new production policies (Zanjani, 2013: 1). But this attitude cannot reflect reality of migration; on the contrary, workforces' migration may result in economic imbalances in the origin of immigrations. In addition Evaporation of lands from workforces can lead to economic, scientific, and technical consequences, create complicated political and social problems in relations of countries, and result in the devastating force of understanding and development (ibid: 1-2). Therefore, migration is a double-edged blade containing both opportunities and threads. The optimum use of this potential can be a factor of development, while improper management and planning in organizing this phenomenon can provide grounds for imbalances in population, political, economic, social, and cultural structures. Those imbalances in the mentioned structures have converted migration to a challenging issue.

Among diverse issues concerning migration, knowing the public opinions toward migrants is very significant in that it helps managers and administrators to be aware of individuals' thoughts about certain issues and design plans for changing their attitudes if needed. The main aim of the present study is to probe attitudes of citizens of Qazvin City toward Afghan refugees. By migrants, the present study means Afghans who are heads of households and their spouses and children having immigrated into Iran at their own discretion and knowledge and now live in Qazvin City; and children of migrants born in Iran and now lives in Qazvin City, but they do not enjoy Iranian citizenship. The number of migrants studied in the present research is 24355 individuals with residence documents such as logistics cards and passports. In addition, four thousand individuals are lacking in any documents; therefore, they work in the agricultural and construction sectors. Most of those migrants (60-65%) live in urban areas (1).

## 2. Literature review

A diverse range of studies have been conducted on Afghan refugees in Iran. According to Akhlaghi, Yousefi, and Sedigh Ourei (2016); Taherpour et al. (2005); and Burbur (2014), migrants face with failures in meeting their own expectations and confirmations; as a result, changing those conditions is impossible. Moreover, according to these researchers, strategies should be prioritized in accordance with social conditions of migrants or the host communities for passing from the sense of belongingness to the host community. As these researchers believe, employees who have direct relations with migrants and students accept equal rights for migrants more than other social groups. Mahmoudian (2007), Mirzaei (2014), Naghsh Nejad (2015), Abbasi Shwazi and Sadeghi (2014), and Abbasi Shwazi et al. (2015) investigated and identified resources of inequality (including educational and employment obstacles) between the second and third generations of Afghans and the host community. Also investigated was socio-cultural adaptation of the second generation of Afghans with Iranian community.

Vahdat Azad (2012) investigated the political and social reasons of Afghan refugees in Iran after the Islamic Revolution. Koepke (2011) considers economic consequences of Afghans' presences in Iran as positive and believes that they have had a lot of participations in the economy of Iran. Kronenfeld (2011) presents some suggestions for the return of Afghan refugees such as focusing on and coordinating strategies of development concurrently in the two sides of borders, searching for

strategies for guaranteeing refugees' rights and the return into a larger framework. Maher (1994), Alavi (2002), Shaterian and Ganji (2010), and Isazadeh and Mehranfar (2012) obtained the results that consequences of working Afghans refugees in the host community are unemployment, reduction of natives' job opportunities, outflow of currency, and finally reduction of Iran's national security index.

As far as literature indicates, the issue of citizens' attitudes toward Afghan migrants has received few attentions. Therefore, the present study tries to assess attitudes of citizens of Qazvin City towards Afghan refugees.

### 3. Theoretical framework

Generally, theories about migration can be divided into four main groups:

The first group refers to classical theories presented in 1950's and 1960's. Those theories generally consider migration as a factor for social and economic mobility and consequently the attraction or solution of migrants in the dominant value system of the target country (Irandoost et al. 2014: 109).

Those theories in sociology of migration are based on explaining reasons and consequences of migration. Therefore, migration is caused by economic and social imbalances existing among different regions in those theories. Each change in the society is in line for establishing balances and coordination. Those theories are criticized not only for reasons, but also consequences which mention for migration. Migrants are not attracted to the target environment. In a lot of big third-world cities, migrants live in suburbs (Papoli Yazdi & Rajabi Sanajerdi, 2013: 235-236). The strength of those theories is that they pay attention to positive functions of migration.

The second group covers conflict theories (in 1970's and 1980's) which have negative attitudes toward migration. Those theories know migration as the result of unequal social structures in the international system which result in the transfer of human and social capitals from developing countries to developed countries and consequently intensification of dependency. The strength of those theories is their attentions to damages of migration such as formation of discrimination and inequality in the two source and target communities. The weakness of those theories is that they neglect the role of agents and highlights the role of structures (Vosoughi & Hojatti, 2012: 27-28). Moreover, in the eyes of those theories, migration is an absolutely exploitative issue; thus its continuation causes the expansion of underdevelopment. It seems that the challenge of migration cannot be solved at the national level unless a change occurs in the global system (Papoli Yazdi & Rajabi Sanajerdi, 2013: 235-236).

The third group contains integrated theories (which have been presented since 1990's). This group of theories tries to make links between the two macro and micro levels, while the social structure affects migrants' mobility and migrants per se influence population, economic and social structures as well as other dimensions of the community in the two sides of migration (Ershad & Sadaf, 2010: 66).

The fourth group consists of systems theories. Unlike "agreeableness" and "conflict theories", these theories consider migration for compatibility with economic and social upheavals. Migration has several reasons in the eye of the systems theory and is in line with distribution, compatibility, and adaptation. Thus, compatibility of several cultures can be predicted in the target culture. The extended form of the systems theory is Cybernetics (Irandoost, 2014: 109).

Regarding the scope of Cybernetics and its capability in presenting the systems theory in different systems, it can be used for explaining consequences of Afghans' immigration and assessing citizens' attitudes towards those migrants. Cybernetics is a science that on the one hand it studies relatively open systems in terms of the exchange of information among the systems and their environments, and on the other hand, it investigates the structure of those systems from the perspective of the exchange of information among their various elements. The most comprehensive

effort applying Cybernetics in the form of a general theory in sociology was presented by Talcott Parsons (Ebrahimi & Faraj Pahlou, 2010: 3; cf. Table 1).

Since public opinions towards migrants are influenced by consequences which migrants have created in the host community, according to Cybernetics, those consequences can be categorized into four dimensions as follows:

*a. Social dimensions*

Although migration is considered as a factor balancing population and capable social force from a lot of perspectives, this issue can be considered that migration is constructive and balancing factor as destructive and threatening element. Migration can intensify poverty, violence, marginalization, false employment, drug addiction, prostitution, imbalances in the age and sex composition, and many other social pathologies. As a result, it can impose irreparable consequences on actors as well as social construction (Kazemi, 2008).

*b. Cultural dimensions*

Culture is among fluid issues changing as a result of migration processes. Not only migrants' culture, but also natives' culture is influenced by upheavals in that the dominant culture mainly tries to solve the dominated culture into itself. Cultural exchanges, cultural conflicts, identity crises, lack of absorption in the target culture, intensification of people-centered tendencies, linguistic duality, cultural abuses, and racial discrimination are only some parts of cultural consequences of the [increase] in migration rates (Bazzi, 2006).

*c. Political and security dimensions*

International migrations, particularly illegal ones, have different political-security reflects and consequences. Permeability of borders and the increase in unauthorized traffics; drug trafficking; the spread of terrorism, criminal gangs, and mafia activity; abuse of foreign male workforce; sexual abuse of female refugees; intelligence and counter-intelligence activities; disturbances in the ethnic-religious composition of the host country; threats and degradation of natural resources and environmental capacity; the spread of infectious diseases, etc. are some of the most important political-security consequences of migrations particularly illegal ones in the international level (Zarghani & Mousavi, 2011: 8).

*d. Economic dimensions*

As migration changes migrants' lives, it changes their employment patterns and activities; migrants are paid less wages, worked more hours, and try to earn more incomes and save large parts of their incomes to send them to their countries by doing hard labors (Zanjani, 2016: 187). Among consequences of migration, the reduction in job opportunities, the increase in the unemployment rate, housing shortages and the increase in the housing rental prices in many urban areas, etc. can be counted.

Now, according to components of the conceptual model of Cybernetics, (figures 1 and 2), the following research questions can be presented:

*Research questions:*

1. What are consequences of Afghans' immigrations for the Iranian society?
2. What are the economic consequences of Afghans' presences for the Iranian society?
3. What are the cultural consequences of Afghans' presences for the Iranian society?
4. What are the social consequences of Afghans' presences for the Iranian society?
5. What are the political consequences of Afghans' presences for the Iranian society?

**Table 1: Parsons' Cybernetics (adapted from Parsons' theoretical ideas)**

Row	Subsystems in theories	Functions	Theories	Hypotheses
1	<b>Cultural subsystem</b>	Maintenance of the dominant pattern-element in all components of the system	Cultural subsystem is a fluid phenomenon in Parsons' cybernetic hierarchy with a specific privilege over other systems. The primary emphasis of parsons is on culture. Culture determines the ultimate goal of each system and as a control device, guides the society and other systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The cultural factor explains higher variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the social factor does.</li> <li>2. The cultural factor explains higher variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the security factor does.</li> </ol>
2	<b>Economic subsystem</b>	Supply of the resource of energy (supply of individuals' objective and subjective needs)	In Parsons' cybernetic hierarchy, economic subsystem is the source of supplying energy for other subsystems in Parsons' general action subsystem. It creates conditions by which the environment are adapted with actors' needs. As a result, in the cybernetic hierarchy, the highest amount of energy belongs to the economic subsystem necessitates its adaptation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The economic factor explains higher variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the social factor does.</li> <li>2. The economic factor explains higher variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the security factor does.</li> <li>3. The economic factor explains higher variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the cultural factor does.</li> </ol>
3	<b>Social subsystem</b>	Maintenance of unity and integration of the society	In Parsons' cybernetic hierarchy, social subsystem determines the supply of individuals' integration and loyalty to the social subsystem as well as actors' freedom of action. In this hierarchy, the social system has a medium range that is it utilizes energy and information of both economic and cultural systems in accordance to situations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The social factor explains higher variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the political factor does.</li> </ol>
4	<b>Political subsystem</b>	Goal attainment	In Parsons' cybernetic hierarchy, political subsystem determines goals via psychological-personality systems and identifies resources and energy necessary for attaining predicted goals. This subsystem is controlled by social and cultural systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The political factor explains lower variance the consequences of Afghans' migrations on qazvin society than the social factor does.</li> </ol>

Resource: Ritzier, 2015: 131-150

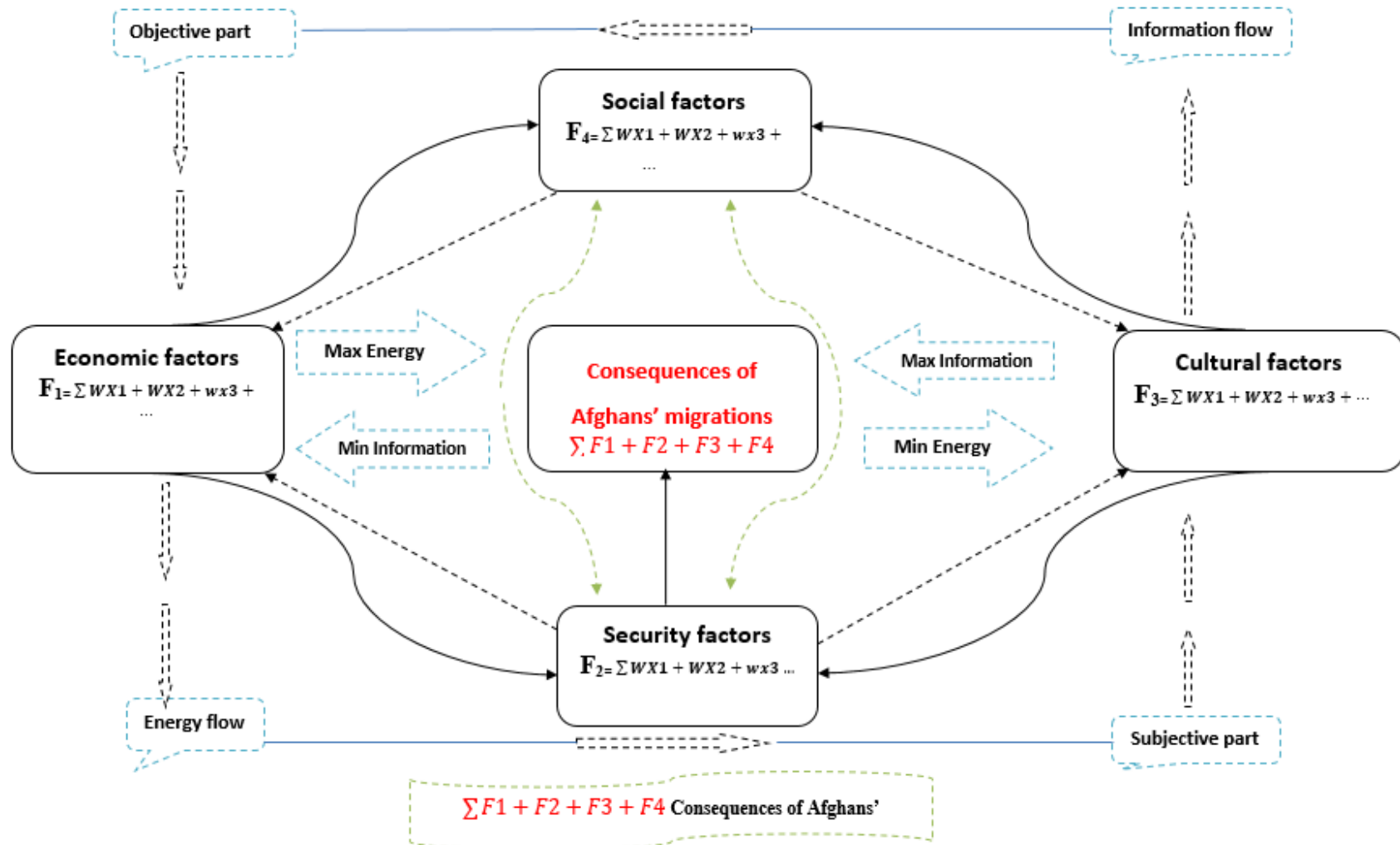


Figure 1. The research cybernetic conceptual model extracted from the theoretical framework



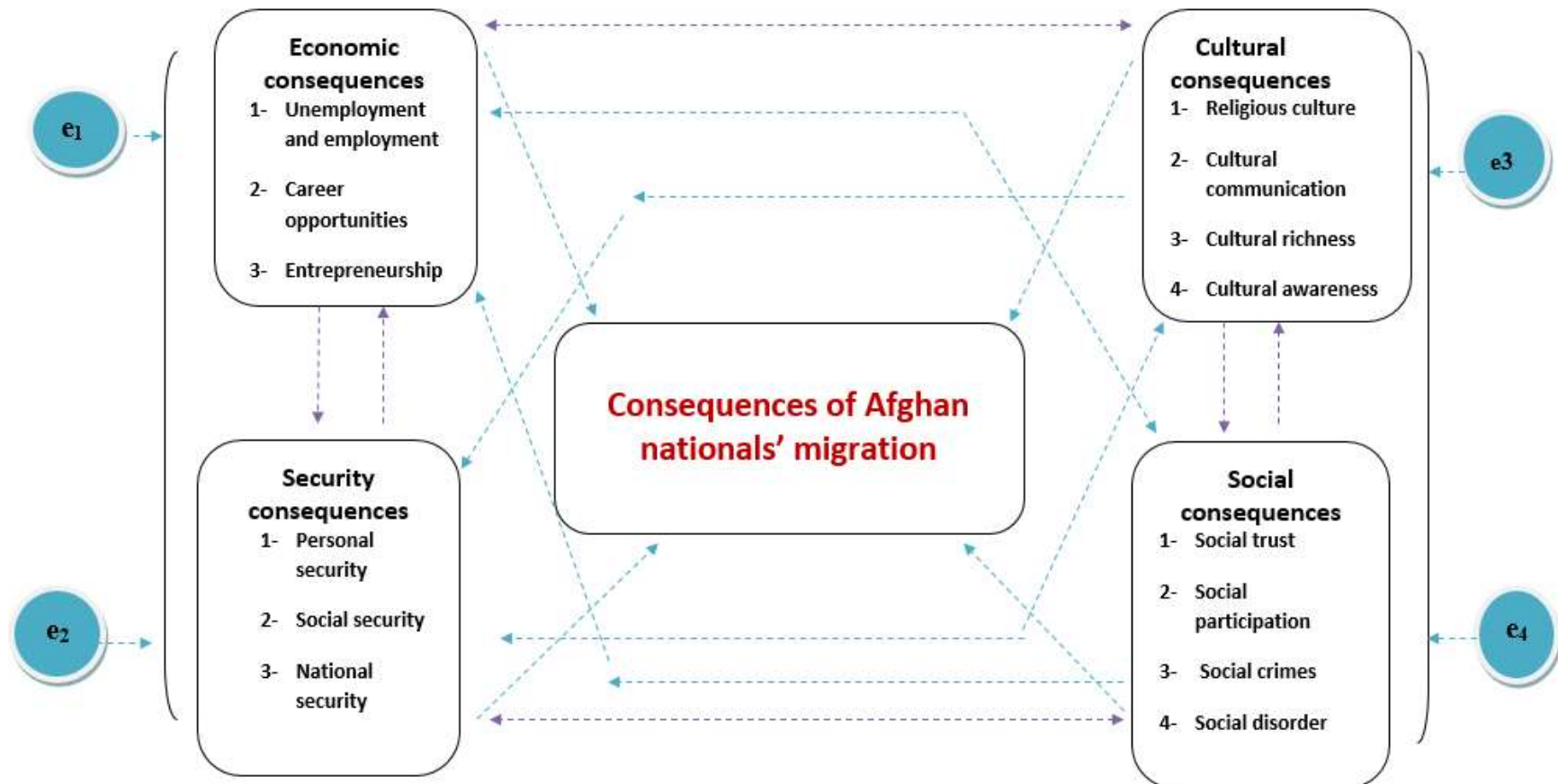


Figure 2. Causal model of the study

#### 4. Research methodology

The present research employs a descriptive-analytical method and survey research. The population of the study consisted of all citizens of Qazvin City who were 381598 individuals according to the General Population and Housing Census in 2011.

The sample size was calculated as 384 participants via Cochran's formula. Participants were selected via multistage stratified sampling method in such a way that from four districts in Qazvin City, two districts were selected. Then, from each selected district, two areas were selected. In the next stage, from each area, four blocks were selected for investigation.

To collect data, a form of demographic data such as gender, age, education, marital status, job, and the amount of income was used. A researcher-made questionnaire was employed for assessing the participants' attitudes towards Afghan refugees.

This questionnaire includes 30 items divided into two sections; the first section contains 30 items related to the attitude of the study population towards Afghan refugees in terms of economic, cultural, social, and security dimensions presented in the Likert scale.

The second section includes 7 items presented in the Bogardus Scale assessing the social tendency and distance of citizens of Qazvin City from Afghan refugees. In this scale, the first item is scored 7 and the last item is scored 1.

Then, the number of each item is multiplied in the percentage of participants who agreed with the item. A score is obtained from the sum of multiplications indicating the participants' tendencies towards Afghans.

The content validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by researchers and experts of social sciences. The reliability of the questionnaire was obtained as 70% using Cronbach's alpha.

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS-23 and the factor analysis technique. To determine goodness of fit of the collected data, the KMO statistic and Bartlett's test were employed. Those statistics indicated that the data have goodness of fit for factor analysis.

**Table 2:** Values of the KMO, Bartlett's test, and the significance level

The analyzed variable	KMO statistic	Bartlett's statistic	Sig.
Measuring qazvin citizens' attitudes towards Afghan nationals	0.899	678.4574	0.000



## 5. FIGResearch findings

In this study, 384 participants were surveyed in terms of their attitudes toward Afghan refugees. They were 300 men (78.1%) and 84 women (21.9%). Other participants' demographic characteristics are presented in table 3.

**Table 3:**Demographic characteristics of the study population

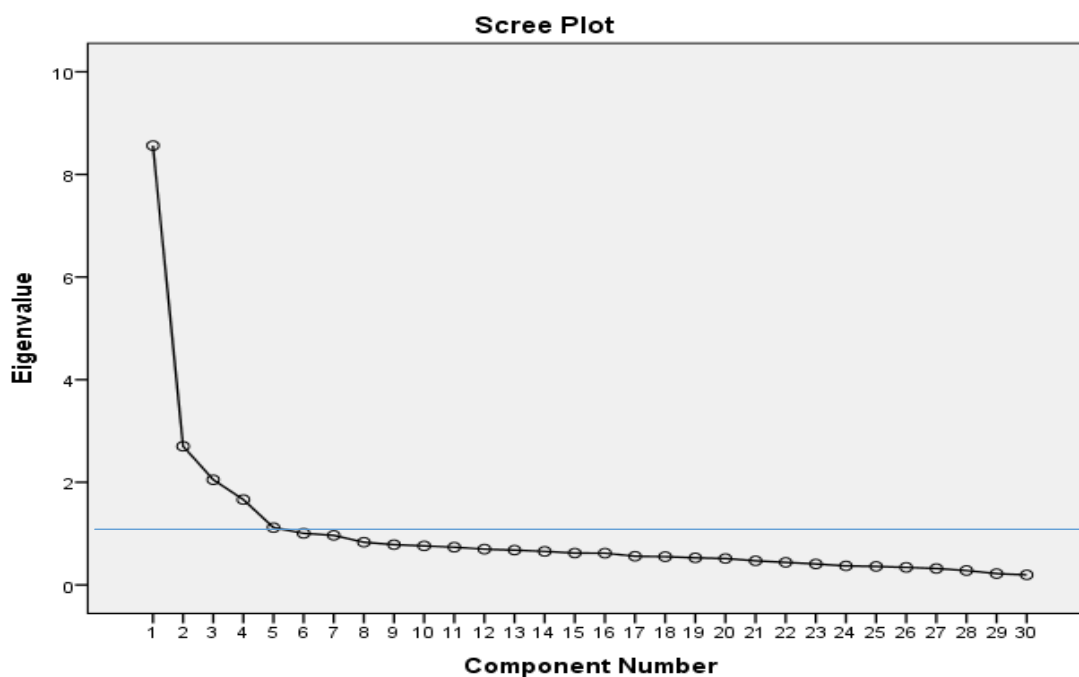
Variable	group	F	
		Number	Percentage
<b>Education</b>	ower than diploma	86	22.4%
	diploma	121	31.5%
	Associate diploma	43	11.2%
	BA/BSc	110	28.7%
	MA/MSc and higher	24	6.1 %
<b>Employment</b>	With free jobs	190	50.4%
	Employees	96	25%
	Workers	19	4.9%
	Student	30	7.8%
	Unemployed	46	%11.9
<b>Marital status</b>	single	116	30.2%
	Married	263	68.4%
	Divorced	2	0.52%
	With dead spouse	3	0.78%
<b>age</b>	15-25	77	20.1%
	26-35	156	40.6%
	36-45	100	%26.1
	46-55	37	9.6%
	56 +	14	3.6%
<b>income (Rial)</b>	25.000.000	157	40.8%
	20.000.000- 25.000.000	133	34.6%
	8.000.000 – 15.000.000	54	14.1%
	15.000.000 – 20.000.000	24	6.3%
	-8.000.000	16	4.2%

In the TVE table (table 4), prioritization, effectiveness, and the number of extracted factors are presented respectively. Accordingly, eigenvalues greater than one is considered as a factor. As indicated in the TVE table, the factor analysis technique automatically reduces the variables entered into the model based on their correlation coefficients with other variables into six factors with eigenvalues greater than one. However, because of the closeness of the 7<sup>th</sup> factor to the eigenvalue, it also was entered into the calculations. As a result, the number of factors reached seven.

**Table 4:** Total Variance Explained

	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation sums of Squared Loadings		
1	8.562	28.539	28.539	8.562	28.539	28.539	4.477	14.923	14.923
2	2.702	9.006	37.545	2.702	9.006	37.545	4.296	14.320	29.244
3	2.050	6.833	44.378	2.050	6.833	44.378	2.333	7.776	37.020
4	1.663	5.542	49.920	1.663	5.542	49.920	2.143	7.142	44.162
5	1.116	3.721	53.641	1.116	3.721	53.641	1.835	6.116	50.277
6	1.005	3.351	56.992	1.005	3.351	56.992	1.566	5.219	55.497
7	.966	3.219	60.211	.966	3.219	60.211	1.414	4.714	60.211
8	.831	2.771	62.982						
9	.785	2.616	65.598						
10	.759	2.532	68.130						
11	.735	2.450	70.580						
12	.697	2.323	72.903						
13	.678	2.260	75.162						
14	.653	2.178	77.340						
15	.621	2.071	79.411						
16	.619	2.064	81.475						
17	.558	1.860	83.336						
18	.550	1.834	85.170						
19	.528	1.759	86.929						
20	.515	1.716	88.645						
21	.469	1.564	209.90						
22	.439	1.464	91.673						
23	.408	1.360	93.033						
24	.370	1.234	94.267						
25	.361	1.203	95.470						
26	.342	1.141	96.611						
27	.321	1.068	97.680						
28	.280	.934	98.614						
29	.220	.735	99.348						
30	.195	.652	100.000						

Furthermore, the TVE table illustrates that the first factor with the eigenvalue as 8.56 and variance as 14.92%, the second one with the eigenvalue as 2.70 and variance as 14.32, the third one with the eigenvalue 2.05 and variance as 7.77, the fourth one with the eigenvalue as 1.66 and variance as 7.14, the fifth one with the eigenvalue as 1.11 and variance as 6.11, the sixth one with the eigenvalue as 1 and variance as 5.21, and finally the seventh one with the eigenvalue as 0.966 and variance as 4.71 totally explain 60.21% of the citizens' attitudes towards consequences of Afghan nationals' migration in the research model.



**Figure 3:** Chart of factors of the test.

In the SP chart, the eigenvalues have decreasing trends and pass the point 1. If a line (the Blue line in the chart) is drawn a distance above axis Y and parallel to axis X, the number of factors extracted from the factor analysis device is shown.

Therefore, with considering the seventh factor located exactly on the line of intersection, the factor analysis device identifies seven factors. Consequently, the pebbles of the model have no capability to become factors and thus they are removed from analyses.

In the RCM table (table 5), since there is the possibility of falling variables and it is likely that variables are loaded on two or several factors, the reloading is required. As a result, this table was used in the factor analysis device so as that the error values can be reduced as many as possible. As observed, after the rotation of the variance, seven variables were loaded on the first factor, eight variables on the second one, four variables on the third one, four variables on the fourth one, two variables on the fifth one, two variables on the sixth one, and finally two variables were loaded on the seventh one.

In this process, item 24 was removed from factor analysis because of being in homogenous metrics. As the values of cumulative percentage of the variance explained indicates in the table, all factors totally explain 60.21% of Qazvin citizens' attitudes towards consequences of Afghan nationals' migrations.

Accordingly, the total explained variance for the first factor is 24.8%, for the second factor is 23.78%, for the third factor is 12.91%, for the fourth factor is 11.86%, for the fifth factor is 10.15%, for the sixth factor is 8.66%, and for the seventh factor is 7.82% out of 100%.

**Table 5:** Rotated Component Matrix

Variable	Component						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1			.719				
2			.734				
3				.656			
4			.703				
5				.745			
6				.787			
7		.675					
8				.580			
9		.656					
10		.690					
11		.673					
12		.563					
13		.632					
14							.844
15							.543
16		.569					
17		.535					
18					.675		
19					.632		
20	.680						
21						.681	
22			.651				
23						.512	
24							
25	.721						
26	.730						
27	.658						
28	.770						
29	.695						
30	.572						

**Description of priority of items of factors obtained from exploratory factor analysis  
(the first section of the questionnaire)**

**Table 6:** Description of the priority of the items of the first factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x28)	How much do you believe that Afghans are adherent to their own job responsibilities?	.770	64(%16.7)	113(%29.4)	207(%53.9)
2(x26)	How much do you believe that Afghans are honest?	.730	149(%38.8)	162(%42.2)	73(%19)
3(x25)	How much do you consider Afghans accountable?	.721	139(%36.2)	126(%32.8)	119(%31)
4(x29)	How much do you know Afghans warm-blooded?	.695	168(%43.8)	162(%42.2)	54(%14.1)
5(x20)	How much do you consider Afghans adherent to religious principles?	.680	79(%20.6)	155(%40.4)	150(%39.1)
6(x27)	How much do you consider Afghans adherent to the law?	.658	184(%47.9)	143(%37.2)	57(%14.8)
7(x30)	How much do you know Afghans disciplined?	.572	190(%49.5)	136(%35.4)	58(%15.1)

**Table 7:** Description of the priority of the items of the second factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x10)	Afghan nationals' presence has made our society vulnerable.	.690	50(%13)	107(%27.9)	227(%59.1)
2(x7)	Afghan nationals' presence has caused the raise of the crime rate in qazvin?	.676	56(%14.6)	95(%24.7)	233(%60.7)
3(x11)	To what extend do you know Afghans trustful?	.673	206(%53.6)	107(%27.9)	71(%18.5)
4(x9)	Afghan nationals are one of the factors of the spread of drug abuse in the society.	.656	107(%27.9)	88(%22.9)	189(%49.2)
5(x13)	Afghans' presence can threats our national security.	.632	77(%20.1)	91(%23.7)	216 (%56.3)
6(x16)	The government should prevent Afghans' immigrations.	.569	27(%7)	58(%15.1)	299(%77.9)
7(x12)	qazvin women's marriage to Afghan nationals is a threat to the family institution.	.563	62(%16.1)	56(%14.6)	266(%69.3)
8(x17)	Afghanistan is a threat for our territorial integrity.	.535	123(%32)	82(%21.4)	179(%46.6)

**Table 8:** Description of the priority of the items of the third factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x2)	To what extent do Afghan nationals cause the decrease in the rate of job opportunities?	.734	65(%16.9)	88(%22.9)	231(%60.2)
2(x1)	Is there any correlation between the youth's unemployment and the presence of Afghan nationals in qazvin?	.719	72(%18.8)	86(%22.4)	226(%58.9)
3(x4)	What effects does Afghan nationals' presence have on workers' wages rates?	.703	42(%10.9)	73(%19)	269(%70.1)
4(x22)	How much do Afghans influence th youth's culture of manual labors?	.651	48(%12.5)	97(%25.3)	239(%62.2)

**Table 9:** Description of the priority of the items of the fourth factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x6)	How much does Afghan nationals' role in entrepreneurship and production in qazvin?	.787	282(%73.4)	62(%16.1)	40(%10.4)
2(x5)	To what extent has qazvin profited economically from Afghan nationals' presence in qazvin?	.745	177(%46.1)	102(%26.6)	105(%27.3)
3(x3)	To what extent do Afghan nationals enjoy specialty?	.656	248(%64.6)	91(%23.7)	45(%11.7)
4(x8)	Afghan nationals' participation in voluntarily social activities is significant.	.580	254(%66.1)	91(%23.7)	39(%10.2)

**Table 10:** Description of the priority of the items of the fifth factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x18)	To what extent is insecurity in the eastern borders of qazvin related to being co-border with Afghanistan.	.675	44(%11.5)	90(%23.4)	250(%65.1)
2(x19)	Most Afghan nationals enter qazvin illegally.	.632	13(%3.4)	48(%12.5)	323(%84.1)

**Table 11:** Description of the priority of the items of the sixth factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x21)	How much do you consider Afghans culturally enriched?	.681	219(%57)	121(%31.5)	44(%11.5)
2(x23)	How much do you believe that Afghans are aware and knowledgeable people?	.512	232(%60.4)	122(%31.8)	30(%7.8)



**Table 12:** Description of the priority of the items of the seventh factor

Row	Item	Eigenvalue	Low	To some extent	High
1(x14)	To what extent do you tend to travel Afghanistan?	.844	331(%86.2)	17(%4.4)	36(%9.4)
2(x15)	The name of Afghanistan is with a sense of insecurity for us.	.543	50(%13)	75(%19.5)	259(%67.4)

**Table 13:** Measuring citizens' attitudes based on the Bogardus Social Distance Scale (the second section of the questionnaire)

Items	Item weights	Percept of positive answers	Percent of negative answers
I am willing that my sisters or brothers marry to Afghans.	7	1	99
I am willing to be a friend of an Afghan.	6	31.5	68.5
I accept to be a neighbor of an Afghan.	5	20.8	79.2
I am willing to live with an Afghan in a neighborhood.	4	26	74
I am willing to be a citizen with an Afghan.	3	26.8	73.2
I am willing to live with an afghan in the same city.	2	27.9	72.1
Afghans should leave our country.	1	74.5	25.5

## 6. Data analysis and discussion

Findings of the present study indicated that citizens generally have negative attitudes towards Afghan refugees so that the mean percentage of positive answers of the population without considering the negative measures is 23.33%, while the mean percentage of negative answers is 77.66%. According to the Bogardus scale, the total reception of Afghans with only 1% and their total rejection with 74% indicate great social distance between Afghans and the study population.

The results obtained from this research are consistent with Shaterian et al. (2015) conducted on attitudes of citizens in Aran and Bidgol City towards Afghan refugees living in distressed areas. Findings of the mentioned research also indicated the existence of negative attitudes (prejudgments about Afghan refugees) in the study population. Moreover, the findings of the present study is consistent with another research conducted by Dehghani Hamani (2011) which indicated that there is a significant social distance between Iranian people and Afghan refugees.

In the present study, 30 selected indices were summarized into 7 factors via the factor analysis technique. Then, the contribution of each factor in determining attitudes of citizens of Qazvin City was identified. The first component mainly covers the personality factor and the second component reflects the social factor. More than a half of indices are loaded on the two personality and social factors. Other factors are economic, productive, security, cultural, and attractive factors.

In counting the 7 factors and the degree of their effects on the research construct, the personality factor with 7 measures indicated that it has the highest role in creating citizens' negative attitudes towards Afghan refugees. These results are consistent with Parsons' analysis in explaining Cybernetics

and explain it under the personality system. He believes that although main materials of the personality structure is extracted via socialization of social structures and culture, personality becomes an independent system via its links with its own organisms and uniqueness of its personal life. In other words, the personality system is not a secondary phenomenon (Ritzier, 2015: 129). From among the seven items of the first factor, "Afghan refugees' commitment with their own job responsibilities" has the highest significance among citizens. Most citizens consider Afghan refugees as those who have commitment to their job responsibilities. It seems that the reason for this commitment can be searched in Afghan refugees' sense of fear from job insecurity in that Afghan workers, both legal and illegal ones, may be fired by their employers; thus they do not enjoy any job security.

The social system on the one hand gives identity to the personality system, and on the other hand is a ground for forming social interactions among citizens and Afghan refugees. As findings indicated, this factor is considered as the second factor affecting the emergence of negative attitudes towards Afghan refugees. The phenomenon of marriage with natives, the expansion of crimes in the community, reliance on migrants, etc. are results of the conflicts among actors in social domains. Among 8 items of the social factor, "the presence of Afghan refugees can make our community vulnerable" has higher significance than other variables. The reason may be the long term continuation of Afghans' presence in the host country.

The economic factor is considered as a mediator whose task is to match needs of the community with the social environment. Findings of the research indicated that citizens consider Afghans' presence as an obstacle to their job opportunities; thus it causes damages to Afghans' social face for the study population. Therefore, the city, as a system exiting in matching itself with the situation in which it is, has been unsuccessful and consequently, it causes the rejection of Afghans rather than their reception. The youth's unemployment, the reduction of job opportunity rates, and the increase in the rate of workers' wages are instances of this approach. In addition, the absence of migrants' specialization, the absence of entrepreneurship and the formation of economic voluntarily actions are caused by this incompatibility of the social environment with economic needs.

The political factor is the fifth factor in creating citizens' negative attitudes. Because of long Iranian borders and geographical features, controlling borders is usually difficult; hence migrants can easily enter into Iran or exit it. This issue has endangered the eastern borders in Iran. As the task of Parsons' social system explains the political system of achieving aims, Afghans' unauthorized entrance into Iran in the one hand, and the tensions in geographical borders due to neighboring with Afghanistan on the other hand have challenged the achievement of aims. As a result, this dominant discourse has penetrated into the public field via the political system.

The cultural factor is dominant in Cybernetics of Parsons' theory. The research results should have indicated this superiority of the cultural factor. But findings put this factor in the sixth rank. This issue can be searched in paradigmatic changes developed since the publication of Parsons' book in 1951. Parsons considers functions of the cultural systems as maintenance of cultural patterns dominating the community. This idea originated from his conservative sociology. But since 1950's, the world experienced a paradigmatic change from cultural foundationalism to cultural pluralism. Poverty in Afghan refugees' subculture results in the failure in the formation of opposite position or resistance of the citizens against the migrants' culture.

At last, the citizens rarely tended to be interviewed and complete questionnaires; thus they sometimes participated in the study at the insistence of the researcher.

## 7. Conclusion and suggestions

It seems that findings of the present study are not significantly consistent with Parsons' Cybernetics. In fact, this theory introduces culture as a dominant factor, while culture is in the sixth rank after political, economic, social, and personality factors. In a study by Pejman(2015), the validity of this research results is confirmed. Hence, in order to verify the results of this research, it is suggested that similar studies be conducted on citizens' attitudes towards Afghan refugees in Iran or other countries hosting Afghan refugees. With regard that the first and third factors (personality and socioeconomic factors) have more significant effects on the study citizens' towards Afghan refugees than other factors do, urban and national authorities should adopt strategies necessary for reforming citizens' attitudes towards migrants in that there is a great social distance between Afghan refugees and the citizens.

## 8. Acknowledgments

The researchers are grateful of the General Directorate for Aliens and Foreign Migrants of Governorate of Qazvin which provided grounds for conducting the present research. In addition, we are thankful of Dr. Mohammad Bagher Rozgar ; Dr. Ehsan Panahbar and Dr. Ahmad Esfandiari for their invaluable tips.

## 9. Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interests to declare.

## 10. Footnote

(1). The statistics of those refugees have been obtained from Iranian Interior Ministry's General Directorate for Aliens and Foreign Migrants, but they have not formally released.

## Reference

- Abbasi-Shavazi MJ, et al. (2015). Immigrant–native fertility differentials: The Afghans in Iran. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*. 24(3):273–297. DOI: 10.1177/0117196815594718.
- Abbasi-Shavazi MJ and Sadeghi R (2014). Socio-cultural adaptation of second-generation Afghans in Iran. *International Migration*. First published online 10 January 2014. DOI: 10.1111/imig.12148.
- Akhlaghi, Y. & Orei, S. (2016). Emotional coldness: migrants' feelings of host communities relying on the of Afghan refugees' accounts residing in Mashhad. *Iranian Journal of Social Issues*. 7 (1), 5-29.
- Abdizarrin, S., et al. (2008). The relationship between identity styles of personal and collective self-efficacy: comparing Iranian and Afghani male high school students In Qom. *Journal of Applied Psychology*. 2 (8). 686-700.
- Alavi, M. (2002). The effect of Afghans' immigration on national security of IRI (with focus on employment). MA thesis, Department of Political Sciences. Tarbiat Modarres University.
- Bazzi, Kh. (2006). Investigating cultural, economic, and social consequences of the presence of Afghan refugees in Zabol City. *Journal of Geographical Landscape*. 1 (3). 23-36.
- Burbur, T. (2014). Migrants and ways to transition from feeling exiled: the study of theoretical approaches. *Journal of Social Sciences*. 66, 255-285.

- Dehghani Mahani, M. (2011). Investigating psycho-social distance between Iranian people and Afghan migrants and its effects on crimes. MA thesis. Faculty of Law. Payam Noor University.
- Durkheim, E. (2004). *The elementary forms of religious life*. B. Parham (Trans.). Tehran: Markaz Publication.
- Ershad, F. & Sadaf, M. (2010). Migration; inequality and its consequences. *Journal of Social Analysis*. 4 (59).
- Ebrahimi, S. & Faraj Pahlou, A. (2010). A cybernetic approach to reviewing system of articles in scientific journals. *Journal of Kitab*. No. 82. 186-198.
- Faraji Davar, A. (2012). An introduction to advanced computational methods in science and technology: the systems approach and Cybernetics. *Monthly Book of Sciences and Technologies*. (91). 60-61.
- General Population and Housing Census (2011). Statistical Center of Iran.
- Ghiasvand, A. (2008). *The use of SPSS statistical software for analyzing data*. Tehran: Loya Publication.
- Hafeznia, M. R. (2009). *An introduction to research methods in humanities*. Tehran: SAMT.
- İçduygu, A. (2015). *Syrian refugees in Turkey: The long road*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.
- Irandoust, K., Mohammad Hossein Bouchani, K. & Tavallaei, R. (2014). Analyzing transformation of domestic migration patterns with focus on urban migrations. *Journal of Urban Studies*. No. 6. 105-118.
- Isazadeh, S. & Jahanbakhsh, M. (2012). Illegal immigration and its economic consequences in host countries (with focus on Afghan refugees in Iran). *Journal of Cultural and Social Strategies*. 1 (2).
- Jamshidiha, Gh. & Ali Babaei, A. (2002). Investing factors affecting the return of Afghan refugees with focus on residents of Golshahr Town of Mashhad. *Journal of Social Sciences*. No. 20. 71-90.
- Kazemi, A. (2008). The effect of Afghans' immigrations on their crimes in Mashhad. MA thesis, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences. Islamic Azad University, Mashhad.
- Koepke, B. (2011). The situation of Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran nine years after the overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Middle East Institute, pour la Recherche Strategique.
- Kronenfeld, D. A. (2011). Can Afghanistan cope with returnees? A Look at some new data. Middle East Institute, pour la Recherche Strategique.
- Mirzaei, H. (2014). Anthropological study of the linguistic identity of Afghan refugees in Iran. *Journal of Iranian Social Sciences*. 8 (3), 109-128.
- Maher, F. (1994). The effect of Afghan workers in the agricultural sector on Iranian rural community. *Journal of Agricultural and Development*. No. 6. 180-198.
- Mahmoudian, H. (2007). Afghans' immigration to Iran: A change in economic, social, and population features and compatibility with the community. *Iranian Journal of Demography*. No. 4. 42-69.
- Mohmand, R.H. (2010). The saga of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Middle East Institute, pour la Recherche Strategique.
- Naghshnejad, M. (2015). *Children of Afghan Migrants in Iran*. Bonn, Germany: Institute for the study of labor (IZA).
- Oppenheim, A. (1992). *Questionnaire design, interviewing and attitude measurement*. London: Pinter.
- Papoli Yazdi, M. H. & Rajabi Sanajerdi, H. (2013). Theories of city and suburbs. Tehran: SMAT.

- Pejman, A. (2015). The narration of return (a view of the conditions of Afghans having returned to Afghanistan). Kabul: *Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission*.
- Pour Rohani, S. (2014). Afghan Migrants in Iran and Citizenship. Department of Government and Civilization Studies Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*. 4 (4).
- Ritzer, G. (2003). *Contemporary sociological theories*. M. Salasi (Trans.). Tehran: Elmi Publication.
- Sadeghi, F. (2007). Iranian government and Afghan refugees: change in policies and transformations in identity. *Journal of Dialogue*. (50).
- Sajjadpour, M. K. (2005). Conceptual and operational framework in management of international migration, case study of Iran. *Journal of Geographical Research*. (78), 9-30.
- Saroukhani, B. (2001). *Research methods in social sciences*. Tehran: Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies.
- Shaterian, M., Aaskari Kaviri, A. & Fakhri, F. (2015). Investigating the attitudes of citizen of Aran and Bidgol towards Afghan refugees living in distressed areas. The first national conference on distressed and historical urban areas: challenges and strategies. Kashan, Kashan University.
- Shaterian, M. & Ganjipour, M. (2010). The study of the effect of Afghans' immigrations on socioeconomic conditons of Kashan City. *Journal of Research on Urban Planning*. 1 (3). 83-102.
- Taherpour, F., Zamani, R. & Mohseni, N. (2005). A comparative study of personal, cognitive, and motivational bases of prejudgments about Afghan refugees. *Journal of Psychological Research*. 8 (3, 4). 7-28.
- Vahdat Azad, F. (2012). Study of the socio-political causes of migration Afghans to Iran (after the Islamic Revolution). MA thesis. Department of Political Sciences. Central Tehran Branch.
- Vosoughi, M. & Hojati, (2012). International migrants are participants in birthplace development: case study of Lar City. *Journal of Studies of Social Development*. 4 (2).
- Zanjani, H. (2014). *Immigration*. Tehran: SAMT.
- Zareh Shahabadi, A., Torkan, R. & Khodadadi, A. (2014). Measuring women's attitudes about urbanization in Yazd. *Journal of Urban Sociological Studies*. 4 (11), 61-90.
- Zarghani, H. & Mousavi, Z. (2013). International migrations and national security. *Journal of Strategic Studies*. 16 (1), 7-26.