

# Research Paper: Analysis of the Effect of Empowering Women on the Motivation of Creating and Developing Rural Businesses (Case Study: Kermanshah Province, Iran)



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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** Empowering rural women is one of the policies and strategies used to develop rural businesses because rural businesses can create employment and reduce unemployment, resulting in increased self-confidence and empowerment of the villagers. Regarding the importance of this issue, the present study aimed at investigating the effect of empowering women on the motivation of creating and developing rural businesses.

**Methods:** This paper is an applied study in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytic in nature. The statistical population consists of 504 samples selected from 84 villages in 26 rural districts. The data were collected using bibliographic and field study methods. To analyze the data, a compiled framework based on the previous studies was used, which was composed of 5 indexes of empowerment in 50 items and rural business in 14 items.

**Results:** The results showed that empowering women was effective in motivating them to create and develop rural businesses as the result of multivariate regression indicated that the empowerment variables account for .378 of changes in rural businesses. The results of the KODAS technique used to assess the motivation of women to develop rural businesses showed that rural women are in different business motivation situations so that in terms of motivation to develop rural businesses, only women in Sarchaqa and Seyed Ayaz were more favorable than other villages.

**Conclusion:** Women play an important role in the family and since villages are suitable environments for the development of non-agricultural, production and service activities, they can provide the appropriate conditions for creating business and employment for women.

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## 1. Introduction

One of the signs of development in each society is the business area set and managed by the female entrepreneurs. Women's participation in economic activities has played an important role not only in the development of women but also in the process of economic and social development in society. Many development policies, all over the world, intend to improve women's position because they experience various social, economic, problems, etc. (Pradhan et al, 2019). Undoubtedly, the gender gap is more prominent in rural areas, hindering women to participate and influence (Bleak & Michelitch, 2018). These inequalities, in long term, not only result in imbalances but also affect the population structure, fruitfulness, and overall well-being of rural people. In this context, studying the strategies to enhance women's empowerment and their comprehensive development to narrow the gender gap and increase the efficiency of production and social-economic sustainable development in rural areas is of great importance (Han et al, 2019). Thus, empowering women is considered to be a major need to monitor progress and achieve the goals of sustainable development, and is associated with various issues such as eliminating poverty and hunger and improving health, increasing savings, reducing inequality, and distributing wealth, which lead to long-term growth (Portes et al, 2019). Women are often considered mobility deprived, which has an impact on their quality of life and the assignment of caring responsibilities to women entail meeting specific needs and wants (Noack, 2010).

Therefore, empowering women is rooted in issues such as human development and gender justice through concepts including choice, power, control over life, decision-making ability, and life skills. Thus, increasing women's abilities and skills can have an important role in improving the rural household conditions and, as a result, rural life (Chant, 2003).

Empowering rural women is one of the concepts of business and one of the strategies and policies used to develop rural businesses because rural businesses can result in high self-confidence and empowerment of the villagers besides creating jobs and reducing unemployment (Gibosen & Olivio, 2006). The strategies of rural economic development pay more attention to the entrepreneurs who start and develop new businesses rather than attracting big businesses (Deller et al, 2019). In this sense, the politicians use it as a key strategy to prevent the evacuation of rural areas, and women consider it as a career option that can provide them with income and

independence (Akqun et al., 2010). Women's business causes many benefits in terms of earning potential and prevention of risks (Hamwi & Lizarralde, 2017; Li & Shen, 2019). In addition, the economic evaluation shows that such occupations have acceptable economic justification and can increase rural income by up to 57% (Hugblade et al, 2009).

Regarding the increasing diversity and access to economic activities in rural areas, it is of greater importance to understand the elements of rural businesses (Korsgaard et al., 2015; Dubois, 2016; Bosworth & Turner, 2018). Rural businesses encompass opportunities for innovation (Hjalager & Kwiatkowski, 2018: 218), cause changes in employment of rural areas, and offer a variety of livelihood options in addition to agriculture (Greenberg et al., 2018). Since the rural economy does not depend only on agriculture, initial research on the elements and reliability of rural businesses has been expanded and there are different limitations such as lack of fundamental infrastructure, low level of education, and low access to credit and technology (Carter et al, 2019). On the other hand, the weaknesses and shortcomings in rural economies have triggered efforts for economic development, innovation, and improving productivity (OECD, 2016; Phillipson et al, 2019).

In most developing countries, including Iran, women play a key role in rural communities. However, a high percentage of rural women suffer from a lack or shortage of opportunities to access education, employment, and social services, their capabilities are underestimated in improving the lives of their families, community, and of their own (Koeing et al., 2003). Therefore, one of the goals of development in Iran is reducing unemployment and potential enhancement of women's empowerment because many issues such as unemployment, migration, marginalization, and poverty are originated from the underdevelopment of villages and high rates of rural unemployment. According to the 2016 report of the Iranian Census Bureau, women comprise 49.6% of the population of the country, among whom 13% are active workforce in the cities and 40% are workforce in the villages, excluding those who make a living at home through self-employment. On the other hand, a significant number of women in Iran are educated and skilled applicants, among whom only 16.3% are economically active as reported by the World Bank in 2011 (World Bank, 2011). According to the 2016 census, 24.51% of the population in the province of Kermanshah lived in villages, of which about 14% were women. Regarding the statistics released by the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Affairs, the unemployment rate in this

province is above 3 percent and it is ranked among the cities with the highest rate of unemployment and this rate includes rural areas as well as rural women, and hence, the employment and business of this part of the population of the province should not be ignored because creating opportunities for employment of this part of population leads to changes in economic and social conditions of the province. The studies, nevertheless, showed that women face many problems when starting a business since people in the rural areas have more traditional attitudes towards gender, the assessment and management skills among the rural women are lower than those of urban women, and access to non-local capital is more difficult, all resulting in negative effects. Thus, it is required to consider the mentioned issues as well as the different aspects of women's empowerment and measure it to create a business. These factors must be examined using a comprehensive perspective and valid methodology. Considering the importance of this issue, the present study aimed at investigating the effect of empowering women in rural areas of Kermanshah on the motivation of creating rural businesses to:

- Examine the impact of indexes of empowering women on creating business
- Examine the motivation of creating business by women in rural areas

## 2. Literature Review

Concerns regarding the inclusion of women in the poorest group of the poor led to various approaches such as empowerment, which is considered by the UN in a broader sense as one of the key goals of the Third Millennium (Khan & Bibi, 2011). The two UN world conferences in 1980 and 1985 emphasized political and social issues but in the third conference in 1987, the main focus was on the gender equality and empowerment of women through socio-economic development; the subsequent important reports by the UN agencies emphasized this issue (Topal, 2019), which was finally considered as the main goal of sustainable development plans for 2030 (United Nations, 2015).

Empowerment emphasizes gaining more control over life through increasing awareness and is considered as a mechanism that enables people, organizations and societies to control the issue (Quaedvlieg et al., 2014) and makes people aware of the dynamics of power in their work and life in order to develop the skills and capacities needed to gain acceptable and reasonable control over their lives (Mudege et al., 2015). Moreover, this concept

emphasizes enhancing an individual's power over time, by which people, organizations, and communities learn to make a close relationship between their goals and the sense of achieving them as well as gaining access to and control over resources (Ngwenya et al., 2019). Empowerment is an element of increasing assets and income and increasing decision-making capacity through the optimal use of time (Bain, 2018), since providing more opportunities for women is a positive and important goal that cannot be left to top-down solutions of national or international development, but it should be extracted from a common ideology focused on women's rights and empowerment (Waltz, 2016). In the Beijing Declaration (1990) that emphasized the principle of equality in all social areas, women's empowerment was considered as a means for their participation in the decision-making process and access to power to gain equality, development, and peace (Charlier et al., 2006). In this context, there are debates all over the world on assigning credit to women, which is considered to be the key to sustainable social and economic development in the 21st century (Ganle et al., 2014). In this context, empowering women that includes decision-making ability, choice, self-organization, and participation, considers creating personal, group, and collective power to change the existing situation, and regards it as a dynamic process that enables women to understand and criticize the realities surrounding them and relying upon their abilities and power, try to change the undesirable conditions (Rezai & Zarei, 2014). In this sense, empowering women is a social phenomenon and since social phenomena are not one-dimensional, empowering women depends on various internal factors such as physical and mental conditions, and economic situation as well as external factors such as social structures (Kaldi & Salahshoori, 2012).

Since rural women have less access to key agricultural resources such as land, workforce, technology, animal husbandry, and education (Ransom & Bain, 2011; Bain, 2018), rapid changes in information technology and decline in the economic significance of agriculture in rural areas have attracted women's attention to developing rural businesses (Korsgaard et al., 2015; Bosworth & Turner, 2018), which is applied as a recognized method to facilitate women's empowerment in emerging economies (Ajjan et al., 2014; Crittenden, 2019). Besides improving the women's bargaining ability, it makes them economically independent and increases their control over their income from assets (Johanson et al., 2016). It, on the other hand, creates a sense of hope and vitality in the community by providing job opportunities; some experts asserted that business development is the most important strategy for rural development in the

Third World (Gibosen & Olivio, 2006) and considered it as an influential means for empowerment (Carr, 2003; Ngwenya et al., 2019). Thus, understanding the qualities of a rural business, due to growing diversity and access to economic activities in rural areas, is of great importance (Dubois, 2016). Rural businesses contain different features such as local relationships and developmental activities (Sofer & Saada, 2016). It can be said that business is not merely business in a rural location. Regarding increasing communication and interdependence between urban and rural economies (Moyes et al., 2015), it encompasses agricultural development and the related activities, i.e. handicrafts and rural industries, socio-economic infrastructures, social services, and the relevant facilities, and above all, human resource development in rural areas (Papzan et al., 2011).

There are various studies on women's empowerment, such as the study by Koolaei and Taheri (2011). They studied the effect of empowering women in rural development in Iran and found that the more empowered women are, their political participation, productivity, and social role will increase. Furthermore, Sa'di et al. (2014) studied the effect of domestic businesses on rural women's social empowerment and concluded that social empowerment has a significant relation with the type of business and social empowerment has a high impact. A'zami et al. (2016) evaluated the effect of the components of cognitive empowerment on women's social participation in the city of Kangavar and concluded that the components of empowerment are significantly different, and there is a significant association between age, relationships, using the Internet, newspapers and mass media and women's social participation. Kazemi et al. (2018) studied the effect of social capital on rural women's cognitive empowerment in Salmas. They showed that social capital has a positive and significant effect on women's empowerment. Farrashi et al. (2019) examined the effective factors on empowering rural women who received microcredits in the city of Nahavand. They concluded that individuals' attitudes towards microcredits, the supervision of the lender on loan utilization, loan utilization in empowering activities, educating the lender, and the total amount of loan are regarded as effective factors in empowering women.

Sharma and Kanta Varma (2008) found that participation in income-generating activities is one of the factors of empowering women. Chaudhry & Nosheen (2009) found, in their study entitled "the effective factors on empowering rural women in the south of Panjab", that the family participation rate and social and cultural norms affect empowerment. Abraham (2011), in a study

aiming at measuring social empowerment, concluded that older members are more empowered. Rani Mohanty et al. (2013) showed that empowering women through economic independence is provided via the successful functions of microbusinesses, having a greater impact on social and economic empowerment. Mitra and Kundu (2012), in a study aiming at evaluating empowerment through social capital, found that social capital plays an important role in empowering rural women. Waltz (2016) conducted a research to study rural women's empowerment in the south of Brazil and concluded that rural women's empowerment and employment are accessible by modeling urban employment for women through institutionalizing these plans for gender dynamics and equality. Finally, Topal (2019) studied economic reform to empower women in Saudi Arabia and found that empowering women in Saudi Arabia has been used as a goal and code to increase competition in the economy of this country based on the integration of the international economy.

### Introducing the region

The province of Kermanshah is situated in western Iran, which is bound on the west by Iraq and on the three other sides by Lorestan, Kordestan, Ilam, and Hamedan. It lies between 36° and 33° to 15° and 35° N latitude and 24° and 45° to 30° and 48° E longitude. According to the latest census in 2016, the population includes 1952434 people, of which 1468615 people live in cities and 478444 people in villages. This province is divided into 14 towns, 27 districts, 26 cities, 85 villages, and 3172 rural districts (Population and Housing Census, 2016). Figure 1 shows the geographic location of Kermanshah in Iran:

### 3. Methodology

The statistical population of the present study consists of 230640 rural women living in 85 rural districts of the province of Kermanshah. Due to broad area, high population size, and lack of access to all regions, the cluster sampling method was used; in the first stage, 2 rural districts from each town and 3 villages from each rural district and 6 people from each village were selected and totally 504 people from 84 villages in 26 rural districts were selected to complete the questionnaire in 14 towns. Selecting samples in each village, the systematic random sampling method was used.

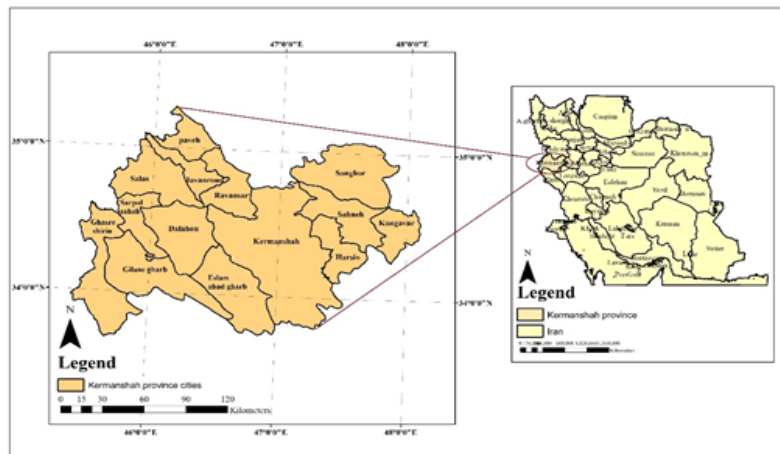


Figure 1. Geographic location of Kermanshah in Iran

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Bibliographic method (the introductory part of the research) and field study (questionnaire) were used to collect data. Considering the objective of this study, selecting the framework of basic indexes of the research is of great importance. Therefore, the indexes used in this study were selected from the previous studies after examining the theoretical literature. Thus, for the variable of empowering women, 5 indexes were used: personal empowerment and cognition (16 indicators), social and cultural empowerment (13 indicators), technical empowerment (7 indicators), economic empowerment (9 indicators), and educational empowerment (6 indicators). Moreover, 14 indicators were used for the variable of business motivation (Table 1).

The questionnaire was primarily designed with closed-ended questions in the form of a 5-point Likert Scale (very high, high, moderate, low, and very low). Making necessary changes and revisions, the validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by the experts. The reliability of the questionnaire was measured by distributing 30 questionnaires as a pre-test in the region under study using Cronbach's alpha and the total reliability was estimated as 0.815, indicating proper coordination among the items (Table 2).

To analyze data, descriptive and inferential methods were used. In descriptive statistics, the mean and standard deviation were used, and multivariate regression was used in the inferential statistics by using SPSS to predict the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable. In this method, the desirability of alternatives is determined by using two measures. The primary measure is related to the Euclidean distance of alternatives from the negative ideal. Using this type of distance requires an l2-norm indifference space for cri-

teria. The secondary measure is the Taxicab distance which is related to the l1-norm indifference space. It is clear that the alternative which has greater distance from the negative-ideal solution is more desirable. In this method, if we have two alternatives that are incomparable according to the Euclidean distance, the Taxicab distance is used as a secondary measure. Although the l2-norm indifference space is preferred in the CODAS, two types of indifference space could be considered in its process. Suppose that we have n alternatives and m criteria. The steps of the proposed method are presented as follows:

Step 1. Construct the decision-making matrix (x).

Step 2. Calculate the normalized decision matrix.

Step 3. Calculate the weighted normalized decision matrix.

Step 4. Determine the negative-ideal solution.

Step 5. Calculate the Euclidean and Taxicab distances of alternatives from the negative-ideal solution, as follows:

$$E_i = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^m (r_{ij} - ns_j)^2}$$

$$T_i = \sum_{j=1}^m |r_{ij} - ns_j|$$

Step 6. Construct the relative assessment matrix, as follows:

$$h_{ik} = (E_i - E_k) + (\phi(E_i - E_k) \times (T_i - T_k))$$

**Table 1.** List of indexes and indicators

Variable	Index	Indicator	Source
Empowerment	Individual and cognitive	Leadership, motivation for independence, need for success, self-confidence, and self-esteem, the tendency for creativity, ability to take risks, being open to criticism, ambiguity-tolerance (ability to face unpredicted events), determination and hardworking, discipline and order, full attention to work, insisting on problem-solving, accountability, social acceptance, understanding values, accuracy in work	Khosravipour and Pourjavid, 2017; Gheisari, 2012; Spritzer, 1995)
	Social and cultural	Participation in charities, participation in constructive activities, attending meetings, absence of harassment, membership in rural organizations, increasing communication and intimacy among rural women, others' positive attitude toward entrepreneurship, traditions, norms and existing beliefs in the village, families' customs and beliefs, men's beliefs about women's management abilities, motivation for gaining social status, doing collective work, increasing women's participation and activities in decision-making	Dadvarkhani et al, 2013; Rezaei and Zare'ei, 2014; Asqari Lafmajani, 2016; Khosravipour and Pourjavid, 2017
	Technical	Using the experience of local entrepreneurs, the infrastructural facilities needed for business establishment, transportation expansion and development, providing women's access to ICT, awareness of potentials and contexts in individuals and regions, innovation, using local knowledge	Khosravipour and Pourjavid, 2017; Maleki, 2007; Gheisari, 2012
	Economic	Knowledge about land legal issues attempts to open a bank account, having budgeting skills, improving conditions to purchase agricultural tools, access to capital, access to family workforce, access to the product market, skills in family production activities, interest in creating jobs in the village	Safavi et al, 2014; Asqari Lafmajani, 2016; Maleki, 2017
	Educational	Access to schools, using media and journals in the field of business, training entrepreneurial skills, providing rural women with appropriate technical consultation and expertise, holding vocational and business education and training courses, risk-taking culture	Khosravipour and Pourjavid, 2017; Maleki, 2017
Rural businesses	X1. Good business plan, X2. Experience and proficiency, X3. Appropriate market access, X4. Financial credit, X5. Appropriate business environment, X6. Sense of competition, X7. Motivation for business, X8. Creativity and entrepreneurship, X9. Communicating business skills, X10. Good local market, X11. Access to capital and financial resources, X12. Enjoying tax deduction in building workshops, X13. Marketing for the products, X14. Entrepreneurial loans	Najafi and Safa, 2014; Mirlatifi et al, 2014; Bowen et al, 2009; Kancheda et al, 2013; Sa'di and Heidari, 2013; Agahi et al, 2012; Sharifzade et al, 2013; Osutaiman et al, 2012; Anthopoulou, 2010; mirLatifi et al, 2014; Jamshidi et al, 2014	



**Table 2.** The reliability coefficient of different parts of the questionnaire

Index	Individual and cognitive	Social	Technical	Economic	Educational	Business
Alpha value	0.882	0.810	0.721	0.751	0.773	0.868

Source: the findings of the study, 2019



Score (Hi). The alternative with the highest Hi is the best choice among the alternatives.

Finally, GIS 1/3/10 ARC software was used to draw maps. Figure 2 shows the conceptual model of research.

#### 4. Findings

The respondents to the questionnaire distributed among the rural women in Kermanshah were mostly (37.4%) in the age range of 36-45 years old. In terms of education

(illiterate, elementary school, diploma, associate degree, bachelor, and higher), most respondents (31.9%) had an associate degree. Besides, 43.1% were engaged in agriculture and related activities.

Results from the descriptive findings of the studied indicators show the percentage of respondents in the index of personal and cognitive empowerment, 11/25% of people were the very low level of response. And More response rate Was at a high level with 28/45, The mean and standard deviation of this index were 3/07 and 0/66, re-

spectively. In relation to the social empowerment index Maximum response rate With 11/29 at a very high level And the lowest response rate Too little option, It was 15/1. The mean of this index was 3/28 and its standard deviation was estimated to be 0/62. In the Technical Empowerment Index, The lowest response rate to the option is very low at 12/1% And the highest response rate to the average option was 30/15. The mean of this index was 2/85 and its standard deviation was 0/67. Also in the economic empowerment index, It also had a very low option with 13/2 the lowest number of respondents The average option with 27/15 had the highest number of respondents. The mean of this index was 3 and its standard deviation was estimated to be 0/66. In the Educational Empowerment Index, the High option with 18/25 has the most responsiveness And the low option with 15/25 had the least responsiveness. The mean of this index was 3/23 and its standard deviation was 0/69 (Table3).

Regarding the purpose of the study, i.e. investigating the effect of the indexes of empowering women on the motivation of developing rural businesses, multivariate regression test was used to determine the contribution of each index in predicting the dependent variable of business. As Tables 4 and 5 indicate, all indexes of empowering women had a positive effect on the motivation of developing rural businesses; the educational index with a beta coefficient of 0.616 had the highest effect and accounted for 0.378 of the total variance of business. The social empowerment index (0.611), economic index (0.572), and individual and cognitive index with a beta coefficient of 0.547 were in the following ranks. Finally, the technical empowerment index with a beta coefficient of 0.506 was in the lowest rank and predicted only 0.254 of the total variance of business.

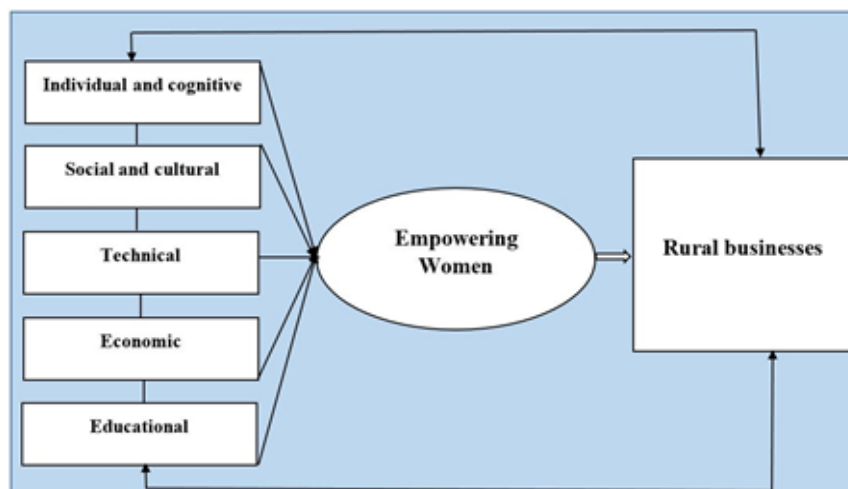


Figure 2. Conceptual Model of Research



Table 3. Descriptive findings of the research

Index	very Low	Low	Medium	Much	Very much	Average	Standard deviation
	Percentage of respondents						
Individual and cognitive empowerment	11.25	14.31	18.25	28.45	28.1	3.07	0.66
Social empowerment	15.1	16.1	17.15	22.65	29.11	3.28	0.62
Technical empowerment	12.1	22.19	30.15	20.35	15.25	2.85	0.67
Economic empowerment	13.2	18.25	27.15	25.15	16.25	3	0.66
Educational empowerment	17.15	15.25	21.15	25.18	21.75	3.23	0.69

Source: The findings of the study, 2019



**Table 4.** The results of multivariate regression coefficient in studying the effects of empowerment on the motivation of developing rural businesses

Index	Regression coefficient	coefficient of determination R2	The adjusted coefficient of determination	Sig
Individual and cognitive empowerment	0.547	0.300	0.298	0.000
Social empowerment	0.611	0.373	0.371	0.000
Technical empowerment	0.506	0.256	0.254	0.000
Economic empowerment	0.572	0.327	0.325	0.000
Educational empowerment	0.616	0.379	0.378	0.000

Source: The findings of the study, 2019



**Table 5.** The results of multivariate regression coefficient

Index	Nonstandard coefficients		Standard coefficients	T
	B	S.E	Beta	
Intercept (constant number)	1.885	0.123	--	15.343
Individual and cognitive empowerment	0.501	0.039	0.547	12.803
Social empowerment	0.598	0.040	0.611	15.093
Technical empowerment	0.459	0.040	0.506	11.491
Economic empowerment	0.521	0.038	0.572	13.647
Educational empowerment	0.536	0.035	0.616	15.301

Source: The findings of the study, 2019



After showing the effect of empowerment on the motivation of business, the villages under study were classified based on the variable of business, according to the rural women's attitudes toward motivation of business. In this context, the CODAS decision-making technique was used. Therefore, prior to applying this technique, the indexes were weighted based on Shannon Entropy technique. Table 6 indicates the weight of each indicator of this variable. As demonstrated, any considered indicator has a different weight so that the sum of these indicators should be equal to one. The most weighted indicator is (X3) proper market access.

Positive and negative criteria were identified after construction of the data matrix and weighting each item. 4 items, among the items of business, were negative and

incompatible and other items were identified as positive and compatible. To calculate the final value of each item and classify each option, the value of Hik of each item was calculated; therefore, according to the obtained values, the Euclidean and Taxicab distances of alternatives from the negative-ideal solution were also computed (Table 7).

According to the results shown in Table 8, the final value of each option that is equal to the values of Hi, was determined in the final stage. The value of Hi indicates the final value and weight of the villages; higher values are more desirable. The results showed that the women in the village of Sarchaqa (7.85) had higher motivation to create businesses and those living in Pasar (-3.17) and Tin (-4.30) had the lowest level of motivation.

**Table 6.** The weights of indicators based on Shannon Entropy technique

<b>Indicator code</b>	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7
<b>Weight</b>	0.07048	0.071271	0.072803	0.07232	0.070243	0.071584	0.071347
<b>Indicator code</b>	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12	X13	X14
<b>Weight</b>	0.071842	0.07072	0.071715	0.072389	0.070633	0.07108	0.071573

Source: The findings of the study, 2019





Table 7. Values of  $E_i$  &  $T_i$  for each village

Village	$E_i$	$T_i$	Village	$E_i$	$T_i$	village	$E_i$	$T_i$
Malesorkh	0.108	0.379	Aqbolaq	0.109	0.384	Chubine	0.081	0.274
Palangerd	0.109	0.381	Leilmanj	0.095	0.317	Islamabad Sofla	0.098	0.350
Tumiyane	0.107	0.367	Nipahn Abdollah	0.090	0.309	Halan	0.085	0.305
Hassanabad	0.115	0.415	Korkharak	0.111	0.384	Dehlaqin	0.099	0.329
Baqerabad Sofla	0.124	0.449	Seyed Saeed	0.094	0.309	Cham Botan Sofla	0.122	0.448
Anjirak	0.128	0.467	Seyed Ayaz	0.051	0.162	Farash	0.109	0.399
Kaverlovan	0.140	0.493	Aqaberar	0.103	0.366	ChamBbotan Olya	0.121	0.444
Soleimaniye	0.136	0.490	Nasrabad Seyed Ahmad	0.097	0.344	Eshaqvand Olya	0.122	0.448
Chalabad	0.113	0.414	Aran	0.078	0.268	Pasar	0.145	0.524
Chahar zebra Sofla	0.120	0.435	Dehlor	0.090	0.306	Cheshme Kabud	0.104	0.381
Chqazard	0.129	0.453	Qarebonas	0.107	0.360	Chamzereh Esper	0.110	0.399
Chaqagino	0.120	0.426	Fesh	0.081	0.261	Palan Olya	0.104	0.371
Doodan	0.115	0.413	Hesar	0.099	0.334	Chamzerehsk Olya	0.116	0.422
Zarduei	0.129	0.463	Abdultajeddin	0.092	0.321	Holul	0.094	0.337
Tin	0.158	0.577	Kolahderaz Sofla	0.075	0.256	Zamkan Olya	0.141	0.519
Shamshir	0.117	0.422	Kolahderaz Olya	0.112	0.391	Mirabad	0.127	0.467
Dorisan	0.124	0.450	Hoshyarchelleh	0.101	0.350	Zarde	0.119	0.436
Nasme	0.124	0.454	Shanqal Khaledi	0.074	0.250	Darab	0.098	0.351
Bazmirabad	0.135	0.496	Shisherah	0.113	0.387	Kooshakri	0.122	0.447
Javanmiri	0.118	0.425	Galoozi	0.107	0.367	Harir	0.091	0.334
Donki Ramazan	0.085	0.297	Biyashush	0.104	0.372	Sarchqa	0.014	0.021
Tape Maran	0.101	0.360	Sarrud Olya	0.120	0.420	Gavdane Khor	0.088	0.319
Tapani	0.128	0.456	Safiabad	0.111	0.389	Shabankare	0.114	0.416
Qale' Bahadori	0.122	0.429	Bivand Sofla	0.107	0.381	Bonchele	0.077	0.269
Hezarkhani Olya	0.103	0.344	Sefidbarg	0.116	0.409	Ghuri Qale'	0.090	0.324
Charmale Sofla	0.120	0.415	Bivale	0.103	0.368	Badrabad	0.090	0.301
Kalgah Zaman	0.104	0.341	Sartakht	0.094	0.331	Ghalanche	0.121	0.437
Nokhodtape	0.134	0.478	Shahpourabad	0.091	0.304	Sardam	0.119	0.438

Source: The findings of the study, 2019

Table 8. Classification of the villages based on business

<b>Village</b>	Sarchaqa	Seyed Ayaz	Shanqal Khaledi	Kolahderaz	Bonchale	Aran	Fesh	Chubine
<b>H</b>	7.85	4.69	2.89	2.80	2.60	2.53	2.35	2.26
<b>Village</b>	Donki Ramazan	Halan	Gavdane Khor	Dehlor	Neypahn	Badrabad	Ghori Qale'	Shahpour-abad
<b>H</b>	1.99	1.97	1.63	1.60	1.60	1.58	1.47	1.46
<b>Village</b>	Harir	Abdultajeddin	Seyed Saeed	Leilmanj	Sartakht	Holul	Nasrabad	Doholqin
<b>H</b>	1.38	1.36	1.30	1.19	1.16	1.11	0.91	0.88
<b>Village</b>	Hesar	Darab	Islamabad Sofla	Hoshyar Chelle	Hezarkhani Olya	Tape Maran	Kalgah Zaman	Aqaberar
<b>H</b>	0.84	0.82	0.78	0.66	0.66	0.57	0.51	0.47
<b>Village</b>	Bivaleh	Palan Olya	Biyashush	Cheshme kabud	Qarebonas	Tumiyane	Galuzi	Bivan Sofla
<b>H</b>	0.41	0.36	0.35	0.24	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.03
<b>Village</b>	Malesorkh	Palangerd	Aqbolaq	Korkharak	Farash	Chamzereshk	Safiabad	Shisherah
<b>H</b>	0.00	-0.09	-0.12	-0.20	-0.23	-0.26	-0.29	-0.36
<b>Village</b>	Kolahderaz Olya	Chalabad	Doodan	Shabankare	Hassanabad	Sefidbarg	Chamzereshk Olya	Shamshir
<b>H</b>	-0.37	-0.55	-0.67	-0.68	-0.71	-0.73	-0.80	-0.90
<b>Village</b>	Javanmiri	Charmale Sofla	Sardam	Zarde	Sarrud Olya	Chaqagino	Chaharzebar Sofla	Qalanje
<b>H</b>	-0.96	-1.07	-1.10	-1.13	-1.13	-1.16	-1.19	-1.24
<b>Village</b>	Chambtan Olya	Qale' Bahadori	Chambtan Sofla	Eshaqvan Olya	Kooshkari	Baqerabad Sofla	Dorisan	Nasme
<b>H</b>	-1.32	-1.33	-1.38	-1.38	-1.41	-1.49	-1.52	-1.52
<b>Village</b>	Tapani	Mirabad	Anjirak	Chaqazard	Zarduei	Nokhodtapeh	Bazmirabad	Soleimaniye
<b>H</b>	-1.83	-1.84	-1.86	-1.89	-1.95	-2.36	-2.45	-2.49
<b>Village</b>	Kaverlovan	Zamkan Olya	Pasar	Tin				
<b>H</b>	-2.82	-2.90	-3.17	-4.30				

Source: The findings of the study, 2019



## 5. Discussion

In modern societies, especially in rural areas, women play an important role in creating business and their proper performance in this regard has the potential to improve the economic condition of the society. Given the importance of the issue, this study aimed at investigating the effect of empowering women on the motivation of creating and developing rural businesses in the province of Kermanshah. Thus, one of the goals of the Third Millennium is to empower women living in rural areas, and hence, utilizing these women's abilities to take maximum advantage of human force in communities requires accurate identification of their talents and capabilities and fostering their abilities for active and informed participation in providing personal and social well-being. Considering the importance of the issue, the present study aimed at examining and analyzing the ef-

fect of empowering women on the motivation of creating and developing rural businesses. It studied the issue in 84 villages in the province of Kermanshah. To do so, 5 indices of women's empowerment containing 51 indicators and the motivation of creating business including 14 indicators were used.

The results of descriptive findings indicated that, according to the female respondents, the mean of women's empowerment was 3.086 and the mean of the motivation of creating business, in accordance with its indicators, was 3.42. Generally, the results obtained from the findings of the present study showed that women as one of the most important human resources can play a key role in the development process of different sectors in any society. The results of the regression test showed that while the role of women's empowerment in business motivation is undeniable, the impact of indexes is not the same.

Although the association between these two variables is significant, educational empowerment, that is using media and review papers, entrepreneurial skills training, consultation, risk-taking culture, and skill training courses, has a greater effect in creating the motivation of business since rural women's empowerment by skilled and experienced human resources can contribute to increasing motivation for entrepreneurship and creating business among rural women. Women can have an influential role in the business arena. Women's participation in economic activities plays a key role not only in the development of women's capacities and abilities but also in the process of social and economic development of the society. Creating business and establishing organizations for rural women is an important strategy to boost their social and economic growth because they are effective in improving the social condition, promoting income, social justice, and increasing women's social participation as well as producing goods and services. Therefore, improving educational and technical fields can provide the requirements for developing business among rural women, resulting in basic changes in women. Studying the effects of social and cultural empowerment showed that it was ranked as the second influential index on the motivation of business and contributed to increased participation of women in constructions, meetings, and membership in rural organizations, enhancing women's social status. It also influenced men's beliefs about women's management ability and attracted positive attitudes toward entrepreneurial activities. Access to capital and using the family workforce affected providing credit for business. The motivation of creating business and interest in creating jobs in the village contributed to granting entrepreneurial loans; it indicates that women's economic empowerment had impacts on the motivation of creating business. The impact of individual and cognitive empowerment, according to the results of the regression coefficient, showed that this index with regression coefficient of 0.547 had an acceptable impact on the motivation of creating business because the motivation of being independent, need for achievement, tendency to creativity, risk-taking ability, and many other factors are considered as basic factors having a positive impact on creating business, resulting in a good and desirable environment to create business. Technical index with coefficient of 0.506 had a lower impact on the business motivation since inappropriate communicative infrastructures, inadequate use of indigenous knowledge, and ignoring potentials and characteristics of people and rural areas have influenced rural businesses in this regard. The findings of the present study are consistent with those of Koolae and Taheri (2011) who concluded that women's

empowerment had an impact on rural development and with those found by A'zami et al. (2016) on the effect of empowerment on women's participation in internal studies. Moreover, these findings are consistent with the findings of Kantaverma (2013) who found that women's empowerment depends on their participation in income-generating activities. The findings of Rani Mohanty et al. (2013) that showed empowering women causes gaining economic independence through microbusinesses confirm the findings of the present study. The results found by Waltz (2016) on rural women's empowerment, and those found by Topal (2019) on women's empowerment and economic reforms are in line with the findings of this study.

The results of the KODAS technique used to assess the motivation of women to develop rural businesses show that rural women are in different business motivation situations so that in terms of motivation to develop rural businesses, only women in Sarchaqa and Seyed Ayaz were more favorable than other villages. A desirable business environment enhances the motivation of creating business. On the other hand, entrepreneurial loans and financial credits increase the interest in entrepreneurship in villages. In villages such as Sarchaqa, Seyed Ayaz, Shanqal Khaledi, and some other villages in which motivation was high, the presence of educational environment and women's literacy, as well as training and skill courses in motivating women to create business had positive effects. In these villages, the tendency and interest in creating occupation were higher than the other villages due to their awareness of abilities and capabilities, membership in rural organizations, and collective work.

According to the results, it can be said that empowering women in different fields can be a useful and helpful tool for creating rural businesses, increasing income, sustainability of rural areas, identifying and benefiting from existing opportunities in villages, increasing participation, self-esteem, and many others. Thus, enhancing rural women's empowerment results in the development of rural areas and is considered as an influential policy in fulfilling rural sustainable development because the current changes have made living conditions in the rural areas difficult. In this sense, women's empowerment can contribute to creating business as one of the requirements of developing the rural life since, through creating jobs, it has a great role in reducing poverty and promoting social development, economic development, etc. as one of the major priorities of the macro rural development program. Therefore, it is of great importance to pay attention to women's empowerment as an approach to improve the personal and work life of rural women, which requires

training in this regard. In this context, women's empowerment can be enhanced through training, skill, competency, and trust, and increasing their effectiveness. In this case, women's sense of worth, thinking power, reliability, right to choose, and control over their life in each activity and process will be increased. It can be said that women play an important role in the family and since villages are a suitable and good environment for the development of non-agricultural, production, and service activities, they can provide the appropriate conditions for creating business and employment for women.

According to the results, the following solutions seem necessary to create and develop rural businesses and make half of the rural population in the province of Kermanshah producers:

- Introducing examples of successful rural entrepreneurs;
- Delivering speeches and holding meetings in the village in order to explain the significance of business in personal and social life;
- Providing financial credit for rural women who are experienced in a skill;
- Providing requirements of a desirable, and safe environment to create and develop rural businesses;
- Providing tax deduction to build workshops for rural women;
- Communicating business skills in rural communities in order to make extensive activities and employment;
- Increasing women's awareness of issues such as their abilities, their rights in the society, access to social and economic opportunities through educational programs and courses can result in increasing women's participation in programs and activities at the regional level;
- Since most women had a diploma or a lower degree, it is suggested to authorities to take required actions to help them to continue their education by establishing cultural and educational facilities and persuading rural families to allow women and girls to study.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

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