

Research Paper: Factors Influencing the Economic Revitalization of Rural Areas through a Meta-Analysis Approach

Hajar Khodabandehlo¹, Hossein Farahani^{2*}, Jamshid Einali², Mehdi Cheraghi³

1. PhD Student, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.

2. Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.

3. Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.



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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The strategy for rejuvenating and economically revitalizing villages has been introduced to implement rural development and upliftment by establishing a new economic system focusing on planning, participation, and training of villagers. The current research was conducted investigating the factors affecting the economic revitalization of rural areas with a meta-analysis approach.

Methods: This research is fundamental in terms of its purpose, and the method of conducting it is qualitative and of the synthesis research type (Roberts' six-stage synthesis research model), which uses a meta-combination strategy. The unit of analysis in this research is all the research done about the economic revitalization of rural areas. To collect the required information, the researcher's checklist was used.

Results: from the combination and classification of 81 concepts, 24 sub-categories, and 7 core categories including; Economic factors, technological and technological factors, managerial factors, human factors, institutional factors, infrastructural and welfare factors, and natural environment factors have been obtained as effective factors on the economic revitalization of rural areas.

Conclusion: The results showed that several factors are involved in the economic revival of rural areas. The strategy of economic revitalization of rural areas follows the principles of bottom-up planning for the reconstruction of rural communities. The rural revitalization strategy is a bottom-up approach, which means that the rural community should participate in the planning process of the economic revitalization of rural areas and actively participate in all levels of planning by taking advantage of qualified leadership.

* Corresponding Author:

Hossein Farahani, PhD

Address: Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.

Tel: +98 (918) 6200623

E-mail: hfarahani@znu.ac.ir

1. Introduction

Currently, over 46% of the global population resides in rural areas (World Bank, 2020). The development of rural communities holds significance for a country's political and economic stability, consistently featuring on the national development agenda. Numerous plans and strategies have been put forth to enhance the well-being of rural communities, encompassing agricultural sector development, resettlement initiatives, provision of public amenities and infrastructure, and community advancement. However, researchers and international organizations have raised concerns about the prevalent cycle of rural deterioration witnessed in many parts of the world today (Rashid et al., 2019). Owing to globalization and swift economic transformations, rural areas and their inhabitants confront fresh challenges. Economically disadvantaged countries with a substantial rural populace, often more impoverished than their urban counterparts, grapple with various obstacles to attain economic parity and foster social and economic stability. Lacking income growth due to informal sector engagement and agricultural productivity stagnation (Iwala, 2004), a significant portion of developing countries' rural populace relies directly or indirectly on agricultural pursuits or farm-related labor for sustenance (Rodela, 2010: 5). Present-day rural landscapes in these nations witness economic repercussions in agricultural undertakings owing to factors such as low capital efficiency, sluggish agricultural integration with the national economy, inefficient utilization of production factors, market disarray and inefficiency, limited interconnection with other economic sectors, infrastructural deficiencies, among others, hindering the resolution of rural challenges (Danilov et al., 2009). Consequently, in select rural regions, agriculture is relinquishing its predominant status, prompting an increased focus on supplementary sectors like agricultural diversification, handicrafts, industries, food production, and tourism (Dempsey et al., 2012). The emergence of various economic hurdles such as rising unemployment rates, income reduction, capital formation setbacks, regional disparities, rural workforce migration, diminished labor productivity, land fragmentation, and drastic shifts in agricultural land use, among others (Du, 2018), culminates in heightened socio-economic isolation and exacerbated rural poverty (Shuang & Liang, 2019). Despite its diminishing role in the rural economy, agriculture remains pivotal in job creation and population retention efforts (Long et al., 2019), contributing to the socio-economic sustainability of rural regions (Sykora & Bouzarovski, 2012). Rural depopu-

lation has become a pressing issue in numerous developing nations worldwide. Once self-sufficient villages have been drained of inhabitants by these developments, leaving many rural areas in a state of decline. Various policies and measures have been suggested globally to address challenges stemming from rural decay, including initiatives to bolster the rural economy through enhanced local infrastructure (Li et al., 2016).

Rural areas are home to a significant portion of the world's impoverished population. According to data from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the majority of impoverished individuals reside in rural regions, where poverty rates are four times higher than in urban areas, exacerbating the pressing need for suitable employment opportunities (WESO, 2016). In the economic framework of various countries' rural areas, agriculture stands out as the primary means of livelihood provision (Rabiei & Tak Roosta, 1400: 150). A defining characteristic of such a setup is the lack of economic diversity and job prospects, particularly for the growing rural workforce, influenced in part by community attitudes and government policies. This economic and employment structure in rural settings gives rise to specific challenges, including limited resilience to short-term weather fluctuations and price variations during harvest periods (Joan et al., 1390: 19). Villages play a crucial role in the economic, social, and political development processes at local, regional, national, and international levels. The repercussions of rural underdevelopment, such as widespread poverty, escalating inequality, rapid population growth, unemployment, and urban marginalization, have shifted focus towards rural development, sometimes even prioritizing it over urban progress (Ez-kia & Ghafari, 2016). A key aspect of this setup is the lack of economic diversity and employment opportunities, particularly for the expanding rural workforce, influenced by community attitudes, government policies, and internal village dynamics (Yasuri & Javan, 2014: 20). The decline and potential resurgence of rural areas result from collective efforts by individuals, private entities, and political organizations. To uplift villages from economic stagnation and instability, it is imperative to revitalize rural economies and enhance their financial standing through strategies like economic rejuvenation and rural revitalization. This is vital for improving living standards and bridging the urban-rural divide. Given the significance of this research, a meta-analysis approach has been employed to study the factors influencing the economic revitalization of rural areas. Consequently, this research aims to address the following question: What factors and mechanisms play a role in revitalizing rural economies in the region?

2. Literature Review

Since the 1980s, there has been a growing emphasis on rural revitalization policies worldwide, with various governments, institutions, and grassroots movements making new strides to enhance agriculture and local rural economies in diverse contexts (Nizam & Tatari, 2020). Recent years have witnessed notable shifts in rural economic policies and strategies (Wilson, 2008). Structurally, the agricultural sector is no longer the primary foundation of rural economies globally, both in terms of its contribution to GDP and employment in rural areas. While agriculture continues to shape rural landscapes in many developed capitalist societies, its significance in rural economies is often diminishing (Scott et al., 2019). Comparative evaluations of rural regions in advanced economies reveal that the decline of agriculture is frequently accompanied by an upsurge in economic diversification within geographic areas' production and service sectors (Terluin, 2003). This planning trajectory reflects a fundamental shift from supporting agriculture-based economies and top-down policy interventions towards a spatial, territorial, and integrated approach to rural economic development (Shucksmith, 2000). With these transformations in rural economies and the importance of location-based and territorial strategies for fostering sustainable economic growth paths in rural areas, spatial planning plays a crucial role in harnessing the endogenous potential of rural regions to promote diversity (Kitchen & Marsden, 2009). Particularly concerning the reduction of traditional agricultural production models' dominance and partial government support policies, new governance and policies underscore the need to transition towards rural economic development strategies that prioritize local characteristics to cultivate fresh competitive advantages within spatial contexts (Scott et al., 2019).

The notion of revitalizing villages has been introduced to implement rural development strategies and uplift communities through the establishment of a new economic system that emphasizes planning, community participation, and resident training (Sun, 2018: 3). Village revitalization places a priority on rural development, aiming to create an integrated rural development framework and expedite the modernization of rural areas in line with industrial progress and environmental sustainability (Jiang & Peng, 2018: 17). According to Yang et al. (2021), village revitalization not only serves as a strategy for sustainable rural development in developing countries but also aligns with the inevitable trend of global urbanization (Yang et al., 2021: 35). The advantages of revitalizing rural economies include

stabilizing and expanding local populations, diversifying economic activities and employment opportunities, ensuring essential services, and preserving the unique charm of rural areas (Meyer, 2014). Village revitalization encompasses various facets of rural life-economic, social, human, cultural, and environmental to prevent rural decline, fostering a resilient, sustainable, and diverse local economy, and enhancing overall quality of life. Furthermore, revitalization endeavors should focus on creating and improving economic opportunities while safeguarding and enhancing the distinctive characteristics and dynamics of rural communities (Kenyon, 2008).

Rural areas exhibit a diverse range of economic challenges and opportunities, influenced by cultural contexts, geographical settings, and local institutional capabilities, making them non-uniform spaces with distinct experiences. Given this variability, a one-size-fits-all planning approach is insufficient to address the multifaceted economic issues rural areas encounter (Chan et al., 2013). Therefore, a spatial planning strategy should be adopted to drive rural economic development and revitalization, emphasizing community participation and a nuanced understanding of local dynamics (Meyer, 2014). Spatial planning involves recognizing the unique value of each region within its specific social, economic, and political framework. Village spatial planning should target hindrances to rural economic progress and prioritize issues that engage residents actively. There is no universal spatial planning model for rural revitalization. Effective planning and spatial strategies for rural revitalization necessitate the integration of rural history, local economy, cultural heritage, geographical location, and other contextual factors (Jia et al., 2019). Blakely and Bradshaw (2012) identified five key resources crucial for economic development in any location or region. These resources should be optimized to enhance economic development prospects when present in a particular area. The table below summarizes these key resources.

Economic growth refers to the long-term expansion of the potential and productive capacity of a local economy. Sustained economic growth can enhance quality of life, boost employment levels, and lead to short-term increases in GDP. Key elements of economic growth encompass capital accumulation, involving new investments in land, infrastructure, equipment, and human resources through advancements in health, education, skills, and internal production processes rather than external influences (Todaro & Smith, 2011: 150). Job creation is a critical outcome of economic growth. From the 1970s to the 1990s, global economic growth was

synonymous with job creation growth. However, despite an average growth rate of around 3 percent in the past decade, global job creation has only increased by an average of 0.4 percent. This trend can be attributed to factors like reduced labor productivity, labor regulations, labor costs, and diminished economic growth prospects (CDE, 2010: 2). Private sector investments, utilization of unskilled labor for production, mitigation of the impact of employment regulations, cost reduction

in transportation and other inputs, and prioritizing labor-intensive products over high-value goods are strategies to enhance job creation prospects. Considerations such as labor costs, productivity levels, trade union dynamics, costs associated with layoffs, and strike-related expenses influence the job creation potential of economies (CDE, 2010: 15-18).

Table 1. Key sources of economic development

Land, building, location, and infrastructure/natural resources.	Materials
Skilled personnel, available workforce, educational and training capacity.	human resources
Market analysis, competition, penetration, and marketing/investment strategy.	Markets
Organizational structure, managers/operators, research and development (R&D), marketing and sales, and legal.	Management
Equity capital, debt/borrowed funds, investment institutions, subsidies, and direct capital alternatives.	Money

Source: Blakely & Bradshaw, 2012: 173



The analysis of the research literature reveals a predominant focus on economic development challenges in current studies on rural revitalization planning, with a noticeable gap in research concerning economic revitalization planning and strategy. Ebrahimzadeh and Padayar (2018) conducted a study titled “Economic Development Planning and Rural Employment Generation Based on Drivers and Value Chain: A Case Study of Masjid Abolfazl Village in Iranshahr.” Their findings suggest that successful implementation of the plans could transform Masjid Abolfazl Village into a relatively prosperous community with stable employment and an export-oriented economy. This transformation would rely on income generation across three economic sectors, emphasizing the service sector (particularly tourism and welfare services) and agriculture (with a focus on modern agriculture and targeted animal husbandry), supported by the industry sector, especially handicrafts and livestock and garden product processing. In another study, Kadermarzai (2014) explored “Strategic Planning for Employment Development in Rural Areas of Javanrood,” identifying strategies and effective solutions for employment development in underprivileged rural areas of Javanrood based on employment indicators. The study revealed that an offensive strategy (SO), leveraging internal strengths and external opportunities, proved most suitable for employment development in villages at these levels of deprivation. Nowrozi and Fathi (2014) investigated “Strategic Planning for Rural Economic Development in Lanjan City (with an Emphasis on Entrepreneurship in Processing and Finishing Industries),”

concluding that entrepreneurship in processing and finishing industries could significantly impact rural economies by boosting agricultural production, increasing income, curbing migration, narrowing income disparities, reducing seasonal unemployment, enhancing women’s economic activity, among other benefits. Based on the SWAT model’s average total points, an aggressive strategy was deemed favorable. In a study by Badri and Nemati (2008) on “Strategic Planning for Economic Development with a Participatory Approach in the Central Area of Lange City,” a strategic planning framework was employed based on SWOT analysis to enhance the economic well-being of the local community in Lange City’s central area over 10 years. Through strategic planning efforts spanning four rural areas over 10 months, all available resources were leveraged in organizational, institutional, personal, and social realms to advance local and cooperative development objectives. The study’s outcomes propose viable strategies for realizing the development vision in the area, indicating that defined production projects could lead to attainable goals.

Li et al. (2020) conducted a study titled “A New Livelihood Sustainability Index for Assessing Rural Revitalization - A Modeling Study in the Specialized Field of Smart Tourism in China,” which assessed the smart tourism development model’s impact on sustainable livelihood restoration in the villages of Huangpi District in Wuhan Province, China. The research revealed an improvement in the livelihood sustainability index following farmers’ engagement in tourism activities. The

study suggests various approaches to enhance sustainable livelihoods in rural areas, such as boosting subsistence capital, narrowing the economic disparity among farmers through participation in professional tourism, establishing mechanisms for industrial integration and rural ecotourism development, and promoting balanced progress in livelihood and environmental quality. [Yating et al. \(2020\)](#) emphasized the importance of practical technical training to facilitate the adoption of agricultural scientific and technological advancements, the transfer of such innovations to drive agricultural progress, and ultimately contribute to village enhancement and revitalization. [Mondal et al. \(2020\)](#) proposed that rural rejuvenation can be achieved through the adoption of organic agriculture, the application of cost-effective scientific management practices, the cultivation of industrial skills in agriculture, the comprehensive implementation of smart farming practices, and the enhancement of the rural economy. [Lin \(2019\)](#) highlighted that the successful implementation of rural revitalization strategies hinges on robust and sustainable education, adequate rural financial resources, manpower training in villages, financial investments, rural loans, and financing, rural financial institutions, capital flow in rural areas, and efficient rural financial services to meet the demands of rural economic development. [Zhashuang \(2019\)](#) pointed out that advanced Western countries prioritize legislation, infrastructure enhancement, strategic rural regional planning, special support programs for rural areas, intensive development of rural human resources, and leveraging science and technology advancements to drive rural revitalization efforts. [Changjiang \(2019\)](#) underscored agriculture's pivotal role in rural revitalization efforts by infusing vitality into rural areas through production technology advancements, resource preservation, and strategic local planning. [Shuang and Liang \(2019\)](#) emphasized that innovative and environmental thinking are key drivers of rural revitalization while modernizing agricultural and rural sectors, implementing structural reforms in agricultural extension services, and fostering innovative approaches contribute to rural development and revitalization.

[Zhashuang \(2019\)](#) views village revitalization as a crucial strategy to foster urban-rural integration, promote a prosperous society, and address agricultural and rural development challenges through initiatives like enhancing agricultural and rural infrastructure, boosting rural industry development, supporting the public sector, and enhancing rural governance structures. In their study "Knowledge, Performance, and Construction of Regional Spatial Planning at the Village Scale in the Context of Rural Revitalization," [Wu et al. \(2019\)](#) examine rural re-

vitalization efforts and the establishment of a land spatial planning framework. Findings indicate that rural areas are transforming, with village-level planning encountering issues such as a lack of theoretical knowledge, inadequate technical support, and implementation challenges. They suggest that village land spatial planning in the new era should consider external social contexts and internal village conditions, comprehensively assess village value, intervene in village spatial reconstruction, and provide services to residents through spatial allocation. Essential tasks for village spatial planning in the realm of rural revitalization include outlining the path for rural revival, monitoring natural resources, respecting diverse values' appeal, and serving as a spatial management tool. [Siva Pratap et al. \(2019\)](#) explore "Rural Economic Revival: A Study in Telangana, India," evaluating the resurgence of traditional rural economic activities in South India's Telangana region. Their study underscores the significance of both agricultural and non-agricultural activities for rural economic development. The current administration has initiated various measures such as livestock development, fisheries promotion, and revitalizing traditional occupations. A comprehensive and integrated development policy is needed to foster new economic activities in Telangana. Encouraging entrepreneurship, prioritizing human resources, and infrastructure development, and addressing policy issues are essential for reviving rural economic activities. In their research "Revitalization of Rural Areas in Malaysia: A Framework for Economic Revitalization," [Rashid et al. \(2019\)](#) examine the conditions of rural, impoverished, and marginalized communities in Malaysia. Their study offers solutions to combat rural deterioration, emphasizing the importance of strategic economic planning encompassing the local economy, physical environment, political landscape, and social context for successful rural revitalization. This framework is instrumental in revitalizing rural economies, serving as a valuable tool to assess factors contributing to economic performance disparities and socioeconomic differentiation in rural areas.

[Wang and Zhao \(2018\)](#) demonstrated that, alongside developing agricultural opportunities and rural experiences, strategies for agricultural reconstruction (revival) involve enhancing transportation, waterways, agricultural lands, and technology to elevate production quality and reduce costs. These aspects significantly impact residents' well-being. Central to rural area revitalization is the increased production and improved marketing of agricultural products, identified as crucial factors for rural development. [Yating and Janjia \(2018\)](#) advocate for a bottom-up reconstruction plan involving active participation from farmers and rural community residents

to strengthen and revitalize villages. Additionally, governmental authorities are urged to provide subsidies and financial aid for agricultural revival in rural regions. In their study “Innovations and Revitalization in the Face of Rural Decline: Case Studies from China and Sweden,” Li et al. (2016) explore how local stakeholders respond to rural eviction and decline processes. The study underscores the influential role of local stakeholders who advocate for enhanced living conditions and increased employment opportunities, fostering unity, cooperation, and shared values. Effective leadership by local committees or stakeholder-driven initiatives plays a pivotal role in implementing revitalization projects in targeted villages. The research emphasizes not only the economic revitalization of villages but also the promotion of a desirable rural lifestyle. Findings underscore the importance of grassroots initiatives aligning with government policies and regional development plans. Mayer (2014) delves into “Investigation of Strategies for Rural Area Revitalization in South Africa,” emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts and partnerships among government, businesses, and communities for rural development. The study outlines a comprehensive model for rural revitalization and development, focusing on government roles, local leadership, partnership formation, spatial planning, economic development, job creation, agriculture, tourism, rural-urban relationships, resource utilization, housing, community engagement, and indigenous knowledge to address basic needs and enhance social well-being. Chen (2011) posits that village revitalization hinges on expanding agricultural production, enhancing rural living standards, and addressing environmental concerns. Strategies such as revitalizing agricultural products, agricultural marketing, preserving cultural characteristics, and improving rural life are identified as key drivers of rural agricultural development. Rudella (2010) advocates for a bottom-up approach to rural revitalization through agricultural enhancement to guide future planning and rejuvenate rural areas.

3. Methodology

The current research is pivotal in its objective, employing a qualitative research synthesis method with a meta-combination strategy utilizing inductive content analysis. In research synthesis, akin to qualitative meta-analysis, diverse and dispersed studies relevant to specific field needs are gathered, interconnected, evaluated, and organized to meet current requirements. This process involves reinterpreting knowledge and integrating various findings into a specific framework to unveil new relationships. Information was collected using a research-

er-prepared checklist to report primary research details, including research title, researcher name, publication date, research method type, findings analysis methods, and recorded research purpose-related items. The study initially extracted main themes, coded and selected key categories, combined these categories, and formulated a conceptual framework of factors influencing rural economic revitalization. Roberts’ six-stage synthesis model was employed for analysis, encompassing stages such as identifying the need, conducting preliminary searches, refining the need, retrieving studies, selecting, and organizing studies, adapting the conceptual framework to analysis outcomes, processing and interpreting findings into tangible products and presenting results.

In this section, the actions carried out in each stage according to Roberts’ six-stage model are outlined as follows:

1. Identifying the need, conducting a preliminary search, and clarifying the need: Research in the field of rural economic revitalization has surged due to the growth and development of rural areas. Existing studies indicate a lack of research on rural revitalization and economic development in rural areas. Previous research on the rural economy has typically approached the topic from specific angles, lacking a holistic perspective.

2. Researching to retrieve studies: This stage involves searching for relevant sources related to the primary research need. Initial searches were conducted using keywords such as rural revitalization, rural economy revitalization, rural economy development, rural economy growth, and agricultural revitalization across domestic and international quantitative and qualitative research databases like Science Direct, Springer, Scopus, Elsevier, academic journals, and national publications from 2010 to 2022. A total of 100 articles were identified as the statistical population. The selection of scientific research articles was based on their rigorous review process, ensuring the validity of their results.

3. Selection, refinement, and organization of studies: This stage focuses on evaluating and selecting studies that meet scientific requirements based on specific criteria. The inclusion criteria for this research encompassed studies on rural economic revival conducted between 2010 and 2022 that underwent expert review and were published as full articles online. Only studies providing essential information related to the research objectives were considered. Out of the initial 100 studies identified, 38 were selected for further analysis after a series of screening steps involving title examination, abstract

review, and full-text assessment. The final sample comprised 38 articles (16 external and 22 internal studies) for

content analysis, serving as the statistical sample for the research objectives.

Table 2. Selected research in the field of revitalization of the rural economy

row	author (year)	Title
1	Rodella (2010)	A bottom-up rural rejuvenation initiative: A Social Learning analytical perspective, European IFSA Symposium
2	Blakely & Bradshaw (2012)	Planning local economic development: Theory and practice.
3	Meyer (2014)	Exploration of Solutions for Revitalisation of Rural Areas in South Africa
4	Lee et al. (2016)	Bottom-up initiatives and revival in the face of rural decline: Case studies from China and Sweden
5	Yating & Janjia (2018)	study on the development path evolution of rural tourism resources in the context of the Rural Renewal Strategy -Based on the perspective of evolutionary
6	Wang & Zaho (2018)	The Necessary Way for the Development of China's Rural Areas in the New Era-Rural Revitalization Strategy
7	Zhashuang (2019)	The way to develop urban and rural integration under the strategy of rural revitalization
8	Changjiang (2019)	Development efficiency of leisure agriculture based on the DEA model in the background of rural revitalization. Revista de Cercetare și Intervenție Socială
9	Lin (2019)	The Dilemma and Countermeasures of Rural Financial Development under the Strategy of Rural Rejuvenation
10	Comment by Shuang & Liang (2019)	A study of the rural revitalization model from the perspective of new farmers in China
11	Wu et al. (2019)	Recognition, performance, and construction of regional spatial planning of the village scale in the field of rural revitalization
12	Siva Pratap et al. (2019)	Reviving rural economy: A study on Telangana, India
13	Rashid et al. (2019)	Revitalizing Rural Areas in Malaysia: A Framework for Economic Revitalization
14	Yanting et al. (2020)	Modes and Approaches of Promoting Rural Rejuvenation through the Integration of Industry - Universities -Research Institutions
15	Mondal et al. (2020)	Post -Amphan management and rejuvenation of the ravaged betel (Piper betelbaron in South Bengal
16	Lee et al. (2020)	A new livelihood sustainability index for rural revitalization assessment—a modeling study on smart tourism specialization in China. Sustainability
17	Submissive anchor (1383)	An attitude in the evolution of the studied rural economy: the villages of the province of Quebec, Canada
18	Rezvani et al. (2014)	Analysis of the effects of microcredits on the sustainability of the rural economy (case study: Omid Entrepreneurship Fund credits in Neishabur city)
19	Nabi Omid et al. (2017)	Analysis of factors affecting the creation and development of small and medium entrepreneurial companies in the rural areas of Ilam province
20	Yousefi et al. (2017)	Analysis of the economic and social effects of land integration in Niyale Plain, Mimeh district, Isfahan province
21	Bakhshi et al. (2018)	Spatial analysis of economic sustainability of rural settlements (Sabzevar-Nishabour region)
22	Azizpour et al. (2018)	The role of structural adjustment policies in the transformation of the rural economy in Razvan-shahr district
23	Mohammadi & Shah-bazi (2019)	The role of the diversity of economic activities in the quality of life of immigrants returning to the villages, case: villages in the west of Marivan city
24	Ramezani et al. (2019)	The role of local management in promoting social capital and participation of villagers in the rural economy. Case: Baneh City
25	Shahraki Moghadam et al. (2019)	Road transit and its effects on the development of the rural economy in the Sistan region
26	Ashraf Zainli et al. (2019)	Effective factors on the development of rural livestock cooperatives in West Islamabad city
27	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)	Analysis of factors affecting poverty reduction in the rural areas of Miandoab City

Table 2. Selected research in the field of revitalization of the rural economy

row	author (year)	Title
28	Farahani & Alwandi (2019)	Explaining the entrepreneurial challenges of small rural businesses (a case study of the villages of Bijar city)
29	Ghazanfarpour et al. (2021)	Diversification of rural economy activities with the approach of economic analysis of the case land: the villages of Mirjaveh city
30	Najafi Kani (2021)	Analyzing the obstacles to the expansion of hydroponic cultivation in rural economic development (case study: central part of Gorgan city)
31	Rabiei & single-village (2021)	Investigating and explaining the effects of Corona on the economy of rural areas, a case example: Ashkur Ali village
32	Sancholi et al. (2021)	The effectiveness of entrepreneurial organizations and institutions in creating small businesses (case: villages in the central part of Kalaleh)
33	Karimi & Daneshmehr (2021)	Capabilities of social capital for economic empowerment of villagers (case: border villages of Marivan city)
34	Sai et al. (2021)	Factors affecting the sustainable development of the livestock industry in the rural areas of the north of Kerman province
35	Kerami & Aliyari (2021)	Identification of factors affecting entrepreneurship in rural areas of Shiraz
36	Karim & Tulabinjad (2021)	Agricultural revitalization strategies in line with the revitalization of rural areas
37	Riahi & Siadati (2022)	Risk management of animal husbandry activity in the rural areas of Golpayegan
38	Soleimani & Rizvani (2022)	Analysis of knowledge map of the resilience of the rural economy against environmental hazards



Developing the conceptual framework and aligning it with the information derived from the analysis: This stage involves creating a cohesive framework to integrate the gathered information. The conceptual framework established in this study revolves around the factors influencing rural economic revitalization.

Processing, integrating, and interpreting findings into tangible outcomes: Following the research findings, components were initially extracted using open coding, and then categorized based on shared concepts derived from the coding process. Axial coding, which involves linking categories to subcategories based on their characteristics and dimensions, was employed scientifically (Momen & Yasuri, 2019: 117). At this phase, concepts related to the research objective were extracted line by line and subsequently grouped into specific categories. Four criteria were employed to ensure data reliability (Alipour et al., 2017: 80). To enhance credibility, the peer description method was utilized. Four doctoral students familiar with this method were asked to re-code a portion of the text to assess the accuracy of the researcher's coding process and ensure unbiased analysis. For transferability, articles focusing on rural economic revitalization were purposefully sampled to guide further article selection. To address reliability, consultation with the

supervisor was sought to refine the research process. For verifiability, note-taking during work was employed to aid in drafting the article and incorporating valuable insights. As a result of the coding process, the table below presents the identified factors influencing rural economic revitalization. Based on the research findings, 7 core categories, 24 subcategories, and 81 influential concepts were identified as key factors impacting rural economic revitalization.

Table 3 represents the amalgamation of theoretical frameworks and research findings regarding the factors influencing rural economic revitalization. The predominant sub-category derived from the theoretical foundations pertains to economic factors, featuring 8 subcategories that underscore the significant impact of this factor on the economic rejuvenation of rural areas. By integrating theoretical principles and empirical research, a conceptual model illustrating the factors influencing rural economic revitalization was developed, depicted in Figure 1 within this model

Table 3. Synthesis of the basis of opinion and research about the factors affecting the economic revitalization of rural areas

Nuclear category	Categories	concepts	References	
Human Factors	human resource development	Correct and sustainable training of skilled human resources	Lin (2019), Blakely & Bradshaw (2012), Yanting et al. (2020), Siva Pratap et al. (2019), Zhashuang (2019), Farahani & Alwandi (2019)	
		Encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship in society and organizations	Siva Pratap et al. (2019), Karmi & Aliyari (2021), Sencholi et al. (2021), Saeed et al. (2021)	
		Increasing creativity and innovation	Shuang & Liang (2019), Meyer (2014), Farahani & Alwandi (2019)	
		Building confidence in local investors	Nabi-Omidi et al. (2014)	
	Strengthening social capital	Stakeholder participation	Yating & Janjia (2018), Li et al. (2020), Meyer (2014), Matiei (2013), Ramezani et al. (2019), Sancholi et al. (2014)	
		Women's empowerment	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)	
		Improvement of women's employment situation	Ramezani et al. (2019), Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019), Bakshi et al. (2018).	
Economic factors	Investment and credit facilities	Allocation of financial resources and public and private investment	Lin (2019), Blakely & Bradshaw (2012), Bakshi et al. (2018), Nabi Amidi et al. (2018), Karimi & Daneshmehr (2019), Karim & Tolabinejad (2019), Matiei (2013), Azizpour et al. (2018).), Ghazanfarpour et al. (2021), Najafi Kani (2021), Ramezani et al. (2020)	
		Payment of loans and credit facilities	Ramezani et al. (2019), Mohammadi and Shahbazi (2019), Sencholi et al. (2014), Ashraf Zainli et al. (2014), Farahani & Elwandi (2014), Saeed et al.	
			Formation of credit fund	Ramezani et al. (2020), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021)
			Granting microcredits	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2020), Rezvani et al. (2015)
	Strengthening the agricultural sector	Guaranteed purchase of products	Najafi Kani (2021), Sencholi et al. (2021), Sencholi et al. (2021), Ashraf Zainli et al. (2021)	
		Providing inputs and production tools	Sencholi et al. (2021), Nabi-Omidi et al. (2021), Sai et al. (2021)	
		Product insurance	Karimi & Daneshmehr (2021), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2020)	
		Establishment of livestock cooperatives	Ashraf Zainli et al. (2021)	
		Use of indigenous knowledge	Meyer (2014), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)	
	Reforming the agricultural system	Expansion of hydroponic cultivation (greenhouse)	Najafi Kani (2021)	
		Modify consumption patterns	Najafi Kani (2021)	
		Modifying the cultivation pattern	Najafi Kani (2021), Karim & Toulabinjad (2021), Sancholi et al. (2021)	
		Increase in cultivated area	Najafi Kani (2021)	
		Increase Productivity	Najafi Kani (2021)	
	Economic justice	Use of knowledge-based economy	Najafi Kani (2021)	
		Strengthening the local economy	Rashid et al. (2019)	
		Reducing the feeling of poverty	Mohammadi and Shahbazi (2019)	
		Access to economic justice	Bakhshi et al. (2018)	
	Income and savings status	Reducing the economic inequality between the city and the countryside	Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019)	
Improving income and savings		Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2020), Bakshi et al. (2019), Sancholi et al. (2021)		
Increase purchasing power		Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2020)		
Reducing the cost of living		Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2020), Bakshi et al. (2019), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021)		

Table 3. Synthesis of the basis of opinion and research about the factors affecting the economic revitalization of rural areas

Nuclear category	Categories	concepts	References
Economic factors	Economic stability	Stabilization of prices	Najafi Kani (2021), Bakhshi et al. (2019)
		Economic stability	Bakhshi et al. (2018), Nabi Amidi et al. (2014)
		Increasing job security	Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019)
		Job Satisfaction	Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019)
		Ensuring capital security	Sai et al. (2021)
	Sustainable livelihood	Increasing resilience of activities	Soleimani & Rezvani (2022), Bakshi et al. (2019), Ramezani et al. (2020)
		Reduce production risk	Riahi & Siadati (2022), Nabi-Omidi et al. (2021)
		The dynamics of livelihood resources	Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019)
	Diversification of activities	Improving the efficiency of activities	Ramezani et al. (2019)
		Sustainable livelihood	Lee et al. (2020)
Management factors	Reform the planning system	Variety of activities	Siva Pratap et al. (2019), Bakshi et al. (2018), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019), Matiei (2013), Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019), Ghazanfarpour et al. (2014)
		Establishment of border markets	Mohammadi & Shahbazi (2019)
		Spatial, logical, and local planning	Zhashuang (2019), Changjiang (2019), Rudella (2010), Meyer (2014), Rashid et al. (2019), Wu et al. (2019)
	Structural adjustment policies	Initiative from the bottom up	Yating & Janjia (2018), Li et al. (2016), Rudella (2010)
		Interconnection between city and village	Meyer (2014), Matiei (2013)
		Comprehensive and integrated development	Siva Pratap et al. (2019)
		Research and Development	Blakely & Bradshaw (2012)
	Production support and support	Subsidy payment	Yating & Janjia (2018), Blakely & Bradshaw (2012), Azizpour et al. (2018)
		Private sector development	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)
		Product marketing development	Wang & Zaho (2018), Blakely & Bradshaw (2012), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019), Karim & Tolabinejad (2021), Sancholi et al. (2021), Najafi Kani (2021)
Development of business environment	Capacity measurement of activities	Ghazanfarpour et al. (2021)	
	Improve business climate	Nabi-Omidi et al. (2021), Sancholi et al. (2021)	
	Supporting small businesses	Sencholi et al. (2021), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021)	
Institutional factors	good governance	Government support for business	Rabi'i & Tak Rosta (2021)
		good governance	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)
		Compilation of rules and regulations	Zhaoshuang (2019)
	Reforming the institutional structure	Facilitation of trustee offices	Sai et al. (2021)
		Reforming the administrative and institutional structure	Wu et al. (2019), Ramezani et al. (2019), Ghazanfarpour et al. (2019), Najafi Kani (2019), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)
Infrastructural and welfare factors	Infrastructure facilities	Alignment with government policies	Lee et al. (2016), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019), Karim & Toulabinjad (2021)
		Improving and strengthening infrastructure, communication, and technological infrastructure	Zhaswang (2019), Siva Pratap et al. (2019), Blakely & Bradshaw (2012), Shahraki Moghadam et al. (2019), Saei et al. et al. (2018), Najafi Kani (2014), Sancholi et al. (2014)
		Improving production and welfare infrastructure	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)
		Ease of access to infrastructure	Sencholi et al. (2021), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021)

Table 3. Synthesis of the basis of opinion and research about the factors affecting the economic revitalization of rural areas

Nuclear category	Categories	concepts	References
Infrastructural and welfare factors	Service facilities and facilities	consulting services	Sencholi et al. (2021), Nabi Amidi et al. (2021)
		Structural reforms in the supply of agricultural extension	Shuang & Liang (2019), Mondal et al. (2020)
		Development of transportation and communication	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019), Farahani & Alwandi (2019)
Technological factors	Agricultural Mechanization	Agricultural intelligence and mechanization	Mondal et al. (2020), Shuang & Liang (2019), Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)
		Development of modern animal husbandry	Siva Pratap et al. (2019), Ashraf Zainli et al. (2021)
	The link between industry and agriculture	Transformation and complementary industries of the agricultural sector	Azizpour et al. (2018), Sencholi et al. (2021), Ghazanfar-pour et al. (2021)
		Industrialization and development of industrial skills	Yating & Janjia (2018), Mondal et al. (2020), Ghazanfar-pour et al.
	Internet services	Production workshops and handi-crafts	Ghazanfarpour et al. (2021)
		Market information system	Najafi Kani (2021)
	New communication technologies	Familiarity with Internet technology	Matiei (2004), Farahani & Alwandi (2020)
		Development of smart tourism	Lee et al. (2020), Matiei (2013)
		Using information and communication technology (e-commerce)	Sancholi et al. (2021)
		Promotion and use of new technologies	Zhashuang (2019), Changjiang (2019), Wu et al. (2019), Yanting et al. (2020), Riahi & Siadati (2022), Saei et al. (2021), Najafi Kani (2021)
Natural environmental factor	Water and soil resources	Access to factors of production	Sencholi et al. (2021), Bakhshi et al. (2018)
		Identification of natural power	Sadr Mousavi et al. (2019)
	resource management	The integrity of the lands	Karimi & Daneshmehr (2021), Yousefi et al. (2018)
		Management and supervision of natural resources	Changjiang (2019), Wu et al. (2019), Blakely & Bradshaw (2012), Mondal et al. (2020), Karimi & Daneshmehr (2021), Farahani & Alwandi (2019)
	Respecting the attractiveness of diverse values	Wu et al. (2019)	

Source: Research findings, 2022.

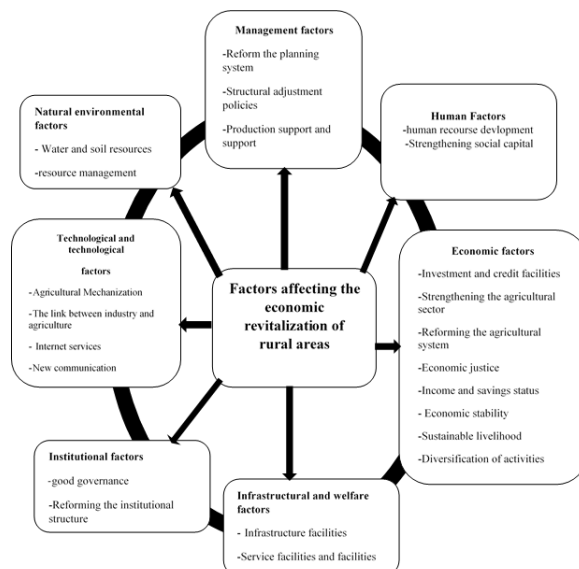


Figure 1. Conceptual model of factors affecting the economic revitalization of rural areas



According to the research's conceptual model, economic factors emerge as a key category influencing the economic revitalization of rural areas, encompassing 8 subcategories: strengthening the agricultural sector through investment and credit facilities, agricultural system reform, economic fairness, income and savings status, economic stability, sustainable livelihood, and activity diversification. Technological factors constitute another core category with 4 subcategories, including agricultural mechanization bridging industry and agriculture, internet services, and new communication technologies. Management factors, as the third core category, feature 4 subcategories: planning system reform, structural adjustment policies, production support, and business environment development. Human factors represent a core category in rural economic revitalization with 2 subcategories: human resource development and social capital enhancement. Institutional factors form another core category with 2 subcategories: good governance and institutional structure reform. Infrastructural and welfare factors constitute a core category with 2 subcategories: infrastructure facilities and service provisions. Lastly, the natural environment factors core category, as the eighth factor in rural economic revitalization, includes 2 subcategories: water and soil resources and resource management.

4. Findings

The emergence of numerous economic challenges, such as rising unemployment, increased poverty levels, declining incomes, inadequate capital formation, regional disparities, rural workforce migration, low workforce productivity, land fragmentation, significant changes in agricultural land use, and heightened socio-economic isolation, has resulted in the destabilization of villages. This has led to a widespread concern in many developing nations, with villages facing depopulation and widespread deterioration. To address the issues stemming from rural decay, various countries worldwide have proposed policies and initiatives aimed at revitalizing rural economies, including efforts to enhance local infrastructure. One such policy is the economic revitalization strategy for rural areas, which aims to create new job opportunities, promote income equality, alleviate poverty and migration, narrow the income gap between urban and rural areas, boost exports, and more.

The concept of economic revitalization emerged in response to the economic decline in rural areas, marked by significant job losses and a lack of domestic and foreign investment. Typically, regions experiencing economic downturns exhibit characteristics such as dwindling em-

ployment opportunities, reduced manufacturing sectors, and limited job prospects. Successful rural economic rejuvenation hinges on two key factors: demand and supply. Demand is influenced by a community's capacity to generate local revenues and retain spending within the rural area, while supply involves infrastructure enhancements like new construction projects or upgrades to existing infrastructure and transportation networks through targeted investments. The primary objective of rural economic revitalization is to achieve sustainable economic growth in rural areas, ultimately enhancing residents' quality of life. Empowering residents to actively participate in the renewal process is essential for combating social deprivation, fostering community resilience, and promoting equitable economic development. Placing local communities at the forefront of renewal efforts can address social development challenges and improve planning systems.

5. Discussion

Based on the outlined content, numerous factors play a role in the economic revitalization process of rural areas. Consequently, this study aims to explore the influential factors on the economic revitalization of rural areas through a meta-analysis approach utilizing synthesis research methodology. Synthesis research is a qualitative research method that involves reviewing diverse studies within a specific subject area and amalgamating their findings. In this study, 38 articles from both domestic and foreign sources, focusing on the efficiency of time-related research between the years 2010-2022 and 1383-1401, met the criteria for analysis.

The research findings reveal the identification of 7 core categories, 24 subcategories, and 81 concepts regarding the factors influencing the economic revitalization of rural areas (Table 3). Table 3 results illustrate that rural economic revitalization is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by various factors, including Economic factors (investment and credit facilities, agricultural sector strengthening, agricultural system reform, economic justice, income and savings status, economic stability, sustainable livelihood, and activity diversification), technological factors (agricultural mechanization, industry-agriculture linkage, internet services, and new communication technologies), management factors (planning system reform, structural adjustment policies, production support and development of the business environment), human factors (human resource development and social capital strengthening), institutional factors (good governance and institutional structure reform), infrastructural and welfare factors (infrastructure and service

facilities), and natural environment factors (water and soil resources, resource management). The majority of components extracted from the literature review are situated within the core category of economic factors, highlighting their central and fundamental role in the rural economic revitalization process.

This study delves into the effective factors and mechanisms involved in revitalizing rural economies. The findings highlight the significance of various strategies, including: providing sustainable training for skilled workforce, fostering entrepreneurship, promoting creativity and innovation, instilling confidence in local investors, encouraging stakeholder engagement, empowering women, enhancing women's employment status, facilitating access to financial resources and investments (both public and private), offering loans and credit facilities, establishing credit funds, providing microcredits, ensuring product purchase guarantees, supplying inputs and production tools, offering product insurance, forming livestock cooperatives, leveraging indigenous knowledge, expanding hydroponic cultivation, reforming consumption and cultivation patterns, increasing cultivated land area and productivity, embracing a knowledge-based economy, bolstering the local economy, alleviating poverty, promoting economic justice, reducing urban-rural economic disparities, improving income and savings, boosting purchasing power, lowering living costs, stabilizing prices, ensuring economic stability, enhancing job security and satisfaction, securing capital investments, enhancing activity resilience, mitigating production risks, diversifying livelihood resources, improving activity efficiency, fostering sustainable livelihoods through diverse activities, establishing border markets, implementing spatial and local planning initiatives, promoting bottom-up approaches, fostering urban-rural connectivity, pursuing comprehensive development strategies, investing in research and development, providing subsidies, supporting private sector growth, enhancing product marketing, measuring activity capacities, enhancing business environments, backing small businesses, ensuring governmental support for businesses, promoting good governance, refining laws and regulations, streamlining administrative and institutional structures, aligning with government policies, strengthening infrastructure including communication and technological networks, improving production and welfare infrastructure, facilitating infrastructure access, offering consultancy services, implementing supply chain structural reforms in agriculture, advancing transportation and communication systems, adopting smart agriculture practices and mechanization, modernizing livestock farming practices, developing complementary

industries in the agricultural sector, fostering industrialization and industrial skill development, promoting production workshops and handicrafts, establishing market information systems, embracing Internet technologies, fostering smart tourism practices, leveraging information and communication technologies (e-commerce), integrating new technologies, optimizing access to production factors, harnessing natural resources efficiently, ensuring land integrity, managing natural resources effectively, respecting diverse values' appeal. It is important to note that the significance of each factor may vary across different regions.

The research findings align with previous studies on job diversity, production increase, productivity enhancement, private-sector investment as reported by Matthews (2012). Consistency is observed in areas such as natural resource management, human resource development, marketing, investment, and managerial factors, in line with Blakely and Bradshaw's (2012) research. Similarly, the emphasis on innovative thinking, modernization of agriculture and rural areas, and structural reforms in agricultural supply align with the findings of Shuang and Liang (2019). The focus on practical technical education, technology transfer for agricultural advancement, organic farming, cost-effective management practices, industrial skill development in agriculture, and smart agriculture implementation resonates with the research by Yanting et al. (2020) and Mondal et al. (2020). The importance of training local manpower, financial resource allocation, rural loans and financing, rural financial institutions, relevant legislation formulation, rural infrastructure strengthening, logical regional planning, special support programs for rural areas, human resource development, and technological innovation are consistent with the research by Lin (2019) and Zhashuang (2019). Factors like production technology, rural resource preservation, local planning, bottom-up reconstruction with community participation, industrial revitalization through subsidies, and agricultural marketing are echoed in the studies by Changjiang (2019), Yating and Janjia (2018), Chen (2011), and Wang and Zaho (2018). Economic revitalization serves as a key strategy to enhance economic development in villages and elevate residents' quality of life. It is crucial for sustainable economic development and aims to address various challenges by focusing on economic stability, justice, and well-being in rural communities. Economic revival involves multiple factors such as economic, technological, management, human, institutional, infrastructural, welfare, and environmental aspects that collectively contribute to rural economic improvement. Neglecting any of these factors can lead to failed revitalization efforts and subsequent instability in

settlements. The bottom-up approach in rural revitalization emphasizes community involvement in economic planning processes to ensure successful revitalization efforts. Comprehensive education for rural residents is essential to enhance their participation in economic revitalization initiatives. Rural development organizations should consider the factors highlighted in this research to enhance the effectiveness of economic revitalization policies in rural areas and promote village revitalization.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

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