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## **ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION THE ROLE OF COMMON BORDER SMALL MARKETS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SURROUNDING AREAS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

According to several experts in social and economic planning, governments will reach success, if they decrease their internal problems to the minimum rate and by using appropriate approaches, encourage residents of border area to stay and live in their birthplace. However, impediments of this goal are geographical isolation, and cultural, economic and social underdevelopments of these areas. Common border small markets, according to several experts, are an important step to maintain population and create job for them. The purpose of current research is to analyze and explain the role of common border small markets in sustainable development of surrounding area. The case study, also, is the small market of Parvizkhan in Kermanshah Province of Iran. Research is done by an analyzing-description method. For collecting date, it is used from library and field (interview and questionnaire) resources. The results of the research show that although establishing of these common markets in border area have improved considered indicators, especially in economic issues (income, job,..), their performances in all indicators were not according to expectations. Therefore, it is need for a multidimensional policy making and planning for sustainable development of these areas.

**Keywords:** *Common Small Markets, Sustainable Development, Border Area*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today concept of national power has been changed from militarism, regionalism and nationalism into balanced development and advances without subjective considering of geographical borders. Borders can be considered as opportunities of producing security for governments. With this view, these imposed geographical border are not considered as divider factor for a national or ethnics, rather they are considered as an extraordinary factor for using opportunities of both sides of borders to revive ethnic cultures and regional sustainable development. In fact, borders inherently produce security, so it can be stated that the best and the most faithful margraves are those people who are living in border areas. This people naturally for improving their enriched culture and increasing security, seek constantly for stability and peace in order to more development of their regions.

One of the concerns of governments, political leaders, and policy makers in the current age, is a balanced development, which prevents from concentration of asset in one area and unbalanced growth of the society, and be effective and profitable. Therefore, it is important for rural and deprived areas to receive developing plans (Taleb, 2008). One of these areas is border area. These areas have certain features because of different external and internal situations they are connected to (Ahmadipour, 2008). Features like being far from center, Geographical isolation, instability of residence, cultural differences, foreign threats, border exchanges, etc. , give certain importance for these area in developing, security and logistics planning of the country (Zaraghani, 2007). Such features have made these areas and border effects important in developmental research (economic, social, ecologic...); because it is thought that, these geographical borders cause compatibility, economic similarity, security stability and sustainability in population. In fact, in can be said that economic of border areas plays an important role in economic development of border areas, improving the standards of the border residents, decreasing poverty, proper distribution of income, and economic cooperation of these areas (Eftekhri et al., 2008).

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One of the plans is activating the economy of these areas, which is a main indicator in establishing connection between neighboring countries and improving the income of the residents. It means that these residents can use of other border residents of neighboring country to develop common resources and opportunities. This can result in friendship, security and economic development, establishing job opportunities and forming a kind of relative advantage in border areas. One of the strategies for economic activation of these borders is developing border exchanges in a legal and simplified form like border small markets. These markets increase formal exchanges and relative advantages, develop cooperation and interregional markets, stabilize prices, orient commercial profits, and produce jobs and as result improve welfare among these residents (Kamran, 2009).

This research, for analyzing and explaining the role of common border small markets in sustainable development of border areas, first analyses the theoretical foundations and variables changes, second, introduces previous literature in this subject, then provides the method and how to achieve findings. Finally analyses findings and conclusion.

### **Sustainable Development**

Today, sustainable development is a comprehensive process, which refers to the improvement all aspects of people's life in a society. In sustainable development, development itself is not goal; rather it is a mean, which helps human reaching a proper position based on the place of living

According to this, sustainable development is considered as proper framework for utilizing resources and establishing balanced relation between human and nature. Its purpose is to remove human requirements and improve life quality (Rezvani, 2007).

In fact, development is a comprehensive, multidimensional, complicated and indivisible concept and has material and spiritual dimensions (quality and quantity). This concept not only improves the material level of the life, but also improves culture, social awareness and life quality (Jomepour, 2006). Therefore, development is possible when we decrease poverty and unemployment to the least (Taleb and Anbari, 2008).

Although conceptual development is much wider than economic development, accessing to some aspects of development like hygiene, treatment and education is possible just through economic development. Economic development, as the main aspect of development issue, is a concept, which at first used in the meaning of economic growth, but economic growth is a qualitative concept and economic development is a quantitative concept. Economic growth means growth along with changing in values and institutes. Effective and functional employment, decreasing poverty, and improving welfare, all are indicators, which show the level of economic development (Naraghi, 1991).

However, it should be noted that development is not as the same as economic growth, rather is a multidimensional process, which encompasses reorganization and different orientation of all economic-social system. In improving the production and income system, it consists of essential transformation in institutional, administrative, and social structures and in public attitude and views. It consists, also several aspects, even Habits, customs and beliefs of people (Azkia, 2004). In fact, such development is based on not only general goals, but also specific goals, which include food security, participation increasing, environment protection and poverty decrease. These four goals are considered as an international chart in most public and private circles.

### **Sustainable Development in Border Areas**

One of the main problems in border area is their un-peopling and migration of border residents into big cities because of lacking sufficient economic motives for living in these areas. However, protection of security in these areas needs border residents. Therefore economic development of border areas and income and welfare increase of them through healthy economic activities and government's support, can effect positively on security function of borders. On the other hand, increasing in healthy economic activities in government investing in border areas, provided lacking any significant economical difference among two side of border, have an effective role on the communicative function of the borders (Zaraghani, 2007). Therefore considering that theoretical foundations of regional economic and interpretation of regional imbalances, are based on economic or geographical origin, regional planning

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theories have been provided and supplemented by economists and geographers. The concept of market, as a main representative of economic, especially in developing countries, is yet under the yoke of economic theories. Among first theories of regional development and interpretation of regional imbalances, it can be referred to the theories of central place. According to this theories, in even regions, population, activities and as result service distribution are done based on hierarchical centers in the land, which their locations are shown in the form of regular geometric crystals. It means that services are distributed to the population by the centers, which are located in intervals in all regions (Shokuhi, 1965).

This theory explains the concepts of borders of regions and inequality between centers and far regions. After Crystal, Growth pole theory was introduced by François (1995). According to this theory, development should be started from a growth pole, which its radius, after developing in pole, is distributed automatically (Darvent, 1994). In fact, theory of growth pole, with accepting regional imbalances (between growth pole and far regions), considers it as necessary factor for developing of countries and big regions. The bases of above theory, which provides subjects like regional imbalances and the reasons of regional under developing, is used for interpretation of regional imbalances between central regions and border regions by researchers of regional planning.

Niles Hansen, by studying about border areas in Germany, Switzerland and France, and by referring to Crystaler theory, tries to interpret the phenomena of regional imbalances in these areas.

Gendarme also tries to interpret the problems of regional imbalances and border areas underdevelopment, with referring to growth pole theory. He believes that some aspects like custom's impediments, incapability in natural resources utilization, existence of wrong trends about establishing transportation ways parallel to borders, instead of producing and developing roads into the neighboring country, and the problems in supply and demand arena, are the main factors in regional imbalances in border areas and their underdevelopment.

Philip Jones and Triver Wild, with relying on Crystaler central place theory and previous literatures, try to interpret the problem of regional imbalances and underdevelopment of border areas. They believed that some unsuitable conditions like high security costs, and spatial distortion between central areas and border areas, cause underdevelopments in these areas. They also, following Romely and Minichi, believe that border areas have a direct effect on the Spatial and physical structure of the whole country. Therefore, referring to the theoretical findings of Honsen, Jones and Wild, it can be interfered following factors as border areas indicators on which development plans should be set:

- 1- Border area underdevelopment is the result of two main factors of being far from geographical center and economic under developing because of low level of security.
- 2- For developing border areas, capacity building and economic movement are necessary. Capacity building is fulfilled by regional development plans and economic movement by investing in proper economic activities. Every commitments and developmental investment in these areas will be limited because of weakness in infrastructural issues. For developing border areas, it should be necessary or identify and remove these problems.

### **Border Small Markets**

Today, developing countries have properly recognized that for a necessary development, they should participate more serious in global trade. One of the ways for participating in global trade is developing regional exchanges among countries. Establishing border common small markets is one of the effective factors in developing regional exchanges. Now, in most developing countries, most parts of needs of people, who are living in borders, are supplied by border exchanges (small markets). These exchanges, despite being informal and local, have an important role in exchanges among countries and improve the life of border residents (Marateb, 2005).

The experiences of developing countries, during the last three decades show that border exchanges, in the form of law and regulations, van be a good motive increasing formal goods exchanges and orienting trade toward relative advantages, developing multilateral cooperation, among free zones, developing border small markets, producing commercial profits, decreasing the prices, coordination among supply and demands and creating income, job and security for border residents (Mahmoudi, 2005). In another words,

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development of border areas and relative welfare in these areas, decrease some problems like smuggling, Drug trafficking, stealing.... In addition, prevent from un-peopling of these areas (MahammadPour, 2002).

Severe economic privation , large number of unemployment, illegally crossing of people and smuggling that is in conflict with national security have an effective role in establishing border common small markets (Andalib, 2001). In a comprehensive definition, a border small market is an enclosed area in border regions, neighbor to customs, in which the residents of both sides of border can exchange their products observing laws and regulations.

Establishing border small markets, as a lever of economic activities in different areas especially in border areas of the countries, have different economic, social and political effects. In the case of economic aspect, establishing small markets in rural areas, especially in border areas, can provide different opportunities like creating direct and indirect job for the youth of the region, exporting agricultural and livestock products with proper prices to the neighboring countries, increasing the income and welfare of the residents by goods exchanges, decreasing in unemployment, formalizing the exchanges between Iran and neighboring countries and also increasing the number and diversity of jobs ( Dehmarde and Shahraki, 2009).

Active border small markets in the country are of two kinds: the first one is those, which are established based of the license of ministry of commerce, and are located generally in border areas like small markets in Kurdistan , Kermanshah. ... There are 24 of such small markets in the country. The second one is those that their license is issued based on national interests and diagnosis of national Security Council. These kinds of markets often established by the stated council in a certain place and time and then dissolved like border small market in Afghanistan. Their number is unknown (Pahlavani and Ghaleno, 2008).

### **Goals and Functions of Border Small Markets**

Establishing border small markets can be considered along with regional cooperation development and as part of economic solution for decreasing regional crisis, increase in stability and security in border areas and development in productive and commercial activities. Therefore, it is possible to provide welfare resulted from trade for these areas, which are double deprived. In another words, border small markets are the result of a close economy, which are seeking for a way to import and export with few impediments.

Some purposes of border small markets are as follow: the possibility to make a healthy and continuous connection with neighboring countries, producing prosperity, increasing the security coefficient of country's borders, flourishing of local talent, establishing and developing productive jobs and stabilizing population in the international borders in order to decrease negative security effects resulted from un-peopling border areas . Implementation of these goals has some advantages like: prevention of migration of border residents, increase the welfare of borders, development of social and commercial relations with other countries, and prevention of smuggling (Regulation of Border Small Market, 1992).

### **Main Purposes of Border Small Markets are**

A- Security problem: border small market, according to their structure, can meet somewhat, the security problem of the borders and this effects significantly on the economic condition of the area.

B- Social problem: border residents, for different reasons, like to make relationship with the residents on the other side of the border and markets can meet this issue.

C- Political problem: Border provinces always want to make political relations, based on common interests, with neighboring country and Border market can meet this issue by producing negotiations.

D- Creating Jobs: establishing border small markets can simply make direct and indirect jobs for border residents. This can result in a productive investment.

E- Migration problem: Small Markets by creating jobs and income for border residents can remove somewhat the problem of migration to big cities.

The other point about border small markets is their functions in political, social and economic dimensions:

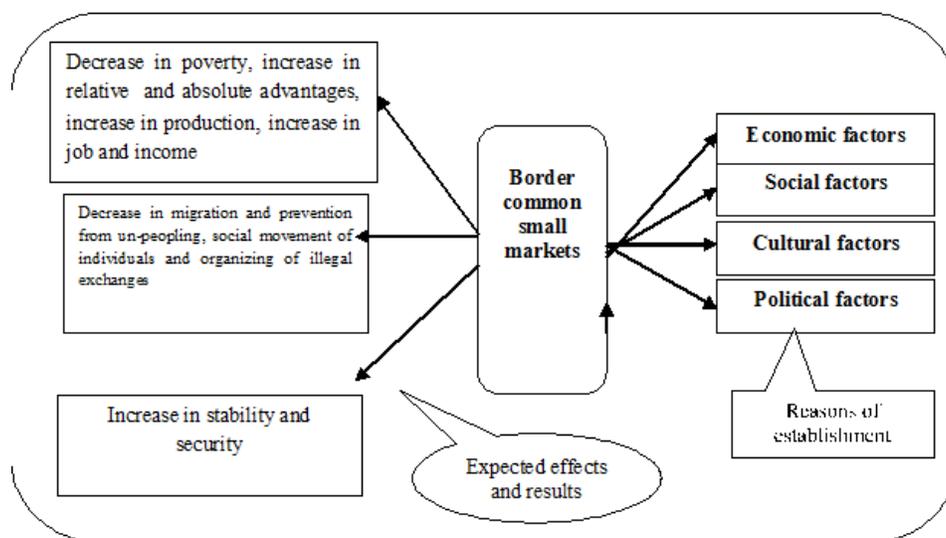
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A- Economic function: establishing border common small market causes that non-local merchants visit these markets to utilize from market facilities and get information from economic, agricultural, industrial and mining capabilities of border provinces and neighboring countries.

B- Social function: one of the considerable effect of small markets is the presence of non-local people which can results in the closer connection of commercial society of the country, learning more about the customs and cultures and decreasing the established gaps resulted from regional problems.

C- Political effects: border small markets are always one of the issues, which have made economic and security authorities of the neighboring countries closer to each other.

It should be noted that border small markets, in addition to positive effects, have some negative effects: smuggling into country and exiting currency from the country, entering similar goods and damaging to internal products, luxury-orienting, creating false jobs because of their high income relative to other jobs, farmers trend to false job and other high-income jobs, school leaving of student and negative cultural effects (Dehmardi and Shahraki, 1998).



**Figure 1: Considered functions of establishing border small markets**

### Review of Literature

Establishing border markets and developing exchanges through these units are done mostly to achieve goals like creating jobs, providing the needs of border residents, decreasing smuggling, stabilizing the population of borders, increasing in national security coefficient, and developing the economy of border residents. Therefore, different researchers analyzed these border markets from different views. Here we are going to introduce some of them:

Neibor and Stiler (1998) in an essay, "Convergence effects in border regions", and by using economic theories and experimental observations, analyze the economic effect of trade in border regions. They believe that convergence effects of the countries have been centered in central regions and without considering economic theories, it is not possible to analyze properly these convergence effects.

Pahlavani, in an essay named "analyses the problems of border small markets of Sistan and Balouchestn Province", with analyzing the weak and strong points of this province and its location in border, stated that exchange and transaction in this region with neighboring countries and establishing border common market are necessary factors for these regions.

Mahmoudi (2007), in an essay named "evaluation the effect of exchanges through border small markets custom incomes of government", evaluates these effects in the period of 1998-2001. The results of his research show that if the imports of the whole country increase about 1%, this can have different effects on custom incomes.

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Mahammdpour (2007), in a study named (the role of border small market on the spatial development of border regions", analyze economic functions of border region of Bajgiran, factors influencing stagnation of the market, and developing its services and facilities and providing the possibility of connection between market with other villages.

Eftekhari et al., (2008), in a research on the border small market of Sheikh Saleh of Kermanshah Province, analyze the economic effects of border markets in developing border regions. The results of their research show that this market can have an important effect on the surrounding regions border.

**Introducing the Considered Market**

Border small market of Parvizkhan is conterminous of Iraq, in 3 km of GhasreShirin Township, 25 Km of Khosravi Customs, and in 180 km of Kermanshah City. This market, which is allowed to import and export with Pilevari procedure (a kind of border exchange), allocates the first grade of exporting and transit of good among land borders of the countries. In fact, insecurity in central regions of Iraq has made Iraqi merchants to get their required goods from Prvizkhan border market. Therefore, the amount of export in this area increases. Since this market provide the main part of required goods of Iraq, especially Kurdistan, it is one of the critical place for Iraq and essential exporting place for Iran.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Methodology**

The method of this research is applied and is analytical-description in nature. Data collecting has been done in the form of library-documental and surveying. In the case of documental way, it is used from documents, reports and articles of considered organizations, and in the cast of surveying method, it is used from questionnaire. In the current research, independent variable is border markets and dependent variables are income, employment (includes direct and indirect), relative welfare, migration, social security, economic security, and border residents needs supply.

Statistical society consists of 3054 individuals including authorities, exhibitors and active merchants in the border markets. Considering the large number of sample, it is used from Cochran formula and 95 individuals.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Research Findings**

Regarding that findings are based on field studies, therefore researchers by designing a questionnaire corresponding to research hypotheses, measure the effect of border market of Parvizkhan in sustainable development of surrounding regions. This questionnaire consists of indicators and sub-indicators of measuring border regions development (table 1).

**Table 1: Indicators and sub-indicators of measuring border regions development**

		<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sub-indicators</b>
<b>Dimensions of development</b>	Economic	-	Employment (direct and indirect)
		-	Income
		-	Economic security (investment, accepting check in exchanges, fear of fraud
	Social	-	Relative welfare (housing, food, hygiene, leisure time)
		-	Migration
		-	Social security (decrease in unrests and crimes, life and financial security, job security feeling)
		-	Ethnic and cultural homogeneity
	Security	-	Participation in social and political activities
		-	Offensive of foreign and opposing forces
		-	Succeed of post of duties in protecting borders
		-	Prevention from smuggling

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**Field Findings**

**A- The Role of Small Market in Economic Development of the Region**

One of the main reasons of establishing border small markets in border regions is increasing the amount of security in these regions through trade development. By this, both the motives of border residents to live there will increase and by living them in these areas, security will increase. According to the research findings, it can be said that considering 78.6% job movement of respondents, Border market of Parvizkhan have had significant effect in increasing direct and indirect jobs for border residents. In addition, 72.7 % of respondents believe that establishing border small markets results in creating indirect jobs in the region. These indirect jobs includes: loading, transportation of goods and passengers, storage, Restaurant servicing, shops etc. most of the people in these regions now have jobs, which they did not have.

**Table 2: Frequency distribution of percent of respondents based on the amount of income relative to the time before market**

Amount of income	Before market			After market		
	frequency	percent	Concentration percent	frequency	percent	Concentration percent
Less than 600000 tomans	55	57/89	57/9	16	16/84	16/3
From 601 to 800000 Tomans	18	18/95	77/4	36	37/9	53/2
From 801 to one million tomans	15	15/79	92/6	9	9/47	62/2
From 1million to 12000000 tomans	6	6/32	98/4	19	20	84/7
More than 12000000tomans	1	1/05	100	15	15/79	100
<b>The sum</b>	95	100	---	95	100	--

According to the findings received from field studies, it can be found that income of 65% of respondents increased after establishment of the small markets. In the case of the role small market on the income of border residents, it seems that establishing common border markets has had a positive effect on the income of border residents. It should be noted that this increasing in income is as the result of merchant cart, exporting and importing, selling the privilege of merchant cart and laboring.

**Table 3: Frequency distribution of respondents based on economic security criteria in the region**

Amount of problem	Very low	low	average	High	Very high	Number of sample
Accepting check	3/8	11/5	25/4	21/4	31/7	95
Fear of fraud in transactions	47/8	26/8	12/7	9/2	6/8	95
Investing in industries	26	26/9	46/2	2/8	1/7	95

**Table 4: Frequency distribution of respondents based on their view toward social security resulting from market activity in the region**

Amount of economic security	Frequency	Valid percent	Concentration percent
High	42	44/21	52/8
Average	49	51/57	40/1
Low	4	2/1	2/1
Unknown	1	-	--
<b>The sum</b>	95	100	



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According to table 9, it can be claimed that most of the respondents (48.42%) believe that common border market can improve social security in the region, while 26.31% of them considered social security in an average level and 24.21% in a very low level.

**Table 10: Unilateral Chi-Square test of social security in the region**

Variable	Chi-square	Degree of freedom	Significance
Social security of the region	72/548	2	0/000

According to Table 10 and considering that the significant level is less than 0.05, therefore this hypothesis is confirmed that establishing common border markets have positive effects in providing social security.

**Table 11: Frequency distribution of respondents based on the role of small markets in cultural-social variables**

The amount of each item	Very low	Low	Average	High	Very high	Number of sample
amount of ethnic and cultural homogeneity with the other side of border	14/9	18/7	26/5	22/7	17/8	95
Amount of migration	14/7	26/5	19/6	13/9	11/2	95
Amount of participation in political-social activities	4/7	11/8	32/6	27/4	23/5	95

According to table 11, establishing common border markets increases the amount of ethnic and cultural homogeneity with the other side of border, improve people's participation in social activities and decreases migration of border residents.

**Table 12: Frequency distribution of respondents based on their view toward increase in social security after establishing market**

Amount of social security	Frequency	Valid percent	Concentration percent
Completely disagree	4	4/21	4/21
Disagree	8	8/42	12/61
No comments	28	29/47	42/08
Agree	27	28/43	33/51
Completely agree	28	29/47	7/7
The sum	95	100	100

According to table 12, 29.47% of respondents considered social security at high level, 28.43% at average level, and 12% at very low level.

**Table 13: Unilateral Chi-square of social security of the region**

Variable	Chi-square	Degree of freedom	Significance
social security of the region	69/768	2	0.000

Considering that level of significance is less than 0.05, this hypothesis is confirmed that establishing common border small markets have an important role in social security of the region.

**Discussion and Conclusion**

One of the concerns of governments, political leaders and developmental planners is a balanced development, which prevents from concentration of asset in one area and unbalanced growth of the society, and be effective and profitable. Potential natural and economic in capabilities of some of these regions, especially in agricultural and economic sectors, migration, regional and spatial differences and

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inequalities between central regions and border regions allow to the governments to provide solutions in commercial exchanges of border regions In order to remove deprivation, create jobs, maintain population, and prevent from un-peopling and smuggling. As it was stated one of these solutions, is development in border exchanges in a legal and simplified form like common border small markets. These markets can be a good motive for increasing formal exchanges, flourishing relative advantages and developing cooperation and interregional markets, stabilizing prices, orienting commercial profits, increasing jobs and welfare for border residents.

In the case of Parvizkhan market, findings showed that this market has improved most of the welfare variables and is an important factor in social and economic movement of border regions. In addition, although this market has had a positive effect in relative welfare of the region and has produced positive changes in the economy of the border residents, there is a far way to reach the complete access of its goals. However, according to the results and evaluating the economic effect of the market show that this small market has a positive effect on some indicators like employment, income and relative income. Therefore, it can be said that although in some cases the effect of market has been high and in some case very low, it is an important factor in social and economic movement of border region.

Finally, it should be noted that sustainable development is a multidimensional phenomenon, which cannot be fulfilled without multidimensional planning and policymaking, establishing economic, social, cultural, and environmental infrastructures along with a bilateral cooperation between states and private sector.

### Suggestions

- 1- Allowing local and border residents to participate in commercial exchanges so that all people and groups benefit it (through establishing commercial cooperatives in order to compound few assets and create new jobs)
- 2- Improving communicative infrastructures, roads, and transportation for facilitating communications with other regions and reinforcing entry and exit gates of terminals and customs.
- 3- Protecting investment of private sector in the region in the form of establishing production and conversion units, which are in connection with exporting goods.
- 4- Determining combining of export and import goods, based on regional needs and products.

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