

A Sociological Study of Cultural and Economic Factors Effective on Empowering Female Household-Headship in Sanandaj City of Iran

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ABSTRACT— *The economic and cultural conditions of Female Household-Headship have been investigated in the present research as one of the vulnerable groups of society in order that through understanding the conditions of this group, applied steps could be taken towards empowering them. Empowering is a multifaceted process of power recourses being available to and controlled by the individuals in order to increase the group and individual capacities and capitals towards purposeful selection.*

This paper has been carried out through survey method and amongst a sample of 406 Female Household-Headship in Sanandaj city and has been selected through stratified (probable) sampling. A mixture of different theories accompanied with sociological approaches have been used for the conceptual framework and the hypotheses of the research have been posed to consider those concepts, and the following hypotheses were accepted at the end, so there is a relationship between the interests, consumption and cultural knowledge, financial needs and financial independency of Female Household-Headship and empowering them. The result of the research indicates the deplorable economic condition of this group of society as well. The independent variables explain almost 44 percent of the changes in dependent variables and economic factors have a more explanatory role in empowering Female Household-Headship in Sanandaj in comparison to cultural factors.

Keywords—: *Female Household-Headship, empowering, cultural factors, Sanandaj's economic factors*

1. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Studying the changes in the families in different areas of the world indicates that the number of Female Household-Headship is increasing and this increase increases the probability of an increase in occurrence of poverty and social vulnerability and high prevalence of psychological stress in the society. Although women as half of the population of the world, can have a constructive and effective role in the process of advancement, evolution, and development of the society, through the history of mankind they have continuously been subjected to unkindness and ignorance; their role has commonly been subjected to ignorance be it in the family framework regarding legal- economic issues or be it in the society. (Piran, 2000: 1). Overlooking this social group and ignoring them have always encountered societies with various issues and these issues become more obvious in cases which women are the bread- winner and the head of the household. A large number of these women suffer from the lack of a supportive shelter, social and financial provision and they are forced to spend more time working and these affairs cause the creation of time poverty and ignoring theirs and their children's training, educational and cultural aspects and it leads to problems and issues for the society (Rezai Ghadi, 2010).

In fact economic difficulties have a significant impact on making worse or decreasing other problems of the women Female Household-Headship; up to the point where if the Female Household-Headship enjoy social and family supporting recourses, they will encounter less problems and the degree of their vulnerability with regard to psychological issues and problems will be lower, but in case their families are incapable of providing them with economic support or even taking care of their children or in case there are no institutes in the society for the purposes of presenting supporting services to the Female Household-Headship, they are forced to tolerate the load of all the problems by themselves. The issues and problems of the Female Household-Headship are not specified to a special area or areas; they exist in all

places of the country. Since the emphasis of this text is Kurdistan Province, thus the conditions of this group will be presented in Kurdistan Province on the basis of statistics.

Table 1: Changes in the number of household under the guardianship of women in Kurdistan province

Number of Female Household-Headship in 1997	Number of Female Household-Headship in 2007	Number of Female Household-Headship in 2012
1299	27314	38151

Reference: Iran's statistics center, years 1997, 2007 and 2012

The above statistics show during the 15 years of census 1997 to 2012, it has been added to the number of families which are under guardianship of women. And in this increase the numbers of women during the recent censuses were very significant taking into account the 5 years difference.

Table 2: Female Household-Headship based on the type of the type of the family and the number of individuals under guardianship in 2012

Family type	1 individual	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people	9 people	10 people and more	Sum
number	13888	8818	7512	4484	2084	880	301	98	74	39	38151

Reference: Iran's Statistics Center 2012

As the above table shows the density of the families under guardianship of women is little in families with little population in a way that most of these individuals are in a one- person family and the more the number of individual increases the lesser the number of families become.

By considering the mentioned issues, it could be said that understanding the issues and problems of this group and presenting suitable solutions, programming along with boosting the condition of the Female Household-Headship, especially by taking into account the culture of the society which they live in, is of crucial importance and can lead to the development and promotion of the condition of the under- study society. Due to Iran being multicultural, this issue is of great importance. Among all these areas, the Kurd areas have a special situation because of its cultural, economic, social, historical, and geographical condition. There is a way that the historical events in this area along with its economic dependency and also not being developed have caused the women to have an important role in many families and in many cases they are also just the bread winner of the family. Because this group is severely overlooked, therefore the major aim of this research is to investigate the economic and cultural condition of the Female Household-Headship in Sanandaj city and its relationship with their empowerment.

2. THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL LITERATURE OF THE RESEARCH

2.1 Empirical Background

In a research titled as “investigating the social-economic condition of Female Household-Headship in Mashhad” Zanjanzadeh (2006) points out the issue that in 10 percent of every Iranian families the women are the guardians of families. The researcher came to the conclusion that economic problems and unemployment are the most important problems of the Female Household-Headship and after that is the lack of necessary social supports.

In an article titled as “the Female Household-Headship: the unspoken issues and social problems” Moyedfar and Hamidi (2008) attend to introduce the problems of the Female Household-Headship. The results of this study indicated that the most important issue which challenges women on a daily basis in their lives according to a level of importance include: economic issues, insecurity, ruined social relationships, emotional problems and the women's problems in regarding to their families and children.

In an article entitled as “economic, cultural, and social condition of Female Household-Headship in Mazandaran Province” Nazoktabar and Weysi(2009) attended to investigate the issues and problems of the Female Household-Headship in Mazandaran Province in order to present solutions for decreasing their difficulties in society. The results of the research indicated that the educational, cultural and social issues of the Female Household-Headship with regard to the importance of the subject are located on top of all the issues and problems of Female Household-Headship.

In a research Gholipoor and Rahimiyan (2012) attended to studying the relationship between the educational, cultural and economic factors and empowering the Female Household-Headship, who was interacting with Tehran's municipality; relieve committee and welfare organization in Karaj and Tehran. The findings of this study indicated that there is a relationship between both the independent variables and empowering and also between the independent variables themselves. In addition the findings of this study indicated that most of the problems of the Female Household-Headship are educational and economic problems.

In her research named as “Women’s power and the gendered division Of Domestic labor in third world” Sanchez (1993) attended to carry out adjustment comparison in the relationship between the house work with the financial recourses of women (wealth, education, marital status and ...) in four developing countries (Southern Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines and Taiwan) and in a developed country (America). This research indicated that the women of the developing countries enter the job market especially working in factories based on the definition of their roles. In developing countries women may enter industrial jobs before or after they get married but when they have children a majority of them get involved with contracting at home, family work without wage or unofficial work market.

In a study titled as “do Schooling and work empower women in developing countries? Gender and Domestic Decision in Sri Lanka” Malhatra and Mther (1997) attended to studying the specifications of wives and husbands such as education, cooperation, wage, family structure on the role of women in household decision making, controlling the financial matters and etc. The results of their study indicated that working for wage and education increase decision making in financial affairs but do not increase organizational and social affairs in the family.

In the book (Welfare and Poverty: Family Matters) after studying the problems of the mothers Household-Headship Le Roy (2004) concludes that mothers and their small children are more prone to being trapped in poverty rather than other groups in the society and therefore they need to under insurance support and social security services more than the other groups. In her opinion these types of families being left out of supporting shelters are like buying an express train ticket for them to the depth of poverty and different social and economic problems.

In a study titled as “The socio- economic situation of Female heads and Poor heads of households in rural Botswana: A village Case Study” Moepeng and Tisdell(2008) investigated the degree of poverty on the basis of gender, family aspect and having a job which provides a lot of income. The results of this research indicated that the type and number of income sources affect the presence or absence of poverty. Financial aid (private or governmental) has an important role in decreasing poverty. Education level based on gender affects the use of credits and credit recourses. And finally the government has not been properly able to cover the target group of Female Household-Headship.

2.2 Theoretical Principles

The topic of Female Household-Headship has been argued about and theorized about from a number of angles. Some of these theories attend to the area of sociology some other the areas of psychology, economic and so on. All in all an effort has been made in this research to propose the most important theories related to economic and cultural factors.

2.2.1 Cultural explanation

Cultural problems are one of the factors that violate women rights due to creating gender- based discrimination viewpoints. The viewpoints on women exist within the society prevent her capabilities to manifest and provide the grounds for various problems for her and eventually it will turn her into a dependent being. Some of these viewpoints include:

Traditional Viewpoint of a Woman: despite the existence of differences in beliefs, various values and sociological norms between different societies and groups all over the world and during centuries, there is one single categorization on the basis of gender. Specific roles have been determined for men and women based on this classification (Joghatayi & Hemmati, 2002: 194). Within which a woman, meaning a married female human being who has a small child or a number of small children and her most important role is to take care of her husband and kids (Ravedrad, 2001: 19). The existence of one such viewpoint prevents the thorough participation of girls and women in the development of their society and does not let them realize all their human capabilities (Michel, 2000: 50).

Men’s Discriminative Viewpoints of Women: the effect of inappropriate viewpoint towards a woman, for men appears in this manner that the role of training of the children is a feminine role and consequently the role of the father is to provide the family’s material needs (Ravedrad, 2001: 10). A woman’s work has always been considered as being of second degree and if a woman gives priority to her career, again the responsibility of attending for the child’s affairs falls with the woman (Segalen, 1992: 277). This same problem causes the women to change their minds about continuing their activities outside the house because of the fatigue caused by the responsibility of the household along with their career outside home this happens even if the career condition becomes better (Mokhtariyan, 2002: 313).

2.2.1.1 Educational Obstacles

The best key for women to achieve power in different aspects stems from literacy, meaning following the education of women a lot of sociological and economic opportunities can rise in front of them. But the reality is gender- based bias traditional views all around the world take away the educational opportunities from girls and make the two genders even more different. Many parents do not let their daughters continue their education since they will get married in the future. These expectations also penetrate the minds of the girls and they replace university success with family roles (Pamela & Wallace, 2005: 112).

2.2.1.2 Career Obstacles

The effects of cultural obstacles are observable in practice and in the area of women’s career. Women still have a condition separated from men’s be it vertical or horizontal. Vertical meaning the women career models in general sections are limited to feminine areas such as nursing, teaching primary schools, office jobs and the like. Besides women are less present in managerial roles and horizontal meaning that the possibility that they remain in the lower steps of the career ladder is much more than that of men’s (Fitzpatrick, 2003: 248) also the cooperation of women in economic affairs is very little and this issue is followed by other problems such as poverty. This issue is more visible for Female Household-Headship when these women must be at the same level of cooperation, men are in economic affairs and they must be able to handle life expenses.

2.2.3 Women Empowerment Theory

“Empowerment” is a highly used word which does not have a clear and general definition. Empowerment means people are placed in a condition in which they can be capable of making decisions about the issues related to their lives. Most women are deprived of this right (Menon, 2003).

The simplest definition of “empowerment” is that we consider it as a process during which the deprived communities can identify their needs and find suitable solutions to meet them. According to feminists’ theory, empowerment of women is a process of change in patriarchal relationships which must be expelled from all levels of the family (Manger, 2003: 571). The empowerment of women is a slow global process which 5 stages have been identified in it:

- 1) Welfare: in this stage it is attended to initial welfare facilities and the lacks which are there in this area such as education, road and energy. The welfare stage is a stage during which the issues of the material welfare of women is compared with that of men in cases such as nutrition, providing food and family income which are followed by inequality issues (Lange 2004: 28).
- 2) Access: what is meant by access to recourses is access to recourses and facility in order to improve life condition such as accessing credits for investment. In general women in many societies have less access to recourses such as access to credits, production technology, and land, a job which brings about wage, health services and ... (Ibid: p. 141).
- 3) Consciousness: is a stage that women become sensitive about their problems and the factors which create them. Women should realize that they are kept back by a social system in which discriminations has taken an official acceptable form. This issue requires a specific type of viewpoint of society which has to deal with the society using a critical analysis in order to be identified the discriminations which were regarded as natural and undeniable could change (Vahabi and others, 2004: 70).
- 4) Participation: is stage in which the grounds for the active presence of the women are provided and it is prepared for the voluntary participation of all in all stages from suggesting solutions to executing it. An aspect of equality which takes the form of equal participation in the process of making decision is considered here. Equality in participation means making women participate in projects in which they themselves are the beneficiaries in a way.
- 5) Control (decision making power): is a stage that women gain the power of making decisions, suggest the best solution and dominate the recourses and facilities in order to execute the solution. An increase in participation of women leads to an increase in their control over the recourses, equality in accessing the recourses and fair distribution of benefits. In the opinion of the fans of this viewpoint control means power being balanced between men and women (Lange, 2004: 13).

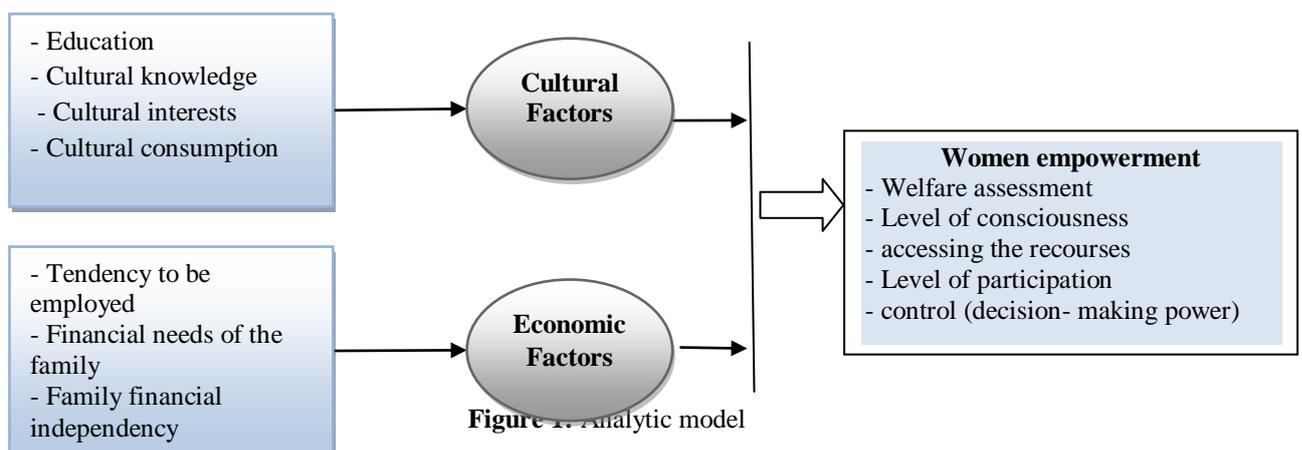


Figure 1. Analytic model

2.3 Hypotheses of research

- It seems like there is a relationship between the tendency to be employed and women Female Household-Headship empowerment.
- It seems that there is a relationship between the financial necessities of Female Household-Headship and their empowerment.
- It seems like there is a relationship between the financial independency of the Female Household-Headship and their empowerment.
- It seems like there is a relationship between the cultural knowledge of the Female Household-Headship and empowering them.
- It seems like there is a relationship between the cultural interests of the Female Household-Headship and empowering them.
- It seems like there is a relationship between the cultural interests of the Female Household-Headship and empowering them.

3. OPERATIONAL AND CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIABLES AND INDEXES

3.1 Definition of independent variables

3.1.1 Economic factors

Conceptual definition: the sum of factors such as the method of production, lifestyle, and consumption, money turnover and ... which form a complex, genera, and united set when related to each other and determine different aspects of economic life are called economic factors.

Operational definition: economic factors are assessed through three indexes which each have separate items: tendency to be employed with its items giving importance to career and being worried about not having a job. Financial needs of the family with the items of the presence of financial poverty, being happy with the family income, balance between expectation and expectancy. And finally the family financial independency with the items such as having financial dependency on others, being able to afford home appliances and being able to have personal savings.

3.1.2 Cultural Factors

Conceptual Definition: culture is an elusive and complicated concept. But it could be said that culture means a level of life in which humans attend to construct meaning through the aid of symbolic way of representation (Giddens, 2012).

Operational definition: cultural factors are assessed through four indexes each of which has separate items: cultural knowledge with its items taking photos and painting, listening to music, reading novels and poetry, watching movies and going to the theatre, learning foreign languages. Second, cultural consumption with the items such as radio, television, satellite dish, the Internet, books, cinema, theatre. Then, cultural interest with its items like painting and calligraphy, novel and poem, music concert, cinema, collecting artifacts, and the last is education with its item, the number of years the guardian of the family has studied.

3.1.3 Definition of the dependent variable: women empowerment

Conceptual definition: empowerment is defined as an important matter for the empowerment of people with lesser income in order for them to achieve their rights through gaining control over the natural recourses of the existing and changed organizations (Agrawal & Gibson 1999). This process leads to a boost in their sense of independence and self-confidence and self-esteem meaning, it improves the image that women have of themselves (Ughomeh, 2011: 239).

Operational definition: women empowerment has five indexes and the following items: first the level of comfort along with its items as the number of bedrooms, cooling and heating tools, having instruments of comfort such as a television and Second accessing the recourses with the items like accessing services, recreational, cultural, higher education and treatment centers. Third the level of consciousness with the items such as using the television, magazines, newspapers, the Internet and books in order to be aware of the news. Fourth the degree of participation with the items as having relationships with people, taking part in elections, participating in charities. And the last, the amount of control on recourses with the items of making decision about marriage, household affairs, household expenses, educational expenses, traveling and visiting.

3.2 Validity of the Instruments

Validity of the instrument is an answer to this question does it really measure what we claim it does. In other words “validity” points to the issue that to what extent does an empirical measure sufficiently reflects the “real meaning” of the concept under study (Babbie, 2009: 282).

A valid measure is a version which measures what we intend. In fact validity or invalidity is not related to the measure itself, but it refers to its application in measuring the under- study topic. (Devas, 2008: 63). Validity has different types of which face validity and empirical validity can be pointed out (Sarookhani, 2007: 287). In order to boost the validity of the questionnaire, the face validity of the questions was first investigated (2- in order to figure out the face validity of the questions the opinions and consultation of the people who had previously worked on this issue and also the opinions of professors and experts were used). Additionally we tried our best to use similar questions which were in domestic and foreign universal questionnaires in editing the questions or the items of the main scales.

3.3 The Reliability of the Instruments

In order to measure reliability of the instruments for collecting data (questionnaires) a pre-test was carried out in the first stage. The designed questionnaire was distributed amongst 40 Female Household-Headship in Sanandaj City and after collecting the data the Cronbach alpha of the variables which had more than two items were calculated through spss software while in some cases in order to boost reliability a number of items were discarded. The reliability coefficients of the indexes were as follows: tendency to be employed (0.68), financial necessities of the family (0.74), financial independency (0.70), cultural knowledge (0.80), cultural consumption (0.79), cultural interests (0.65), welfare assessment (0.75), accessing the recourses (0.70), level of consciousness (0.78), participation (0.81) and control (0.83).

4. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a basic- applied research that investigates the condition of Female Household-Headship through survey method. In the present research sectional survey has been used with the purposes of defining, explaining and presenting suitable solutions in order to improve the condition of these social classes. In general the aim is to display an image of the state of the population on the basis of economic and cultural variable.

In the present research interview technique and questionnaire instrument will be utilized to gather data. The answerers’ special questionnaire has been filled up through the questioning person seeking out the answerer and the necessary data were obtained through carrying out interviews.

The universe (population) was the main population from which a representative sample was obtained (Sarookhani, 2007: 157). Taking into account the fact that our universe (population) in this research is all the Female Household-Headship in Sanandaj City, Cochran’s formula is used to determine the size of the sample. Taking into account the issue that the main under- study variable of this research is the condition of the Female Household-Headship and also considering the limitations and financial problems and lack of time and the issues of not being able to access the universe (population), “random” sampling method was used. Stratified sampling of classifying is one of the various types of random sampling which is used in simple or systematic random sampling.

On the basis of the statistics of the year 2012 the total population of the Female Household-Headship in Kurdistan Province was 38151 people of which approximately 13750 individuals were from Sanandaj City. Also from this number 11538 individuals were from urban areas and the rest were from rural areas. Taking into account the fact that our study was related to Sanandaj Province therefore the universe (population) of the present research includes urban as well as rural areas. It is worth mentioning that while in researches some of the questionnaires are not completely filled out or due to the answerer are not paying enough attention, thus the information in them are not usable, so the researcher in order to increase the accuracy decided to distribute the questionnaires to a number more than the size of the estimated sample so 406 individuals will be studied instead of 395 individuals.

5. RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.1 Economic factors

The first dimension of economic factor is the tendency to be employed. The descriptive data of this research indicated that approximately 50.7 percent of the Female Household-Headships have a high level of tendency to be employed, 14.3 percent have a moderate tendency to be employed and 35 percent have low tendency to be employed. The other dimension is the financial necessities of the family or in fact the income condition of the guardian women. In general the results related to this variable indicated that the income condition of these types of families, is in poor conditions. In other words 65.5 percent of the women were happy with their income, 28.3 percent were moderately happy and 5.0 percent were very satisfied with their income. The last dimension related to economic factors, is the financial independency of the Female Household-Headship. The findings related to this aspect indicated that the independency of

the Female Household-Headship is in a poor condition in a way that 64.8 percent of them are a little independent regarding financial independency 31 percent are moderately financially independent and 3.9 percent are very much financially independent.

5.2 Cultural Factors

About the area of cultural factors it must be said that the majority of the answerers have low levels of education like 89 percent of the answerers did not have a high school degree, among them 60 percent of all the answerers were illiterate which comprised the majority of the group in the population, while only 1.5 percent of the answerers had Bachelor's degree holders and higher.

Cultural knowledge was another variable which was attended to as one of the cultural factors. The results indicated that the level of cultural knowledge is very low in Female Household-Headship meaning 92.1 percent of the answerers had very little knowledge of cultural matters, 1.5 percent of them were knowledgeable regarding cultural issues and nearly 6.4 percent were moderately knowledgeable culturally. The third variable which was attended to as a cultural variable in this study was cultural interests. The results related to this variable indicated that 79.3 percent of the Female Household-Headship had very little cultural interests, 18.7 percent had a moderate degree of cultural interests and 1.5 percent of them had a lot of cultural interests.

Cultural consumption was the last variable which was attended to here as a measure of cultural factors and its level is measured through evaluating the consumption of cultural goods (television, satellite dish, the Internet, newspaper and books and cinema and ...). The results indicated that the amount of cultural consumption among these women is average meaning 54.2 percent of the answerers had a moderate cultural consumption level, 43.1 percent had a low cultural consumption level and 2.7 percent of the answerers consumed a lot of cultural goods.

5.3 Women empowerment

Most women were at the moderate or low levels regarding empowerment, in a way that 45.8 percent are in the moderate levels and 45.1 percent are in low levels and only 8.6 percent of them are highly empowered.

5.4 Testing the Research Hypotheses

Table 3: Testing of Hypotheses

Spearman		Tendency to be employed	Financial needs of the family	Family financial independency	Cultural knowledge	Cultural interests	Cultural consumption
Women empowerment	Spearman	0.322	0.369	0.409	0.218	0.363	0.469
	Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	0.521	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Hypothesis 1: “it seems like there is a relationship between the tendency to be employed and Female Household-Headship empowerment”.

Taking into account the result of the test which is shown in the above table, it could be seen that the level of significance is equal to 0.521 and this amount is higher than 0.05 level of significance, therefore the above - mentioned hypothesis is not accepted.

Hypothesis 2: “It seems that there is a relationship between the financial necessities of Female Household-Headship and their empowerment.”

- The level of significance Sig = 0.000 indicates that the above relationship is significant more than 99 percent possibility
- The correlation is equal to R= 0.369 and this amount expresses a moderate correlation between the two variables
- The correlation is a positive one meaning there is a direct relationship between the financial necessities of the Female Household-Headship and the level of their empowerment.
- The above data prove our hypothesis.

Hypothesis 3: “It seems like there is a relationship between the financial independency of the Female Household-Headship and their empowerment”.

- The level of significance of Sig = 0.000 indicates that the above- mentioned relationship is significant with the possibility of more than 99 percent.
- The correlation is R= 0.409 and this amount indicates a moderate relationship between the two variables.
- The correlation is a positive one meaning there is a direct relationship between the financial independency of the Female Household-Headship and their level of empowerment.
- The above data approve our hypothesis.

Hypothesis 4: “It seems like there is a relationship between the cultural knowledge of the Female Household-Headship and empowering them.”

- The level of significance of Sig = 0.000 indicates that the above- mentioned relationship is significant with the possibility of more than 99 percent.
- The correlation is R= 0.218 and this amount indicates a weak relationship between the two variables.
- The correlation is a positive one meaning there is a direct relationship between the cultural knowledge of the Female Household-Headship and their level of empowerment.
- The above data approve our hypothesis.

Hypothesis 5: “It seems like there is a relationship between the cultural interests of the Female Household-Headship and empowering them.”

- The level of significance of Sig = 0.000 indicates that the above- mentioned relationship is significant with the possibility of more than 99 percent.
- The correlation is R= 0.363 and this amount indicates a moderate relationship between the two variables.
- The correlation is a positive one meaning there is a direct relationship between the cultural interests of the Female Household-Headship and their level of empowerment.
- The above data approve our hypothesis.

Hypothesis 6: “It seems like there is a relationship between the cultural interests of the Female Household-Headship and empowering them.”

- The level of significance of Sig= 0.000 indicates that the above- mentioned relationship is significant with the possibility of more than 99 percent.
- The correlation is R= 0.469 and this amount indicates a moderate- to- strong relationship between the two variables.
- The correlation is a positive one meaning there is a direct relationship between the cultural interests of the Female Household-Headship and their level of empowerment.
- The above data approve our hypothesis.

5.5 Multivariable Regression

In the summery of the regression model which is in the table below it can be seen that the correlation coefficient (R) is 0.668 among the variables which indicates that there is a relatively strong correlation between the dependent variables and the independent variable of the research. But the amount of the final determined modified coefficient which is equal to 0.438 indicates that 44 percent of the total changes in the amount of women empowerment in this research is dependent on the independent variables which are entered in this model. In other words the independent variables estimate approximately 44 percent of the variance of the dependent variables.

Table 4: summery of the regression model

model	R square modified	R square determined coefficient	R correlation coefficient
1	0.438	0.447	0.668

Table 5: regression model

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
Constant		0.945	0.095	-	9.936	.000
Cultural Factors	Cultural knowledge	0.203	0.039	0.229	5.225	.000
	Cultural consumption	- 0.106	0.052	-0.106	-2.055	.041
	Cultural interests	0.222	0.045	0.283	4.966	.000
Economic Factors	Tendency to be employed	-0.011	0.017	-0.28	-0.648	.518
	Financial needs of the family	0.116	0.033	0.192	3.540	.000
	Family financial independency	0.187	0.038	0.276	4.943	.000

The results indicated that the relative share of economic factors in explaining the changes in the dependent variable is more than the relative share of the cultural factors variable in a way that the standardized regression coefficient is equal to 0.500 in the variable of economic factors which indicates that a change of one standard deviation of economic factors causes a change of 0.500 in the standard deviation of the dependent variable (women empowerment). While the amount of the standardized regression coefficient for the cultural factors is equal to 0.305 meaning one unit of change in the standard deviation of cultural factors variable, it leads to a change equals to 0.305 in the standard error of the dependent variable (women empowerment). Also by considering the above table, we can come to a standardized regression

coefficient for different aspects of the economic factors and cultural factors variables as explained below: cultural consumption (0.229), cultural knowledge (0.106), cultural interests (0.283) as the aspects of cultural factors, tendency to be employed (0.280), financial necessities of the family (0.192) and financial independency (0.276) as the aspects of economic factors.

6. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Despite the equal or unequal social opportunities which different societies provide for the growth and development of each of its members, we can always find groups and social classes in all human societies which have classification of social classes that are incapable of handling their lives and providing the least amount of necessary facilities for life and therefore need the help and support of others such as national governments, good people and etc. The Female Household-Headships are of such social classes. The increase in the number of Female Household-Headship has encountered the society and social institutions with problems.

The Female Household-Headship were studied in the present research are a totally heterogeneous group which the capacity to bargain and their conditions in different cultural, social and economic situations is very different. In other words other under- study women accept the responsibilities of guardianship for different reasons: optional or obligatory guardianship, married or single, due to divorce, death, disappearance or imprisonment of the spouse and the like.

Based on the findings of the research it could be concluded that the Female Household-Headship are one of the poor groups who have low incomes residing in Sanandaj City. These groups have numerous economic difficulties. Studying the economic characteristics of the under- study women resulting from field results of the research indicated that the majority of them have little access to education, employment, and expert skills. These factors along with cultural factor and the great dependency of the Female Household-Headship on their husbands in order to provide for their lives and also the scarcity of job opportunities in the under- study society, have caused the creation of these problems and damages and women who are less capable of decreasing poverty and being free from this needing conditions.

At the end it must be mentioned that the results of the present research is in line with the researches carried out by ZanjaniZadeh, Moayedfar and Hamidi, Gholipoor and Rahimiyan, Le Roy, Moepeng and Tisdell who have all emphasized the role of economic factors in empowering Female Household-Headship. Therefore it is necessary to give priority to economic factors as the base of all other factors such as policy makings related to women. In addition the present research is in line with the researches of Nazoktabar and Veysi, and Moepeng and Tisdell which emphasize the relationship and the importance of cultural factors in empowering women and indicate that becoming more educated in general cultural capital is an important factor in increasing women empowerment.

Taking into account the purposes of stable development in order to improve the quality of life and the quality of all the individuals in developmental programing and the improvement of the society's condition, it is an undeniable necessity to give special attention to and have a special outlook on the vulnerable groups of the society especially Female Household-Headship. Careful programing in this path and taking into account the cultural conditions in order to empower the Female Household-Headship is of priority and to so this and considering the results of the present study, the following suggestions are presented as follows:

- 1) With regard to economic factors, the financial essentials and the financial independency of the Female Household-Headship are of more importance. Therefore the supporting institutions must make an effort to perform better in this area and to take measures in resolving them through identifying the most important financial necessities of the Female Household-Headship and to prioritize these essentials. In addition to that financial independency has an important role in empowering Female Household-Headship. Therefore the activities of the supporting institutes must be in line with each other which providing the financial independency of these women is done gradually. Therefore the related institutes must more than ever emphasize on decreasing poverty in Female Household-Headship.
- 2) Regarding the cultural factors, cultural knowledge, cultural interests and cultural consumptions have all in important role in increasing women empowerment. Regarding the two first cases the supporting institutions can create cultural- art classes (calligraphy, music, poetry, and cinema and ...) in order for it to be effective in boosting women empowerment. Regarding cultural consumption this study indicates that providing cultural goods such as television, video, computer, and books for these families can have an important role in boosting women empowerment.
- 3) Taking into account the fact that the issues the Female Household-Headship encounter are vast and various and includes the activity scope of those organizations therefore it is better for this institutions to cooperate with each other in this area so that on the one hand the issue of simultaneous covering if one family will be resolved through different institutions and on the other hand identifying and finding the problems in this area and presenting solutions will be carried out better.
- 4) Creating finding- skills, entrepreneurship, and consulting centers in the related institutions so that the abilities and weak points of the Female Household-Headship and the people who are under their guardianship will be studied and the

necessary facilities will be given to them regarding their skills so that along with cutting back on expenses the efficiency of this group will also increase. These centers can provide the grounds for empowering guardian women and make their presence in society more noticeable and their economic, cultural and social activities through studying the problems of these women.

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