AN ANALYSIS ON RELIGIOUS-ETHNIC GEOPOLITICS, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN BORDER TOWNS. CASE STUDY: SISTAN AND BALUCHESTAN

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ABSTRACT – Borders and border areas require security measures, which are very important to create security on the borders. The paper also analyzes the role of ethnic groups living near borderlines. Iran is an ethnically varied country and distinguishing characteristics of ethnic groups from each other in Iran is particularly concentrated on language, religion and ethnic components. These ethnic groups have been scattered as certain minority groups in border provinces and areas. The presence of Iranian nationals in the Western, Eastern and Northern borders which are contiguous with countries with the same religion and language creates by itself an appropriate context for the occurrence of ethnic crises in border areas and boundary underdevelopment is an another cause for this problem. In addition, the three components, namely religion, ethnicity, and language, should be taken into consideration in adopting policies and strategies to deal with these areas. In Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran, there are effective national strategies taking advantage of the presence and existence of religious and ethnic groups in the border towns, adopting security and development policies taking into account these two issues. They have a deep effect on regional development and national solidarity due to construction activities and infrastructure investments on the one hand and reducing insecurity and trafficking on the other hand.

Keywords: ethnic geopolitics, security and development, border towns, Sistani and Baluch tribes

INTRODUCTION

One of the characteristics of plural societies is providing enough context and background for the competition and expression of the different demands and requests from different political groups, which can be led to social disorganization and rupture if not properly systematized. Considering the importance of ethnic identity in national development, communities always have a kind of social unity and general cohesion, but its people are different from each other in terms of age, gender, occupation, race, ethnicity and religion, and these differences cause that various social groups are created in these communities. Therefore, apart from the general accepted culture of different social groups, each community acquires subcultures suitable to its group status. One of the important distinctions in the contemporary communities that have been studied in various fields of humanities, including political sciences, sociology and social psychology is ethnic differences and the formation of ethnic groups and ethnic identity and its relationship with social consensus or national identity. One of the dominant approaches in the field of social sciences is the existence of an opposite relationship to national identity, meaning that the ethnic identity in a community affects people's national identity and social consensus and their compliance with the general culture, and increased ethnic identity is a threat for social compliance and general consensus (Mehrmand et al., 2009, p. 3). Because of uncontrolled increase in population due to weaknesses of security and population stability in the border areas, a very complex perspective has been created for the future of marginal areas. In the future, the country

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will try to succeed that its population problems are minimized and population is attracted to stay in the border areas and their native lands using different economic, social and security strategies. On the other hand, there are dramatic differences between border regions and the main centres of population because they are away from central areas and experience geographic isolation, underdevelopment. These major differences cause the separation of the two regions and create an exploitative relationship in the benefit of central regions (Muhammadi et al., 2005, p. 2). Given the above-mentioned issues, the authors maintain that in ethnic-religious geopolitical analysis, security and development in the border cities of Iran (Sistan and Baluchestan in particular), the following cases must be first taken into consideration:

- Research on environmental inequalities of these areas in terms of the level of access to facilities.
- The role of ethnic groups and tribes in people's life structure in this region and its effect on the process of development.
- The role of the government in reducing the current differences between the central and peripheral regions.
- The role of partnership in accelerating the process of regional development.

RESEARCH THEORY

Much research has been performed regarding border towns and challenges associated with them in different fields. This includes a study on the relationship between Iranian tribes' dispersal and borders security. In border regions of Iran where different tribes are living, it seems that these tribes can be both a source of challenge and provide some opportunities in the development and flourishing of the country and are considered a source of power. In some countries with strong regional gaps, the degree of divergence and vulnerability will be increased by the establishment of various tribes in the different parts of the country. Regarding Baluch tribe and how to increase security in this region, it has been mentioned that the government can watch for the sensitive borders of this area, which are a place for drug trafficking, by takings steps towards regional development and prosperity. Moreover, a religiously reasonable and desirable freedom must be given to them so that the area will not remain a place for showing up regional forces and strengthening the political movements. The government should strive for its responsibilities and managements in order to strengthen the national identity against ethnic identity and in attracting the indigenous forces. The government must adopt identical pluralism policy by not focusing its attention on religion and identity to provide a comprehensive participation of tribes at the national level (Pishgahifard et al., 2009). In another article on the mutual relationship between regional security and development in political environments with an emphasis on Sistan and Baluchestan, it has been mentioned that uneven development in political atmosphere of a country can create an appropriate context to create affecting variables on the national security components and the development of critical areas. Today this approach is more focused on the political systems that form centre-periphery structures.

This structure consists mainly of a lower developed margin than the centre. Such a structure also led to imbalances and regional inequalities between the centre and the surrounding areas, and most importantly, peripheral areas are often based on ethnic-religious regions. In such conditions, differences will be increased and divergence factors will be strengthened. The results obtained from the analyses of this article showed that there is a deep gap between the development level in Sistan and Baluchestan province and other regions. This causes a delay in development in comparison with other provinces. Along with other factors mentioned above, this caused Baluche's tribes feel less involved in the national fate of their country, and unlike other Iranian ethnic groups, they take no significant role in the major developments within the Iranian community. The rate of political participation in this region in different periods of presidential elections can be significant in this regard. However, despite the tendency for divergence, this area of the country has always been considered a part of Iran's political geography and separatism, and establishing an independent national state has been less thought of. Therefore, a change in attitude towards the central part, establishing social justice and

equitable distribution of the results of national development can largely provide national security (Etaat et al., 2010).

ETHNIC DISPERSAL IN THE MARGINAL BORDERS OF IRAN

Iran's spatial-geographical structure has been separated into central and peripheral parts. The peripheral part, unlike the dense and homogenous central part, includes a variety of cultural and ethnic groups. In the peripheral part, the most marginalized ethnic groups are Azeri, Kurdish, Arab, Turkmen and Baluch and other ethnic groups are in the next category. Meanwhile, components of the Iranian ethnic and religious groups are followed by spatial-geographical structure beyond the political borders of Iran, which together have economic, social and cultural requirements (Hafeznia, 2002, pp. 149-150). Therefore, Iranian society is separable in terms of the components of society, ethnicity, language and religion, of which religion is the most serious. Some researchers maintain that there are some centrifugal forces in Iran (especially margins of borders) in terms of social approach that can be considered as the crisis centres in the time of emergencies (Pishgahifard et al., 2009, p. 4).

Some political-social functions of Iranian tribes are mentioned below.

Azeris: Regarding the three components of language, ethnicity and religion, Azeris have more heterogeneity with groups beyond borders. Iran has an uneven pattern of government and one of the divergence factors of ethnic groups is religion, but the majority group in this region (Fars) and the largest minority group (Azeris) have religious heterogeneity between each other (Hafeznia, 2002, p. 162). Azerbaijan is abutted with three countries, namely Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iraq, and various ethnic groups are living there. One of the largest tribes are Kurdish and Azeris of which 60% are Shiite and 37% are Sunni, while 3% are religious minorities at the provincial level. According to the religious map, Shiite people are living in Urmia and northern cities and Sunnis are living in southern regions. According to the language and ethnicity map, Azeri tribe and language are dominant in Makou, Khoy, Salmas and Urmia pre-provinces and more than 70% of their population is Shiite and is considered one of the potential second grade critical areas on the critical areas map. At the same time, the cities of Naghde, Piranshahr, Sardasht and Mahabad, where the Kurdish tribe and language are dominant and more than 82% of their population is Sunni, are considered first grade critical areas.
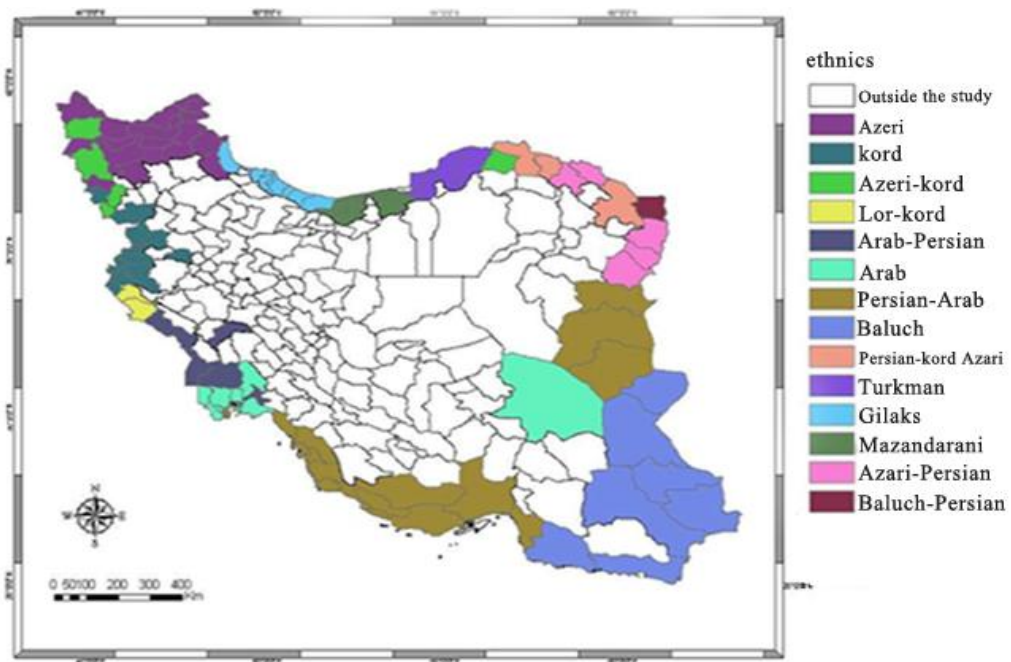
Figure 1. *Ethnic dispersal and critical regions of Iran*

Ardebil and East Azerbaijan lie next to Azerbaijan and Armenia. The majority of population in these provinces are Azeris, speak Azeri and Shiite people are dominant. When studying the religions, language and ethnicity maps, it has been found that these two provinces are not heterogeneously central with two variables of language and ethnicity, but they are congruent in changing religion. Therefore, they are considered second grade critical areas in the critical regions map (Figure 1) (Pishgahifard et al., 2009, p. 7).

Kurds: They are the third Iranian minority group and are scattered in the West and in provinces like Kurdistan, South West Azerbaijan and parts of Kermanshah and Ilam provinces (Ezati et al., 2010, p. 5). Kurdish people are originally Kurd and speak Kurdish and their religion is Sunni-Shafei. Most Kurds living in Kurdistan are religiously different from the central part of Iran and are consistent with other Kurdish dwelling areas beyond the borders of Iran in this regard. However, in terms of political ideology, Iranian, Turkish, Iraqi and Syrian Kurds are different from each other and each found their special ethnic and tribal identity according to their relations with other respective countries. This province is considered potential first grade critical area in the critical area map (Pishgahifard et al., 2009, p. 8).

Kermanshah Province: This province is the same as Kurdistan province in terms of ethnicity and language and the main difference between Kermanshah's Kurds and those of Kurdistan is their religion. Kermanshah's Kurds are mainly Shiite and Kurdistan's Kurds are mainly Sunnis. According to the critical area map, apart from Paveh city located in the North of the province and mostly inhabited by Sunnis, the other parts of the province are potentially considered second grade critical areas (ibid., p. 8).

Illam Province: In this province, tribes such as Kurds, Lor and Arabs live and speak Farsi (Kurdish and Lori dialects). There is a 20% of Arabs and a few Hanafi Sunnis and the area is considered among the potential second grade critical area. Kurds are consistent with the central parts of Iran in terms of ethnicity, linguistic, historical and some cultural manners and Kurds have not strong centrifugal tendencies in comparison with the Kurds living in Turkey and Iraq. Most researchers maintain that the main cause of this factor is that Kurds and original Iranians and their culture are close to other Iranian tribes (Ezati et al., 2010, p. 5).

Arabs: Arabs live in the central and South Khuzestan province. Arabs also live in a small part of South Sarakhs city, sporadically in the Southern Khorasan (Birjand Arabkadeh), Boushehr and Hormozgan (Nasaj, 2008, p. 8). Khuzestan province includes a combination of Arabs and Fars tribes. Shiite religion is dominant and people speak Persian and Arabic. The area is potentially considered second grade critical area.

Boushehr Province: There are ethnically Fars and Arabs who speak mainly Persian and a few speak Arabic. They are religiously both Sunni and Shiite. Most people in this province are Muslims and the language of religious minorities is local and some people in Shiif Island, Kangan and Asalouye speak Arabic and are potentially considered a third grade critical area (Pishgahifard et al., 2009, p. 8).

Baluchs: Baluchs live in a continuous region, including Pakistan's Baluchestan State, main parts of Sistan and Baluchestan province, Jask pre-province, some parts of Kahnouj and Nehbandan pre-provinces and South-West part of Afghanistan, including Helmand, surrounding Goudarz and the East coast of Hamoun Saberi, as well as southern parts of Khorasan, Kerman and East Hormozgan provinces. A few also live in Golestan province.

Sistan and Baluchestan: Iran's Baluchestan and that of Pakistan are congruous with each other in terms of religion, language and ethnicity. The combination of these three variables had an

effect on the convergence of two Baluch inhabited parts of Iran and Pakistan and has created the political ideals of Baluchestan in the framework of trying to achieve political independence and the identity of "Free Baluchestan". In recent years, Baluchestan region, as other crisis-prone regions, has been the arena of political activities. This province is also different from other central regions regarding the three components of religion, language and ethnicity and is potentially considered a second grade critical area (Pishgahifard et al., 2009, p. 10).

SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

The most significant fundamental component in the relation between economic development and security in Iran is the low domestic and political security coefficient as well as economic development. Therefore, it is essential that a proper and logical relationship be created between security and economic development in a community. The task of the government is to provide security in various fields to achieve real development (http://hamandishi.2010). The main and unchangeable objective in any basic government has been national survival. This factor depends on national security and this issue is influenced by the government's ability to maintain national unity, balanced regional development and finally citizen satisfaction. Hence, one of the most significant factors threatening the security of a government are spatial inequalities among different geographical parts of the country, as these inequalities, especially between central and peripheral regions, will deepen political gaps and cause regional dissatisfaction. On the other hand, regional development is resulted into the promotion of national powers and consequently government's national security, and national security is also one of the suitable contexts for national development.

Iran makes no exception. Of the various laws of the Islamic Republic, the principle of equality and the relationship between balanced development and national security has been considered. According to the Nineteenth Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian people from every tribe are entitled to equal rights and no privilege will be considered for race, language and the like. It has been stipulated in the 48th principle of Constitution that there must be no discrimination in utilizing the natural resources and using national revenues at the provincial levels and distribution of economic activities among different provinces and regions of country so that investments and necessary facilities be available in each region according to their needs and capacity for growth. In addition, in the general policy of the government in the outlook period (paragraph 14), strengthening security and national authority with an emphasis on economic growth, political participation and regional balance has been considered. In the 1st to 4th programs of state development, establishing social justice, balance and regional equilibrium, as well as reforming the spatial structure of government development have been highly emphasized. In the Article 75 of the Fourth Development Plan, "The Development of Border Areas", the goal of "national convergence and economic ties with national and transnational border areas" has been considered. Section V of the Act (Article 119) entitled establishing national security and, to enhance public safety, the government has been required for the comprehensive participation development of all Iranians based on citizenship rights in the decision-making system and executive management of the country and also to maintain and enhance the social status of various groups of people and prevent any dignity crisis (Etaat et al., 2009, p. 6). These principles have been affirmed in the Fifth Development Plan.

THE LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SISTAN AND BALUCHESTAN PROVINCE

Sistan and Baluchestan province is located in South East Iran. This province is limited in the North by South Khorasan, in the South by the Oman Sea, in the East by Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in the West by Kerman and Hormozgan provinces. Its area is about 187,502 square kilometres of which Sistan owns almost 15,197 square kilometres and Baluchestan owns 172,307 square kilometres. It covers 11.4% of the total area of the country and is considered among the most arid provinces of Iran. Part of this province includes Lout Chale Kaviri. Totally, this province has a desert climate. The people in Sistan and Baluchestan belong to various ethnic groups, namely Baluch and Sistani, who speak Persian language and are followers of Sunni and Shiite rites (http://www.sb-ostan.201).

POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF SISTAN AND BALUCHESTAN PROVINCE

According to the latest political division, this province has 14 pre-provinces, 40 parts, 36 cities, 102 villages and 8909 coded oases in 2009. The pre-provinces of this province are the following: Zahedan, Iranshahr, Chabahar, Nikshahr, Khash, Zaboli, Sarbaz, Saravan, Sib and Souran, Nikshahr, Delgan, Zabol, Zahak and Hirmand. This province had a population of 2,405,742 inhabitants in 2006, representing 3.2% of the population of Iran. Therefore, it is considered as one of the least dense provinces of the country (Figure 2) (Rahmati et al., 2010, p. 6).
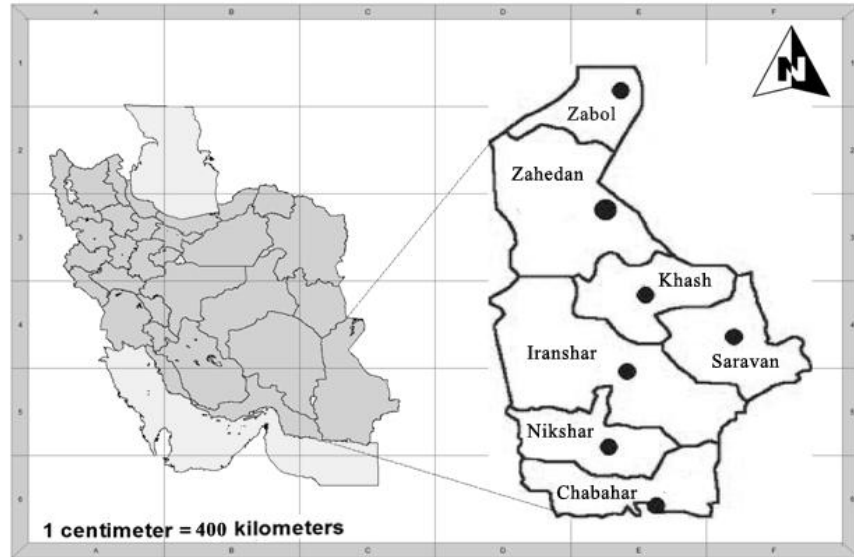
Figure 2. *Sistan and Baluchestan Map and its significant Cities*

ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS CHALLENGES AND THEIR IMPACT ON SECURITY OF SOUTHEAST IRAN

Although Iran is a country comprising nationals with various dialects and cultures, the Iranians benefitted from a coherent social-cultural context based on social-human components. In fact, what generates the insolubility and stability of the Iranian community in its ups and downs is the peaceful coexistence, ethnic, tribal, linguistic and religious consistency and the existence of a kind of turnover and circulation of elites from various ethnic groups in the anatomy of cultural context (Bawand, 2004, p. 57). Despite this fact, Southeast Iran includes the Golden Triangle area (a wilderness area that is inaccessible for the governments of Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, focused on the strategic passing of drug, heroine production and storage of weapons), which has changed into a gathering place for Arab-Afghan Al-Qaeda benefitting from the religious and ethnic ties of tribal groups after the overthrowing of Taliban in Afghanistan. It is worth mentioning that the cleanup coalition of co-led troops led by America and the military coordination of Afghanistan and Pakistan in the area and Pakistan subordinates are performed overlooking the Golden Triangle (Hadian, 2006, p. 1). Now it seems that one of the fundamental approaches to organize ethnicity in Iran, especially in this area, is to evade religious and ethnic inequalities through providing facilities and equal opportunities for administrative and political participation of all citizens and also removing, or at least reducing, economic inequalities among border provinces, the inequalities that by themselves cause hidden economy and smuggling (Ebrahimzadeh, 2010, p. 142).

Considering all these issues, it must be known that the people of Sistan and Baluchestan and Baluch cannot tolerate threatening the domestic security and national governance with every taste and political trends, as most Iranians. Shiite and Sunni cannot be separated to each other in Sistan and Baluchestan province, as there may be families in which one partner is Sunni and the other is Shiite, and there are even families whose children are Sunni and the others are Shiite from the same parent. In other words, the religious-ethnic combination in Sistan and Baluchestan is, unlike many other cases, very natural and common (Molazehi, 2004, p. 174). However, there are contexts for raising ethnic and religious issues, as well as conflicts and insecurity in the eastern borders underlying ultra-regional activities regarding also Taliban and Al-Qaeda forces and special attention of the authorities is needed.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND ITS ROLE IN THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST

The natural position and construction of Iran, the mutual interaction of citizens and social groups have had various effects. On the one hand, it made easier their interaction with each other and with the Iranian residents by providing a relationship among ethnic groups and, on the other hand, the unity-provoking dimensions had an effect on the relationships and macro-national features, while separating aspects of space caused changes and raised regional features within (Hafeznia, 2002, p. 39).

One of the regions representing this kind of geographical space is southeast Iran, known as Sistan and Baluchestan, where tribes with these names live. Sistan and Baluchestan can play a major role in Iran's development but has no extensive relationship with other parts of Iran and has remained in a particularly high geographical isolation. Environmental, social, religious and linguistic inconsistencies of this region with the main body of the country left this place into a political, social and economic closeness and its less static and closed economy has limited its commercial relations, and as a result its physical dependencies with other countries (Papoli Yazdi, 1989, 25). Although the eastern part of the country is suffering from many shortages and bottlenecks, it has some capabilities in communications, transportations, mining, agriculture, port and transit. These may reduce poverty and deprivation, may lead to a comprehensive guide to development and may institutionalize stability and security in the region in a fundamental way (Nasiri et al., 2009, p. 143).

The geographical position of the eastern part of the country for the transit of goods, oil, gas and pipelines of Central Asia, as well as smoothing the Afghanistan trades enclosed in an arid area, provides some obvious advantages and opportunities which become much more prominent in the light of the great changes experienced particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Eastern joint has timely communication and Chabahar-Milak-Zabol joints are the cause of evolution with great potential, especially in the areas of trade and transit. Aside from boosting the economy and vitality of the area, coexistence and historical tolerance will be institutionalized by producing complementary roles to the North and South parts of Sistan and Baluchestan province (and Khorasan provinces) and by creating a stable context for being linked with its benefits out of which security and development are among the most prominent in this area (Ebrahimzadeh, 2010, p. 100).

HIERARCHICAL DIAGRAM AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF VARIABLES AFFECTING REGIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST

According to the arguments mentioned in this study and the strategic planning for it, it can be concluded that we are facing two types of crises regarding insecurity in this area:

1) Imposed conditions, i.e. high aridity and severe heat which make people's lives difficult and threaten the continuity of life processes in such an environment.

2) Crisis resulted from unemployment by which people are forced to do illegal activities in seeking a job and providing their livelihood. Without a doubt, these activities result in insecurity and negative effects and consequences on the life of the people of this region. One general aspect of security is surely related to people's lives which government is responsible to do in this regard, and on the other hand, security is associated with government policies or decision. This means that every country has its own national security issues and the opportunities and threats related to national security determines the geographical position, level of development, political, economic and social issues of that country. In developing countries, phenomena such as poverty, deprivation, ethnic issues, separation, political issues such as lack of elite consensus, cultural differences or military phenomena like coup are considered as an essential component of national security. The logical conclusion of this discussion is that providing development in disadvantaged areas and being distant from the central political-administrative state as in the case of South-East region have many benefits and positive effects on national security indicators. All governments are looking for security, but most follow certain security that is highly ambitious. Robert McNamara believes that security means development, but not

military development. Indeed, security is neither force nor a military activity, but only development.

To understand this issue and the kind of relationship that exists between the variables of development and security and to assess the effectiveness of being affected from these two variables, some other variables made use of a two-variable diagram of X and Y. The diagram is related to the variables of "security and development" in order to understand the significance of the parallelism of these factors in planning (meaning that they are vertical, not horizontal). To analyze, their order priority is first considered and finally they are weighted, which is helpful in reaching a proper decision.

As an observation, the only delicate point in the weight is that we aim to confirm this hypothesis that these variables should be considered together in the development of this area, whether in planning or implementation. Thus, they are at the same level in terms of their importance. Therefore, it requires that the same weight be assigned to all variables and their relationship is systematically reflected in the result. The final result can be seen (Figure 5) where the weight of each variable has been shown in a circle with the same radius.

Variables: Development, Security, Human, Policy making, Location

Order of priority is as follows:

Location ---> Human----> Policy (decisions) ---> Security ---> Development

Now it should be found to what extent these factors are related with and affect each other? To clarify this issue, these cases are implemented on a graph. Having specified the variables, these factors must be implemented on graph columns corresponding to X axis, respectively, and the exactly inverse relationship is implemented in the Y axis, from top to bottom,. It is believed that goals (perspectives) always focus on the process throughout time and horizons, but what is done in the way of achieving those goals always occurs horizontally, as can be seen in Figure 4.
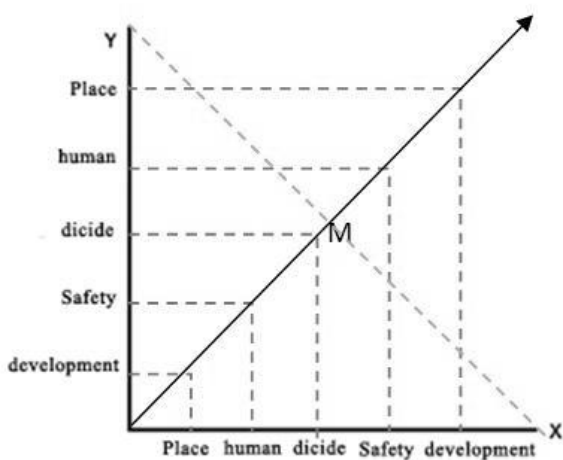
Figure 3. *Inverse Hierarchical Graph*
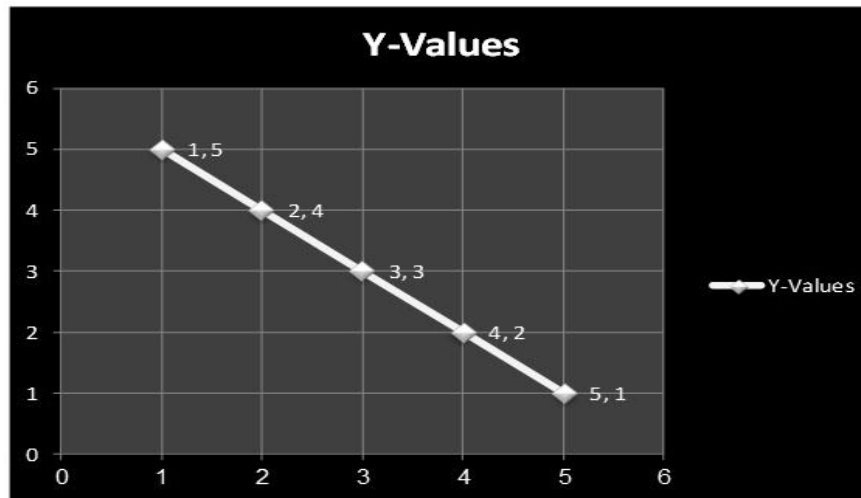Source: Author's drawn
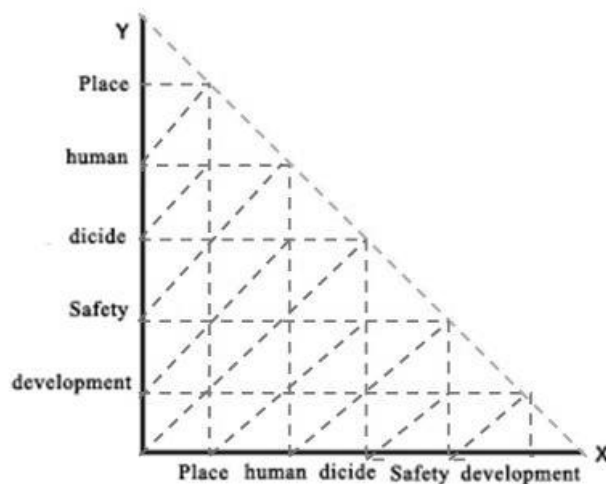
Figure 4. *Direct Hierarchical Graph*
Source: Author's drawn

1. **Inverse Hierarchical Graph:** Graph Figure 3: having related each component in two rows and columns, a logical relationship can be established between them. What is most important is that at the time of making decision the relationship is conversed. They again remain constant in terms of hierarchy at their place, which shows an average level and equilibrium point in showing the relationship between variables and that variable (decision making or policy making).
2. **Direct Hierarchical Graph:** Graph Figure 4: if the two sides of the axis are connected to each other by drawing a line named *m*, it can be seen that:
   Relationship among three variables: Location -----> Decision making ---> Development.

Figure 5. *Result of Hierarchical Graph*
Source: Author's drawn

Policy (decision-making) located at the middle of these two processes indicates the fact that decisions, navigation point, guidance and operating factors are located in the way of development between "development and location" and all of them have a direct relationship with security. In fact, human security is possible through policy.

According to what have been mentioned above, the chart has an ascending trend in that in the final stage, when development is achieved in the high level of chart, spatial development (geographical environment) is in fact accomplished.

GUIDELINES FOR SECURITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE RELIGIOUS-ETHNIC REGION OF EAST IRAN

It seems that the sustainable solution to provide security in these areas with special ethnical and religious characteristics is to strengthen national identity and national sovereignty. Strengthening national identity from the perspective of ethnic identity acceptance underlying national identity and respect for its culture and local traditions, as well as strengthening the will of its people, are correlated with each other. Strengthening the national authority through internal authority of people and making them engaged in centres of decision-making and providing the contexts in the arenas related to their destiny can be obtained in economic, social and political dimensions. In summary, civic participation of people mutually and with equal opportunities in economic activities and social institutions alongside each other, apart from ethnicity and religion in all economic, social, cultural and even political areas and become members in national parties are both a condition for reducing the ethnic-religious gap and a sign towards horizons of development (Husseini, 2006, p. 7).

Some guidelines for security and development stability in this region are suggested as follows:
1) Isolation of the hardware perspective of security;
2) Strengthening public participation in matters related to their fate and the strengthening of civil institutions;
3) Completing economic infrastructures and attracting and accumulating provincial and national capitals;
4) Preparation and execution of the projects of regional development using the position and capacity of the province (such as goods transit and port development);
5) Considering border as an opportunity not a threat by strengthening economic and commercial exchanges across the border and fixing the border dwellers;

6) Supporting the disadvantaged and vulnerable segments through the distribution and supply of basic commodities and medical facilities, education and provision of social security and extended assistance against successive droughts;

7) Avoidance of discriminatory ethnic policies and respect for customs, traditions and people accepted by locals and the development of cultural activities;

8) Trying to recruit and hire local youth to reduce high unemployment in the region;

9) People's participation will become real, the sense of strangeness will be reduced and confidence will be increased by establishing civil societies, especially councils and open communication of government with public institutions and representatives interested in people;

10) Creating ethnic integration by providing appropriate competition for scientific activities and regional development;

11) In the economic sector, it is required to give priority to transit and commerce, and to allocate the obtained income to strengthen other parts of the province to accomplish this issue;

12) Reducing radical religious-ethnic thought with Shia religious view and the claim of defence of leadership supported by some fanatics in the country, for it has in turn a major role in strengthening religious fundamentalist thoughts like Al-Qaeda which claims the defence of Sunnis and a tribe and thus acted as a major obstacle against the unity of tribes and religions of the province and reduce the religious-ethnic gap;

13) Promoting justice and democracy based upon Islamic rules in Iran;

14) Establishing trends in the development of modernism (Husseini, 2006; Malek Raisi, 2006; Hafeznia, et al., 2006; Ebrahimzadeh, 2010).

CONCLUSION

National security has a direct relationship with justice and development insecurities between central and peripheral regions can deepen political gaps. Iran is an ethnically diverse country and the distinguishing factors of tribes from each other in Iran have been emphasized according to linguistic, religious and ethnic components. These tribes have been scattered as certain minorities in central regions and provinces. If this important matter is involved in policy making and planning, by adopting policies that directs these ethnic and border-dwelling groups to national participation, it can be expected that national identity and the sense of belonging to the native land will be strengthened within them and then, instead of threatening to take these tribes away from the government, the central government can utilize these demographic changes as an opportunity for the border areas security and stability.

The central-peripheral system in Iran causes imbalances and disequilibrium in the development of marginal and central parts of the country. The sense of delay in development among religious-ethnic groups has created a suitable ground for the development of this area. However, what is most important regarding security and its impact on national security is the amount of those who benefitted from development and national resources and generally the development in this province in comparison with other areas, especially the central part.

Therefore, a change of attitude towards the central part, social justice and equitable distribution of the outcomes of national development can create and maintain national and regional security to a large extent.

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