Original Research Article

A Study on Level of Awareness of Civil Rights and Duties and its Effective Factors in Sanandaj

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Abstract

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Citizenship, its rights, and duties are seen as main concepts and issues in modern world and the extent to which people are aware of them is the main determinant factor in implementing the social policies and solving socio-cultural problems. This paper deals with awareness of civil rights and duties and factors affecting them in Sanandaj, a city in Kurdistan Province, Iran. It concerns mainly with how much people living in Sanandaj are aware of modern civil rights and duties. Besides, it tries to determine factors affecting such kind of awareness. The theoretical framework of the study includes different theories, namely those developed by Turner, Parsons, and Habermas. This study is a quantitative research that employs a survey design. The statistical population includes all people over 15 years old residing in Sanandaj. The final sample consisted of 384 participants (both males and female) aged 15 years old and higher. The results showed that the level of civil awareness among the participants is high. Besides, there is a significant relationship between the level of awareness among males and females' level of education, social class, membership in NGOs, and level and the genre of reading. Watching satellite programs was also shown to make a difference in level of awareness of social and civil rights and responsibilities.

Keywords: Civil Duties, Civil rights, Political Citizenship, Social Citizenship, Citizens of Sanandaj City.

INTRODUCTION

Today, solving many problems faced by the society requires an awareness of the behavior of members of society as such awareness enables them to demand their rights. Besides, when people become aware of their rights they can get familiar of their responsibility toward the community and other people. Therefore, the social order grows more quickly. Citizens' level of awareness of their civil roles and of course of their civil rights is one of the very important issues to be considered by governments when making policies because when citizen are aware of their rights, they will undoubtedly have higher expectations of their officials. Today, in light of the increasing dissemination of information and comparisons citizens make between themselves and others, they have willingly or unwillingly a higher level of awareness and as

a result of these comparisons they tend to evaluate the performance of administrators and officials. Admittedly, as a result of this growth which may occur at the level of citizens' awareness, they will use different ways of social and cultural participation in order to have an influence on their fate and that of the community. Therefore, an understanding of the citizens' level of awareness of their civil rights and factors affecting it may reveals many collective actions such as social participation or non-participation of citizens in the community affairs. But it is also important to keep in mind that citizens' awareness is expanding in what contexts and under which circumstances.

During recent decades, Kurdistan Province in Iran and especially Sanandaj as the center of the province has

experienced profound changes. Among these are the development of modern education, utilization of new visual, auditory, and virtual media, modern health care, growing urbanization, increased technological capabilities, the emergence of modern industrial and service economy, and the development of intra-regional and inter-regional migration. These changes have had some consequences for the Kurdish community. One of these changes relates to the growing rate of urbanization. Increased urbanization, physical and morphological problems faced by Sanandaj, and the city's growing relationship with other cities, all have endowed the city with special characteristics. The growing rates of urbanization and rural-urban migration have made citizenship behavior as one of the most important and central issues in the city. Thus, the present study seeks to evaluate citizenship and awareness of civil rights and obligations in this regard. So a number of questions arise here: To what extent are the people living in Sanandaj are aware of their civil rights? Which factors affect an increase or decrease in people's awareness level of citizenship dimensions?

Empirical studies done in the field

Many empirical studies have been conducted in Iran concerning civil rights, for instance research done by Mahrouei (1998), Khodadoust (2008), Piran (1998), Eidi (2007), Nejati Hossieni and Tavasoli (2001), Eskandari (2007), Shiani (2003), Rasouli and Zende Boudi (2010), Parvin (2012) and Enayati et al., (2012). Most of these studies deal with factors and conditions affecting the awareness of civil rights the differences in the level of awareness of civil rights between males and females. On the other hand, the influence of studies conducted on the respondents can affect the level of awareness of civil rights.

Theoretical studies done in the field

There is a massive literature in the field of urban studies and citizenship in the social sciences that includes a wide range of theories. Each theory or approached used in these studies deals with a specific aspects of the problem. Some approaches (e.g. Burgess' theories) focus on the role and function of the physical and formal urban environment in determining civic and citizenship behaviors, some emphasize social and cultural dimensions (e.g., Marshall and Habermas), and some others concentrate on political and organizational structures and power relations (e.g., Dahrendorf, and Castells).

Given physical and morphological and physical characteristics of the population under study and its specific social and cultural features, the aim of this study is to use an integrated approach by combining the physical-spatial approach and Habermas' socio-cultural approach. According to the physical-spatial approach, physical and morphological characteristics may influence the appropriate and systematic development of urbanization and provide the grounds for the demonstration of appropriate and rational citizenship behaviors. Besides, Habermas' socio-cultural approach lead to the establishment of reasonable and appropriate behaviors among citizens by developing communicative action, increasing general area, and de-politicization of the public sphere.

The idea of citizenship is now becoming a topical issue, partly due to the transformations taking place in society: migration, the effect of globalization, political and social change or "the renewed emphasis put on the issues of collective identity (whether national, cultural, gender, etc..) necessary to revise the notion of citizenship as a status of belonging and inclusion and exclusion." (Peña, 2003: 215). Citizenship ideas can also be found in philosophical and political ideas of the antiquity and the Middle Ages. However, the emergence of the concept as an important analytical tool dates back to Marshall's opinions. That is, in fact, the debate about citizenship after 1945 gained prominence by sociological analyses put forth by T. H. Marshall. Marshall notes the contrast between formal equality and the persistence of social inequality. Members of the working class in the United Kingdom were given the right to vote, but poverty and insecurity could hinder their full participation in society (Castles and Davidson, 2005: 213). Turner admitted that Marshall's theory can be useful for citizenship studies for a couple of reasons: First, as a social citizenship theory it is regarded as a focus for serious developments of citizenship theoretical formulations in modern sociopolitical theory; second, the theory contains theoretical ideas for theoretical sociology of citizenship; and third, Marshal's theory shows the historical sociological developments in the West and has been very influential in the British and American sociology(quoted in Nejatihosseini, 2000: 40). For Marshall, citizenship is seen as an opportunity granted to those who hold the full membership of the community. All individuals with this opportunity are equal based on the rights and duties granted to them. Reviewing citizenship developments in the past 250 years, Marshall notes that: "Citizenship in democratic systems grows over time so that it comes up with three distinct dimensions" called civil, political, and social dimensions. In his key work entitled *Citizenship and Social Class and Other Essays*, Marshall defined citizenship as the "body of rights and duties, the status, which goes with full membership of a community or a society(Marshall, 1950: 8-9), Marshall argued that the modern concept of citizenship consists of a combination of three elements: civil, political and social (Roche, 1992: 20). The civil element comprises rights essential to individual freedom (such as freedom of speech, thought

and religion). The political element consists of the right to political participation and the social element relates to the right to economic and social welfare10. Social citizenship for Marshall was a means to alleviate depredations of inequality by way of introducing a 'qualitative equalization' between people through provision of and access to rights to social welfare (social citizenship) (Marshall, 1950: 91-100). Citizenship as full membership in a given society requires the existence of all three types of rights (Castles, 1999: 27-48).

Bryan Turner, providing a historical review of citizenship, tries to develop a new theory about citizenship. In his view, the modern history of citizenship can be considered as a series of expanding circles that have gone through the force of struggle and conflict. Therefore, the citizenship movement as a specific concept turned into a general concept because providing specific definitions of individuals in order to exclude them seems increasingly irrational and is in conflict with the modern political principles (Faulks, 2000: 12). According to Turner, citizenship requires the institutionalization of political and social rights that have turned out to be problematic again. He sees citizenship as a set of rights and duties that grant legal official identities to individuals. Historically, such legal rights and obligations are the origins of the emergence of social institutions such as the judiciary system, parliaments, and welfare states(Quoted in Shiani, 2000: 16).

Jurgen Habermas, the critical sociologist, defines and explains citizenship in terms of social and political factors, civil society, and the public sphere. Criticizing common models of democracy, he discusses the dialogical democracy. He reviewed the tow liberal and democratic models and adopted some elements of each model which gives him and intermediate position. Theoretically speaking, his model is a synthesis of these two ideas. For Habermas, citizenship is a format by which two determinant principles of legitimacy, i.e. democracy and human rights are linked together. Human rights institutionalize requirements for communication and negotiation for a rational political determination. Individual rights which make implementing popular sovereignty possible cannot be regarded as an external restriction imposed in order to implement the popular sovereignty. Human rights guarantee a legal support for everyone and an equal opportunity to follow the life route, which is of course of intrinsic value by itself. So, it cannot be diminished to its instrumental value to build a democratic will (Habermas, 2001: 169-170).Habermas observes that "the status of citizen fixes the particular democratic rights that the individual can reflectively use to change their situation, position or material legal status." (Habermas, 1998: 33).

According to Habermas, a free and rational communication away from the economic, political, and cultural dominance should be made possible. In sociological terms, the exact place of occurrence of true and profound democracy in which the entrance of strategic action is prohibited is the public sphere.

What is important in the public domain is the process of dialogue not its outcomes. As such, the most important thing is that the process of discourse or dialogue and democratic rationality governing it is to be democratic. The public sphere is an arena in which people come together to participate in open and public discussions (Holub, 2013: 26).

The level of awareness of civil rights and responsibilities arises in the context of family and school where such rights are formed. Besides, citizenship behavior is a function of communication action between members of the community and the development and de-politicization of public sphere. However, other variables react to it that may strengthen or weaken it. These factors include gender, education, socioeconomic status, occupational group, membership in civil associations and institutions, and the type and level of study. The awareness level of civil rights and duties in all civil, political, and social dimensions is influenced by these variables. On the one hand, as Habermas points out, citizenship means political membership. Development of collaborative networks, membership in more organizations, and development of the possible choices represent membership in associations. On the other hand, local community members show higher levels of civic participation and civil mental capacity, which will lead to increased awareness.

Job is one of the factors influencing the citizen's awareness. In the contemporary world with the diminished function of many variables, the importance of occupational groups is highlighted. Occupational classes, or groups, according to their mission have a major role to play in the process of awareness-rising. Similarly, the existence of resources and facilities is effective in this regard, facilitating individuals' awareness and empowerment.

Another thing that should be mentioned is the role and the type of education and the field of study that one may take. Undoubtedly, education plays a major role in rising people's awareness. Educated look into the issues critically and have a better understanding of their environment. In the meantime, social studies have the most level of influence on thoughts and beliefs than other factors. Since the concept of citizenship is related to this issue, people who are involved in social studies are those who have a better understanding of the civil rights and duties. In Giddens' term, sociology helps to interpret and evaluate the results of policies to achieve self-enlightenment. The more we think about the whys of action we do and the more we know and learn about the general functions of our society, the more likely we can impact our future. Finally, gender influences the awareness of civil rights and duties. It is argued that females are less interested in political and citizenship issues than males are.
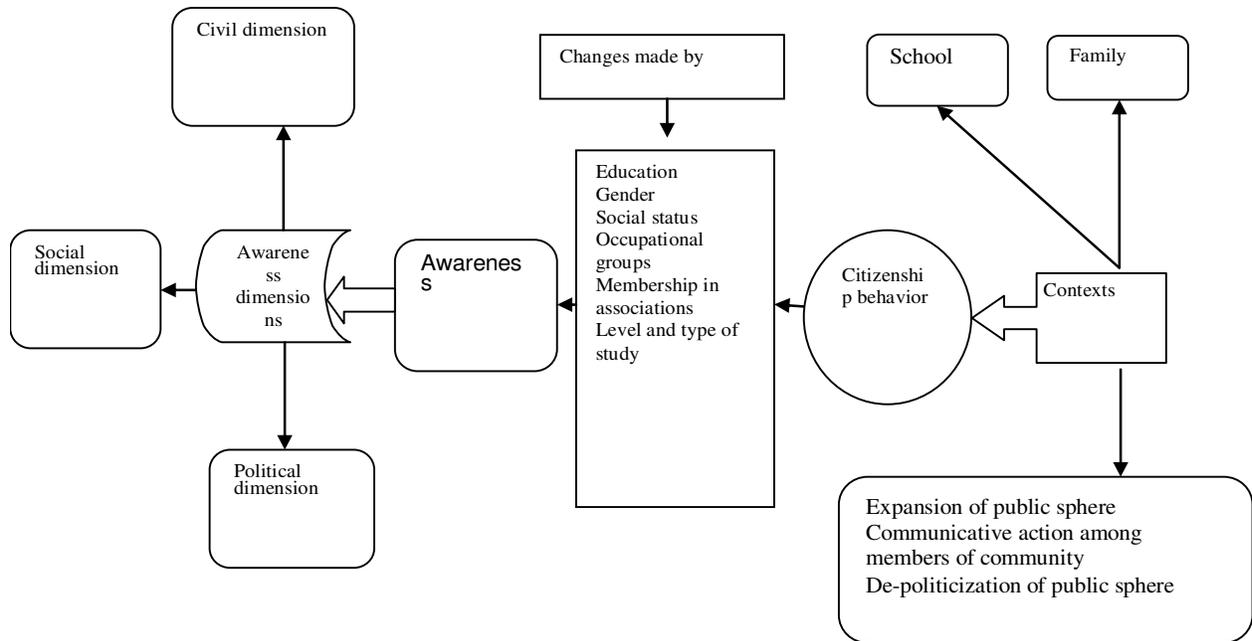
Figure 1. Theoretical Model of the Study

In this study, the dimensions of awareness are divided into civil, political, and social dimensions in order to focus on variables that influence the awareness of civil rights. Accordingly, the main hypothesis present in this study is that there is a relationship between demographic variables, membership in various associations, watching satellite channels, the type of study, and the level of awareness of civil rights. Therefore, the present study attempts to measure the hypothetical relationships between these independent variables and the level of awareness of civil rights as the dependent through a theoretical model shown as follows: (Figure 1)

METHODOLOGY

The present study employs a descriptive-quantitative research design. Concerning the control of research conditions, it is a survey research. This study is also an applied research in terms of the objectives it follows, a longitudinal study concerning its extent, a micro study with regard to its scope, and is a cross-sectional research based on the time it was conducted.

The population under study consisted of all male and female citizens living in Sanandaj whose number amounted to 375280 persons according to the statistics from the governor's office based on the latest Population and Housing Census in 2011. Since only people with 15 years and older were included in the population, this figure amounted to 70% of the Sanandaj population that is 262692 person. The sample size with 384 respondents was determined using the Cochran formula.

Since the population under study was very extensive and included all citizens living in Sanandaj and sampling selection using other sampling techniques required considerable time, manpower, and costs; cluster sampling was used to save such resources. Accordingly, the questionnaires were distributed and completed in suburban areas including Kani Kuzaleh, Haji Abad, Degaran; in the central areas including Faiz Abad (Chob Forushi, Kurdistan town, and Moa'alem Park); in uptown areas such as Khosroabad Boulevard, Shebli Boulevard, Amiriyeh and Saadi Town.

The collected data were analyzed using SPSS Software. After checking the normal distribution of civil rights, one samples t-test, independent samples t-test, ANOVA, and Pearson correlation were run to determine relationships among the variables under study.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

The sample under study consisted of 209 male respondents (54.4%) and 175 female respondents (45.6%), respectively. Of 384 respondents, 231 were single (60.2%) while 153 were married (39.8%). In addition, 262 respondents (68.2%) lived in city and 122 (31.8%) lived in rural areas. Accordingly, more than 68% of the respondents were born in urban areas and the rest were born in rural areas. Therefore, the birthplace of most of the respondents was in city. Perhaps one possible reason is that Iranian people often tend to be

Table 1. Crosstabs for gender and social awareness of civil rights

Variables		Gender		
Awareness of civil rights		Males	Females	Total
	Low	0	0	0
	Average	59	87	146
	High	150	88	238
Total		209	175	384

Table 2. Mean differences in awareness of civil and social rights based on education level

Differences	Total square	Degree of freedom	Mean square	F	Sig.
Intergroup	4105.877	8	513.235	29.081	0.000
Intragroup	6618.123	375	17.648		
Total	10724.000	383			

included in urban population as a city dweller is culturally and socially is preferred over a rural person or a villager. As a result, the majority of respondents have tended to say that they were born in cities or are of urban origin. The highest percentage of respondents had a high school diploma (21.9%) followed by those who held a B.A degree (18.5%). Overall, more than half of the respondents held a high school diploma. The distribution of respondents according to having study in political, economic, and social areas indicated that most of the respondents were interested in reading political materials (29.9%), social materials (24%) and religious issues (10.7%).

Inferential statistics

As previously mentioned, the demographic variables such as gender, education level, social class, membership in various associations, watching satellite channels, and studying were manipulated as assumed variables in this study as it is assumed there are possible relationships between these variables and the level of awareness of civil rights. To determine such relationships, inferential statistics must be used. Appropriate test have been run in this section for each of the hypotheses, depending on their level of measurement variables to determine the relationships between them.

The first variable deals with the relationship between gender and the level of awareness of civil rights. The results of chi-square test in the cross table show that there is a significant relationship between the level of awareness of civil-social rights among male and female respondents. The chi-square value for these two groups is 80.197, which is significant at 99% significance level. Descriptive statistics show that at both average and high levels, male respondents are more aware of their civil-social rights than female respondents are. Similarly, male

respondents have higher level of awareness of citizens' political rights than female respondents do. (Table 1)

The second hypothesis states that there is a significant relationship between the respondents' education level and their awareness of civil the rights. In other words, citizens' awareness of civil rights differs significantly depending on their education and literacy levels. To understand whether such difference exists or not, One-Way ANOVA was run to determine differences in the respondents' awareness of civil rights at civil-social and political levels. The results of ANOVA for civil and social rights as the dependent variable show that the F-value equals 29.081 (P = 0.000). Therefore, it can be suggested that with 99% confidence the respondents' awareness of social and civil rights is different depending on their education level. Table 2 presents more details. In addition, the respondents have different levels of political awareness. Those with higher levels of education are more aware of their political rights than those with lower levels of education.

The third hypothesis addresses to the relationship between income levels and awareness of the civil rights in both civil-social and political domains. The Pearson's correlation test was used based on the measurement level of both variables as shown in Table 3. As can be seen in this table, the respondents' personal income has no significant relationship with their awareness of civil rights. Besides, there is no significant correlation between the respondents' awareness of civil rights of their family income levels. It seems that since most of the respondents did not have any sources of income, there was no significant correlation between these two variables. In other words, as the findings of the study indicate, there was no significant relationship between the respondents' income level, whether personal or household income, and their awareness of civil rights. Besides, there was no different between different income groups and awareness of civil rights.

Table 3. Correlation between income levels and awareness of civil rights

Variables	Family income		Individual income	
	R	Sig	R	Sig
Awareness ofcivil and social rights	-0.039	0.442	0.039	0.452
Awareness of political rights	0.017	0.743	0.103	0.043

Table 4. Mean differences in awareness of civil rights based on membership in different associations

Membership in different associations		Awareness of political rights			Awareness of civil and social rights		
		Mean	F	Sig.	Mean	F	Sig.
Literary and artistic associations	No	21.26	12.514	0.000	23.75	3.511	0.062
	Yes	22.13			5.21		
Corporate and Welfare organizations	No	20.86	2.928	0.088	23.23	11.453	0.001
	Yes	23.122			24.48		
Islamic associations	No	21.16.	11.332	0.001	23.56	7.045	0.008
	Yes	28.00			23.00		
NGOs and youth associations	No	21.11	2.44	0.119	23.41	5.040	0.025
	Yes	25.45			5.25		
PTAs	No	21.28	7.001	0.008	23.44	3.997	0.046
	Yes	25			27		
Community councils	No	21.54	0.172	0.679	23.67	2.415	0.121
	Yes	16.00			19.00		
Political groups and parties	No	21.39	6.966	0.009	23.53	4.075	0.44
	Yes	18			21		

The fourth hypothesis: There is a relationship between membership in different associations and awareness of civil rights and duties.

The fourth hypothesis in this study addresses impact of membership in associations on awareness of civil rights in terms of civil-social and political dimensions. In fact, the aim isto recognize differences between membership/non-membership in different associations and its impact on the awareness of civil rights. Accordingly, for each of the associations, independent two-sample t-test was used, the results of which are shown in Table 4. As can be seen, the membership in literary associations (T = 12.514, Sig = 0.000) and in Islamic associations (T = 11.332, Sig = 0.000) both have a significant effect on the awareness of political rights. Besides, the membership in the parents-teachers associations and political groups and parties affect the awareness of political rights. In other words, there is a significant difference in the levels of awareness of civil rights in terms of membership in these associations. In addition, there is a significant relationship between the awareness of civil and social rights and the membership in trade and welfare associations, NGOs, youth organizations, and PTAs.

The fifth hypothesis addresses the existence of a significant relationship between class origin of respondents and their level of awareness of citizens' rights, whether social, civil, and political. The respondents' social class consisted of several other variables, including the type of housing, income, level of education. The F-value in Table 4 is 2.8, which indicates that there is no significant correlation between class origin of respondents and their awareness of civil rights. (Table 5)

The independent two-samples t-test was run to determine the relationship between the respondents' study habits and their awareness of citizenship rights in civil-social and political domains and to explore mean differences between the two groups under study. The findings indicated that the awareness of political rights is significantly different between the respondents who were interested in studying historical, religious, and artistic materials and those who did not study such materials. The T-value for the respondents interested in reading historical materials is -0.360 (P = 0.000) and for the respondents studying religious texts was -5.872 (P = 0.000). In other words, there is a significant different in terms of awareness of civil rights between those with these two reading habits and those who did not study any materials. However, there is no significant difference in the awareness of civil rights between those who studied materials related to social rights and those who did not. Table 6 shows the statistics for each group separately. However, there is a significant relationship only between studying political materials and the awareness of civil and social rights.

Table 5. The difference between respondents' class origin and their awareness of civil, social, and political rights

	Civil, social, and political rights				
	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Intergroup	368.577/36	2	184.288	2.827	0.009
Intragroup	14546.04	381	26.676		
Total	14914.625	382			

Table 6. Mean differences of civil rights based on studying materials in each area

Type of study materials	Awareness of political rights		Awareness of social and civil rights	
	T-value	Sig.	T-value	Sig.
Political	0.201	0.841	992/1	0.047
Social	0.118	906 / 0	0.121	0.903
Historical	4.360	0.000	0.002	0.981
Literary	-0.573	567/0	-0.780	0.436
Religious	5.872	0.000	1.383	0.168
Artistic	- 2.001	046/0	-0.984	0.325
Philosophical	-0.987	324/0	-0.086	0.932

Table 7. Results of ANOVA concerning differences in the level of awareness of civil rights based on daily time spent on studying

	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F-value	Sig
Intergroup	27.89494	3	959.831	3.306	0.000
Intragroup	12035.131	380	31.671		
Total	14914.626	383			

Table 8. Crosstabs for the relationship between the use of satellite channels and the awareness of social and civil rights

	Awareness of social and civil rights	
	x^2	19
Use of satellite channels	Sig.	0.000
	Cramer's V	0.222

Table 9. Crosstabs for the relationship between the use of satellite channels and the awareness of social and civil rights

Variables		Use of satellite channels		
Awareness of social and civil rights		No	Yes	Total
	Low	158	115	273
	Average	70	31	101
	High	0	10	10
Total		228	156	384

Here we discuss the differences between the respondents' level of awareness based on the time spent on studying on a daily basis. To this end, daily study time was divided into three categories: no study, 1-2 hours, 2-3 hours and more. In addition, One-Way ANOVA was run to determine differences in the awareness of civil rights in these three categories. The results show that there is a significant difference between the different categories. In other words, those who spend more time on studying have a higher level of awareness. Besides, the F-value is 3.306 showing a significant difference at 99% confidence level. Table 7 presents more information in this regard.

Eighth hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between watching satellite channels and awareness of civil rights and responsibilities.

One of the items in the questionnaire dealt with the use/non-use of satellite channels. To find out if the level of awareness of civil rights among the respondents who used satellite channels and those who did not use these channels was significantly different or not, two-sample t-test was employed. As shown in Table 8, there is a significant difference in the level of awareness of citizens' civil and social rights between the respondents who used satellite channels and those who did not use these channels (F = 18.057). The mean of awareness of civil and social rights for the respondents who did not use satellite channels equals approximately 30 and its corresponding value for those who used satellite channels is almost 32. However, it appears that the level of awareness of civil and social rights among the respondents who used satellite channels and those who did not use these channels was not significantly different. Given that the assumption of the equality of variances is rejected, the chi-square test was used to test the hypothesis.

As the outputs in the above tables show, it can be argued that there is a significant relationship between awareness of civil and social and using satellite channels. However, as the Cramer's value (0.222) indicates, this relationship is weak.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Citizenship is a dynamic process; by which people and the government recognize rights, responsibilities, obligations they hold towards each other. Globalization has greatly contributed to the free exchange of information and freedom of expression and thought. This is despite the fact that many obstacles and major challenges are facing it and this is a new promise and an important starting point for the proximity of different cultures and the creation of a multicultural citizenship.

But what is of central importance in this study is the awareness of civil rights and responsibilities among citizens living in Sanandaj and the factors affecting it. This is a significant issue as in today's changing world, finding solutions to most issues and problems is dependent upon the awareness of citizens. This not only empowers the citizen to demand their rights but also makes people aware of their rights and consequently aware of their responsibilities towards the community and other people so social order will grow more rapidly.

The findings of the study indicated that awareness of citizens' social, civil, and political rights was higher among the male respondents than the female respondents. This finding is consistent with the findings byKhodadoust (2008)in a study conducted in Ardabil and findings by Eidi (2007) on students' compatibility in

Isfahan. Given that people in the Kurdish community have less experience of modernity than people living in central regions of Iran, their contribution in many social, economic and political domains is rather limited. Similarly, the results of this study show the awareness of the male respondents in civil-social and political domains are higher than that of the female respondents. Therefore, it is necessary to take some measures to educate women and enhance their awareness oftheir civil rights and responsibilities.

One of the variables associated with the level of awareness of civil rights and responsibilities of citizenship is citizens' education level. In this study, it was noted that the awareness levels of citizens living in Sanandaj of their civil, social, and political rights are different in terms of their education level. The people with higher levels of education are more aware of their civil, social, and political rights than those with lower levels of education. These findings are in line with Khodadoust's (2008) findings about people living in Ardebil. This shows the importance of education in the modern era. Accordingly, it can be said that the Kurds have lower levels of education and this is one of the reasons for underdevelopment and dependency of Kurdish people. Therefore, most of writers and poets have asked the Kurds to acquire knowledge and science so that they can liberate themselves and like other nations become aware of their rights and responsibilities and fulfill them. Accordingly, it is often said that modernization processes that involve in transition of a simple society to a more complex one, the normal function of democracy and even the communication among political elites and the public require that citizens gain literacy and achieve the basic element of education (Sharkavi, 2000, 19).

Our findings also indicate that the respondents' personal income level was significantly associated with their awareness of different civil rights. However, the respondents' awareness of civil rights was not significantly correlated with their family income level and social class. It seems that since most of the respondents (30%) did not have any sources of income, there was no significant correlation between these two variables. The respondents' social class was made of several other variables, including the type of housing, income, education level,and type of their jobs. Given this composition and the impact of income, there was no significant relationship between civil-social and political domains of citizenship and citizens' social class.

Finally, the findings of this study show that the level of awareness of civil and social rights among the respondents who used satellite channels is higher than those who did not use these channels. This is in line with the findings of a study conducted by Eidi (2007) concerning the use of mass media by students living in Isfahan. However, it appears that the level of awareness of civil and social rights among the respondents who used satellite channels and those who did not use these

channels was not significantly different. This is due to the fact that most people have access to satellite channels as communication tool but it is not possible to explain differences in attitudes towards the awareness of civil rights and duties in terms of different dimensions only based on the use/non-use of satellite channels.

To sum up, it can be suggested that the level of awareness of political rights among people living in Sanandaj is much higher than their awareness of other components of citizenship. On other hand, their awareness of civil and social rights is very limited. This is in conflict with Marshall's theory of citizenship by which civil rights, political rights and finally social rights are realized in the form of a continuum. Given the historical context of Sanandaj and its relatively limited development as well as incidents that took place in the city over the past half century, the residents of the city were more interested in political issues and in gaining awareness of political rights than civil and social issues. Therefore, in order for the city to enjoy from a logical development process, civil and social dimensions of citizenship rights must also be taken into account and ultimately some programs should be implemented to increase the public awareness of civil and social rights and obligations so that the awareness of such issues be acceptable just as the awareness of political issues. Some suggestions will be provided in the following paragraph in this regard.

The findings of the study also suggested that the respondents' gender, education, occupation, type of study materials have the greatest impact on awareness of civil rights. Perhaps this reflects the fact that, ultimately, the decisive role in increased of awareness of the civil rights is played by social relations. Men's participation in the public domain is higher than that of women. Besides, people having higher or college educations enjoy a broad intellectual environment. Employees, drivers, and shop owners are similarly having more interaction with people. In the same vein, people who spend their time studying different materials indirectly enter into mutual social relations and interaction with others. All these things suggest that engaging in interaction with others will possibly increase the awareness of civil rights and of its different components. Therefore, some opportunities must be made available to poor people or those in lower classes so they can take advantage of these opportunities and to increase their knowledge and awareness. As a result, the cost of most activities performed in society will be reduced.

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