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IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON STANDARD OF LIVING OF FARMERS IN GOZARAH DISTRICT OF HERAT PROVINCE OF AFGHANISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This research is conducted to study the impact of urbanization on standard of living of farmers in Gozara district of Herat province of Afghanistan in 2019. Based on the research requirements four villages from within the radius of five kilometers of districts' centers as villages having high urban influenced and four villages outside the radius of five kilometers of districts' centers as villages having low urban influenced have been selected. From each village 10 farmers totally 80 farmers have been randomly selected. Ex post facto research design applied for this research. Pre prepared questionnaires have been distributed to the respondents and collected data have been analyzed statistically and the findings showed that there were significant differences between the respondents of high and low urban influenced villages with respect to the standard of living dimensions such as annual income and investments. 40 per cent of respondents in high urban influenced villages had high level of standard of living. 30 per cent and 20 per cent of the respondents of high and low urban influenced villages have been completely shifted from agriculture activities to business activities. In high urban influenced villages, variables such as security problem, and marketing orientation had significant relationship with the standard of living of respondents at one per cent level. Whereas in low urban influenced villages, variables such as education, social participation, economic motivation, security problem, marketing orientation and self-confidence were found to be significant at one per cent level.

Keywords: *urbanization, standard of living, impact, farmers, agricultural occupation*

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity in Afghanistan and plays a crucial role in the country's economic development by providing food and raw materials and employment to a large portion of the population. The technological transformation of agriculture has had much larger effects and has operated as a push-pull on the city ward movement of people.

Urbanization, simply defined, as the shift from a rural to an urban society, and involves an increase in the number of people in urban areas during a particular year. Urbanization is the outcome of socio-economic and political developments that lead to urban concentration and growth of large cities, changes in land use and transformation from rural to metropolitan pattern of organization and governance. With heavy migrations from rural to urban areas there have been significant changes in land utilization. Land converted to urban uses is increasing.

The fastest rate of conversion of agriculture land in urbanization will have negative impact on agriculture sector. One of the powerful social forces that may have a great impact on a society is urbanization. Urbanization and misuse of agriculture land is the problem of all developing countries where population growth rate and migration rate from rural to urban is high. Urbanization increases residential population and expansion of non-farm business and industry which in turn increases the pressure on farmers and makes it costlier and difficult to farm in the traditional way. At the same time, urbanization also provides opportunities for alternative and higher value enterprises to take advantage of a nearby urban market.

Urbanization promotes commercial agriculture. Urban infrastructure expansion reduces crop land areas. The growth of cities and towns also leads to the conversion of arable land to built-up areas. Urbanization not only causes an expansion of built-up areas for housing, but also has far-reaching effects on indirect land-cover change. Urban population needs a much broader supply and service infrastructure than rural population - from shopping centers to water reservoirs. The process of urbanization usually triggers the growth of a specific supply infrastructure and city-specific land-use forms, such as parks, recreation areas, and sport stadiums, which further diminish cropland areas around the cities.

When demands for developable land are sufficiently high, the value of land in developed use will exceed its value in agricultural use. This enables developers to outbid farmers for use of the land. Strong development pressures can lead to high rates of growth in land values, which in turn speed the conversion of farmland to developed uses as fewer farmers enter the industry. As more land exits farming, the local agricultural economy may suffer. However, existing farmers may welcome the increase in farmland values, especially if they view their investment in land as a retirement fund and do not have children who plan to continue farming the land.

Food security is a major challenge closely connected to urbanization. The impact of urbanization on agriculture is also connected to the consumption patterns of city populations. Rising incomes lead to higher consumption and increased pressure on natural resources, especially in developed countries.

Closer proximity to urban consumers and new output venues allow farmers to adapt their agricultural operations to higher value or specialty crops, such as fruits and vegetables. However, as farmland is put to different farming uses, a shift in input suppliers may result. Suppliers providing goods and services to more "traditional" farming operations may fail or relocate to more rural areas, replaced by suppliers whose products are suited to the new "specialty" enterprises.

The 2005 Revision of the UN World Urbanization Prospects report described the 20th century as witnessing "the rapid urbanization of the world's population", as the global proportion of urban population rose dramatically from 13 per cent (220 million) in 1900, to 29 per cent (732 million) in 1950, to 49 per cent (3.2 billion) in 2005. The same report projected that the figure is likely to rise to 60 per cent (4.9 billion) by 2030 (Anonymous, 2005).

According to Dubey (1972), "the term urbanization implies the movement of people to urban areas". Thompson (1935) used the term just in the same sense when he wrote, "urbanization is characterized by movement of people from small communities concerned chiefly or solely with agriculture to other communities generally larger, whose activities are primarily centered in governments, trade, manufacture or allied interests".

Jacobson and Ved Prakash (1971) defined urbanization as a phenomenon describing a process of change in the status of populations due to changing conditions in the society at large.

Gerald (1969) described urbanization, "as a process of becoming urban, moving to cities, changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities and corresponding changing of behaviours patterns."

Anderson (1964) said that, "when we speak of urbanization the assumption is often implied that there is a twofold change; people change from agricultural work to industrial work, while at the same time changing from rural to urban residence."

Undoubtedly economic and industrial growth brings about many transformations in the demographic, economic and social progresses besides changes and shifts in the occupational pattern and standard of living of rural people. Traditionally it mainly involves demographic shift of population from rural to urban areas and its transformation from agricultural to non-agricultural pursuits corresponding to urban centre. With this background the study has been conceptualized with the following objectives

OBJECTIVES

(1) To assess the standard of living of farmers due to urbanization

(2) To know the characteristics of respondents and their influence on standard of living

METHODOLOGY

The present research study was carried out in Gozarah district of Herat province which is located in western region of Afghanistan. An ex-post-facto research design was employed for conducting the study. The data was collected from 80 randomly selected respondents of 8 villages (4 villages from within the radius of five kilometers of districts' centers as villages having high urban influenced and 4 villages outside the radius of five kilometers of districts' centers as villages having low urban influenced) by employing personal interview method. The researcher personally visited respondents to obtain the data. The respondents were assured of the secrecy of the data and were encouraged to give unbiased answers. Collected data were scored, tabulated and analyzed using statistical methods like: mean, standard deviation, t-Test, correlation co-efficient and multiple regression analysis in order to derive the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mean values of the different dimensions of standard of living viz.; social status, value addition to education, health status, annual income, food consumption, investments and expenditure on social functions are comparatively higher for the respondents of high urban influenced villages than that of low urban influenced villages. The significant differences can be observed between the respondents of

high and low urban influenced villages with respect to the standard of living dimensions such as annual income and investments. The mean values for the respondents of high urban influenced villages of annual income and investments were AFs.82367.50 and AFs. 31175, respectively. Whereas, mean values for the respondents of low urban influenced villages of annual income and investments were AFs.73350 and AFs.24250, respectively (Table 1).

Table 1 : Comparison of different dimensions of standard of living between respondents of high and low urban influenced villages (n=80)

Sr. No.	Dimensions of standard of living	Mean values		't' value
		High urban influenced villages (n=40)	Low urban influenced villages (n=40)	
1	**Social status** (scores)	8.875	8.425	0.6106
2	**Value addition to education** (scores)	13.075	12.225	0.3542
3	**Health status** (scores)	30.7	30.2	0.3744
4	**Annual income** (AFs.)	82367.5	73350	0.0716*
5	**Food consumption** (AFs.)	26025	24550	0.1865
6	**Expenditure on social functions** (AFs.)	23325	21575	0.1455
7	**Investments** (AFs.)	31175	24250	0.0135*

* Significant at 10% probability

The possible reasons that could be attributed to higher mean values of the different dimensions of standard of living for the respondents of high urban influenced villages than that of low urban influenced villages are closer proximity to city, broader supply and service infrastructure, social progress, better awareness regarding importance of education and keeping hygiene thus maintaining health status, more selling value of land nearer to city, better marketing facilities, consuming more nutritive and costlier food, better utilization of income by investing it on house construction, house renovation, land development and savings. The findings of the study are in conformity with the findings reported by Sokolow (2000).

Table 2: Comparison of level of standard of living of respondents in high and low urban influenced villages

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Category	High urban influenced villages (n=40)		Low urban influenced villages (n=40)	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1	**Low**	09	22.50	14	35.00
2	**Medium**	15	37.50	15	37.50
3	**High**	16	40.00	11	27.50

It was observed that 40 per cent of respondents in high urban influenced villages had high level of standard of living, followed by medium (37.50 %) and low (22.50 %) level of standard of living. Further, 37.50 per cent of respondents in low urban influenced villages had medium level of standard of living, followed by low (35.00 %) and high (27.50 %) level of standard of living (Table 2).

It is quite obvious that mean values of different dimensions of standard of living are higher for the respondents of high urban influenced villages than that of low urban influenced villages, therefore, the level of standard of living is also better in respondents of high urban influenced villages. Moreover, high urban influenced villages being nearer to city are having advantages of better infrastructural and service facilities.

Table 3: Profile characteristics of respondents

(n=80)

Sr. No.	Profile Characteristics	Category	Respondents			
			High urban influenced villages (n=40)		Low urban influenced villages (n=40)	
			Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1	**Age**	Young	15	37.50	17	42.50
		Middle	25	62.50	23	57.50
		Old	0	0.00	0	0.00

Sr. No.	Profile Characteristics	Category	Respondents			
			High urban influenced villages (n=40)		Low urban influenced villages (n=40)	
			Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2	**Education**	Illiterate	0	0.00	05	12.50
		Primary school	07	17.50	07	17.50
		Middle school	12	30.00	16	40.00
		High school	12	30.00	12	30.00
		Preuniversity	09	22.50	0	0.00
		Graduate and above	0	0.00	0	0.00
3	**Family size**	Small	04	10.00	06	15.00
		Medium	36	90.00	34	85.00
		large	0	0.00	0	0.00
4	**Size of land holding** (2000)	Small	10	25.00	14	35.00
		Medium	18	45.00	17	42.50
		Big	12	30.00	09	22.50
5	**Size of land holding** (2009)	Small	14	35.00	16	40.00
		Medium	19	47.50	18	45.00
		Big	07	17.50	06	15.00
6	**Mass media participation**	Low	12	30.00	14	35.00
		Medium	11	27.50	15	37.50
		High	17	42.50	11	27.50
7	**Social participation**	Low	05	12.50	18	45.00
		Medium	14	35.00	12	30.00
		High	21	52.50	10	25.00
8	**Extension participation**	Low	11	27.50	13	32.50
		Medium	15	37.50	14	35.00
		High	14	35.00	13	32.50
9	**Economic motivation**	Low	12	30.00	15	37.50
		Medium	13	32.50	12	30.00
		High	15	37.50	13	32.50
10	**Managerial ability**	Low	11	27.50	17	42.50
		Medium	16	40.00	14	35.00
		High	13	32.50	09	22.50
11	**Innovativeness**	Low	11	27.50	15	37.50
		Medium	14	35.00	13	32.50
		High	15	37.50	12	30.00
12	**Risk orientation**	Low	12	30.00	15	37.50
		Medium	15	37.50	14	35.00
		High	13	32.50	09	22.50
13	**Achievement motivation**	Low	10	25.00	20	50.00
		Medium	19	47.50	14	35.00
		High	11	27.50	06	15.00
14	**Scientific orientation**	Low	12	30.00	12	30.00
		Medium	13	32.50	14	35.00
		High	15	37.50	14	35.00
15	**Competition orientation**	Low	10	25.00	11	27.50
		Medium	13	32.50	21	52.50
		High	17	42.50	08	20.00
16	**Credit orientation**	Low	12	30.00	16	40.00
		Medium	07	17.50	24	60.00
		High	21	52.50	0	0.00

Sr. No.	Profile Characteristics	Category	Respondents			
			High urban influenced villages (n=40)		Low urban influenced villages (n=40)	
			Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
17	**Marketing orientation**	Low	12	30.00	15	37.50
		Medium	17	42.50	15	37.50
		High	11	27.50	10	25.00
18	**Self confidence**	Low	11	27.50	16	32.50
		Medium	15	37.50	12	30.00
		High	14	35.00	12	30.00

The findings are in accordance with the study conducted by Marais (1999).

With respect to high urban influenced villages it can be inferred from the table that majority (62.50 %) of respondents were middle aged. 30 per cent of the respondents had middle as well as high school education. Majority (90.00 %) of respondents belongs to medium family size. 45.00 and 47.50 per cent of respondents had medium size of land holding in 2010 and in 2019, respectively. Mass media participation level of 42.50 per cent of respondents was high. Majority (52.50 %) of respondents belong to high level of social participation. 37.50 per cent of respondents had medium level of extension participation and high level of economic motivation. Managerial ability level of 40.00 per cent of respondents was medium. 37.50 per cent of respondents had high level of innovativeness and medium level of risk orientation. Nearly half (47.50 %) of respondents belong to medium level of achievement motivation. Scientific orientation level of 37.50 per cent of respondents was high. 42.50 per cent of respondents had high level of competition orientation. Majority (52.50 %) of respondents belong to high level of credit orientation. 42.50 per cent of respondents belong to medium level of marketing orientation. Self confidence level of 37.50 per cent of respondents was medium.

With respect to low urban influenced villages it can be inferred from the table that majority (57.50 %) of respondents were middle aged. 40 per cent of the respondents had middle school education. Majority (85.00 %) of respondents belong to medium family size. 42.50 and 45 per cent of respondents had medium size of land holding in 2010 and in 2019 respectively. Mass media participation level of 37.50 per cent of respondents was medium. 45 per cent of respondents belong to high level of social participation. Extension participation level of 37.50 per cent of respondents was medium. 37.50 per cent of respondents belong to low level economic motivation. Managerial ability level of 42.50 per cent of respondents was low. 37.50 per cent of respondents had low level of innovativeness as well as risk orientation. Exactly half (50.00 %) of respondents belong to low level of achievement motivation. Scientific orientation level of 35.00 per cent of respondents was medium. Majority (52.50 %) of respondents had medium level of competition orientation. Majority (60.00 %) of respondents belong to medium level of credit orientation. 37.50 per cent of respondents belong to medium level of marketing orientation. Self confidence level of 32.50 per cent of respondents was low (Table 5).

Due to increase in nuclear family system, it is natural to find more number of middle age group to take up the responsibilities of head of the family. The probable reason for having middle as well as high school education in high urban influenced villages might be that they had better access to educational facilities due to closer proximity to city than in low urban influenced villages.

Medium family size is due to increase in nuclear family system resulted from urbanization. Medium size of land holding is attributed to the reason of fragmentation of land generation after generation.

It is quite obvious to find medium to high level of mass media participation, since villages are within the 5 kms distance from the district's centre. High level of social participation indicated better exposure to the social organizations such as village co-operatives, farmers' associations etc.

Medium level of extension participation could be attributed to the respondent's interest in extension activities to gather recent information and good contact with the extension workers due to close proximity to the DAIL (Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) and Agriculture Faculty of Herat University.

High level of economic motivation in respondents of high urban influenced villages can be attributed to an individual's psychological condition to orient himself to achieve higher standard of living. Low level of managerial ability in respondents of low urban influenced villages may be due to the fact that the respondents are unable to manage the enterprises properly for getting higher returns.

High level of innovativeness of respondents in high urban influenced villages might be due to their higher education, higher annual income, high social participation, high economic motivation and more participation of respondents in extension activities. Low level of innovativeness of respondents in low urban influenced villages might be due to their less education, smaller size of land holding, low economic motivation and less participation of respondents in extension activities, which leads to restricted information about new technologies.

Low level of risk orientation of respondents in low urban influenced villages might be due to their inability to face losses as they were financially not sound compared to the respondents in high urban influenced villages.

Achievement motivation is more of a psychological variable which differ from individual to individual. It is assumed that achievement motivation forces the individual towards reaching some goals, which he has set for himself. Higher the association with the individual higher will be his efforts. This can be attributed to the social status a respondent feels to keep by achieving greater goals.

High level of scientific orientation can be attributed to the fact that the enterprises need scientific knowledge to make the enterprise economically viable and profitable unit. High level of competition orientation may be due to higher educational status, higher innovativeness and higher risk orientation.

The possible reason for medium to high level of credit orientation may be due to better inclination of respondents to borrow the credit for purchase of inputs. Medium level of marketing orientation can be attributed to more knowledge about market information and selling of produce at proper time. The lack of training and exposure to the different production aspects may contribute for the low to medium level of self-confidence.

The findings are in conformity with the results of Sakharkar (1995), Saravan Kumar (1996), Chandrapaul (1998), Angadi (1999), Reddy (2001), Vijayakumar (2001) and Anitha (2004).

In high urban influenced villages, variables such as mass media participation, innovativeness, risk orientation, achievement motivation and marketing orientation had significant relationship with the standard of living of respondents at one per cent level. Whereas, variables such as land holding in 2010 and 2019, economic motivation, managerial ability and self-confidence had significant relationship at five per cent level (Table 3).

Table 4: Relationship between the independent variables of respondents of high urban influenced villages and their standard of living (n=40)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient
X_1	**Age**	0.273
X_2	**Education**	0.115
X_3	**Family size**	0.147
X_4	**Size of land holding(2000)**	0.385*
X_5	**Size of land holding(2009)**	0.312*
X_6	**Mass media participation**	0.546**
X_7	**Social participation**	0.272
X_8	**Extension participation**	0.168
X_9	**Economic motivation**	0.379*
X_{10}	**Managerial ability**	0.384*
X_{11}	**Innovativeness**	0.549**
X_{12}	**Risk orientation**	0.647**
X_{13}	**Achievement motivation**	0.582**
X_{14}	**Scientific orientation**	0.272
X_{15}	**Competition orientation**	0.111
X_{16}	**Credit orientation**	0.119
X_{17}	**Marketing orientation**	0.479**
X_{18}	**Self confidence**	0.355*

* Significant at the 5% level ** Significant at the 1% level

Mass media participation gives an expose to the outside world through different mass media like radio, TV, newspaper and internet thus respondents are quite likely to become exposed to the importance of higher education thereby increases their standard of living.

An innovative respondent is one who adopts new ideas and technologies and practices in his farm which in turn gives higher return and therefore enhances his standard of living.

The respondents were aware of initial investments and risk involved in different enterprises, at the same time right steps at right time and their experiences help them in framing appropriate opinion about the particular activity. As an outcome of this, they had better achievement which significantly increases their standard of living.

Marketing orientation helps to be equipped with the awareness and knowledge about market information and selling of produce at proper time and proper place which results in higher returns thus enhances standard of living. Therefore, higher the level of all these variables better will be the standard of living. The results are in accordance with the findings of Addiseshaiah (1979).

Table 5 : Relationship between the independent variables of respondents of low urban influenced villages and their standard of living (n=40)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient
X_1	**Age**	0.231
X_2	**Education**	0.434**
X_3	**Family size**	0.274
X_4	**Size of land holding(2000)**	0.382*
X_5	**Size of land holding(2009)**	0.331*
X_6	**Mass media participation**	0.599**
X_7	**Social participation**	0.628**
X_8	**Extension participation**	0.181
X_9	**Economic motivation**	0.553**
X_{10}	**Managerial ability**	0.483**
X_{11}	**Innovativeness**	0.389*
X_{12}	**Risk orientation**	0.703**
X_{13}	**Achievement motivation**	0.785**
X_{14}	**Scientific orientation**	0.226
X_{15}	**Competition orientation**	0.330*
X_{16}	**Credit orientation**	0.370*
X_{17}	**Marketing orientation**	0.510**
X_{18}	**Self confidence**	0.571**

* Significant at the 5% level ** Significant at the 1% level

In low urban influenced villages, variables such as education, mass media participation, social participation, economic motivation, managerial ability, risk orientation, achievement motivation, marketing orientation and self-confidence were found to be significant at one per cent level. Whereas, variables like size of land holding in 2010 and in 2019, innovativeness, competition orientation and credit orientation were found to be significant at five per cent level (Table-4).

Education helps the individual to broaden their mental horizon. It also enables them to get more information from various sources. This seems to be interrelated with the farmers to bring changes in their socio-psychological orientation to adopt new ideas and practices subsequently motivating the farmers for taking calculated risk. Education also helps in more precise decision making and to manage over all planning, production and marketing aspects with higher efficiency.

The economic motivation of an individual again depends upon the education level, exposure to mass media, achievement motivation and innovativeness which in turn increase the knowledge horizon and develop zeal in them to earn more annual income. Therefore, higher the level of all these variables better will be the standard of living. The results are in consonance with the finding of Addiseshaiah (1979).

CONCLUSION

There was a significant differences between the respondents of high and low urban influenced villages with respect to the standard of living dimensions such as annual income and investments. In high urban influenced villages, variables such as security problem, and marketing orientation had significant relationship with the standard of living of respondents at one per cent level. Whereas in low urban influenced villages, variables such as education, social participation, economic motivation, security problem, marketing orientation and self-confidence were found to be significant at one per cent level.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest among researchers.

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