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### SECTION 24. Sociological research.

## INVESTIGATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY ON WOMEN AFFAIRS: EMPHASIZING ON CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (CASE STUDY OF ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY, CHABAHAR BRANCH)

**Abstract:** The main objective of this research is to study the Consequences of the Establishment of Islamic Azad University on Women Affairs: Emphasizing on Cultural and Social Affairs (Case Study of Islamic Azad University, Chabahar Branch). The present study is an applied research and according to the nature of the subject and the objectives of the research, it is a descriptive-correlation research. The statistical population of the study includes all undergraduate and associate degree students in the final and penultimate semesters from all disciplines which consisted of 1,400 people. To conduct this research, 302 people were selected by stratified random sampling from the statistical population. To study the outcomes of the establishment of the Islamic Azad University on women's cultural and social affairs, a researcher made questionnaire with a reliability of 0.86 was used. Data obtained were analyzed at the level of inferential statistics (independent t-test, Friedman test and Chi-square test). The findings showed that: in this city, the activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch have had a significant impact on women's affairs. In this city, activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch have had a significant impact on the cultural and social affairs of women. Contribution of Islamic Azad University activities is not different in women's cultural and social affairs.

**Key words:** women, Azad University, cultural, social.

**Language:** English

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### Introduction

Higher education, as the main pillar of specialization, is responsible for supplying and educating the skilled labor force required by the society. Today, development scholars believe that among the human, physical and technological capital, the human capital and the correct productivity from it, is the main and important variable<sup>1</sup>. Undoubtedly, the country's education sector, especially higher education as the center for nurturing and training highly skilled and efficient

manpower and as centers of science production and acquisition of technical, educational, educational and so on, has an important role in contributing to the country's comprehensive development. Thanks to the establishment of Islamic Azad University, during the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, significant quantitative growth has taken place in the higher education sector of the country. It resulted in the increase in the number fields of study, students and many other quantitative indicators. Many young people who were eager and willing to learn



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knowledge and expertise in different levels and trends have entered these universities. This training opportunity is an important opportunity, especially for girls and women [2]. As a part of the effective population on the rate of development, women constitute the most unskilled labor force in developing countries. Development theorists argue that "development without the participation of women in all its processes is impossible" [3]. The experience of Southeast Asian countries has shown that investing in women's education boosts social production and provides the ground for further growth and development [4]. Therefore, women's participation in higher education is crucial because using higher education experiences will enhance participation and presence of women in social and cultural dimensions; so they can play an active role in the process of forming the nation and state. The study of the effects of education and higher education on woman's individual, family and social levels show their improvement in their individual and social life. The presence of women in schools, universities and various training centers gives them an opportunity to some parts of life skills and, most importantly, to gain experience in practical areas of modern social institutions. From this perspective, women can even be considered as accelerating development forces in underdeveloped or developing countries like Iran, which are faced with shortage of human capital and the brain drain phenomenon [5]. Some scholars believe that educating girls is likely to be the most profitable investment in developing countries. Women's education contributes to economic growth in many ways. Statistical research shows that educating mothers improves the education, nutrition and health of children. In addition, research has shown that the higher the education of mothers, the lower the number of children, so the quality of these children will be better [6].

Today, the most important role of the system of higher education and universities is culture-building in societies. Other influences of the higher education system on our society are achieving a comprehensive and sustainable development in an Islamic society, creating the grounds for ideal and desirable Islamic-Iranian civilization, not melting down in the structure of the existing relationship of Western civilization, active participation in underpinning the today's world cultural communication and The establishment of Islamic Azad University in the country, with the aim of expanding university branch even at the most remote regions, has succeeded in responding to large part of the demands of the youth to study at higher education institutions in which the presence and participation of women in higher education has a special place. Because many women could not continue their education due to the distance between

higher education centers and their place of residence and their families [8].

One of the characteristics of developing countries is "culture", and in particular the role of the higher education system in the country. The culture, degree and level of its development are considered to be a developmental criterion and In this regard, the higher education system, especially the Islamic Azad University, is one of the most important elements of the culture building.

The experience of four centuries of development with different patterns has led culture scholars and thinkers to concluded that Development is not limited to capital, technology, export and income, and industry but the most important pillar of the development of people of a country is culture, education level, attitude towards higher education system, educational programs and interest in advancement and creativity [9]. According to Kneller (1978), not only developing countries, but also every country and society in the new world can not avoid the important impact of culture on the development of communities. Islamic Azad University can play a pivotal role in this regard as it is located in most cities and most of its students are native.

Another dimension under studied is the focus on social dimension. Socialization is a process through which each individual acquires the knowledge and skills necessary for effective and active participation in social and collective life. A set of these values, norms, attitudes, knowledge and skills enables an individual to interact with groups and individuals in the community. Establishment of university branches in most cities of Iran including Chabahar, allowed women and girls to continue their education beside their families. But higher education can have different outcomes in different educational, cultural, social and economic dimensions. Therefore, the study of the cultural and social consequences of the establishment of the Islamic Azad University, Chabahar Branch, is one of the important necessities of this research.

### Research Methodology

The present study is an applied research and according to the nature of the subject and the objectives of the research, it is a descriptive-correlation research. The statistical population of the study includes all undergraduate and associate degree students in the final and penultimate semesters from all disciplines which consisted of 1,400 people. The sample size was 302 people which were selected using Morgan table and stratified random sampling was used as sampling method. A researcher-made questionnaire has been used to measure the consequences of establishment of Islamic Azad University on women's cultural and social affairs. In order to evaluate the validity of the questionnaire, it



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was provided to university professors to announce their point of view about the proportion of questions and components. Then it was used. The questionnaire consists of eight questions that use the five-option Likert scale. The reliability of the questionnaire was calculated using Cronbach's alpha which was 0.86. Data were analyzed by independent t-test, Friedman test and Chi-duas test using SPSS software (version 21).

### Findings

Totally 281 questionnaires were collected which their descriptive information is as follows: 161 respondents were male (57.3%) and 120 were female

(42.7%). 95 students (33.8%) were studying at the associate degree level, 68 (24.2%) were studying at the continuous undergraduate level, 118 (42.0%) were studying at non-continuous undergraduate level. 114 students (40.6%) were studying elementary education, 19 (6.8%) Persian literature, 3 (1.1%) Religious and Arabic, 3 (1.1%) foreign language, 43 (15.3%) computer science, 51 (18.1%) accountings, 7 (2.5%) architecture, 21 (7.5%) Law, 8 (2.8%) management and 12 (4.3%) psychology. Of the total number of respondents, 168 (59.8%) students were from Chabahar, 112 (39.9%) students were from cities around Chabahar. Meanwhile, 1 person (0.4%) did not specify his place of residence.

**Table 1**

**The mean and standard deviation of respondents**

Standard deviation	Average	Variable
4.85	27.49	Women Affairs
3.55	13.94	cultural Affairs
2.74	13.55	Social Affairs

As it can be seen in Table 1, the mean and standard deviation of the effective variables of the Azad University on women's affairs are 27.49 and 4.85 respectively. In cultural affairs are 13.94 and

3.55 respectively and in social affairs are 13.55 and 2.74 respectively.

**1st hypothesis:** Activities of the Islamic Azad University in Chabahar Branch have had a significant impact on women's affairs in this city.

**Table 2**

**T Test for the Impact of the Azad University on Women's Affairs**

test value= 24				Variable
Average difference	The significance level	Degrees of freedom	T value	
3.49	0.000	280	12.05	The impact of the university on women's affairs

As shown in Table 2, T value= 12.05 and degree of freedom is 280 and the significant level (0.000) is less than 0.05, which indicates that the error rate is less than 0.05. Therefore, with a confidence level of 0.95 percent, it can be said that the activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch have had a significant effect on the affairs of women in

this city. Therefore, the research hypothesis is accepted and the null hypothesis is rejected.

**2<sup>nd</sup> hypothesis:** activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch have had a significant effect on the women's cultural and social affairs in this city.

**Table 3**

**T Test for the Effect of Azad University on Women's Cultural and Social Affairs**

test value= 12				Variable
Average difference	The significance level	Degrees of freedom	T value	
1.94	0.000	280	9.16	The Impact of Azad University on Women's Cultural Affairs
test value= 12				The Impact of Azad University on Women's Social Affairs
1.55	0.000	280	9.46	

As shown in Table 3, t = 9.16 for cultural affairs and t = 9.46 for social affairs with a degree of freedom of 280 and a significant level of (0.000) is less than 0.05 which indicates that error rate is less

than 0.05. Therefore, with a confidence level of 0.95%, it can be said that activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch have had a

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significant effect on the cultural and social affairs of women in this city.

3th hypothesis: The contribution of the activities of the Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch varies in women's cultural and social affairs.

**Table 4**

### Ranking of the effective factors of Azad University on Women's Affairs in this city

Average rank	Variables in women's affairs	Row
.52	Cultural Affairs	1
1.48	Social Affairs	2

**Table 5**

### Friedman Test

The significance level	Degrees of freedom	Total	Chi-square test
0.35	1	281	0.87

The results indicate that the calculated mean rank for cultural affairs is 1.52 and for social affairs is 1.48. Also, the Chi-square test was 0.87 and the significant level was satisfactory ( $S = 0.35$ ). It means that contribution of the activities of the Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch and women's social activities are the same.

### Discussion and conclusion

The results of this study showed that the activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch had a significant effect on women's affairs in this city. Activities of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch have had a significant impact on the cultural and social affairs of women in this city. The contribution of the activities of the Islamic Azad University of Chabahar Branch and women's social activities are not different.

The results of this study were consistent with the results of the researches [2,6,10,11,12,13,14,15].

The role and place of higher education in cultural development is fundamental and everyone is aware of this. By reinforcing this role, efforts should be made to provide appropriate platform for the appropriate cultural development by extension of Higher Education and while maintaining the quality of education through linking cultural development indicators with higher education, try to make the Necessary production and indigenization in Higher Education. So that we can achieve the desired results in development path. Since Chabahar is a commercial city, migration from other Iranian cities to Chabahar has begun. The arrival of non-indigenous people and their settlement in Chabahar, as well as study at at the Azad University of Chabahar, has led to a cultural exchange between indigenous and non-indigenous people, and the cultural level of individuals can grow in this ground.

The institution of higher education in any country is an arena for the development of scientific elites in various fields, social leaders, politicians and specialists and managers of that society. Increasing

women's demand for higher education and the growth of their presence in it is, on the one hand, due to a correct and realistic attitude and on the other hand, it will prompt their new demands for more extensive presence and greater participation at the levels of governance and leadership of the community [16]. The presence of women in schools, universities and educational centers gives them the opportunity to learn life skills and, most important, to gain experience in the practical fields of modern social institutions. From this point of view, in undeveloped or developing countries like Iran, which faces with shortage of human capital and the brain drain phenomenon - women can even be the accelerating force of development [5].

Establishment of Islamic Azad University in Chabahar and increase in student enrollment of girls and, consequently, their graduation, will have a significant impact on women's social affairs. Women consider college education as an effective way for achieving a better social status and promoting their social status. It seems that since women were faced with restrictions in the past, today, they are trying to improve their social base in the community by acquiring university degrees and be regarded as an active and accepted citizen in society [17, 18]. In his research he concluded that increase in the presence of women in universities is more common in general fields which promotes their social and professional mobility in society.

[10] Showed that, from women's point of view, the university's educational achievements were more than cultural ones. Also [11] showed that in all four main variables of affairs including educational, cultural, social and economic, there is a consensus that the Azad University has had a positive impact on the status of women. The greatest impact was on social, educational, economic and cultural factors, respectively. [14] In his research found that: Higher education and universities have an influence on women's economic, educational, and socio-cultural progress. The contribution of higher education and



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university outcomes varies in educational, cultural-social and economic affairs. As you can see, Chabahar Islamic Azad University has the maximum influence on women's cultural affairs. But it is not significant.

The results of this study indicate that the establishment of the Islamic Azad University in Chabahar has affected women's cultural and cultural

affairs. Therefore, in this regard, the following suggestions are presented: 1. employing more female graduates of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar in related cultural activities. 2. Expansion of new disciplines in the field of culture and related to the nature of women. 3. Employing more female graduates of Islamic Azad University of Chabahar in related social affairs.

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