

## Path Analysis of Gender Inequality Among Rural Women in Golestan Province, Iran

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**Abstract:** The gender inequality is one of the subjects that had been always accompanied to the humans from long times ago. The gender inequality is composed of prejudgment, ideology, and approaches which assume the females as subordinates and less valuable than the males and consider the males as dominant to the females. Similarly, it is the tendency to respect for a gender while it disdains the other gender. The current research analyzes the path of gender inequality between the rural females in Golestan Province of Iran. This study is a descriptive- correlational type of research. The statistical population of the study includes all rural females in Golestan Province where they were chosen using Krejcie and Morgan sample size table and through a stratified random sampling method with proportional attribution technique. 384 rural females as sample size between the rural households of the given province. The tool was a questionnaire including; individual characteristics, empowerment, social capital and gender inequality variables. The validity of this questionnaire was verified using a panel of academic staff in the field of agricultural extension and education from Tarbiat Modarres University in Iran. The values of Cronbach alpha coefficient was computed ranging from 0.62 to 0.77. Based on the results of path analysis, empowerment variable have the highest role in gender inequality. The causal model of the study is composed of ten variables including, amount of saving, total income of women, annual income, family members with higher than diploma educational degree, level of father education, number of family members, age, empowerment and social capital. These variables totally interpret 14 percent of the variance of the dependent variable.

**Keywords:** rural women, gender inequality, Path analysis.

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### I. Introduction

The level of importance and credibility of women is deemed as one of the important criteria to measure the development level in any country. As a half part of human resources, the women are considered as the subject and target for any type of development and also assumed as the efficient lever in advancement of economic and social development goals. The socio-economic necessity and requirement has been always proposed for productive participation of the women in development plans and progress of human communities [1]. The gender-based traditional work division has caused many women not to deal with any business rather than house holding and taking care of children and they could not train their talents and consequently they were deprived from the related outcomes and sources and they have always remained as dependent and passive persons in such a way that they could not afford and administer their life without the males. They may resort to another supporting source if they lose this supporting source thereby they are able to manage their own life and for families. According to Hegel's statement, the women are intrinsically social expelled subjects who enforce their citizenship or social right by intermediation of father, child, and husband [2]. The existing cliché believes in a society regarding characteristics, conditions, and weak and strong points of the men and women with patriarchal ideology may always cause production and reproduction with gender sociability process that includes concept of men superiority and dominance and tries to make the women useful for the men by servicing behaviors. As the position occupied by the men and women are followed by different quantities of revenue, power, prestige and other valuable sources, it can be implied that the system of gender classification has emerged in which. Most of masculine features are considered socially useful and the feminine characteristics are assumed as embarrassing and boring [3]. The structure of Iranian rural community is based on patriarchal relations where the dominant paradigm is men power and dominance and obedience of the women. Although the men are owners of power sources by the aid of patriarchal ideology in this community and are considered as dominant persons in the field of decision- making [4]. The rural women constitute a major part of workforce in world agriculture and they play vital role in rural communities. In addition to activity inside the home, they are active in all process of production of farming crops

and generally in all activities along with the men and they also spend their short leisure times in other activities such as production of handicrafts e.g. carpet-weaving and etc. [5]. They carry the most oppressive burden of poverty conditions that also include hardest and most inferior works, childbirth pain, and depression caused by mortality of newborns [6]. According to [7] and [8], by playing their productive role in agricultural field, rural women exert very crucial and often invisible role in economic growth in the country. Despite vital functions of women, this class has been highly ignored over the history and they have been always placed along with the vulnerable class of society. The men dominance over history and science has almost highly interpreted the realities against them and their role has been overlooked [9].

The women lack the expected economic independence in structure of Iranian rural community and or the subject of traditional norms, masculine culture, gender discriminations and viewpoint toward the women in rural community have caused not only the women lack social safety and security, but also they have not access to financial facilities and their training and leisure's to be overshadowed [10].

Due to traditional structure of production and work relations, the role of rural women has been increased in Third World Countries more than men and women in the developed nations [11]. Moreover, they suffer from contempt caused by their inferior life position. They consume the major part of their time and energy as the familial obligations for the activities which have been usually ignored in computations for national product and revenue. These women are considered as the informal huge workforce and play essential role in traditional farming crops. The most important reflection of ignoring women is visible in increase of inequality and reduction of level of enjoying of sources by them. They are marginalized in terms of education, employment, and political and healthcare activities [12]. Despite value and credit of women work and activity for family and economy of society, they have not played a role proportional to these activities in terms of social aspect or principally in decision-making processes and they are assumed as the most underprivileged social classes [13]. The gender inequality is a position in which the unequal bonuses or opportunities are distributed based on gender in the community [9] and or it deals with defamation, rejection and creating clichés for men and women by the behavior and action based on gender of individuals. In other words, it includes prejudice, ideology and attitudes in which the women are assumed inferior and less valuable than the men and also the men are considered as dominant to the women. Likewise, it is the tendency to respect for a gender while it disdains the other gender [14].

Some theorists like Collins, Bloomberg, and Janet Chafetz etc. Clarify this point about gender inequality that the gender inequalities are caused by structural factors which can be economic, political, normal and or all of them [15]. The continuance of poverty and gender inequality against the women due to the existing various historical and cultural barriers and constraints against the path of the progress and development of their economic and social position has led to proposing different approaches and efforts including empowerment [16]. Basically, empowerment is assumed as a process; namely, it denotes progressing from a position (gender inequality) to the other position (gender equality) [17]. Whereas empowerment of women is a social phenomenon and social phenomena are not due to a single cause therefore empowerment of women for internal factors e.g. physical and mental status and economic status of family and on the other hand the social structures may play determinant role [18]. Inter alia, many researchers and scientists specifically emphasize in social capital and the related elements as one of the major influential factors on empowerment of various social groups and classes including women by playing up the role of social structures [19],[20].

With respect to importance of subject of gender inequality among the rural women in Golestan Province, the present study was conducted by perceiving this necessity and in line with giving answer to this question: How much have the included variables in this study, direct and indirect effects on reduction or increase of gender inequality in rural communities in this province?

The following objectives were considered to give response to this question:

- Identifying of individual, social and economic characteristics of rural women in Golestan Province;
- Analysis on attitude of rural women concerning gender inequality, empowerment and their social capital;
- Review of influential factors in gender inequality according to attitude of rural women in the province;
- Drawing causal model of path analysis for gender inequality in rural women of Golestan Province.

## **II. Research literature**

[21] Argues that the girls have basically many problems and challenges in mental, biologic, social, symbolic and cultural dimensions. [22] Show that according to attitude of rural women and girls, the following factors interpreted inequality: social unawareness, tribal dogms, and preference to address the masculine member in the family, determinism, inter-generation poverty, and great numbers of family members, educational constraints, unemployment, and effects of imposed war. According to the conducted investigations about gender inequality in education, this inequality exist more or less in all countries in the world and various factors out of which the foremost is cultural factor may play role in creating such conditions [23]. In the conducted studies, several factors have been assumed as the reason for existence of gender inequality in education such as cultural capital, social classes [24], social networks, educational system, and school and culture [23] However, the given

studies have shown in recent year that paying attention to women and their empowerment have been increased by some variables such as increase in literacy and educational level etc. and rate of women influence in family and it reduces gender inequality to some extent [25]. [26] implies that the empowerment comprises of four basic dimensions: economic power with business variables or rising income; power to repay loan; power for saving; mental ability with some references such as self-esteem, intellectual independence, sense of power, increase in self-efficacy; political empowerment with rising political participation, campaign for acquisition of equal rights, omission of discrimination against women, and social power with variables of changing attitude toward role of women, participation in social activities, pluralism and tendency to presence in defined social spaces. Likewise, Chen [27] argues that empowerment is created as a result of three types of change in women including: financial changes e.g. change in revenue, access to sources, control and ownership of sources, to meet basic needs and to acquire competency to use the opportunities; perceptual changes: change in self-esteem, self-reliance and ambitions, and change in relations: it comprises of change in decision-making for family and society, participation in local organizations, self-sufficiency and reduced dependency and rising independence. [28] Consider exclusive women empowerment objectives including control of economic sources, power for decision making in family, mobility and dynamism and freedom from dominance by family. [29] Divides the barriers existing in the path of women empowerment into three parts: cultural, economic and social barriers. He believes that supporting from families, availability of financial backing and timely communication for holding of training classes may improve self-assurance in women thereby to increase women empowerment. In a study titled effect of women empowerment on rural development in Iran, [30] indicated that as the women became more empowered, it was added to rate of their productivity, political participation, and also their social role. This, in turn, requires for enhancing educational level in women and it obviously needs to administration with positive orientation in their training in this regard.

[31] Culture governing over rural areas and lack of access to main production factors for women were assumed as the foremost reasons for lack of participation by rural women in making important economic decisions. The patriarchal culture has negative and significant relationship with systemic women participation in rural administration. In other words, if the patriarchal culture is at high level in a society, the rate of systematic women participation and subsequently social capital is reduced in rural women [32]. The experts maintain that in the absence of social capital, other capitals lose their effectiveness and passing through cultural and economic development and evolution becomes uneven and difficult without social capital [33]. [34] believes that the foremost efforts which can improve social capital by the governments is the encouragement and strengthening of civil and popular institutes, improvement and enrichment of public trainings, providing of security for citizens toward their voluntary presence in social institutions, avoidance from incumbency in different economic, cultural and social sectors and assigning the given activities to the non-public organizations (NGOs) to attract their participation in activities and preparation of ground for creation and strengthening of social institutes and trust networks between various members of people.

[35] indicated that the social capital variables interpreted 42% of variance of female empowerment. In an investigation, [36] analyzed effect of elements of social capital in economic empowerment of rural women in Iran. The results came from this study suggested that there was positive and significant relationship between constructional elements of social capital and economic empowerment in women.

### **III. Materials And Methods**

The current research is an applied study in terms of objective and it is a non-experimental type in terms of controlling of variables, and it is considered as type of descriptive-correlational researches in terms of data analysis and it was carried out by surveying method. The statistical population of current research includes all rural women in Golestan Province of Iran. The Golestan Province includes 614'325 families with population of 1'920'661 among which 904'980 persons are rural people and 447'280 persons (49'42%) of rural population are females. To select sample size, random stratified sampling method was adapted by proportional attribution and krejcie and Morgan table (1970) was used for sampling. Among 14 cities in this province, seven cities were selected randomly and some villages were chosen from any city and the resident rural families were studied (n=384). Based on justifications of researcher and study, the female members of families were interviewed.

The data was collected through a questionnaire that included 1) Individual and socio-economic characteristics; 2) The section relating to variable of empowerment with 13 items; 3) Psychological Empowerment Questionnaire (Spritzer & Mishra, 1995) with 13 items; 4) The part relating to social capital (22 items); and 5) Variable of gender inequality (14 items) excerpted from a study done by Saadi et al. (2012). The face and content validity of questionnaire was examined and confirmed using a panel of academic staff of agricultural extension and education from Tarbiat Modarres University. Reliability of questionnaire determine by Cronbach alpha coefficient, and it was acquired for empowerment (0.77), social capital (0.62), and gender inequality (0.69) Where this value was acceptable. SPSS/win (16) has been utilized for data processing.

#### IV. Results And Discussion

The results of frequency distribution of respondents (based on city of their residence) show that the inhabitant women in the following cities have responded to the questionnaire: Agh-Ghala city (13.8%), Aliabad Katool (11.7%), Kalaleh (11.7%), Gorgan (19.8%), Gonbad (26.8%), Maraveh Tapeh (8.3%), and Minoodasht (7.8%). The results of frequency distribution of respondents (based on age) indicated that the age range was 18 to 78 years, and their mean age was 43.5 years. The highest number of respondent (46.4%) were at age range (30-50 years) and the lowest number of age group was younger than 30 (22.1%) and 31.5% of women were also older than 50 years.

The results of frequency distribution of respondents (based on educational level) show that 43.2% of respondents were illiterate, 34.1% passed secondary school, 20.1% had high school diploma and only 2.6% of respondents had education degree higher than diploma. The results of frequency distribution of respondents (based on type of family) indicated that 84.6% of respondents were living in nuclear family and 15.4% of them in the joint family. The results of frequency distribution (based on religion) showed that 62.2% of respondents were Sunni and 37.8% of them were Shia. The results of frequency distribution of respondents (based on economic status) indicated that 65.6% of respondents had low economic status (the poor), 33.6% of families had medium economic status, and only 0.8% of respondents had prosperous economic status. The results of frequency distribution for respondents (based on social interactions) show that 83.6% of them had social interactions at low level, 13% of them at medium level, and only 2.6% of respondents had strong social interactions. The results of frequency distribution in respondents (based on employment) showed that 96.6% of respondents were householders and 3.4% of respondents were employed.

The results of frequency distribution for respondents (based on having artistic skill) indicated that 68.2% of respondents lacked artistic skills and the rest 31.8% had some skills e.g. carpet-weaving, hairdressing, and tailor-working etc.

**Table(1): Individual, Economic And Social Characteristics Of Respondents**

Individual Characteristics	Variable Levels	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Variance	Standard deviation
City location	AqQala	53	13/8	13/8	----	----	----
	Ali Abad Katoul	45	11/7	25/5			
	Kaleh	45	11/7	37/2			
	Gorgan	76	19/8	57			
	Gonbad-e Qabus marvehpah	103	36/8	83/8			
	Minoodasht	30	8/3	92/2			
Age	Less than 30 years	32	7/8	100	43/5	202/47	14/22
	Between 30 and 50	85	22/1	22/1			
	More than 50 years	178	46/4	68/5			
Level of Education	illiterate	121	31/5	100	5/08	31/74	5/63
	guidance	166	43/2	43/2			
	Diploma	131	34/1	77/3			
	Higher diploma	77	20/1	97/4			
Religion	Shia	10	2/6	100	----	----	----
	Sunnis	145	37/8	37/8			
Annual income	Less than 20 million	239	62/2	100	1/59	97/09	9/85
	Between 20-50	252	65/6	65/6			
	More than 50	129	33/6	99/2			
Artistic skill	I have	3	0/8	100	----	----	----
	I do not have	122	31/8	31/8			
Type of art	make up	262	62/2	100	----	----	----
	Sewing	4	1	3/3			
	carpet weaving	11	2/9	12/3			
Income from all female activities	Less than 5 million	107	27/9	100	2/01	9/81	3/13
	5-15 million	339	88/3	88/3			
	More than10	40	10/4	98/7			
		7	1/3	100			

### V. Omparison Of Mean Values Of Gender Inequality, Empowerment And Social Capital Based On Research Independent Variables

In order to compare mean values of three macro variables of research i.e. gender inequality, empowerment, and social capital in both Shia and Sunni religions with respect to ethnic differences and lifestyle etc. in followers of both religions, t-test has been utilized. The results show (Table 2) that there was significant difference at the 0.001 level between three variables of gender inequality, empowerment, and social capital among women followers of both Shia and Sunni religions. Namely, the Sunni rural women had higher means in terms of empowerment and social capital; however, despite this finding, they had lower mean in terms of gender inequality than Shia rural women where this difference in gender inequality is often related to type of their customs and rites and traditions.

**Table(2):** Comparison Of The Meanings Of Gender Equality, Empowerment And Social capital based on the type of religion

independent variable	Grouping variable	Variable levels	N	Mean	Standard deviation	t	Sig
Gender equality	Religion	Shia	239	32/80	6/59	26/41	0/000
		Sunnis	145	50/86	6/32		
ability	Religion	Shia	239	48/66	7/90	6/78	0/000
		Sunnis	145	43/51	6/73		
Social capital	Religion	Shia	239	63/76	11/92	3/94	0/000
		Sunnis	145	58/92	11/41		

Then, F test and Fisher’s LSD test were employed for comparing mean value of gender equality in various cities of the province where the results of tests are given in Table 3. There is significant difference between various cities of this province in terms of gender equality, empowerment, and social capital at the 0.01 error level and with 99% confidence level. Fisher's LSD test has show that the rate of gender equality was at higher level in towns of Aliabad Katool and Gorgan than in other cities and this show different traditions and customs in these two cities compared to other studied cities which are Turkmen- inhabited (Table 3). Similarly, variable of empowerment is at lower level in Aliabad and Gorgan than in other cities since only 14% of Gorgan and Aliabad as Shia-inhabited cities were skillful (artist) while 48% of women are artist in other cities. The mean rate of income resulting from art and skill is 20 million Rials in Shiawomen and 30 million Rials in Turkmen women(Sunni) and this artistic skill and higher income is considered as the most original factor in higher level of empowerment in Turkmen women (Table 1). Review of Table 3 and Fisher’s LSD test indicated that social capital was more frequent in Kalaleh city than the other cities. By conducting more accurate investigation in information of women in Kalaleh city it was found that this high frequency could be due to some reasons one of that was spouse’s education. More than 35% of husbands of the women respondents to in Kalaleh city had education at the level of high school diploma and higher. Likewise, about 40% of the spouses were businessman, which more than seventy percent of them were shopkeepers and for this reason the given woman should help the husband at certain hours a day and she has to work in relation with the people. Third factor is also related to members of families in Kalaleh with education level higher than diploma. More than 2 or 3 members of families in Kalaleh have education degree higher than diploma and these members may have many impacts in enhancing social capital of mother in family. The Gorgan is the next city where the variable of social capital is different from other cities and higher than them. By more investigation it revealed that about forty percent of husbands of the respondents had diploma and higher degrees and about 48% of Gorgan’s families include 2-4 members with education degree higher than diploma and this can affect social capital of mother in family.



**Table(3):** Comparison of the variables of gender equality, empowerment and social capital in different cities of Golestan province.

independent variable	Grouping variable	Variable levels	N	Mean	Df	F	Sig
Gender equality	county	AqQala	53	35/11	383	34/38	0/000
		Ali Abad Katoul	45	43/44*			
		Kaleh	45	31/93			
		Gorgan	76	49/60*			
		Gonbad-e Qabus	103	40/37			
		marvehtpah	30	28/53			
		Minoodasht	32	37/40			
ability	county	AqQala	53	44/49	383	26/25	0/000
		Ali Abad Katoul	45	40/61*			
		Kaleh	45	44/51			
		Gorgan	76	39/06*			
		Gonbad-e Qabus	103	41/20			
		marvehtpah	30	42/33			
		Minoodasht	32	43/06			
Social capital	county	AqQala	53	58/94	383	10/09	0/000
		Ali Abad Katoul	45	63/86			
		Kaleh	45	66/73/*			
		Gorgan	76	65/92/*			
		Gonbad-e Qabus	103	55/67			
		marvehtpah	30	57/31			
		Minoodasht	32	40/58			

The correlation coefficient is one of the most frequently used techniques for determination of rate of relationship between two variables and this rate ranges from -1 to +1. As the acquire value is positive this shows by increase in value of a variable, the other variable is also added and vice versa [37] The correlation between research variables show that among total included 15 variables, six variables were correlated with the main dependent variable (gender inequality) and the rest of variables were also typically correlated with mediator variables (empowerment, social capital). Those variables which are correlated at error level (0.01) and (0.05) are correlated and given in following table by implying value of correlation coefficient.

**Table(4):** Matrix of correlation coefficients between research variables

Variables	Savings amount	Income from all female activities	Members of higher diploma	Father's education	Number of family members	Age	Property	ability	Social capital	Gender inequality
Savings amount	1									
Income from all female activities	0.235	1								
Members of higher diploma	---	---	1							
Father's education	---	---	0.232	1						
Number of family members	----	---	----	---	1					
Age	---	----	0.166	---	---	1				
Property	0.169	----	----	---	---	---	1			
ability	---	----	---	---	0.115	---	---	1		
Social capital	0.194	---	0.126	---	----	----	----	---	1	
Gender inequality	----	---	----	----	----	----	0.142	0.36	--	1

### The Impact Of Variables On Gender Equity From The Viewpoints Of Rural Women In Golestan Province

Regression has a close correlation with correlation coefficient. This means that the correlation coefficient must be calculated to perform the regression. If there is correlation between the variables studied, then only that we can use regression to test the research hypotheses. Regression measures the effect of independent variables on dependent variable (Kalantari, 2003). In this research, regression was used to study the effect of independent variables on dependent variables. Regarding the size of the Durbin Watson (DW: 1/19), regression is allowed.

The results indicated that the empowerment variable directly affects the main dependent variable (gender equality). In order to calculate the indirect effect of other research variables, regression was performed in several stages. In each stage, one of the intermediary variables was regressed as the dependent variable and the effect of other variables (on condition of being correlated) was measured on the considered variable. In table 5, only the effect of the empowerment variable that is affecting the main dependent variable is presented. The results show that the research variables predict 15% of the changes related to gender inequality (Table 5).

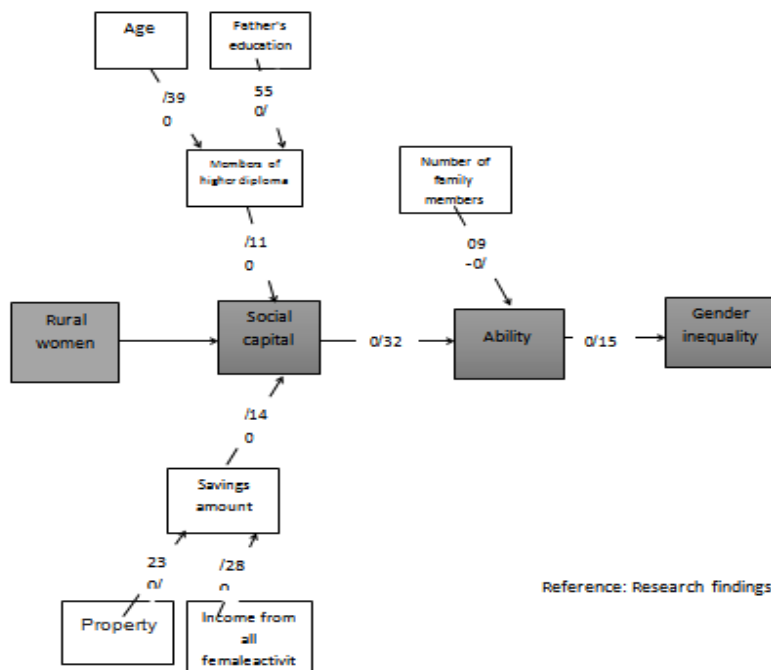
**Table (5):** Regression of the effect of independent variables on gender equality

independent variable	R	R2	R2 adj	B	Beta	T	P value
Constant				21/82	-	8/25	0/000
ability	0/394	0/199	0/144	380	0/338	6/40	0/000

**VI. Path Analysis**

There are usually numerous multivariate analyses that examine effects and relations between studied variables. These methods mainly analyze direct effects of one variable on the other variable. However rather analysis of direct effects independent variables on dependent variables, the path analysis method also considers indirect effects by these variables and enters the relations the relations between variables in analysis according to the present facts. The path analysis has been also utilized in this study to determine direct and indirect effects for all studied variables. The total effect of variables has been also calculated directly or indirectly and reported in Table (6). The developed model of gender inequality with 15 constructs has been clearly identified with their relations in the following figure. These constructs include city, residence, religion, rate of saving, percent of providing family cost, annual revenue, family members with education degree higher than diploma, education level of father of family, artistic skill, social interactions, number of family members, age, employment, empowermentand, social capital.

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In order to achieve this fact that to what extent the presented model can interpret variance of dependent variable one can utilize determination coefficients ( $R^2$ ). The value of  $R^2$  given by Enter technique is 0.14 for all variables; namely, 14% of sum of variance for variable of gender inequality as research dependent variable is interpreted by independent variables in this study. The error coefficient (or e-value) is also derived 0.86 and this rate shows lack of interpretation of dependent variables by the included variables in the above model.

**Table(6):** Calculating direct and indirect effects of research variables on gender equality

Direct standard effects										
Variables	Savings amount	Income from all female activities	Members of higher diplomas	Father's education	Number of family members	Age	Property	ability	Social capital	Gender inequality
ability	---	---	---	---	-0/09	---	---	---	0/32	0/15
Social capital	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0/15	---	---
Gender inequality	0/14	---	0/11	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
indirect standard effects										
ability	0/013	0/012	0/035	0/019	---	0/013	0/01	---	---	---
Social capital	0/006	0/0018	0/0052	0/0029	0/006	0/0018	0/0052	---	0/048	---
Gender inequality	---	0/39	---	0/06	---	0/042	---	---	---	---
Total Standard Effects										
ability	0/013	0/012	0/035	0/019	-0/09	0/013	0/01	---	0/33	0/15
Social capital	0/006	0/0018	0/0052	0/0029	0/006	0/0018	0/0052	0/0029	0/048	---
Gender inequality	0/14	0/39	0/11	0/06	---	0/042	0/032	---	---	---

## VII. Discussion And Suggestions

As it mentioned, the rate of proper and logic utilization from abilities and talents of manpower in any community is one of the basic topics in development field. Based on this approach, it is particularly important to pay due attention to position of women as a half of human sources of the community. The women have not enjoyed favorable and appropriate status in community over the history and the history has entirely witnessed the oppression and tyranny of various ethnicities to basic rights of the women. The status of rural women is highly worse than other groups to great extent and they are exposed to further inequality despite economic activity in the home. The findings of present study indicate that the variables of women empowerment influence in increase and or decrease of gender inequality directly. It completely obvious that there are various customs and traditions in different cities and this is, in turn, the third influential factor in gender inequality.

In Golestan Province, Turkmen are mainly Sunni and the Shia people in this area include some Persians and some of inhabitant Sistani people. The customs and traditions of Turkmen most of them intensify often gender inequality are in such a way that they have left unchanged over the history and they emphasize to continue them persistently. One of the distinct examples of them is the emphasis of their old people about high rate of childbirth, particularly son (male child). Or for instance, the sister-in-law in a family shall fully cover her face and speak by gesture before father of her husband or other relative males of husband.

The research findings have indicated that as the rural women are more empower they will less experience gender inequality. The third effective factor directly on gender inequality is the empowerment with respect to the results of path analysis [38]expresses in a study that empowerment of women is the most pivotal strategy or solution for creation of the minimum conditions for gender inequality. By prevention from marginalizing of women from various activities of social life, empowerment terminates discrimination and injustice in distribution of sources and facilities. Given the research findings, the artistic skill and social interaction affect empower in women. About 30% of women in society (Table 1) have artistic skills out of which 70% of these skills include carpet-weaving. In addition to be an art, carpet weaving is assumed as a custom among Turkmen women and they sustain by carpet weaving. Dut to absence of market, lack of certain guild, association or union, high cost of primary tools, and not-updated designs and models to improve rate of acceptance of products in the market and the like, the need for training is played up here and therefore it is suggested to the relevant institutes and organizations e.g. education organization, Ministry of agriculture, and Handicraft Organizations etc. to be responsible for training of rural women and to give them needed trainings in order to utilize this art for profitability of their identity and economy not exclusively the artistic aspect so these products may not be useful in economy of their own and families.

The findings and results of path analysis have shown that as the literacy level is higher in family members (higher than diploma); the inequality reduces with positive effect on social capital. If mother is illiterate,



having literate child can be effective in social capital of the mother as the educational degree of husband may be efficient in improving social capital and reducing their inequality. [39] Implies the males with lower education treat with their wives by more hostility and this indicates that hostility and gender inequalities reduce by increase in educational level. Age is also one of research variables that indirectly impacts on social capital. As the age increases in a person in rural communities that person is furthered trusted by the others.

The findings also show that number of family members is also effective on social capital. As number of interactions increases among these persons with the friends and relatives and with other members this improves social capital in family. At last, it is emphasized that in addition to omission of negative paradigms and values, the community should prepare the ground for compensation of discriminations. Empowerment of women, prioritization of them, and employing them in efficient activities are really considered as investment for the next generations.

Empowerment of women should be accepted as value in community in terms of economic, social, political and psychological dimensions and the society and policymakers should pay special attention to this subject. Rather than overlooking creation of the needed grounds for their spiritual and cultural growth, the community which ignores power and potential of a half of people in fact has disregarded one of basic items for their progress and excellence. The role of mass media in solving of problems is fulfilled by sociability and re-socialization of females and spreading proper cultural beliefs. The most major role that is played by mass media is very efficient for the culture-building, training, communication, and creation of social participation for training and creation of conscious participation of women. If we intend to improve stably the women status, it is unavoidable to train the most of women who are deprived from educational opportunities throughout the world. The women will be able to release their own from this hegemonic burden only by study of knowledge and education and to make decision freely. If we train a male we have only trained one person but if a female is trained we have trained a family in fact and if a family is trained one have trained a generation and we have invested for the future.

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