

Impact of Social Capital on sustainable Management of Range land sand Extension Role

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Rangelands in Iran covering an area of over 84 million hectares are important economic resources available to rural households, which have important role in their livelihoods. In addition to providing forage for livestock, range land have many other benefits and functions, such as water and soil conservation, sustainability of ecosystems, providing protein for society, preventing soil erosion, producing medicinal plants, etc. Despite rangelands' crucial role in our life, many rangelands are degrading due to excessive and inappropriate use. Sustainable management of rangelands is deemed to be necessary. This paper is to review the documents and studies conducted regarding the role of social capital in sustainable management of rangelands. The results of the studies show that social capital is an important asset in the sustainable livelihoods framework, which can have a very important role in the sustainable management of rangelands and its strengthening can improve natural resource management policies and decisions .Social capital is often assessed by the rate of participation in public life and the existence of trust between them. In a community where social capital is high, relationships and trust between people and the government have improved and the rate of participation in collective actions has increased, which has led to the actions for sustainability and sustainable management of rangelands. Extension can help enhancing social capital in this context.

Key Words: Social capital, natural resources, rural development, sustainable rangelands management, trust