

In the name of God

The Role of Elders and Trustees in settlement of Collective Disputes

Ahmadi, Armindokht

Psychometrics

Legal Medicine Research Center, Legal Medicine Organization, Tehran, Iran.

Farzin Abdegah, Ehsan

MBA Strategic management

Department of management, Gachsaran branch, Islamic Azad University of Iran.

Saberi, Seyed Mehdi

M.D., Psychiatrist, Assistant professor

Legal Medicine Research Center, Legal Medicine Organization, Tehran, Iran.



10th Annual International Conference on Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016

Iran is one of the countries that have ethnic diversity and consequently the challenges and opportunities posed by this phenomenon. These challenges fluctuate in a range from economy to politics.



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016

There are 31 provinces in Iran. A population of over 75 million people are living in the country. One of the provinces we chose for a survey, is Kohgiluyeh- Boyer-Ahmad. It is located in south west of Iran. Many researchers believe that some ancient kings of Iran were born in this region.



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016

Kohgiluyeh tribes migrated from Siberia through the Caucasus Mountains and stayed in Zagros Mountains surroundings (the current location of *Kohgiluyeh*). They were in the war and getaway with tyrants , looters and rulers since entering this area and as the result, they scattered as far as possible.



2007 3 19

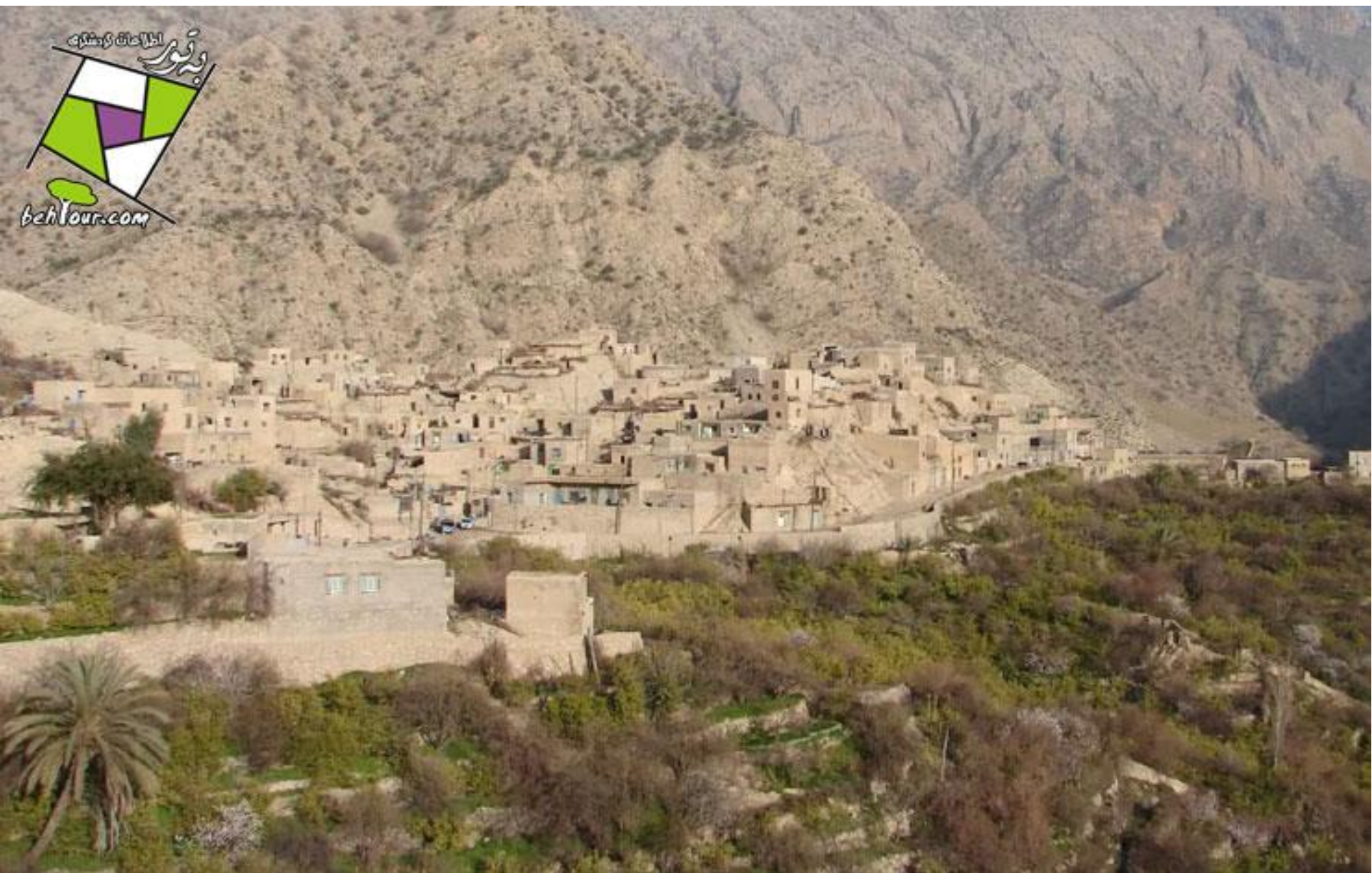
10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016

In these societies, people know each other and their life styles completely. Power based Values especially in tribal and rural communities is important, and individuals in this area have been living in absolute patriarchal system, since many years ago. So, the power plays a major role in their decision making.

Police has reported that there were 576 cases of collective disputes in Kohgiluyeh from 2008 to 2010, and this province has been categorized as the provinces with the highest dispute rate*.

*Command and Control Center,
Police Headquarters in Kohgiluyeh
and Boyer-Ahmad province

Gachsaran is one of the most important cities in Kohgiluyeh province because of strategic and economic situation.

www.gachsaran.parsiblog.com

گچساران بلاگ عشق



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology Athens, Greece, May 2016

Pazanan



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016

In Kohgiluyeh, most of people live in a traditional and tribal style, therefore an issue like collective dispute may need to arbitration by elders and trustees or negotiation between two parties who are involved. As you know, collective disputes generally happen at the areas which are provided with traditional, ethnic and tribal structures.

**The whole range of disputes
including families, relatives and kin,
fans, tribes, elders, etc.**

Collective disputes as a social problem, may result in injury and disability and even serious damages. In some cases it may lead to actions such as arson and destroying crops and belongings, and in most cases one or many may be killed with cold weapons.

As many traditional cultures around the world, in Iranian culture, there are many processes that have been used from many years ago to find peaceful solutions to resolve disputes.

There are various approaches to resolve disputes. I.e.: negotiation between the two parties, dispute resolution councils, arbitration by elders and finally, refer to the court of law.

**The field of “dispute resolution”
has been recognized in psychology,
sociology, law, anthropology and
political relations.**

Arrow and colleagues showed in a study at Stanford University (1995) that there is some Psychological barriers to resolve conflicts which stem from differences in social identity, needs, fear, interpretation, values, and perceptions of one another.

The negotiation process is more complex, because of the various cultural issues, and past history, and the fact that individual people, or a group of people negotiate on behalf of a collective. So, it is clear that their culture, psychology, emotional state, behavior, ethics, values, and previous personal experiences, and finally self-centering may affect the outcome of the negotiation.

This study investigated the role of elders and trustees to prevent and cope with collective disputes.

Elders generally in different affairs act as a mediator between people and/or between people and governmental agencies



10th Annual International Conference on
Psychology, Athens, Greece, May 2016

Method:

****This study is a survey research that is a method of collecting information by asking questions.***

*****Statistical population in this study was consisted of total population who were living in Gachsaran city In the year 2011. The number of individuals who made the statistical population was 115000 (based on the report of security council of the city) and 98000 of them assigned to the urban population.***

******Sample size was determined by cluster random sampling method that 373 individuals constituted the sample group in this study .***

*******After the number of clusters determined, a number of clusters was chosen in random and then, sample was provided based on simple random method. Gachsaran city was divided into two regions Dogonbadan and its villages. The villages were placed in four clusters, and some villages in each cluster were chosen regarding the population.***

The instrument used to collect data, was a questionnaire that its validity was confirmed by experts and the author (reliability equal to 0.92), and then data was analyzed by statistical methods through SPSS software.

Table1. Demographic characteristics of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Younger than 20 years old	235	63
20-35 years old	68	18.2
35-50 years old	22	5.9
50-60 years old	7	1.9
Elder than 60 years old	6	1.6
No response	35	9.4
Education status		
Illiterate	21	5.6
Elementary school	22	5.9
Secondary school	23	6.2
High school	99	26.5
Diploma	54	14.5
Associate Degree	126	33.8
Bachelor degree	10	2.7
Master degree	1	0.3
PhD	8	2.1
no response	9	2.4
Total	373	100

According to the information shown in table 2, the most important approaches to settle collective disputes in *Gachsaran people's view* include: law (60.3%), negotiation (16.6%), elders and trustees (14.2%) respectively.

Table2. Priority of the most important approaches to settle collective disputes

	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Law	225	60.3	1
negotiation	62	16.6	2
Elders and trustees	53	14.2	3
Total respondents	340	91	

Table 3 shows that incapacity (based on respondent's viewpoint) seen in tribal elders in resolving collective disputes include : low literacy (14.5%), traditional practice (13.9%), decisions against law (13.7%), poor religious belief (12.3%), tendency to one of the dispute parties (8.3%) and physical weaknesses (7.2%).

Table 3. Priority of incapacity of tribal elders for resolving collective disputes (based on respondent's viewpoint)

Type of incapacity	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Low literacy	54	14.5	1
Traditional practice	52	13.9	2
Decisions against law	51	13.7	3
Poor religious beliefs	46	12.3	4
Tendency to one of the dispute parties	31	8.3	5
Physical weakness	27	7.2	6
Total respondents	261	69.9	

Table 4 shows that there is significant difference between elder men's decision and experienced mature women's decision in resolving the collective disputes in Gachsaran people's point of view. In other words, in settling collective disputes, the respondents give more value to the role of elder men in comparison with elder women.

Table4. difference between elder men’s decision and experienced mature women’s decision in resolving the collective disputes

	No.	Mean	Standard deviation	Standard error of the mean	Freedom degree	t-value	Significance level
Elder men	373	3.8472	1.0057	0.05208	372	73.877	0.000
Experienced mature women	373	3.0885	1.2444	0.06443	372	47.932	0.000
elder men in their tribe	373	2.7587	0.90144	0.04677	372	59.105	0.000
elder men in opposite tribe	373	1.6488	0.74954	0.03881	372	42.484	0.000

Also, there is significant difference between people's reaction in respect to elder men in their own tribe and opposite tribe in collective disputes. The results indicate that respondents attempt to sustain on respect to elders in opposite party, but they pay more attention to their own tribal elders rather than the elders in opposite tribe.

Table 5 shows the people's reaction in both situations depending on they are a member of Killer's or victim's family, in order to resolve the collective dispute.

Table 5. people's reaction depending on Killer's or victim's family

	Number	Mean	Standard deviation	Error of standard mean	Freedom degree	t-value	Significance level
Victim	373	4.1180	1.3206	0.06838	372	60.221	0.000
Killer	373	4.0670	1.1184	0.05791	372	70.230	0.000

As you saw in table 5, if respondent is a member of killer's family, the most trend would be assigned to the elders and trustees to resolve the problem, and if he/she is a member of victim's family, they prefer to resort to the law for resolving dispute.

Research suggestions:

1- Teaching rules and the law to children, youth and adolescents at schools and universities, teaching methods of legal education in the city when exposed to a problem, identifying the trustees in tribes that have sufficient education, organizing and training the trustees identified for academic performance to prevent collective disputes.

2- Promote a culture of respect for elders and also trust them to help

resolve social conflicts by legal approaches.

3- Educating people involved in a murder issue to be compassionate with victim's family by trustees who work along side with the police force to reduce unpleasant consequences such as revenge, displacing murderer's family, murderers to escape, and so on.

4- Identifying and training the experienced mature women in tribes and large families to get involved with a problem and conduct the parties in legal procedures.

Thank you



Hope to see you in
Iran