

# A survey of regional inequality status in Khorasan Razavi province

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**Abstract**—The reduction in regional differences to stop the movement and displacement of human forces and capital in the direction of preparing the ground for development is very effective. Development means boosting human potentials for the improved utilization of his environment. Rational utilization depends on economical, social and cultural particulars. Therefore any kind of condition that is effective in the improvement of region' capabilities will lead to the preparation of the ground for regional development. Immigration, poverty, low production and efficiency, joblessness and ... in areas of the region is the result of inefficient performance of economical, social and cultural foundations, agricultural depression, disorganized growth of population and discriminatory policies and the low level of enjoying fundamental facilities and productions. Therefore, the study of economical and social indicators and the determination of the areas benefit are very urgent in the direction of finalizing development guidelines. The present study has been performed with the aim of recognizing development condition of areas in the province and recognizing the challenges and direction of areas development. The result s of the study indicates that there is an inharmonious development in areas and deprivation of regions bordering the northern part of the province and the border lines.

**Index Terms**—regional disparity , Khorasan razavi , development, inequality

## I. NTRODUCTION

Developmental programs must follow the improvement and promotion of the level of life. This not only helps the increase of purchase ability, but also provides some facilities in education, health, welfare and other fundamental facilities. Decreasing regional differences, particularly between cities and villages for preventing human and funds movement and migration are very effective in providing the development. Rural planning is seeking for transformation and improving social conditions and the change of cultural and economical systems of the society for rural development. So, in rural plans, economical, social and cultural objectives are considered [1]. Development means the increasing of human abilities in well exploiting of his environment. Rational exploiting depends on economical, social and cultural properties. Therefore, every condition that is effective in increasing the abilities in regions, prepares the way for development. Migration, poverty, low production and exploiting, unemployment, etc. in different regions of the country are the result of inefficient operations of economical, social and cultural organizations, overpopulation and discriminatory policies for cities and

villages and lack of welfare, producing and fundamental facilities. Although the term development has different meanings and definitions, it focuses on production increase, efficiency increase, promoting the level of life, removing poverty and deprivation, promoting the level of educational and health facilities, reducing unemployment and providing economical and social requirements [2].

Khorasan province is located in east of the country, adjacent to Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. It large extent made unbalance dispersion of settlement regions because of taking impression of specific condition of natural environment, being located in a dry and half-dry region, low precipitation and its improper temporal and spatial distribution, high evaporation and transpiration and natural separation and great dispersion of settlement regions and spatial disturbance and regional inequality. It also had a main role in appearing and formation of some marginal and undeveloped regions.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The study of inequality and its aspects in different geographical limits has received the attention of planners and politicians in recent years. Inequality and its different dimensions are the significant signs of undevelopment because the countries are really known as developed that in addition to high economical and social indices, have a rather fair facilities. But in undeveloped countries, there are both low indices and unfair distribution [3].

Concentration of economical substructures and investment in special places make a severe spatial inequality between the regions of the country in the long run. This has forceful influences in the progress of production in both developed and undeveloped regions and makes intense regional competitions, aggravation of regional migrations and the movement of capital and labor force. In this case, a region develops and the other misses it[4]. One of the most important cases of inequity is spatial inequity. Spatial inequity means unequal distribution of economical and social facilities and opportunities in area. Spatial inequity can include the inequalities between cities and villages, big and small cities, prosperous and poor regions, etc. [5].

Spatial inequity causes the place not to be used best, provides the means of geographical accumulation of poverty and the intensity of privation in some regions, weakens national and social coherent, makes the best and voluntarily allocation of human force specially expert human force in regions impossible, increases impolitic migrations and makes the best distribution of the population in space, impossible. In short, spatial inequity increases the probability of poverty, unemployment, marginalization, migration and injustice. Moreover, spatial inequity can harm the basis of national unity and stop the general progress of economy [6]. So today, from the social justice point of view, development is no

longer means growth, but means the existence of facilities and fair distribution. Recognizing inequity and unbalancing within the framework of different geographical limits is under consideration and the necessities of working in this direction are recognizing the existing condition of every parts of the planning collections such as country, province, city and district and consequently, finding out the existing differences and distinctions and policy making for removing and decreasing the inequities in all parts of the collection. In this field, paying attention to regional inequities in the form of indices is considered as the most important tools of planning that through this, planners will be able to edit and evaluate the procedures and results of their planning in the frame and structure of geographical space. If this procedure receives the attention of planners logically and scientifically, it can show the different aspects of planning clearly in different parts and bring up the planning regions in hierarchical procedure and in the framework of compatible units[7].

Basically, the regional inequities are caused by two basic fields:

1. First, natural, cultural, social and economical conditions of each geographical region (Natural specifications of regions)
2. second, Decisions of policy makers and economical planners[8].

One of the most fundamental executive policies of the government during development programs is creating regional balances in regions by investment. These investments are done in different fields. Some of these fields are:

- A. Fulfilling developmental plans in the fields of proper rural ways and electricity delivery, hygiene and water delivery, post and telecommunications and help the preparing of the grounds for occupational plans in deprived villages with the priority of accomplishing half finished plans.
- B. Developing the activities of production, occupational and self-employment in deprived villages via the difference of bank expected profits and wages in water, agriculture, industry, residence and social affairs and forecasting it in annual budgets.
- C. Observing priority in selecting and performing social, fundamental and occupational plans for deprived villages.
- D. Establishing multi purpose cultural, educational, training , artistic and sports centers in the population centers of deprived regions. In order to perform these operations, the government has to determine the deprivation coefficient of all villages on the basis of having developmental plans and allocate the essential credit regarding the priority of each village. [9]

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, this research tries to determine the rate of Khorasan cities in having public equipment, facilities and services by gathering different indices and measures in social, economical, cultural and physical fields and classify and grade them to help the decision makers of different parts in the fields of economical, social and cultural planning for cities by introducing the having and inadequacy rates of each city which is the result of governmental policies and investments. It is hoped that the

results of this research being used for distributing the credits of cities in planning and presenting the model of cities distribution. The most important question, considered in this research is whether the governmental investments have been effective in decreasing regional inequity?

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This is an inductive , descriptive and profound research. According to the information gathered from all district governments of the province and the information prepared from statistical yearbook and management organization in the field of allocated credits, a data bank has been created in Excell software and by using the method of Morris's discordant index, the data have been analyzed and rural areas have been classified. Moreover, the collected data are linked to the spatial data layer in the level of the cities of the province in GIS software to make the regional analysis possible and to provide the related maps.

### IV. METHODS OF DEVELOPMENT DETERMINATION

Basically, there are some methods for classifying and determining the degree of development. One of them is numeral taxonomy. This method was propounded in 1968 as a means of classifying the development between different nations in UNESCO [9].

The other method is Analysis factor. This method is for determining the classification and comparing regions according to the development degree. This method has been used in developing the country's provinces and in the levels of cities, rural regions and other similar cases [10].

One of the other methods is standardization method. In this method, the deviation between the attribute amounts and the mean is divided by the criterion deviation, the main amounts are standardized, the variables are freed of scale and the compound index is resulted by the algebraic addition of standardized amounts. The following formula is used for converting the index amounts to standard ones:

$$Z = \frac{(x_{ij} - \bar{x}_i)}{\sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x}_i)^2}{N}}}$$

Where:

Z= Standardized amounts

X<sub>ij</sub>= Amount of i variable in j region

X<sub>i</sub>= the mean of i variable

N= number of regions

Another method is deprivation coefficient. This method is used by UNDP for calculating the human development index of different countries. There are two ways for calculating the deprivation coefficient of regions, that both have same results. In order to get acquainted with the manner of performing this method, refer to the book[11]

Another method is coefficient of variance (CV). This method which is sometimes called Williamson agent is used for measuring how much an index has been distributed

unequally between regions. The coefficient of variance is calculated by the following formula:

$$CV = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x}_i)^2}{N}}}{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{N}}$$

Where:

$X_i$ = the amount of one index in a specific region

$\bar{x}$ = the mean of i index

N= number of regions

This method has been used for examining the procedure of existing disparities in development indexes between regions in large level, which the high amount of CV, indicates more disparity in distributing the above index. [12].

Another method is the method of Morris's discordant index. UN's development plan has used a model for classifying regions with developmental (physical or human) view that is both the newest official model used internationally and the ability of developing and substituting them in spaces to be planned in different and various scales, is performable. This method is known as Morris model [13]. Morris method is one the effective methods in the field of logical combination of regional development measuring indexes that is used in this research.

#### V. INDICES USED IN THE RESEARCH:

development is a multidimensional and multilateral matter in economical-social and fundamental structure of a region or country and most of its variables are qualitative that converting them to today's quantitative indices is nearly difficult; but researchers have to use the indices that can indicate the development effects in regions. Nowadays the need of knowing the rate of development that the public have, is felt. Each of these problems suggests the need of various kinds of different indices for editing them [14].

The most important step in studying regional development is determining development indices. Development indices are in fact the statistical expression of existing phenomena in the region. So, different economical and social variables must be converted to indices within a specific and logical theoretical framework. Different ratios, percents, rates of growth, per capita amounts and etc. are matters that are used logically as development indices within a special theoretical framework.

Disparity is created because of not being able to use natural potentials of a region, best in comparison with other region. While natural diversity is the result of difference in natural talents in different regions. In this field, the related variables of ground profitability and exploiting indicate natural diversity. Therefore, such indices must not combine with other agricultural indices like mechanization level or the rate of using chemical fertilizer, etc. Indices of natural diversity are not related to the development, created by human beings, but relate to structures. So, indices related to structures must separate from indices related to development. While, in many of regional studies the difference between diversity indices

and disparity indices, is completely ignored. In some of these researches, natural phenomena like precipitation are considered as development indices and in some others, indices of outputs and inputs are combined with each other in such a manner that compound index of measuring agricultural development is calculated by combining agricultural production and inputs variables. While, outputs are the result of best combination of inputs and when indices related to outputs and inputs are combined with each other, indexes are overlapped. Therefore, we must avoid selecting indexes overlapped with each other because selecting such indexes causes further measurement of a special phenomenon and it may influence the result of calculations [15].

In the other hand, we should pay attention in selecting development indices in order to not combine positive development indices with negative development indices. In some cases, indices like the number of hospital beds per ten thousand people that is a positive health index are combined with the index of under five years old children mortality rate that is a negative index. While, if the goal is selecting positive indices, negative indices must be avoided or converted to positive indices to provide the possibility of their combination. A simple method for converting such indices is using opposite process (reversing indices).

Explaining some indices must be done carefully. For example, if indices like the ratio of teachers to students are selected as educational indices, explaining such indices may be different from region to region. The number of students in an urban region may be more than teachers because of lack of teachers, while this phenomenon is considered as a reason of undeveloped education. On the other hand, the number of students in a rural region may be less than teachers because of lack of enrolment and education abandonment, while this case also indicates undeveloped education. So, locations and conditions of the region must be considered in explaining indices.

The number of development indices is also a basic subject in studying regional development. If the objective is measuring social-economical development, each of industrial, agricultural, health, educational, fundamental services, etc. sections, must allocate an appropriate share of the numbers of selected indices to itself. Otherwise, the actual result will not be gained. Suppose that in a study, 20 indices have been selected totally. On the whole, 13 educational, 2 industrial, 2 agricultural, 2 health and 1 fundamental service indices have been selected. In such a combination, the overcome of educational indices to other aspects because of more share, is normal and it will influence on the result of calculations. Therefore, regions with better conditions and facilities of educational indices may be at the head, as more developed regions, though they may be of moderate or even undeveloped regions in other aspects. So, selecting the number of indices in every aspects of the studied subject has a major role in presenting accurate and real result.

When selecting a proportionate index for different sections is impossible and there is too much difference between the numbers of indices in different sections, in order to prevent the overcome of a section to the others, the best way is that first calculate the compound index for different sections separately and second calculate another compound index by using the compound indices of different sections. In this case, each section will have same opinion in the final

process and the possibility of the overcome of a section to others will decrease [16]

What explained above briefly about the development indices show that we should try to avoid the above-mentioned problems in selecting such indices and their explanation; and only select the indices, which have logical relation with development phenomenon . Using so many indices and selecting them aimlessly, may deviate the result of the study and go astray. While by purposeful selecting of limited number of indices we may be able to reach the actual result. For example, per capita income and national income have been accepted by development planners and politicians as a general index. Many people have used per capita income index for determining the development or undevelopment of a region and regions with high per capita income have been considered as developed regions [17].

Indices can be used for measuring the existing condition or historical process of economical and social changes, policy making, determining the rate of progress, evaluating the exploration of undeveloped regions and measuring regional disparities in different spatial and geographical levels. In this study, more than 90 indices have been regarded as preliminary indices of the research. Naming the indices has been avoided, In order to make the paper brief. After inputting the indices data in computer and doing required corrections by using Morris's discordant index and deprivation coefficient methods, classifying the cities of the province in having rural development indices has been done. For studying the condition of Khorasan's cities in having development indices, the most important indices that show the conditions of cities in having environmental, productive, services, fundamental and welfare facilities, have been used. Necessary information for preparing the above-mentioned indices have been collected and completed from current resources such as the result of statistics, the cultures of villages, reports of urban developments and existing information in Khorasan Razavi organization of management and planning, prepared reports of executive organizations of the province and statistical yearbook of past years. Classifying the cities of the province has been done by using the above-mentioned indices. Results generated from the total of development indices in the following table show that Mashhad is in the first class of having development indices. Neishabur, Sabzevar and Torbat Heidarieh are in next classes. Furthermore, Daregaz, Khaf and newly settled cities are in last classes. According to these results, Khorasan cities are in unbalancing condition in having development indices and this condition can cause migration and resources movement[18].

After studying the conditions of the cities in having development, endeavors have been done in different indices for finding out the deprivation condition in those fields. In deprivation index, which is generated on the basis of deprivation coefficient, the condition of each city has been shown according to the province's deprivation mean. Deviating from the mean of deprivation index in different fields shows the situation of that city. According to this index, we can simply recognize the cities that are lower than the province's mean. This index helps the politicians in selecting the cities and regions which should give priority in investment and support.

According to the current information, Mashhad, Gonabad, Neishabur, Sabzevar and Ferdows are higher than

the province's mean in total deprivation indices; i.e. they have better conditions. Torbat Heidarieh and Kashmar are in moderate class and Sarakhs, Mahvelayat, Ghuchan and Kalat are in the lowest classes[19].

## VI. INVESTMENT STATUS IN REGIONS IN THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

One of the basic factors for removing problems and fulfilling capabilities and basic factor of economical development in every country is capital. On the other hand, if we imagine that by capital concentration, the problems of economical undevelopment can be removed, it is naivety because other factors such as political, social, cultural, technological, etc. factors have effective and vital role in the process of economical development. In other words, other factors are also important as well as capital concentration that has vital and basic role in the process of economical development. It is obvious that the government's interference in economical activities is essential for overcoming current problems and the government should have a main role in the process of economical development. Government's interference in economical activities is an inseparable part of countries' economical development. Particularly in Iran because of having great revenue sources, it can play an important role in economical development of the country and region through the best distributions of sources and credits.

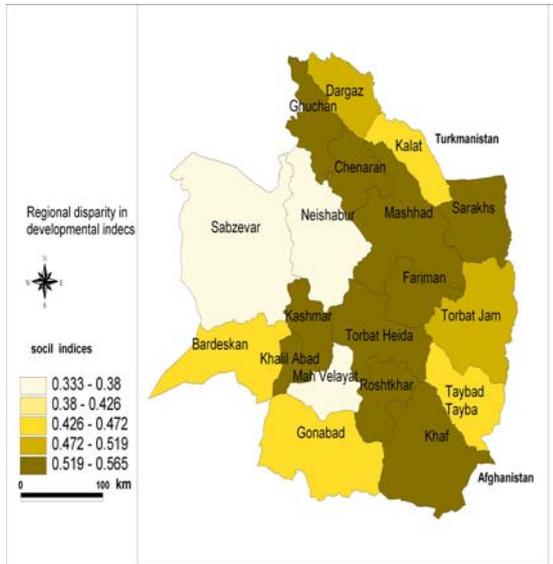
In the first step, the government should do its best for solving social-economical difficulties by choosing proper policies. In the first processes of economical development, capital should be invested in plans which encourage saving in foreign consumes. In other words, the government can support the economical growth by increasing investments in top economical and social plans such as power supply, education, transportation network development, improving health facilities, etc. Fields of government's interference in economical activities are so great. The main duties of the government are: public services, effecting public thoughts, establishing economical organizations, creating appropriate opportunities for better use of resources, better distribution of revenues and wealth, quantitative control of money, ensuring complete occupation and creating appropriate opportunities for investment.

According to the fourth development plan, investment and production developments should be done through:

- Priority making and acceleration of performance, and exploiting uncompleted governmental plans;
- Limiting governmental investment in ruling fields and common public and private investment in order to encouraging the activities of private section;
- Establishing support organizations for encouraging the activities of research, progress and development of innovation, technology development, human resource development, exploiting improvement and competency accepting;
- Establishing new organization and supporting current ones and providing proper facilities for developing occupations and entrepreneurs and encouraging entrepreneurship[20].

How the credits are spatially distributed and the governmental investments are spatially examined is one of

the objectives that can be accomplished in better recognition and best allocation of credits in different regions and places. Although investment is done for removing deprivation and having facilities and services and in some extents depends on the condition of resources and population settlement, examining the condition of spatial distribution of credits in third development plan in Khorasan Razavi indicates that more shares of credits are allocated to some regions by any reason.



map 1 :The regional disparity in social – economic indices

Particularly, the condition of distributing national credits in the province's regions shows the role of government and regional officials' ideas for directing credits.

Classifying provinces on the basis of their developments and classifying the distribution of governmental credits in different economical and social fields and determining the obstacles existed in equal development of regions is one of the necessities which should be done [21]

An important field in recognizing disparity condition among regions is studying the condition of government's investments during past plans. The government always tries to allocate the resources and credits, regarding disparity decrease and providing fields of growth and development in all regions, in the best way.

During the third plan, about 64 thousands billions Rials has been allocated in Khorasan Razavi, from which about 58 thousands billions Rials were from national credits resources and about 6 thousands billions Rials were from provincial resources.

In the field of national credits, the greatest share in the provincial level has been 72.6. In the level of cities, Mashhad with 6.3 percent, Sarakhs with 4.7 percent, Neishabur with 2.7 percent and Isfarayen with 2.6 percent have allocated the greatest shares of national credits to themselves. Each of Taybad, Torbat Jam, Dargaz, Kashmar, Gonabad, Chenaran, Fariman, Bardaskan, Roshtkhar, Kalat and Khalil Abad cities have less than 0.5 percent of national credits[22].

In the field of provincial credits, the greatest share belongs to Mashhad. Its share has been 14.5 percent of provincial credits during the plan. The share of provincial credits in province level has been 7.7 percent of the total credits. After Mashhad, Sabzevar with 7 percent and Neishabur with 6.7

percent are in the next classes. Each of Roshtkhar, Kalat and Khalil Abad cities have allocated less than 1 percent of provincial credits to themselves. All the above-mentioned cities have been created during the third plan. This condition shows that the distribution of credits has not been balanced during the past years.

In short we can say that distribution of national and provincial credits, either in city level or village level or region level, has been unbalanced and unstable during the third development plan. There is no proportion between per capita credit distribution, the ratio of credit distribution to area and the condition of cities and villages' development and having facilities. It seems that it has not paid any attention to the condition of regions having facilities and balancing policy in distributing governmental credits, so one of the policies of distributing credits in the fourth plan should be in the direction of decreasing regional unbalancement.

TABLE 1: THE COEFFICIENT OF THE PROVINCE'S CITIES IN HAVING FOLLOWING INDICES

City	Economic Indices	Class	Social Indices	Development Class
Mashhad	0.9516	1	0.8116	2
Neishabur	0.6898	2	0.6557	7
Sabzevar	0.6421	3	0.6379	10
Gonabad	0.5805	4	0.9492	1
Torbat Heidarieh	0.5432	5	0.6533	8
Taybad	0.5320	6	0.4395	20
Torbat Jam	0.4845	7	0.5406	14
Chenaran	0.4686	8	0.6386	9
Bardaskan	0.4616	9	0.6193	11
Khalil Abad	0.4597	10	0.6627	6
Roshtkhar	0.4506	11	0.5311	16
Kalat	0.4463	12	0.5373	15
Ferdows	0.4409	13	0.7837	3
Fariman	0.426	14	0.5921	12
Kashmar	0.4187	15	0.7006	5
Khaf	0.4080	16	0.5676	13
Ghuchan	0.4045	17	0.5281	17
Sarakhs	0.3946	18	0.4912	18
Mah Velayat	0.3850	19	0.4765	19
Dargaz	0.3610	20	0.7176	4

## VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RESULTS :

Generally we should tell that there is disparity between different regions of Khorasan province. These spatial and regional disparities originate from many affairs:

1. Adopting wrong policies by the center for regioning , budget distribution and facilities of not enough recognition of regions' conditions and states;
2. Improper classifications of different places and in-coordination of different organizations with each other for giving better services and doing the entrusted duties;
3. Concentration of the population in some places and emigrant acceptance of developed places which made polarization and decreases facilities;
4. Worse allocation of resources and credits and wrong regional policy making in this field[23].

Finally, these in-coordination and difference between different regions demolish the enough unity and cohesion for improving development and strengthen the existing differences and diversities in all development fields and this process in the level of cities, regions and provinces will have certain and unavoidable influences in national levels and even right policies of development will be automatically exposed to negative changes and transformations and will provide barriers for reaching permanent development.

Conditions of spatial distribution of credits and investments are done for removing deprivation and having facilities and services and depend on the condition of settling population and resources to some extents. But studying the condition of credits distribution in the third development plan in Khorasan Razavi indicates that some regions could allocate more shares of credits to themselves by any reason. Particularly, the condition of national credits distribution in the level of province's regions shows the role of government and regional officials' ideas well in directing credits.

One of the important fields in recognizing disparity condition among regions is studying the condition of government's investment during past plans. Government always tries to allocate resources such as credits to all regions well by decreasing disparities and providing fields of growth and development. Past functions have not approach this goal.

In the field of provincial credits, the most share belongs to Mashhad. Its share is 14.5 percent of provincial credits during the plan. The share of provincial credits in the level of province has been 7.7 percent of total credits. After Mashhad, Sabzevar with 7 percent and Neishabur with 6.7 percent are in next classes. Each of Roshtkhar, Kalat and Khalil Abad cities has less than 1 percent of the provincial credits. It should be mentioned that the above-mentioned cities all have been created during the years of third plan. This condition shows that distributing credits during the past years has not been balanced.

About economical and social development indices, we can say that:

1. There are some disparities between different cities in the field of different economical and social indices.
2. The condition of development and having it between cities is not coordinated. In a manner that some cities have pleasing conditions in the field of economical indices but not in social indices.
3. Marginal cities have less pleasing conditions of having facilities. This shows unbalanced

development and district views in the past plans.[24].

4. new foundation cities as kalat, mahvelayat and roshtkhar have low condition in different indices.
5. Mashhad, Neishabur, Sabzevar and Torbat Heidarieh have pleasing condition in different indices.
6. Governmental investments which is considered as the most important view of government's policies in developing regions, do not have a balanced condition in different parts of the province specially in more undeveloped parts and this has influenced the increase of regional disparities.
7. There is a relation between the rate of investments and the level of developments of the regions. This shows government's investment tendencies in previous plans in the field of removing deprivation. It means that in previous plans, the government intended more to removing deprivation from villages in the indices of having piped water, electricity, health center, school and telephone and paid no much attention to the condition of productive and economical substructures of rural regions. So it can be concluded that policies of distributing governmental credits, which is regarded as the most important policies of the government, have not been so effective in reducing regional disparity. This can weaken national cohesion especially in frontier regions and exogenous approaches.

## VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Increasing the share of some regions in national and regional work division and paying enough attention to spaces having development capability.
2. Reviewing in land classifications according to the current condition of the regions in order to redefine the new regions of planning.
3. Insufficient executive ability of some regions in different economical and social parts in order to use all development abilities of the region like Sabzevar.
4. Regarding to the increasing of cities and sections during past periods, the level of country's classification in some regions has been so small that has caused problems for management. Economical, social and environmental connections in such regions are in an extent that has made the possibility of performing some projects at the same time in these regions like Kashmar, Khalil Abad and Badaskan, unjustifiable.
5. Relative coordination between political units and planning for preparing and performing development plans of the region. Some regions like Sabzevar and Neishabur are alone several times as much as other regions in different fields.
6. Creating regions of planning in the level of provinces and cities.
7. Allocating the credits according to the levels of development and having facilities.
8. Establishing and strengthening proper regional organizations in order to making sections' plans, regional and creating regional functions. This is possible by organizational capacity making and strengthening people's formations.

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