



## Woman in Development and Politics

### The Contribution of Cooperation in Removing the Deprivation of Female Heads of the Household with a Future Research Approach

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article type:</b></p> <p>Research Article</p> <p><b>Article history:</b></p> <p>Received: 24 September 2024</p> <p>Received in revised form: 17 March 2025</p> <p>Accepted: 20 April 2025</p> <p>Published online: 21 April 2025</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <p><i>Cooperation,</i></p> <p><i>Elimination of Deprivation,</i></p> <p><i>Futurology,</i></p> <p><i>Poverty,</i></p> <p><i>Women.</i></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>In Khuzestan province, the government has long recognized the importance of utilizing endogenous capacities, such as cooperatives, to enhance the capacity of male and female chiefs of households. This has been achieved through collaborative efforts and has served as a valuable resource in addressing deprivation. Planners and policymakers have focused on poverty reduction and deprivation removal. Consequently, in light of the fact that the executive bodies are currently making a concerted effort to eliminate unemployment and create employment, as well as to progress toward justice-centered and deprivation-free initiatives, it is necessary to leverage the cooperative sector's potential. He employed it in a manner that was consistent with equitable economic expansion. The development of cooperative companies in the path of deprivation is one of the methods to achieve this objective. For a long time, the government has been able to leverage endogenous capacities, such as cooperatives, to enhance the capacity of men and women who are heads of households in Khuzestan province through sharing initiatives. Planners and policymakers have focused on the field of poverty reduction and deprivation removal. Birchall (1997) regards cooperatives as one of the most significant non-governmental organizations, and their success and benefits in poverty reduction programs are achieved through the self-help and special privileges of their members. Additionally, the International Labor Organization (ILO) underscored the importance of cooperatives and their role in poverty reduction. In light of this, the current study endeavors to identify the primary drivers and extant uncertainties, as well as to explore potential scenarios for the transformation of cooperative companies in order to eliminate women's deprivation in the years ahead. In accordance with the aforementioned, the primary inquiry of this research is: What are the most critical strategies for the advancement of cooperative enterprises in the context of the deprivation of female chiefs of households in Khuzestan province?</p> <p><b>Methodology</b></p> <p>In this research, according to the research topic, a combined method was used. Initially, the factors that contributed to the exclusion of female guardians from the cooperative path were gathered through library studies. Subsequently, experts were consulted to complete the analysis. The scenario generator software was employed to conduct this study, which was conducted using the future research approach and scenario creation method. In 2024, the study's interviewers and experts consisted of 40 economic, social, executive, and university management experts, as well as managers of women's cooperative enterprises in Khuzestan province. The interview with the experts continues until the saturation point is reached, at which point the conversations and factors are repeated. Subsequently, Mic Mac software was implemented to identify the primary variables that contributed to women's disenfranchisement from cooperatives. The matrix analysis and the distribution of variables</p>

in the diagram (around the diameter) suggest that the factors have a significant and dispersed impact on one another, which is why the system is unstable. The rotation burden and 96% of filling are 100% desirability and optimization, which shows the high validity of the matrix and its answers. Cooperation, educational and insurance infrastructures, ethnic culture, education level, macroeconomic situation) were placed as strategic variables in the first area of the scatter map. Afterward, in order to develop a scenario, expert experts were solicited for their opinions at this stage. By synthesizing their responses, 12 potential scenarios were identified for the five aforementioned key factors. The situations that were taken into account for each factor were comparable to those of other factors and encompassed a spectrum of favorable to unfavorable circumstances. After determining the key variables, different predictable states for the future of these key variables are determined. The situations that were taken into account for each factor were comparable to those of other factors and encompassed a spectrum of favorable to unfavorable circumstances.

### Results

The results of this study, which employs a futures research method, offer a comprehensive understanding of the prospective future of cooperatives in eradicating the deprivation experienced by women who are the heads of households in Khuzestan Province. The success of this strategy is closely correlated with a number of factors, as evidenced by the scenarios derived from the opinions of experts. Based on the existing scenarios, the desirable scenarios emphasize the expansion of support infrastructure (education, insurance, tax, and legal facilities), women's empowerment by increasing the level of education and access to technology, and the improvement of macroeconomic conditions (economic growth, inflation, and the lifting of sanctions). They also emphasize the important role of comprehensive support for the cooperative sector at the macroeconomic level. In contrast, the critical scenario points to the hazards that result from disregarding these factors and the proliferation of economic and cultural barriers. It is also evident from the static scenario that the situation of women leaders of households cannot be significantly improved by maintaining the status quo without making fundamental changes to infrastructure and approaches. Thus, it is imperative to implement a proactive and forward-thinking strategy that concentrates on the critical components identified in the desired scenarios in order to accomplish development objectives at this juncture. The present study demonstrates that the development of cooperatives can significantly alleviate the deprivation of female chiefs of households. However, this necessitates comprehensive planning and consideration of numerous factors. Support from the government and relevant institutions for the cooperative sector, improving support infrastructure, empowering women through education and facilitating access to technology, and improving macroeconomic conditions are all key factors that should be considered in policymaking.

### Conclusion

The results of the study show that the cooperative sector's most critical strategies for eradicating the deprivation of female heads of households in Iran include comprehensive support for the cooperative sector in the macroeconomic and the opinion of the authorities, strengthening and supporting cooperatives through infrastructure, fostering a development-oriented culture, increasing the efficiency of women's cooperatives, and improving the development of macroeconomic conditions. These findings are consistent with the research conducted by Thorp et al. (2005), Kwapong & Hanisch (2013), and Abbaskhah et al. (2021). In other words, this study demonstrates that the most critical aspects of the scenarios in this study are the following: the enhancement of the cooperative sector's economic importance and the authorities' perceptions, the expansion of support through educational infrastructure and the inclusion of women, the consideration of cultural issues that are pertinent to the advancement of women's work, and the enhancement of the quality of women's education. This is consistent with previous theories and research.

For future studies, it is recommended that the status of women's cooperatives and its relationship with welfare and economic indicators at the provincial level or in developing countries be investigated using statistical data and time series or panel econometric analysis.

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