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Clarifying Factors Related to Amount of Execution of Cultural Policies OF Higher
Education System in Islamic Republic of Iran

Aclaración de factores relacionados con el nivel de ejecución de las políticas culturales
del sistema de educación superior en la República Islámica del Irán

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Resumen

La presente investigación tiene como objetivo aclarar los factores relacionados con la ejecución de las políticas culturales del sistema de educación superior en la República Islámica del Irán. Se aplicó el método descriptivo. La población estadística incluye a los empleados, miembros de la junta y directores de universidades del sureste del país (incluidas las provincias de Kerman, Hormozgan y Sistan y Baluchistán). Se formularon dos cuestionarios para la recopilación de datos. En total, se completaron y recolectaron 477 cuestionarios. El primer cuestionario contiene los factores relacionados con la ejecución de políticas y el segundo cuestionario está relacionado con el nivel de ejecución de las políticas culturales de educación superior en la República Islámica de Irán. Se calculó la validez y el coeficiente de confiabilidad. Para el análisis de los datos se utilizaron SPSS 23 y AMOS 23. En la presente investigación, el nivel de significancia se ha considerado 0,5. Los resultados de los hallazgos revelaron que existe una relación significativa entre los factores relacionados (naturaleza de la política, situación que gobierna la sociedad, organizaciones ejecutivas y ejecutores de políticas) con el nivel de ejecución de las políticas culturales del sistema de educación superior en la República Islámica del Irán.

Palabras clave: política, ejecución de políticas, cultura, políticas culturales, educación superior.

Abstract

The present research aims at clarifying the factors related to the execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran. The descriptive method was applied. The statistic population includes the employees, board members and directors of universities of south east of country (including the provinces of Kerman, Hormozgan, and Sistan and Baluchestan). Two questionnaires were formulated for collecting data. Totally, 477 questionnaires were filled and collected. The first questionnaire contains the factors related to execution of policies and the second questionnaire is related to the level of execution of cultural policies of higher education in Islamic republic of Iran. The validity and coefficient of reliability was calculated. The SPSS 23 and AMOS 23 were used for analyzing the data. In present research, the significance level has been regarded 0.5. The results of findings revealed that there is meaningful relationship between the related factors (policy nature, situation governing the society, executive organizations and policy executers) with the level of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

Keywords: policy, policy execution, culture, cultural policies, higher education

Introduction

The execution is one of the main stages of stages of policy making. The appropriate and logical relationship between the formulators and executors of policy is considered as one of the ways of development of countries and it would cause the employees and people's opinions to be applied somehow at the society level in the policies and formulation of rules. Attention to execution in policy making process facilitates the fulfillment of system goals and leads to the bureaucracy in the society. The execution of public policy is considered as the basic of public management. In past, the execution was not considered in the policy making process and most of executive requirements were ignored in this process. In addition, most of public decisions and policies were prepared and enacted without regarding its executive aspects. But, nowadays, the execution is considered as the inseparable component and the complement of public policy and its effect on the formation of mentioned policy is inevitable (Rezghi Rostami, 2000: 51). The execution of public policy is considered as the basic of public management. In past, the execution was not considered in the policy making process and most of executive requirements were ignored in this process. In addition, most of public decisions and policies were prepared and enacted without regarding its executive aspects. But, nowadays, the execution is considered as the inseparable component and the complement of public policy and its effect on the formation of mentioned policy is inevitable (Calista, 1995: 117).

On one side, when the policy making is expressed in a complex issue such as the cultural management of society, it would be a crucial affair and it is necessary for all the decision makers who involve directly and indirectly at every level of cultural management of society to have the required mastery and knowledge of cultural policy making processes (Haji Mollamirzaei, 2016, pp.74- 75). The knowledge of culture is one of the most important factors effective on the procedure of development in the religious, national and social norms and values. The scientists have considered the culture the knowledge and values transferred from one generation to another one among the social group and it is permanently evolved and has different levels. If it is accepted that the culture is like a sea in which the individuals exist and it has envired them or if it is regarded as the iceberg the small part of which is observed, this assumption is indicative of a space which has been tensed in the human beings' life and its intricacy requires special condition to control the human community. Although some scholars believe that the culture cannot programmed and no policy can be made about it, the wide efforts made for role-play in the planning and policy makings of culture and the large number of organizations act in this field indicate that the policy making and planning can be considered in the domain of culture like other domains of life (Alvani et al., 2014, p.14).

In recent decades, the higher education system has involved in radical issues due to development of technology process, wide social, economic and cultural changes and provision of society needs. The education of efficient manpower for the employment in different sections of society is one of important duties of higher education system and the main goal of universities is to product knowledge, provide the society needs, to educate the experts and to present the strategy for solving the social problems in all the fields (Bozorgnejad and Sharifzadeh, 2016, p.2). Meanwhile, the higher education system is one of the domains which requires the public policymaking. This system as a system with

complex relations, includes the elements which looks for educating the individuals with specific complexities and difficulties. Most of scholars of development programs emphasize that the higher education is regarded as the main elements of development and it is necessary the planning be executed exactly based on the disciplines; since the development of science and technology in different aspects has increased the complexity of duties and missions of higher education system (Bozorgnejad & Sharifzadeh, 2016, p.3).

The culture of every society indicates its identity and the culture future deeply depends on the cultural policies of governments. During the past 30 years, considerable attention has been paid to the concept of culture and cultural policy making, in such a way that different models have been used and presented about the policy, management and cultural planning in many countries such as America, Australia and Canada. This field includes two fundamental concepts of culture and policy which form the other concepts of this field. In continue, the definition of them is presented. The culture is the concept which many definitions have been presented for that. But with regard to the upper hand documents of Islamic Republic of Iran, the culture can be considered as a system of radical beliefs, values, customs and fundamental behavioral patterns and symbols which forms the perceptions, behavior and relations of the society and makes its identity. The policy is the term defined at the micro and macro levels. What is used in cultural policy making in its general meaning refers to the macro policies. In this reference, the policy is defined for formulating the practical solution for solving the special social problem or achieve a specific goal. Of course, the policy is meaningful in its micro concepts in cultural planning. At this level, the policy is the guidance of doing a work for manner of allocation of resources and equipment and also the determination of duties in the organization, in such a way that the executive managers can perform correctly the organization strategies. The policies are the guidance of act and measurement and involve the manner of execution of organization's determined duties (Mosleh & Alizadeh, 2015, p.16).

Theoretical framework and hypotheses expansion

The theorists of field of policy execution have expressed different viewpoints about the factors effective on the policy execution. Wan Meter and Wan Horren (1975) express the policy execution as a linear process. According to them, the theoretical framework of execution includes six variables including: 1) standards and goals; 2) resources and facilities; 3) intra- and extra- organizational communications; 4) executive organizations properties; 5) economic, social and political conditions; 6) executors' attitudes and intentions (Wan Meter & Wan Horren, 1975).

Liposky, one of execution scientists, believes that the execution is one of important subjects in policy making process. According to him, the radical expectations formulated and imagined in decision maker unities such as Washington (authority of policy formulation) is frustrated in Oakland (authority of policy execution) (Hill & Hope, 2002). Accordingly, the policy making damages sometimes supervise the stage of formulation and sometimes supervise the stage of execution and evaluation. If it is assumed that the formulation of cultural policies is done accurately based on the scientific disciplines and

there are various upper hand documents which confirm the accuracy of policy making in Iran, an optimal pattern should be designed for executing the cultural policies in the country (Khanifar et al., 2015. P.715).

Sabatier and Mazmanian (1996) have stated the conditions which cause the success or failure of policy execution and remarked that the successful execution of every program or policy the outcome of situations in which the policy is executed. In other words, in this theory, the conditions (variables such as executor systems, executor individuals, target groups, social, political and other conditions) are the independent variable and the policy execution is the dependent variable. The ideal execution of policy in the society paves the way for intended optimal conditions (Sabatier and Mazmanian, 1996).

Boroujeni & Bazrafshan (2014) categorized in a research the factors effective on the execution of tourism policies into seven factors including 1) administrative system and bureaucracy, 2) executors' expertise and skill, 3) goal setting and clear policy formulation, 4) target groups and users, 5) support of legal authorities, 6) executors' personal and behavioral features, 7) selection of appropriate tools and necessary resources. Golipour et al. (2011) have expressed the difficulties of execution of industrial policies in Ghom province that include 1) factors resulted from bureaucracy, 2) factors resulting from executive structures, 3) environmental factors, cultural factors, 5) factors resulting from rules and regulations, 6) factors resulting from human resources, 7) factors resulting from policy nature, 8) factors resulting from resources and material facilities (Gholipour et al., 2011).

The cultural policy making is the component of public policy making (MC Guian, 2004, 3). According to Zulberesca and Lucas Vázquez (2015), the cultural policy making is a set of purposeful measures and tools which are used in the spectrum of "government's non-interference in culture" to "efforts for its formation". Whereas the culture is an unperceivable concept and the exact definition of that is difficult. Accordingly, the cultural policy which deals with such sensitive phenomenon and aims to regulate that would problematic (Mokhtarianpour, 2017, p.97).

The factors related the amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system as the predictor variable has been regulated in the frame of three dimensions including the factors related to policy nature, factors related to conditions governing the society and factors related to the executor organizations and policy executors. In this research, the execution level was evaluated based on the comprehensive management regulation of universities and higher, research and technological education institutions to evaluate the variable of amount of cultural policies execution in ministry of sciences in Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the present hypotheses were designed and tested to access the research goals:

Major hypothesis: there is relationship between the factors related to amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Minor hypothesis 1: there is relationship between the factors related to policy nature and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

Minor hypothesis 2: there is relationship between the factors related to conditions governing the society and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran. REICE | 90

Minor hypothesis 3: there is relationship between the factors related to executor organizations and policy executors and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

Materials and Methods

The present study is an applied developmental research which uses the correlational descriptive- analytic method. The connoisseurs and experts' opinions have been applied for designing the data collection tools, formulating the primary research model, determining the indexes and final model of research. In this study, two questionnaires were used for collecting the intended data. The first questionnaire designed for evaluating the related factors included 50 questions and the second questionnaire designed for evaluating the amount of execution of cultural policies of Ministry of Sciences included 40 questions. Validity: the opinions of experts of this field were used to confirm the content validity of questionnaire. Furthermore, the structural validity of questionnaires was evaluated by using the confirmatory factor analysis.

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Reliability: the coefficient of Cronbach's Alpha was used for determining the reliability of questionnaires. The reliability coefficient in the case of related factors and amount of policies execution was respectively calculated 0.918 and 0.954. With regard to the values of Cronbach's alpha coefficient, it can be perceived that the research tools have optimal reliability. In this study, the descriptive and inferential statistics was used for analyzing the data and testing the hypotheses and SPSS and AMOS software were used for analyzing the data.

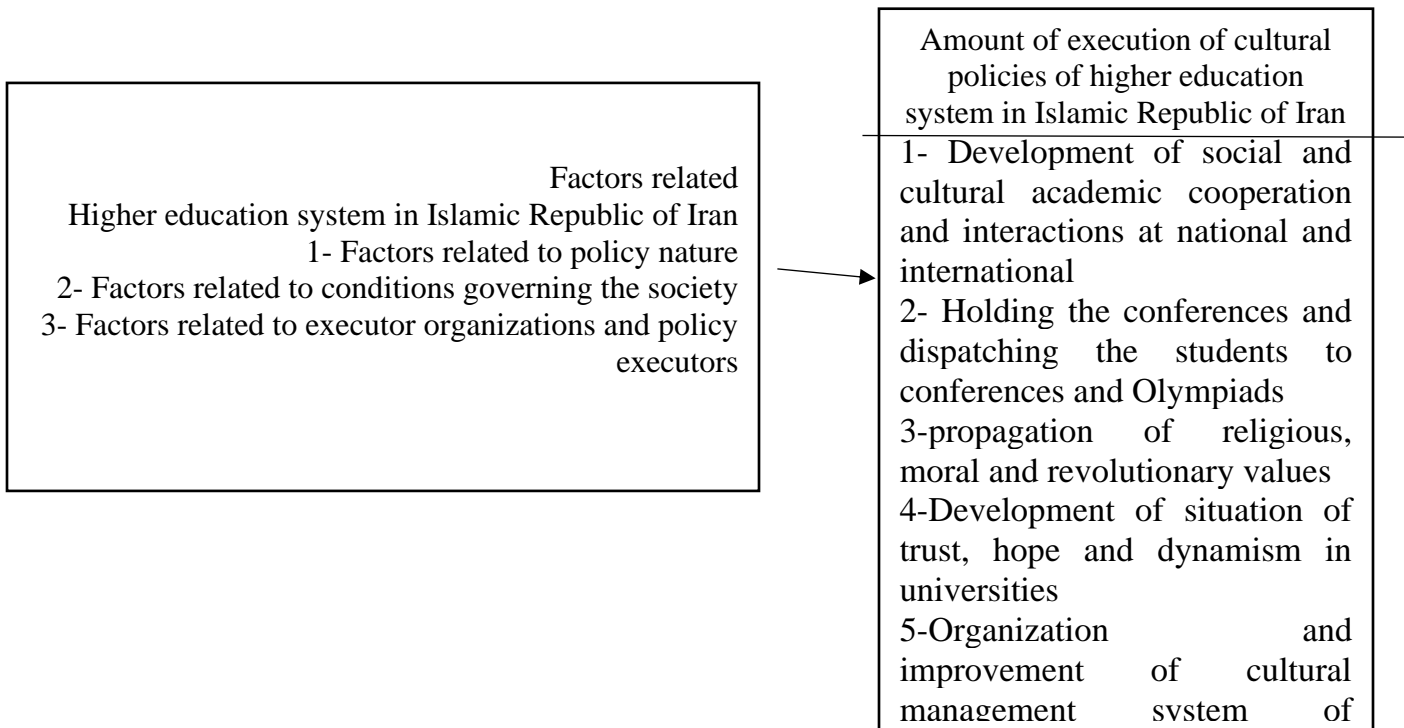


Figure1: research conceptual model

Result and discussion

Major hypothesis: there is relationship between the factors related to amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

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The revealed results are indicative of meaningful relationship between the factors of execution of cultural polices with amount of execution of cultural policies ($p= 0.001$, $\beta= 0.1859$). With regard to being positive of path coefficient, this relation is an additive (direct) relation. It means that the amount if execution of cultural policies is increased by the increase and development of factors of cultural policies execution. With regard to the determination coefficient amount (R^2), 74 percent of changes related to the execution of cultural polices is specified by the factors of cultural polices execution.

Table 1: fitness indexes of major hypothesis proposed model

Index	Acceptable limit	Reported value
Normalized Chi-square (CMIN/DF)	Equal to or less than 3	3.006
Goodness of fit index (GFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.958
Animated Goodness of fit index (AGFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.911
Normalized fit index (NFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.976
Increasing fit index (IFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.981
Tucker- Lewis index (TLI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.968
Comparative fit index (CFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.981
Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)	Equal to or less than 0.08	0.076

Table 2: study of relationship between variables in major hypothesis

Hypothesis	Path coefficient	Statistic t	P value
Factors of cultural policies execution → amount of cultural policies execution	0.859	18.964	0.001

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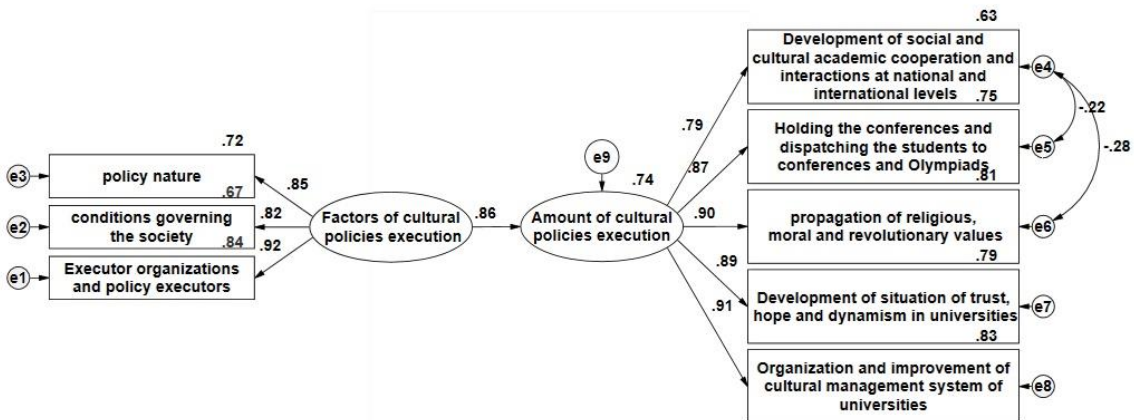


Figure 2: Structural equations results for studying first research hypothesis

Minor hypothesis 1: there is relationship between the factors related to policy nature and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

For studying this hypothesis, at first, the assumptions of structural equation were studied and confirmed. With regard to the assumptions of structural equations, the mentioned hypotheses has been studied that the results were represented in the diagram 2.

Table 3: result of testing minor hypothesis 1

Hypothesis	Path coefficient	Statistic t	P value
policy nature → amount of cultural policies execution	0.468	9.684	0.001

The results of testing this hypothesis indicates that the influence of variable of policy nature ($p= 0.001$, $\beta= 0.468$) on the amount of cultural policies execution is meaningful at the level of %5 and being positive of path coefficient indicates that this structure has had an increasing (direct) effect on the execution of cultural policies.

Table 4: fitness indexes of proposed model of minor hypothesis 1

Index	Acceptable limit	Reported value
Normalized Chi-square (CMIN/DF)	Equal to or less than 3	3.530
Goodness of fit index (GFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.868

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Index	Acceptable limit	Reported value
Animated Goodness of fit index (AGFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.811
Normalized fit index (NFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.920
Increasing fit index (IFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.934
Tucker- Lewis index (TLI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.916
Comparative fit index (CFI)	Equal to or more than 0.9	0.934
Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)	Equal to or less than 0.08	0.078

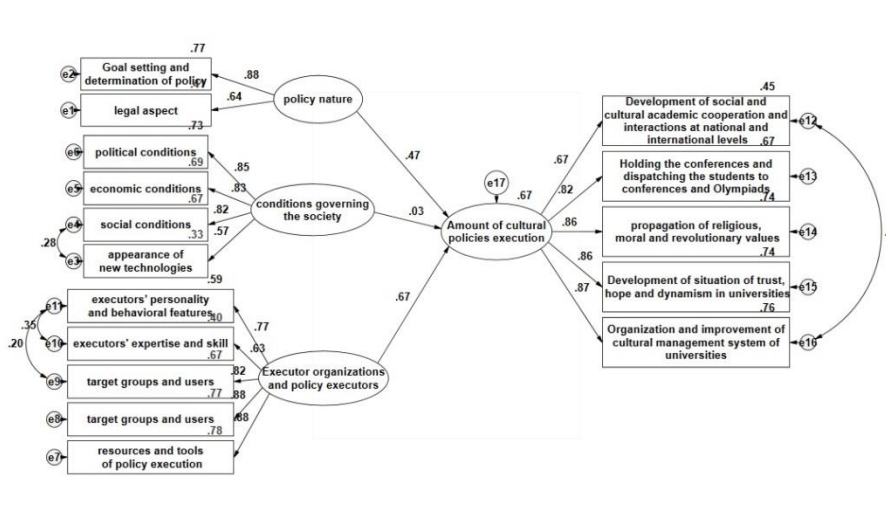


Figure 3- results of structural equations for studying primary model of tenth hypothesis

Minor hypothesis 2: there is relationship between the factors related to conditions governing the society and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

For studying this hypothesis, at first, the assumptions of structural equation were studied and confirmed. With regard to the assumptions of structural equations, the mentioned hypotheses has been studied that the results were represented in the diagram 2.

The results of testing this hypothesis indicates that the influence of variable of conditions governing on the society ($p = 0.468$, $\beta = 0.025$) on the amount of cultural policies execution is not meaningful at the level of %5.

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Table 5. Result of testing minor hypothesis 2

Hypothesis	Path coefficient	Statistic t	P value
conditions governing the society → amount of cultural policies execution	0.025	0.725	0.468

Minor hypothesis 3: there is relationship between the factors related to executor organizations and policy executors and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

For studying this hypothesis, at first, the assumptions of structural equation were studied and confirmed. With regard to the assumptions of structural equations, the mentioned hypotheses has been studied that the results were represented in the diagram 2.

The results of testing this hypothesis indicates that the influence of variable of executor organizations and policy executors ($p= 0.001$, $\beta= 0.669$) on the amount of cultural policies execution is meaningful at the level of %5 and being positive of path coefficient indicates that this structure has had an increasing (direct) effect on the execution of cultural policies.

Table 6. Result of testing minor hypothesis 3

Hypothesis	Path coefficient	Statistic t	P value
executor organizations and policy executors → amount of cultural policies execution	0.669	13.160	0.001

Conclusion

With regard to the scientists of policy making scientists, the policy making process generally includes the stages of formulation and regulation, execution and evaluation all of which are important. The execution is the stage which involves many complexities. The execution is regarded one of important stages of policy making which cannot be considered separated from the policy making, since the policy success and efficiency depends on its perfect and accurate execution. The execution is a complex process in which the public policies including the general goals, objective tools and its tools are converted to the special measures by one or several agencies. The policy execution can be regarded as the process of practicality of programs or plans (Khanifar et al., 2015, p.76). The policy making generally means the execution of role in which different actors, organizations, procedures and techniques are integrated to each other to lead the goals of one program or proposed policy to an optimal and positive result (Otool et al., 2003, p.266). Therefore, the execution refers to the connection between the policy and action (Barrett & Fudge, 1981, p.367).

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The universities are of important unities which the society has for the development. The universities, on one side, are the protector and transferor of cultural heritages and the values governing the society and, on the other side, they are respondent of social needs to obtain, expand and develop the knowledge and technology. The university as an institution should be taken into account in the historical, social, cultural and economic condition (Ziaodini, 2012, p.300). The culture recognition is one of most important factors effective on the procedure of development in the frame of religious, national and social values. The scientists have considered as the knowledge and values which are transferred from one generation to another generation among the social group and consider that are permanently changing at different levels. If it is accepted that the culture is like a sea in which the individuals exist and it has envired them or if it is regarded as the iceberg the small part of which is observed, this assumption is indicative of a space which has been tensed in the human beings' life and its intricacy requires special condition to control the human community. According to Imam Khomeini, the cultural independence is the necessary for the country independence and development at different aspects. Indeed, it can be said that the national identity, economic independence and independence in other aspects of life are of goals of Islamic development and it is impossible to achieve these goals without the cultural independence and planning for cultural management. From Imam Khomeini's viewpoint, the culture is the biggest institution which deals the nation either to the deterioration or power and development (Alvani et al., 2014, p.14).

The findings of present research have emphasized the specification of factors related to the execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran. The researcher has studied the findings of this research and also the studies of other researchers that are related to the subject and a positive relationship has been revealed between them that are documented as following:

- There is relationship between the factors related to amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

The findings of most of studies done in this field such as Kalista (1995), Hawelt & Romesh (1995), Nakamura & Smallword (1980), Samuel Stally (2006), Zargham Boroujeni (2014), Hawelt & Romesh (1995), Alvani (2011), Persman & Vildavsky (1973), Hogwood & Gunn (1984), Rezghi Rostami & A'rabi (2006), Zargham Boroujeni & Bazrafshan (2014), Metland (1995), Meter & Horren (1975), Sabatier & Mazmanian (1989) correspond to the findings of this study.

- There is relationship between the factors related to policy nature and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

The results of studies indicate that the policies nature is a factor related to the public policies execution. The good policy would be surely executable. So, if a specific policy cannot be executable, it has not been formulated well. Therefore, it is expected the policy makers' attention to the policies nature cause the execution of higher education system polices be done with further success in Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the experts, at the time of policy formulation, the manner of change of comprehensive goals in higher education system to the operational goals and missions in the universities and other executive units and determination of role and status of every university and office should be clearly specified with the objective measurable goals. In such condition, it would be lead to correct execution of policy. The literature review reveals that having a sustainable community requires changing the policies and adopting a systematic system and this viewpoint i=has been integrated to the policy integration.

The findings of research correspond to the studies done by Kalista (1995), Samuel Stally (2006), Zargham Boroujeni & Bazrafshan (2014), Sabatier & Mazmanian (1996), Hawelt & Romesh (1995), Alvani (2011), Persman & Vildavsky (1973), Hogwood & Gunn (1984), Rezghi Rostami & A'rabi (2006), Makinde (2005), Gholipour (2011), Kalista & Palembou (1990), Loginn (1976), and Abasi et al. (2016).

- There is relationship between the factors related to conditions governing the society and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

The research findings correspond to the findings of studies done by Howelt & Romesh (1995), Kalista (1995), Samuel Stally (2006), Papim Dalivida (2008), Gholipour et al. (2011), Sabatier & Mazmanian (1996), Meter & Horren (1975), Rezghi Rostami (2006), Kalista & Palembou (1990), Abasi Beigi (2016), Abasi et al. (2016), Gholipour et al. (2011), ji Yong- Suk Su (1988), Baluk (1976), Makinde (2005), Rezghi Rostami & A'rabi (2006).

- There is relationship between the factors related to executor organizations and policy executors and amount of execution of cultural policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran.

Generally, the policies are implemented by the executive organizations. As the assembly enacts a public law and it is signed by the president, in the next step, the different administrative institutions begin the policy execution process. These institutions with their formal authority have more discretion in the execution of public policies (Lester & Stewart,

translated by Tabari et al., 2002, p.128). The executor organizations have structurally special power and authorities and influence the execution of public policies by relying on the disciplines and regulations.

Alvani believes that the executors somehow execute the decisions that take new form. The reasons of these changes are different in the execution. The local and state executors' personality features is an important factor in the policy execution. It means that if the local accept the policy or program, its execution would be developed more than the program to which the executors disagree. Some researchers believe that the executors' features are the most important factor in the process of execution of state programs (Ziaodini, 2012, p.302). the findings correspond to the results of studies done by Gholipour et al. (2011), Rezghi Rostami (2006), Hawelt & Romesh (1995), Wan Horren & Wan Meter (1975), Loginn (1975), Makinde (2005), Sabatier & Mazmanian (1996), Anderson & Garsiazamor (1980), Ahmadian & Salajgheh (2018), Baghernejad et al. (2017), Asadi et al. (2017), Abasi Beigi (2016), Abasi et al. (2016), Persman & Vildavsky (1973), Baluk (1976), Hogwood & Gunn (1984), Ji Yong- Suk Su (1988), Edwards (1980), Kalista (1995), Loginn (1975), Anderson (1982), Khalid Hafiz (2001), Brinard (2005), Zargham Boroujeni & Bazrafshan (2014), Anderson (1982), Kalista & Palembang (1990).

Research suggestions

With regard to the results obtained in the field of factors related to the execution of policies of higher education system in Islamic Republic of Iran and also its relationship with the amount of execution of cultural policies in higher education system, the present suggestions are presented:

- To prioritize the higher education by the government and to consider allocated budget for executing the cultural policies of higher education
- To pay enough attention to the competence in recruiting the employees
- The cultural policies designers of ministry of sciences are suggested to prevent designing the symbolic, vogue and opposite cultural policies
- The flexible and fast structure in encountering the environmental variations is one of effective factors on executing cultural policies of ministry of sciences. Accordingly, the ministry of sciences is suggested to use new procedures for the purpose of enjoying the advantages of flexible structures.
- The existence of clear regulations and the legislators' support of formulated policies in every organization would increase the probability of success and effective execution of policy. So, the ministry of sciences is proposed to help the effective execution of policies by executing the clear rules.
- To pay special attention to the policy executors' education and knowledge level and to increase the executors' competency and ability for executing the policies
- Existence of appropriate structure for the execution
- To create a balanced information system and to improve the electronic information and telecommunication
- Existence of perfect and comprehensive system for evaluation of performance

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- It is suggested to consider the executors' opinions for executing the cultural policies, since it leads to better execution of intended policies.
- The ministry of sciences and related universities are suggested to take into account the non-contradiction of beliefs and society values in the formulation of cultural policies. The acceptable society values are one of reasons of failure or success of policies.
- To specify the policy executors' tasks and responsibilities
- The existence of enough communication between the executive systems is considered one of factors related to executing the cultural policies of ministry of sciences. Due to the significance of communications, the universities are suggested to develop their communications and make effort to eliminate its barriers.
- Appropriate work environment, occupational freedom and independence for executors in the policies execution
- With regard to this matter that the cognitive and personality capacities and the level of acceptance of policy by the executors is an important factor in executing the cultural policies of ministry of sciences in Islamic Republic of Iran, the managers are suggested to pay special attention to the personality features and their cognitive capacity.
- To pursue and punish the lawbreakers by the legal action

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