Planning Management of Empowerment Within Structure of Residential Neighborhoods Case Study: Ahwaz Metropolis

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Abstract: Empowerment planning is beyond the physical attitude toward such contexts while it is based on a system comprising three loops of empowerment, totality of neighborhood and good governance. This pattern includes cooperation between planner, management and neighborhood in which planner tends to strengthen links between neighbor and social capital after creation of empowerment fields and then invites people to involve in preparation and implementation of plan. Finally, planner would implement the plan in the neighborhood that is the place of living in order to evaluate plan feedbacks in neighborhood. The studied case of this study, is neighborhoods of Ahwaz Metropolis that are relatively poor neighbors located in South of Iran. According to the scope and subject of empowerment, questionnaire has been used in this study to access to ideas of social and target group. Statistical population of study includes all groups in Ahwaz (1096494 members) that 1200 members was chosen out of them as sample size based on Cochran formula. Questionnaires were distributed between members who were chosen through cluster sampling method and then these questionnaires were analyzed after they were gathered. The questionnaire was designed through standard method and based on five-point LIKERT scale and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to determine validity and reliability of questionnaire. The obtained alpha was equal to 93% that is a high level among behavioral-social studies. Finally, policies were separated from strategies and some projects were defined to help empowerment of people of neighborhoods. One of the most important achievements of this study is starting to empowerment of residents of Ahwaz in economic, social, cultural, physical and managerial fields. Another achievement of this study is related to facilitating the people participation in planning, more security and neighborhood orientation within the plan. The last step of empowerment planning was related to evaluation of the action of enablers that could reveal strengths of plan and neighborhood concerns.

Key words: Planning, empowerment, neighborhood orientation, management, Ahwaz

INTRODUCTION

The term of empowerment is derived from powerful in Persian Dictionary that means ability to do something and able (Moin, 2009). In this case, empowering has been also considered that is defined by Anvari as ability and power (Anvari, 2002). Empowerment is a new matter in urbanism and urban planning originated from post-modernism planning that is based on participation, activism and decentralization in planning; hence, empowerment is recommended for citizens and city within post-modern planning idea (Walters, 2007). Accordingly, the concept of empowerment has been considered as a basic assumption in this case and all primitive urbanism opinions (Vale and Campanella, 2005). It is mentioned in urbanism dictionary that empowerment is increase in ability of people to manage their life (Cowan, 2005).

Empowerment is an effort by people, families, groups and communities to gain power. According to the relevant studies and experiences to empowerment, some specific processes are effective in the change that the most important of them are as follows (Asadi, 2014):

- Attitudes, values and beliefs especially relevant beliefs to self-efficacy, self-worthy and sense of control that is effective in empowerment process
- Validation through participating experiences: in this experience, person and others are involved in an experience leading to reduction in self-blame
- Knowledge, practical skill and opinions of critics: people can have critical opinion about internal and external aspects of problem through mutual support and participation
- Action: people can use practical strategies, resource mobilization and required skills through reflecting action in order to effect on internal and external structures

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In practice, empowerment is resulted by social act and rehabilitation consultant and other fields such as social growth and social psychology. Empowerment as a practical pattern includes basic value and interventions, a theory that is conductor, some instructions for empowering relationship and a framework to organize rehabilitation activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Problem statement: Urban management is faced lots of problems in field of implementing its instructions; on the other hand, preparation and implementation of urban plans as done without people participation in residential neighborhoods. Some neighborhoods are lee developed or week in terms of economic points; moreover, lack of safety and security, trust in others and self-reliance can be observed among them. Therefore, it would be essential to empower people of these neighborhoods to create participation fields in local governance and development of neighborhoods. The main purpose of this study is to design an appropriate method and pattern for empowerment of citizens in order to promote urban governance; hence, techniques of empowerment planning have been applied to achieve these goals.

Basic questions of study:
- Main questions of study
- What is the meaning of people empowerment in residential neighborhoods?
- How people can be empowered in residential neighborhoods?
- How people empowerment in residential neighborhoods would lead to promotion of good urban governance?

Relevant questions to hypotheses:
- Is capacity creating effective in people empowerment planning?
- Is neighborhood orientation effective in people empowerment planning?
- Is the awareness of people about plans and programs effective in people empowerment planning?
- Are informal social ties effective in people empowerment planning?
- Is accountability effective in people empowerment planning?

Hypotheses
Main hypothesis: Empowerment of people in residential neighborhoods can lead to realization of concept of urban good governance. Some criteria can be considered to evaluate empowerment and significant relationship between these criteria and empowerment of people in residential neighborhoods. The mentioned criteria include capacity creation, neighborhood orientation, people awareness, informal social ties, accountability, determined goals, responsibilities and authorities.

Hypotheses:
- There is a significant relationship between capacity creation in planning institutions and empowerment of people
- There is a significant relationship between neighborhood orientation within implementation of plans and empowerment of people
- There is a significant relationship between people awareness of plans and programs and empowerment of people
- There is a significant relationship between informal social ties and empowerment of people
- There is a significant relationship between accountability formation and empowerment of people
- There is a significant relationship between determined goals, responsibilities, authorities and empowerment of people

Recognition of Ahwaz Metropolis: Ahwaz City, capital of Khoozestan Province is one of the most important cities of Iran with a long history in urbanism. This importance is because of high concentration of population, appropriate access to other demographic centers in plain and mountainous area of Khoozestan and concentration of oil resources in this city during contemporary era. Environment of Ahwaz has prepared various possibilities for human life and urbanism. This environmental utility includes closeness to full of water Karun River, closeness to oil resources, flat land and closeness to agricultural and fertile areas that have prepared possibility for activity, job, and active life for citizens.

This city has been geographically located in 31° 20 min North latitude and 48° 40 min east longitude in flat ground on either side of the Karun River in Khuzestan Plain. Karun the most affluent river of Iran has divided Ahwaz into two eastern and western parts so that the matter has made the city more beautiful. The present position of Ahwaz goes back to early years of Reza Shah's reign. It is stated that the initial map of Ahwaz City was designed by Nezamosaltane. This map consists of parallel and perpendicular streets making a plaid network except one or two streets that are a little curve. Ahwaz was the center of trade due to unreliable northern borders of Iran during World War I, this growth has been continuing during years. Finally, Ahwaz became the

capital of Khoozestan in 1924. The famous and hanging bridge (White Bridge) that is the symbol of Ahwaz was established in that era. Railway Bridge, Black Bridge and some other bridges were established in that era.

Ahwaz is a big city located in two sides of Karun River. Populated residential neighborhoods such as Kamploo, Golestan, Kianpars and Kian Abad are located in wets part of city and Time Square (Falake Saat) is the center of western part.

The eastern part of city includes markets and economic centers. Streets of Nader (Persian Salman), Imam (former Pahlavi), Azadegan (former 24-meters or former Great Reza Shah), Shareeati (former 30-meters) and Bagh Sheikh (Adham) form the center of eastern part and famous neighborhoods of Padashahr, Ariashahr, Bahonar, Resalat, Koorosh Resource Water, Zeytoon Karmandi, Naft town are located in this part of city.

Some huge projects are establishing that will change the position of city as well as and transportation system of Ahwaz. The most important of these projects are Ahwaz Highway, Eighth Bridge of Karun and Ahwaz subway. War, entrance of war refugees and changing mass of populations caused by war dangers have led to problems of a systematic growth of population in this city.

According to the comprehensive plan and many debates, it has been eventuated that coefficient of population growth in Ahwaz city is equal to 6/2%, in rural area is equal to 6/2% and in Ahwaz Province is equal to 6%.

Population of Ahwaz should be equal to 11,20,000 based on the forecast of Comprehensive Plan but population of Ahwaz is equal to 9,69,843 based on Statistical census of year 2006 without considering rural areas and neighborhoods around city that are effective in urban issues and transportation problems of Ahwaz; hence, the population of Ahwaz is equal to 11,90,314 in 2005 considering the population of these areas.

There are different ethnic groups in Ahwaz including Arab, Bakhtiari, Shooshtari, Dezfooli, Behbahani, Lor and minority tribes of Sabi nd Armani that are the most important and populated tribes and minority groups in Ahwaz. Ethnic groups of Shooshtari, Dezfooli and Bakhtiari are living in neighborhoods of Zeytoon Karmandi, Melli Rah, Kourosh, Kianpars, Kianabad, Golestan, University Town, Farhang City, Padad City, Amanie and central part. Houses and properties are more expensive in the mentioned neighborhoods that other areas of Ahwaz. Arab Areas in Ahwaz includes Zargan, Koot Abdollah, Khazalie, Sakhirie, Ameri, Khashayar, Kian, Kooy Siahi, Molashiye, Mashali,

Seyyed Khalaf, Zovieh, Koot Seyyed Saleh, Jangie, Asphalt end, Daghaghele, Veis and Lasgar Abad.

Evolution process of empowerment: The concept of evolution was entered to management and organizational literature at the beginning of 1970 and it became richer at the late 1980 and early 1990, so that its basic principles have been used in cities. Empowerment is not only giving power to components of system but also enables each of components to improve their performances through learning knowledge, skill and incentive. Empowerment is a precious process ranging from supreme local management to lowest levels. Empowerment is a process in which the conditions are prepared for empowering. Empowerment would directly supports of neighborhood leadership from neighborhoods to persuade them take risk (Lee, 2000). In general, ordinary application of empowerment can be expressed within following options (Van De Meene and Van Rooji, 2008):

- Giving decision-making authority to lower echelons of local management
- Assignment of the problem solving to the people who are closest to the problem
- Increasing people's sense of ownership toward their neighborhood and duties
- Allowing people and local management manage their own neighborhood
- Winning the trust of residents in order to do the right things

Empowerment dimensions: There are four identified dimensions of empowerment in one of the best-conducted studies on empowerment by Spreitzer (1995, 1996). One another dimension was added to them based on the studies of Mishera and 5 key dimensions were formed. Conger and Kanngu also have considered these dimensions in their study.

According to Asadi Mahalchali (2015). Empowered people are able not only to do their duties but also can manage the problems neighborhood based on their self-reliance and collaboration with each other to be responsible for them. The mentioned 5 key dimensions are as follows:

- Sense of self-efficacy
- Snse of self-determination
- Aceptance of personal consequence
- Sense of meaning and
- Sense of trust in others

Self-efficacy: When people are empowered, they have sense of self-efficacy or they feel that own required

experience or ability to perform an action successfully. Empowered people not only have sense of competence but also are sure that can do an action successfully. These people have sense of personal mastery and believe that are able to face challenges, to learn and to grow up. Some authors assume that this characteristic is the moat element of empowerment because sense of self-efficacy would determine if people try to do the hard work or not. The faith level of people might effect on their efficacy level and their effort to cope with special situations. If people consider themselves as able people to handle threatening situations, they will be involved and behave confidently. Efficacy expectations would determine if people try to face obstacles and inconsistent experiences or not. Bandura suggested that three conditions are required in which people can feel self-efficacy (Bandura, 2004):

- Believe in their ability to do actions
- Believe in their capacity to try
- Believe that no obstacle can prevent them from doing action

In other words, people can feel that are empowered if they develop their sense of self-efficacy, incentive to do action and ability to face obstacles against success even if they have minimum capability and skill.

Self-determination: Self-determination is defined as the sense of choosing implementation and organizing activities (Hancer and George, 2003). People fell self-determination if they are voluntary involved in their duties instead of avoidance or compulsory participation so that their activities are the base of personal freedom and authority. Capable people are responsible for their activities and have sense of ownership. They consider themselves as proactive and self-starter persons. They are able to do innovative actions based on their desires, make decisions independently and try new ideas. Such people consider themselves as the focus of control instead of considering activities as pre-determined, uncontrollable, inevitable and habitual.

People who consider themselves as capable persons have certainly an internal focus of control. It means that they feel ability to control what happens to them. Self-determination is directly related to right to choose applied methods for duties, effort level, action speed and time framework. Capable persons have sense of ownership toward their actions because they can determine how to do actions and when end them. Right to choose is the main component of self-determination (Whetten and Cameron, 1999).

Acceptance of personal consequence: Empowered people have perception of impact and believe that are able to impact on the environment that they work in it or change the generated results. Acceptance of personal consequence includes beliefs of a person at a determined moment about his or her ability to make desired changes (Whetten and Cameron, 1998). Empowered people do not believe that external environmental obstacles can control their activities but they believe that these obstacles are controllable. Such people have sense of active control allowing them to match the environment with their demands contrary to passive control in which, demands of persons are matched with environmental demands. People with sense of personal consequence try to keep their dominance on what occurs instead of reaction against the environment.

Sense of accepting personal consequence is strongly related to sense of self-control. Not only people should fell that their actions have effect but also they should feel ability to create that effect in order to feel empowered and they should feel ability to control the consequence in order to gain a result along with a sense of empowerment. According to the conducted studies on perception of impact, this sense is motivated inside of the persons (White, 2001) so that they try to keep sense of control and their successes.

For instance, it is said that prisoners of war did some strange actions such as avoidance of eating, not walking somewhere through secret communication signs in order to protect sense of perception of impact. People need a determined amount of perception of impact to protect mental and physical health. Those who lose their perception of impact and personal control on themselves are usually named insane (Whetten and Cameron, 1998). Even slight loss of personal control can be physically and emotionally harmful. It has been found that lack of control might lead to depression, mental pressure, concern, weak moral, inefficiency, laxation, learned helplessness, and death.

Therefore, it is vital for health and capability to have perception of impact. On the other hand, the most empowered and capable people still are not able to control all of things happened to them. However, empowerment would help people to accept personal consequence and take them under their control. Usually, this matter is related to both internal ability to identify controllable scopes and ability to change external environment in order to increase perception of impact (Whetten and Cameron, 1998).

Sense of meaning: Empowered persons have sense of meaning paying attention to their goals of activities and their ideals and standards are coordinated with their

actions so that activity is an important element in their value system. Empowered persons are careful about what they create and believe in it, they rely on their mental or moral force in their activities gaining sense of personal significance.

Activities with infused meaning in them create a sense of excitement, purposefulness and mission for persons preparing motivation for them instead of discouraging. Sense of meaning for many of people is not just related to gaining revenue when they are working in an organization and some issues are beyond personal matters that are more precious. The action of people should be based on human matters (Whetten and Cameron, 2002). Gaining personal profit does not guarantee sense of meaning. On the other hand, participation if meaningless activities would lead to a sense of incompatibility, annoyance and boredom. In this case, people will be fed up and some other incentives such as supervision, leadership or extra payment are required to make them invest in work.

Trust: Empowered people have sense of trust. They are sure that are behaved fairly. These persons keep this sense of trust that result of their actions is fair and justly without any harm even if they are in low positions. The meaning of this sense is that they are sure that powerful persons will not harm them based on a fair behavior. However, empowered people would keep a sense of trust even if powerful persons were not fair to them. In other words, trust means a sense of personal security.

How a person can keep his or her trust and sense of security even in unfair and dangerous situations? For instance, Gandy tried to bring back independence of India and decided to burn all passing papers that Indian citizen not English people had to have with themselves. Gandy declared his intention in a meeting about the resistance against this law and invited his proponent to do the same action. Gandy was beaten by Britain Police after burning the papers but he continued to do this action. Where was the security in this case? What Gandy trusted in? Was he able to achieve his goal or not? Sense of security in Gandy was not related to the measurements of Britain authorities but it was originated from his faith and trust in his beliefs. His sense of security was along with believed in doing right things that was usually led to right result (Whetten and Cameron, 1998).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hypotheses testing and conclusion of effective variables in empowerment program: Methodology of study questionnaire: statistical population of studied questionnaire of this research includes all residents (10,96,494 members) in residential neighborhoods of Ahwaz metropolis that 1200 members out of them were

Table 1: Frequency distribution of respondents

Variables	Conditions of respondents	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	243	63/61
	Female	139	36/39
Education	Diploma	146	38/21
	BA	220	57/59
	MA and PhD	16	4/2
Residence duration	To 10 years	76	19/89
	Between 10-20 years	245	64/13
	>20 years	61	15/98

chosen as sample size based on Cochran formula. Questionnaire were designed through standard method and based on 5-point LIKERT scale; content validity and Cronbach's alpha coefficient were applied to determine validity and reliability of questionnaire. The obtained alpha was equal to 93% that is a high level within behavioral-social studies. The questionnaire was distributed between sample members that had been chosen through cluster sampling method and then the questionnaires were gathered and analyzed. After data collection, data were analyzed using $SPSS_{19}$ and $Excel_{2007}$. Some required descriptive statistics including frequency, relative and commutative frequency, mean, variance, standard deviation, etc. were used. At inferential statistic level, some methods and techniques including correlation test (Pearson correlation test), stepwise regression and path analysis (causal) were applied to test hypotheses through $SAS_{9.1}$ and PATH software. Cochran formula is equal to $n = t^2pq/d^2$ in which $p = 0/5$, $q = 0/5$ and $t = 1/96$ (with probability of 95%).

Respondents' characteristics: regarding degree of education, majority of respondents (57/59 %) had BA degree, 38/21 percent had diploma and 4/2% had MA and PhD degree. Regarding residence duration, majority of respondents (64/13 %) between 10-20 years, 19/89% between 1-10 years and 15/98 % between 20-30years were living in the place (table of frequency distribution of respondents) (Table 1).

Hypotheses: The hypotheses of this study include there is a significant relationship between empowerment of people and:

- Capacity creation of responsible institutions for planning
- Neighborhood orientation within implementation of programs
- People awareness of plans and programs
- Presence of informal social ties and
- Formation of accountability

Therefore, empowerment of people is dependent variable and the other mentioned variables are independent variables (Fig. 1).

Table 2: Frequency and frequency percentage of studied variables in terms of critical situation

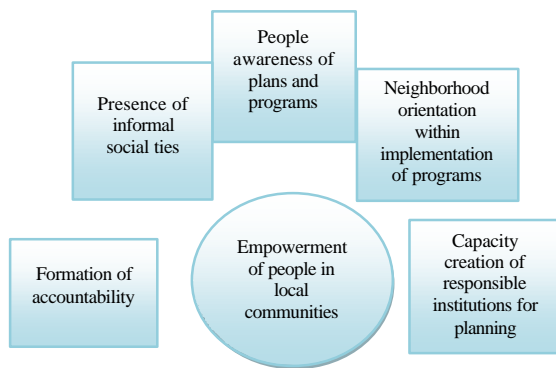| Description	Accountability		Informal social ties		Neighborhood orientation		Capacity creation of responsible institutions		People awareness of plans and programs	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
There is not a problem in this field	5	11/78	129	33/76	44	11/51	54	14/13	68	17/80
There is an insignificant problem	62	16/23	56	14/65	72	18/84	75	19/63	35	9/16
There is a problem but is solvable	116	30/36	82	21/46	95	24/86	143	37/43	133	34/81
There is a serious problem and it should be managed	124	32/46	84	21/98	109	28/53	66	17/27	115	30/10
The problem is critical and should be seriously managed	35	9/16	31	8/11	32	16/23	44	11/51	31	8/11

Fig. 1: The relationship between independent variables and dependent variable in questionnaire

There was a question to examine the role of neighborhood orientation and the obtained results indicated that 16/23% of people evaluated residential neighborhoods of Ahwaz inappropriate for implementation of empowerment program and 11/51% evaluated them appropriate. Regarding cumulative frequency, 55/21% of people introduced residential neighborhoods of Ahwaz without any specific problem and 44/79% evaluated these neighborhoods as inappropriate places for implementation of program. There was a question to study capacity creation, the obtained results indicated that 37/43% believed that there are some problems in this field but are solvable and 11/51% believed that there is critical problem in this case. Regarding cumulative frequency, 71/22% believed that the situation is appropriate and 28/78% of people evaluated the situation as inappropriate. There was a question to study people awareness of plans and programs and the obtained results indicated that 34/81% believed that there are some problems in this field but are solvable and 8/11 % believed that there are critical problems in this field. There was a question about determined goals, responsibilities and authorities and the obtained results

indicated that 74/59% of people evaluated the situation as appropriate and 15/44% believed that there is a serious problem in this field in organization.

A question was asked about the necessity of establishment of institutions to implement empowerment program and the obtained results indicated that 37/43 % of people believed that there is a problem is this field but it is solvable and 8/18% believed that there is not any specific problem in this field. There was a question to examine sense of belonging and the obtained results indicated that 31/41% believed that there is a solvable problem in this field and 14/92% believed that there are serious problems in this field. A question was asked about trust, intimacy ad honesty and the obtained results indicated that 64/15% of people believed that the situation is appropriate in this field and 35/85% evaluated the situation as inappropriate (frequency table and frequency percentage of variables) (Table 2).

According to Pearson correlation coefficient, there is a significant relationship between empowerment of people and studied variables at confidence level of 1% and this coefficient for neighborhood orientation was more than other variables. Correlation level between variables was less than other variables in field of account ability (Table 3 of Pearson correlation coefficient). The Pearson correlation intensity test would assess the intensity and significance of the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables and H_0 hypotheses of this test were rejected in order to accept hypotheses of study. Therefore, there was a direct relationship between all the hypotheses and dependent variable of empowerment of people.

To determine the relationship between variables, stepwise regression was used and four components were entered into regression model and these components could explain 0/977 of changes (R = 0/977):

$$Y = 0.9616 + 0.335x_1 + 0.162x_2 + 0.1283x_3 + 0.1547x_4$$

Table 3: Pearson correlation coefficients and results of hypotheses within studied variables

Relationship between variables (Empowerment of people)	Correlation coefficient value	Sig. level	Hypothesis (H_0)	Test result
Informal social ties	0/789	<0/0001	Rejected	There is a direct relationship
Neighborhood orientation	0/955	<0/0001	Rejected	There is a direct relationship
Capacity creation	0/879	<0/0001	Rejected	There is a direct relationship
People awareness of plans and programs	0/829	<0/0001	Rejected	There is a direct relationship
Accountability	0/412	<0/0001	Rejected	There is a direct relationship

Table 4: Stepwise regression of studied variables

Variable	Parameter estimation	SE	F-value	Sig. level Pr>F
Informal social ties X_1	0/9616	0/0648	219/79	<0/0001
Neighborhood orientation X_2	0/335	0/0315	111/30	<0/0001
Capacity creation X_3	0/162	0/0235	47/51	<0/0001
People awareness of plans and programs X_4	0/128	0/0253	25/61	<0/0001
Accountability X_5	0/1547	0/0246	39/53	<0/0001

In this model, Y is empowerment and X_1-X_4 are respectively neighborhood orientation, capacity creation, people awareness of plans and programs and determined goals, responsibilities and authorities (Table of stepwise regression of studied factors). The effects of each of independent variables on dependent variable as well as direct and indirect effects of each of independent variables on dependent variable are examined through regression analysis and path analysis (Table 4).

Independent variable of neighborhood orientation has the most effect (β = 0/335) on the empowerment process of people in stepwise regression and the direction of effect is positive with high level. It means that an increase in this variable would lead to increase in empowerment of people; therefore, the hypothesis 2 has been accepted means that neighborhood-oriented strategies effects on empowerment process of people. Variable of capacity creation (β = 0/162) has the most effect of empowerment process of people after the independent variable of neighborhood orientation and the direction of this effect is positive. It means that an increase in this variable would lead to increase in empowerment of people; therefore, the hypothesis 1 has been accepted means that capacity creation has effect on empowerment process of people. Accountability (with β = 0/154) has the most positive effect on empowerment process of people after the mentioned two independent variables. It means that an increase in this variable would lead to increase in empowerment of people; therefore, the hypothesis 6 has been accepted means that account ability effects on empowerment process of people. People awareness of plans and programs (with β = 0/128) has the most positive effect on empowerment process of people after the mentioned three independent variables. It means that an

Table 5: Analysis of casual relationship between entered variables in regression model

Relationship between	Informal social ties	Neighborhood orientation	Capacity creation	People awareness	Accountability of plans and programs
Informal social ties	1/423	-0/124	-0/211	-0/054	-0/896
Neighborhood orientation	0/875	1/578	-0/294	-0/134	-0/265
Capacity creation	1/396	1/516	-0/307	-0/12	-0/252
People awareness of plans and programs	1/57	1/396	-0/241	-0/152	-0/226
Accountability	0/535	1/317	-0/242	-0/108	-0/32

Underlined numbers are direct effect and other numbers indicate indirect effect of variables on each other

increase in this variable would lead to increase in empowerment of people therefore, the hypothesis 3 has been accepted means that people awareness of plans and programs effects on empowerment process of people (Table 5).

According to the obtained results from causal relationship analysis, variable of neighborhood orientation has the most positive and direct effect (p = +1/578) on empowerment of people while this variable has a negative and indirect effect on empowerment through capacity creation (p = -294/0), people awareness of plans and programs (p = -0/134) and accountability (p = -0/265). Variable of capacity creation has a direct and negative effect (p = -0/307) on empowerment as well as indirect and positive effect (p = +1/516) on empowerment through neighborhood orientation. People awareness of plans and programs has a positive and indirect effect on empowerment through neighborhood orientation as well as the positive and negative effect on empowerment. Accountability has the positive and indirect effect on empowerment through neighborhood orientation as well as negative and direct effect on empowerment (Analysis of casual relationship between studied variables).

CONCLUSION

As it was said, empowerment of all residential neighborhoods has been the ideal of urban planners that can be realized through implementing neighborhood-oriented empowerment programs. Moreover, urban good governance is related to the

empowered residential neighborhoods that are able to accept the assigned power from urban governance. Residential neighborhoods of Ahwaz monopolies with their active residents proved the matter that can participate in all plans and programs as one of residential neighborhoods of Iran. Now, it is the duty of urban government to prepare required field for their participation. Accordingly, one of these fields is empowerment of all incapable groups of neighborhoods. The first hypothesis of this study was as follows, "there is a significant relationship between capacity creations of responsible institutions of planning on empowerment of people". According to the statistical test, it was determined that there was a high significant relationship between the mentioned variables; hence, H_0 was rejected. The second hypothesis of study included the significant relationship between neighborhood orientation and implementation of programs of people empowerment. According to the obtained results of Pearson correlation coefficient, there was a high significant relationship between neighborhood orientation and empowerment; therefore, H_0 was rejected. According to the other results of hypotheses testing, there was highly significant relationship between people awareness of plans and programs, presence of informal social ties, formation of accountability, capacity creation and empowerment.

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