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**Original article**

## **Reviewing factors influencing social isolation among PNU students in Gilan-E-Gharb city in 2013**

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### ABSTRACT

Surveying social isolation subject at least at the last century shows that this concept is more related to some sociological dimensions such as Marx's view, Marx' alienation concept, the school of mutual interaction and Chicago school. Some writers stress on subjective elements and some others on objective elements. Persons who are socially isolated and have not interaction with others, suffer often from lack of social ability, so they may have not social-cognitive knowledge and do not know how to understand the others' intentions. Social isolation is a state in which person or persons, under surroundings circumstances, are influenced by different social and individual motives and continue living as a group. Desire for self-expression in all the young can be seen as a need but rather to assert and join the rippers, they will choose isolation and may sit in silence and enjoy dreaming. To review the extent and condition of social isolation among Payam-e-Noor students in Gilan-e-Gharb city in 2013, the survey method as methodological method and questionnaire was used. Due to vast numbers of statistical population and easiness in research, 100 subjects were randomly selected. To analyze data, SPSS software was used. According to the obtained results, the

extent of social isolation among the students is 3.24 and is nearly close to the code 3. 0.50 of the respondents are male and 0.50 is female who their average mean was 23 years old and 0.87 is single and the rest is married. 83/2 in humanity science fields, 27.8 in basic sciences fields are studying. 0.17 are from the low class of the society, 0.73 of the middle class and the rest from high class of the society. In the inferential statistics part, the dependent variable is social isolation and became significant with the variables of gender, the difference of education level with the friend and age.

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### **1. Problem statement**

Human being as a valuable creature has varying complexity and emotional aspects, and education in Islam aims to foster all aspects of human being not just an aspect of his spiritual dimensions. Refusal to teens' expresses, lack of care for the young person, blame and blame frequently them and screaming over their heads and ignore the needs and desires, all cause psychological problems for them. Desire for self-expression in all the young can be seen as a need but rather to assert and join their peers, they will choose isolation and may sit in silence and enjoy dreaming. In this case, parents should not disturb his thinking because fantasy and dreams are sometimes reasonable and natural. In cases when the teen suddenly turn to isolation and withdrawal, symptoms including loss of appetite, irritability and other symptoms will appear in him, so it is necessary to concern and its causes should be found. A point for parents and teachers is notable that teens' isolation and withdrawal is the cause of a problem and the problem should be resolved as soon as possible. Isolation and separation from friends put peers at risk for social and emotional problems. Mutual interact with friends cause that children learn to cooperate and communicate with others and be able to train others roles. It should be noted that the difference between reflection and introspect is vast. Well thought, in addition to withdraw teens from isolation and promoting memory, help him to get rid of his misplaced skepticism. Therefore, reason and logic of a new understanding of the responsibilities he faced with should be considered. Another reason for isolation and withdrawal is teenagers' diffidence. Diffidence provides disability in person. Human loneliness is rooted in lack of interaction. Loneliness does not mean being isolated. Sometimes men among friends and relatives can feel loneliness but men far from family and friends can feel not loneliness. According to special spiritual-social characteristics of teenager, the way of loneliness among them is more frequent. Of course this is temporary. Diffident people in relation to dealing with foreigners and strangers have fear and the fear can be gradually extended and cause them to fear anything different. Since, diffident persons often fear to speak with foreigners and strangers, so other people will speak a little to them, in result.

### **2. Research Significance**

The importance of social relationships and the factors affecting it has led to the formation of a lot of research on this subject. Exploring impairments that may threaten the relationship has appropriated several studies. How teens are isolated and withdrawn is an issue for parents and teachers. We see young people in schools and classrooms who are reclusive and isolated and are reluctant to speak with their peers and they are always alone and do not pay attention to their surroundings reality. These teens need to have compassion and help them to get out of this jail and thoughts and this important work without the cooperation of caring parents and teachers is not possible. Social isolation deprives individuals from social participation and reduces Social exchange and social involvement, prevents constant exchange of thoughts and feelings from general to individual and from individual to general, divests opportunities for living together, working together, and ultimately make long-lasting and deep relationships impossible

(Poorqanbar, 2009). It seems that Iranian society is socially in situations where minimal loss of collective orientation moves towards the spread of social isolation. Iranian society, in better expression, which is in the lack of collective orientations, is involved in two fundamental problems in the field of social relations. These problems are defined as Iranian human relationship involved in political microsystem and the other as the relationship of individual with other member of society; A: Policy aversion, on one hand, has made person indifferent to the political issues and on the other hand, has reduced public participation, appropriate space, totalitarian of ruling elites and finally corruption in the political system. B; The domination of a situation which Tocqueville states it as "individuation" does not mean individuality, but the isolation of individual in a society that was later called a mass society.

### **3. Theoretical framework**

This framework is a combinative theory. First, the variables of the model have been taken from a number of theories and perspectives that include: View of urban poverty, anti-system model, linear model and the theory of social order. The second point is that the variables of the model are raised in construction and individual level. The construction variables are built upon the character of the residential area and individual variables represent the characteristics and properties of the residents. Third, in components and factors' analysis of the model should be noted that the effects of all variables of construction and individual on social isolation are not the same. In fact, it is possible that the impact of construction and individual variable on local relations is positive while on cross-local relations is negative and vice versa.

### **4. Construction variable**

#### **4.1. the level of economic – social development of region**

According to Urban View, there is no doubt that the level of economic - Social development can impact on residents of the area but its impact on local and cross-local relations is not the same. In this field, Park, Wirth, Yung, Saltes and Gauter state that the residents of deprived areas do not progress because of limited options and through this process their identity is formed. This situation can also provide mutual benefits and personal interactions. But this condition is different in cross-local relations because the development of cross-local networks and outer bridges needs facilities that the residents of deprived areas are often deprived (Chalbi and Kafi,A, 2005).

#### **4.2. Habitation stability**

According to the systematic model, habitant stability is accounted as a key factor in assessing social relations. In this filed, Roes and others, Amphra Sarpy, Putnam, Vetiz, Samson and GA 'Oz believe that long-lasting habitation and personal home possession increase the familiarity with the neighbors, increase the number of friends and promotes the participation in local events. In contrast, the movement of habitants causes problems in social networks. People in unstable communities have less opportunity to interact. Because of awareness of less-numbered friends, they do not have any tendency to show their willing to make friend. The effect of the mentioned factors is positive on cross-local and outer bridge. So, according to what was mentioned, the relation between stability and movement with local and cross-local networks can be mentioned as follow; stable communities have non-formal local networks and high-movement communities are determined through outer relations.

#### **4.3. Heterogeneity model**

According to the linear model, reflecting Toonis, Ximel and Wirth's ideas, the linear increase in the size and the population of human community effects on behavior pattern. The view claims that the size effects on social relations because the habitation defined by high and heterogeneous population needs people interact with strangers and unfamiliar people. According to this view, the heterogeneity variable prevents social interactions which urban habitants are formed of non-traditional people who do not trust on each other, so they will be not involved in interactions which promote their interests (IBID, 2005).

## **5. Individual variables**

Chalbi believes that mutual trust make social interactions spread. Mutual trust is rooted in affection which is obtained via social interaction. Social interaction on one hand creates affectionate relation and on the other hand the created affection supports this interaction. According to Jonson, trust is necessary to promote interactions. According to Giddens, a good relation needs a mutual trust. According to Roos and et al, the ability to create social interaction depends on trust. Some of experts believe that trust allow person to corporate in society in which people can confide that not only trust is not abused but also is compensated. Some others also believe that trust in each other is a pre-condition to build secondary relations which is necessary to corporate politically in any democracy. So, according to what was mentioned, lack in trustfulness can promote social isolation (Ibid, 2005). Feeling insecure is a factor which can intensify this situation. The existence of any threat increase lack of trust leading to social problems. The number of groups and identities can effect on people relations. We mean by groups and identities as religion, race and position... or any characteristics distinguishing social groups. Chalbi believes that the bridges are important for social distinguish. According to Chalbi, as the number of groups increase, the relation in different dimensions will increase and vice versa. So, according to what was mentioned, it can be said that as the number of groups, identities, trust and security increase, feeling insecure, fear, lack of identities and ties will decrease(Ibid, 2005).

## **6. Social isolation consequences**

Mackrman believes that feeling isolation is rooted in lack of relations and deficiency in social ties or segmentations. Halorson believes that feeling isolation have relationship with the extent of primary relations and at a more limited level with the extent of secondary relations and finally with participation in work market and civil activities. Different studies show that feeling and assurance is a form of social support which person image it is missed in his relations. According to Chalbi, as the social relations in the spiritual, affectionate and positional forms increases at the level of different social network relations of society, the extent of social isolation and feeling inability will decrease, in result. Social tolerance increases as the level of social interaction and the variety of social network increase and vice versa. Associating to volunteer communities in which the expression of issues, expressing suggestions and ideas and selection...is based on convince, the social tolerance will increase (Ibid, 2005).Wellman in an article offers new typology to regularize the above dissensions. According to him, different views can be included in three items; missed community, supported/maintained community and freed community.

First; missed community; sociologists such as Toonis and Ximel believed that an individual is in a network of strong family and relative relationship which in the time needed they can obtain special support through it. The emergence of phenomena such urbanization and industrialization has effected this relations. The mentioned changes have turned primary relations into passing and non-personal relations. In the city, people instead of being member of communities, they are involved in several social networks. Social networks connected weakly will provide them social support. This view has been able to tie the potential relations among industrial and official work distribution with strong structural relations which is occurred in primary groups. These primary groups have prevented this issue that whether the primary relations have developed in modern industrial and official structures or not?

Second; supported/maintained community; instead of the last view, some of other sociologists have tried to show that primary ties already exist in the era of industrialization and urbanization. The community is already alive and various ties are observed among individuals. This group know the first view point as an optimistic who their opinion hasn't any experiential base.

Third, freed community; instead of the last view, there is another view which knows the first view's point as their view point which the second view point miss it(the effect of industrialization and urbanization). Rarely can we ignore these effects but on the other hand, the collapse of community in the modern societies is a fact which cannot be confirmed by experiential facts. In fact, the innovation of fast communicative instruments such as telephone has reduced the dependency of people to the environment. In other words, the role of time and place has alleviated in human relations but does not

mean the total collapse of the community but community is appeared through social networks. This view accepts the importance of primary ties but believe that

A) Most of today's outer ties are rooted in dense groups. The separation of work place, habitation and relative's groups have faced people with weak dependencies in several social networks.

B) High extent of habitation movement has alleviated strong ties.

C) Efficient transportation means have reduced the expense of spatial intervals and have made the maintenance of primary ties possible.

D) Scale, the density of city's variety and the nation, when combined with vast facilities, the availability of social networks will be increased.

E) Spatial variety of primary and heterogeneous ties promotes this concept that those people who the individual interacts with are members of social groups. This process have innovated a kind of evolution in social patterns which is called "network individualism". In sociological tradition, when speaking about strong ties, it refers to strong primary ties among family, friends and relatives relation. Imam Granoter, in his important research paper entitled as "the power of weak ties", has focused on weak points and its functions. According to him, the power of a linear combinative tie there exists in interaction, the extent of affection, friendship (mutual trust) and mutual services (Ibid, 2009).

## 7. Research Questions

1- How much is the extent of social isolation?

2- What are the effecting factors on social isolation?

### 7.1. Research hypotheses

1- As the age is lower, the extent of social isolation increases.

2- As the difference of education level with the friend increases, the extent of social isolation will increase.

3- There is a significant difference between gender and social isolation.

4- As social interaction increases, the extent of social isolation will increase.

5- As monthly income increases, the extent of social isolation will increase.

6- There is a significant difference between lack of parents and social isolation.

### 7.2. Research purposes

Surveying the extent and condition of social isolation among PNU students in Gilan-e-Gharb city in 2014

Reviewing factors influencing social isolation among PNU students in Gilan-e-Gharb city in 1392

### 7.3. Concepts definition

Social isolation is a state in which an individual or individuals, under environmental situations influenced by different individual and social motives, terminate their interaction with the surroundings and continues living in a form of a group. Shortly, social isolation, through conceptual meaning, is in contrast with social involvement, social integrity and social capital, and has a close meaning with alienation, feeling loneliness and abdication.

According to Simon, social isolation is a reality in which individual feels lack of dependency and total passivity with prevailing social values.

Cohen believes that social isolation is an equivalent to cultural alienation showing that how individual's ideas and opinions about subjects differ from others.

In other words, social isolation is a state in which social interactions and supports are at a low level.

Social isolation is a concept dealt to in different sociological fields including urban sociology, the theory of mutual action and theories of self-alienation.

### 7.4. Theoretical basics

Halerson believes that feeling loneliness there is basically relationship between the extent of primary relations at a more limited level with the extent of secondary relations and third relations

"participation in civil works and activities". Several studies have shown that assurance is a social support which the alone person feels it lacks in his relationships. According to Chalbi, as the level of social networks relations in a society in various dimensions such as Palladian (advising, council and teaching), worldliness (economic help), affection (sympathy) and positional (respecting human dignity) increases, the extent of social alienation will decrease. Helping in social relations to the deprived people gives another opportunity to them to flourish their talents to move toward well-wishing manner (Chalbi, 1997). Clurman believes that feeling loneliness is rooted in close relations or social integrity. Chalbi believes that trust allows to social interactions to spread in society. Mutual trust is rooted in affectionate dependencies (rooted in social relations with others in communities). Social relations create affectionate dependencies on one hand and maintain this relation on the other hand (Chalbi, 1997). According to Jonson, trust is needed to expand relations. The first crisis encountered by most relations is related to mutual trust in both two persons which should be able to create a trustful situation. According to Giddens, a good relation needs a mutual trust and mutual trust has a close relationship. According to Roos and et al, the ability to create social interaction depends on trust. Some of experts believe that trust allow person to corporate in society in which people can confide that not only trust is not abused but also is compensated. Some others also believe that trust in each other is a pre-condition to build secondary relations which is necessary to corporate politically in any democracy. So, according to what was mentioned, lack in trustfulness can promote social isolation (Ibid, 2005).

According to Simon, social isolation is a reality in which individual feels lack of dependency and total passivity with prevailing social values. It is clear that in this definition about social isolation is not related to individuals' severity.

**7.5. Research method**

Survey method with questionnaire has been used in this study. Survey method is also called indirect method. Research Approach Regarding to the present research studying factors influencing social isolation among PNU students in Gilan-e-Gharb city, the research condition is at present time and is terminated the same time. The experts of such researches state these researches as present time, so research method and approach is at present time.

Statistical population Population in this research is PNU students of Gilan-e-Gharb which are 100 subjects. Population sample Because of vast variety of statistical population, 100 subjects have been randomly selected. Research technique To analyze data and the questionnaire, SPSS statistical software has been used which is discussed in the inferential and descriptive part.

Hypothesis; there is a significant difference between gender and social isolation.

To test this hypothesis, independent T test was used. There was a significant difference which was significant at the level of 0/01(sig= 0.000). According to the table 4-2-2 and the obtained means, social isolation is higher among women.

**Table 1**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
social isolation	Equal variances assumed	1.602	.209	5.153	98	.000
	Equal variances not assumed			5.081	85.401	.000

**Table 2**

	gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
social	Woman	50	3,3200	,60760	,08593
isolation	man	50	3,1756	,59140	,08364

Hypothesis; as the difference of education level with the friend increases, the extent of social isolation will increase.

To test this hypothesis, Spearman correlation test was used. There was a significant relationship which at the level of 0.05(sig= 0.019) was significant severely and positively (0.281). It means that as the difference of education level with the friend increases, the extent of social isolation will increase.

**Table 3**

			the difference of education level with the friend	social isolation
rho	Spearman's	the difference of education level with the friend	Correlation Coefficient	1.000
		social isolation	Correlation Coefficient	.281(*)
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.019
		N	100	100
			Sig. (2-tailed)	.019
			N	100

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis; as the age is lower, the extent of social isolation increases.

To test this hypothesis, Pearson correlation test was used. There was a significant relationship which at the level of 0.05(sig= 0.042) was significant severely and positively (-0.206). It means that as the age is lower, the extent of social isolation increases.

**Table 4**

		Age	social isolation
Age	Pearson Correlation	1	-,206(*)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	,042
	N	98	98
social isolation	Pearson Correlation	-,206(*)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,042	.
	N	98	100

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**8. Conclusion**

Surveying social isolation subject at least at the last century shows that this concept is more related to some sociological dimensions such as Marx's view, Marx' alienation concept, the school of mutual interaction and Chicago school. Some writers stress on subjective elements and some others on objective elements. People who are socially isolated and have not mutual interaction with others, they are in lack of social ability. Regarding to the obtained results, the extent of social isolation among college students is

3.24 and is nearly close to the code 3. 0.50 of the respondents are male and 0.50 is female who their average mean was 23 years old and 0.87 is single and the rest is married. 83.2 in humanity science fields, 27.8 in basic sciences fields are studying. 0.17 are from the low class of the society, 0.73 of the middle class and the rest from high class of the society. In the inferential statistics part, the dependent variable is social isolation and became significant with the variables of gender, the difference of education level with the friend and age.

## 9. Suggestions

The present study has limited its research to the peer group due to various limitations. Though, the peer group plays an influential role in the social networks of the person specially teenager, the young and college students but the important role of family should not be ignored. It is recommended that the effects of social isolation by observing all social interactions of the person including friend, family and relatives at a wider scale should be carefully investigated. Investigating all social interactions of the person would prepare this situation to the effects of social isolation on social interactions be investigated at wider scale. Regarding to the obtained results, the families, teachers and friends should support those involved in this problem and families should also provide means for their children to have not any educational difference with their peers and provide a tranquil and acceptable environment to their children be supported. Parents should give children freedom in action and increase their power in decision-making and independency to society be smoothed from such problems. Parents should control their children's interactions with their peers. Age is another variable influencing social isolation and family relations. Social isolation outshines at lower age because individuals interact less with their peers. If parents are well-educated, they should give advice to their children to abduct them from isolation and have relation with friends. Finally, we can hope that this problem can be removed by using these methods

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