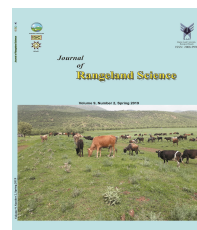


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### Research and Full Length Article:

## Social Responsibility and Rangelands Conservation: An Investigation on Mobile Pastoralists in Golestan Province, Iran

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**Abstract.** Social responsibility of pastoralists is one of the most important elements and an integral part of rangelands exploitation. It not only leads to better rangeland health, but also enhances exploiters' satisfaction for continuous sustainable utilization of rangelands. The present study investigated the role of social responsibility in rangelands condition in nomadic areas of Gonbad County in Golestan province, Iran. Survey method was conducted in 2016. Population consisted of 180 nomadic households. A sample size of 115 households was selected using stratified random sampling method in ten pastoral units (nomadic and nomadic-rural systems). Required information was collected using questionnaires. Content validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by academics and social experts of rangelands management. The findings showed that the social responsibility of respondents could be evaluated at high level. The ethical dimension of social responsibility was ranked in the first priority but the economic dimension was the last one. There was a significant and positive relationship between social responsibility and range condition. Also, social responsibility of uneducated exploiters (unable to read and write) was higher than other educated exploiters. Due to a positive relationship between social responsibility and range condition, it is recommended that exploiters' responsibility can be enhanced by delivering appropriate educational opportunities in order to improve range condition.

**Key words:** Mobile pastoralists, Social responsibility, Rangeland health, Pastoral unit, Iran

## Introduction

Social responsibility is a moral framework and shows that an entity, an organization or individual that has a commitment to act for the benefit of the community (Ismail, 2009). Social responsibility is the idea that a business must balance its profitability activities with activities that benefit the community. This involves developing business with a positive relationship with the community in which they work. Most definitions of social responsibility are emphasized by a balanced approach for organizations to address economic, social and environmental issues with the aim of benefiting people, societies and society (IISD, 2004).

According to the latest statistics of the Iran Forests Range and Watershed Organization, the country's rangelands area is 84.8 million hectares (IFRWO, 2017). Miller (1997) argues that rangeland ecosystems play an important role in the economic development and welfare of the people. But livestock overgrazing had led to rangelands degradation (Dong *et al.*, 2009). Li and Li (2012) believe that as range management becomes more complex, there is great need for adaptation programs and attention to social processes in rangelands (Agrawal, 2003; Johnson, 2004; Sick, 2008). Altman and Cochran (2005), Vella *et al.* (2005) and Plummer and Fitzgibbon (2006) also believe that for the sustainable management of natural resources, the social dimension is necessary in addition to technical support. Though technical approaches can address some issues, social processes ultimately prevent from the balancing of these matters (Ariapour, 2016). Some also believe that conservation trend and rangeland ecosystem restoration widely depend on exploiter group motivation (Ostrom, 2009; Hobbs, 2007). In this regard, Scoones (1999), Liu *et al.* (2007) and Robinson (2009) have recognized that

there are close links between social systems and ecological systems which can have an important role in conserving rangeland resources. For this reason, one of the fundamental factors is exploiter participation to develop rangelands (Khanmohamadi *et al.*, 2012).

Given that the exploiters are the main users of rangelands areas over the years, they regard rangelands as those belonging to themselves and use them as they wish and recognize. Therefore, it had caused great degradation in rangelands (Shahraki and Barani, 2012). In the meantime, one of the effective factors in sustainable management of rangelands is to enhance responsibility for rangeland degradation prevention. In other words, responsibility involves individual and collective interactions which ultimately led to sound and reasonable exploitation of rangeland. In literature, some researchers (e.g. Poteete and Welch, 2004) noted that the sustainable management of rangeland resources without social responsibility had been found to be the most important challenge. Today, social responsibility is important to achieve sustainable rangelands development. So, responsible exploiters can be a part of a solution to improve rangeland health. Proponents of social responsibility argue that exploiters should extend their social responsibility as a strategic key to meet their needs (Givel, 2007). Accordingly, when responsibility is analyzed in social life of exploiters, rights of exploiters or even legal ones should not be considered as a criterion but responsibility should serve as a matter of voluntary and an obligation on the part of exploiters (Takala and Pallab, 2000). However, given the importance and sensitivity of social responsibility in exploiters in the context of their impact on utilization rangelands, the following questions then raise: whether the exploiters are the main cause of rangeland degradation? How much social responsibility and its dimensions have been taken into account? If the

utilization of rangeland requires objective and stable policies, what is the role of responsible exploiters in these policies and programs? Whether management practices are proposed by planners in line with growing social-responsibility of exploiters? To the best of our knowledge, there is less research on the responsibility of exploiters in rangelands of Iran.

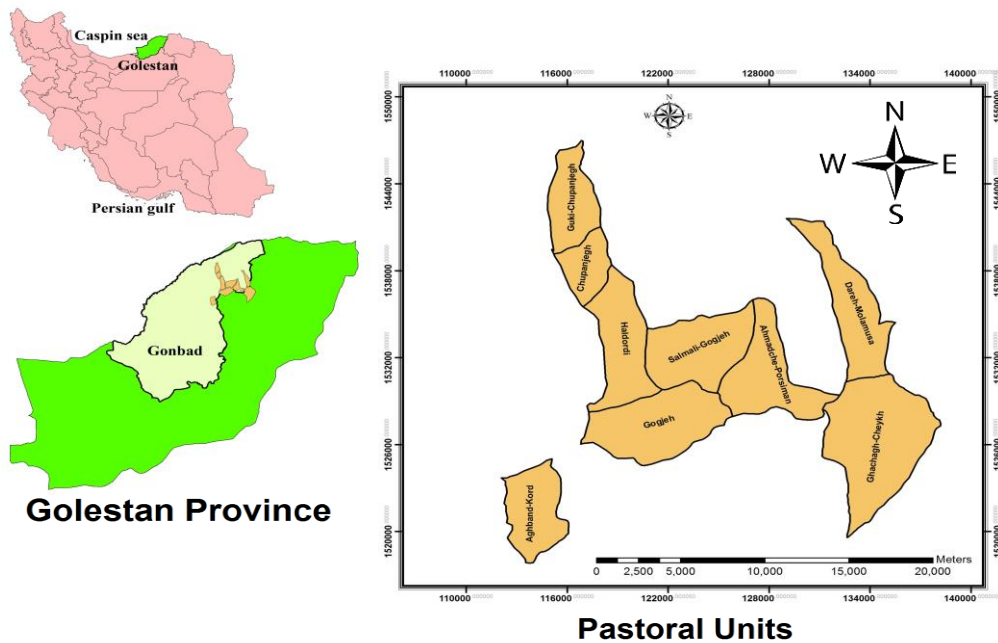
Here, the results of some studies are cited so that we review responsibility in proper contexts. Bradshaw and Bekoff (2001), Hobbs (2007) and Petursdottir *et al.* (2013) in their research pointed out that attitudes and behaviors of exploiters are important in environmental situation. Gupta *et al.* (2007) believe that social responsibility, ethical behavior and accountability of the consequences are the task for all exploiters. Carroll (1991) and Golob and Bartlett (2007) in their study assessed social responsibility in terms of economic, legal, ethical and altruistic dimensions. Zairi and Peters (2002) argue that social responsibility involves living up expectations and showing commitment to the environment, legislation and motivation. Viswesvaran *et al.* (1998) also believe that social responsibility increases the perceived trust among people. Khalili *et al.* (2014) showed that the ethical, legal, economic and humanitarian social responsibilities are effective. Gupta *et al.* (2007) acknowledge that if exploiters act responsibly and are responsible towards their social and environmental impacts, their loyalty and commitment between them will be deepen. Marek and Zasuwa (2011) stated that social responsibility is financially effective and can lead to more benefits. In this way, it is possible to increase profits. Harjoto (2011) believes that social responsibility objectives are beyond financial goals. Fernandez *et al.* (2010) also believe that social responsibility will lead to improved long-term success and economic growth and increased competitiveness and performance. Bala and Yeung (2009) also

argue that social responsibility strengthens and increases the positive intentions. Danko *et al.* (2008) state that social responsibility includes economic, legal, ethical and philanthropic expectations that extends to all exploiters. They defined exploiter as any individual or group that could affect the activities, decisions, policies, procedures or goals effective in rangeland management. Zaman Khan (2010) and Sandhu and Kapoor (2010) have taken social responsibility of exploiters into account about environment and institutions in society. Ghalavandi *et al.* (2014) analyzed social responsibility in four dimensions of the legal, economic, moral or social development. The results of their research showed that social responsibility is related to legal, economic, moral and social aspects. Wang *et al.* (2015) in their research considered changes in the size and number of plants, reducing plant diversity and initial production of plants as signs of rangeland degradation. The results of studies done by Tang *et al.* (2015) in China showed that the changes in plant composition and diversity can lead to disturbances of pastures with a healthy and degraded condition. So, the decrease in the extent of the low diversity of plants is seen as a sign of the rangeland degradation. Waudby *et al.* (2013) had studied the knowledge of herders about the palatability of herbs and herding indicators in Australian ranges. The results indicate that decreasing dominant and palatable plants and the presence of unwanted plants are indicative of degradation of rangelands. Given the above mentioned cases, the purpose of this study was to assess social responsibility among mobile pastoralists and its relation with individual, social and economic characteristics of the respondents.

**Materials and Methods**

Gonbad-e Kavus county is located in northern part of Golestan province (Fig. 1), Iran. It is restricted to Turkmenistan from North, and Azadshahr and Ramian counties in the South, and Maraveh Tappeh, Kalalae and Minoodasht counties from East and Aq Qala county from West. Its area is 5071.32 km<sup>2</sup> accounting for 24.81 percent of the province. Gonbad-e Kavus has 167 populated villages and 10 deserted villages. The total rangeland area of the county is 322,000 ha with an estimated 191,000 livestock units. The county has about 1,600 eligible beneficiaries in the ranges. Also, this county has 72 pastoral units, out of which

59 ones have grazing plan. Of these, nine rangelands plans have nomadic or rural-nomadic exploitation system that approximately consisted of 180 households which have been used commonly. Kormanj nomads arrive at winter rangelands in Gonbad-e Kavus, Kalaleh and Maraveh Tappeh, Golestan province in early November and stay there until early May. The nomadic community (Kurds and Turkmens) has about 370,000 ha rangelands in the Dashli Borun and Maraveh Tappeh districts of the Gonbad and Kaleh counties. Approximately, 120,000 ha rangelands are used by the mobile pastoralists of Khorasan nomads.



**Fig. 1.** Geographical location of studied pastoral units in Gonbad-e Kavus county, Golestan province, Iran

**Development of survey**

Survey method was adopted to conduct this research. Study population was comprised of 180 nomadic households. Using Krejcie-Morgan sample table, 115 households were selected. Sampling was performed using stratified random sampling method in ten pastoral units with the nomadic and nomadic-rural systems (Nomadic rangelands are used only by mobile pastoralists, but nomadic-rural rangelands are used by mobile pastoralists and villagers especially

settled nomads). In this regard, a balance between the exploiters and their proportion in each pastoral unit was calculated; then, sample size was selected per pastoral units (Table 1).

The required information was collected using a questionnaire. Content validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by university academic members and social scientists of rangeland management and reliability was confirmed using Cronbach’s alpha coefficient (Table 2). The first part of

questionnaire included questions related to individual characteristics, the second part included questions about exploiters' opinions on status of rangeland and natural resources. The third part was related to questions on social responsibility index. Rangeland condition index in two parts of plant and soil condition was assessed with nineteen Likert type questions (very low to very high) (1 to 5).

Table 3 shows the used indices and its dimensions. In order to determine the degree of importance and priority of signs of range condition from the perspective of mobile pastoralists, the items are aligned with each other and then, the value of each index was calculated by sum of each item index. It should be noted that comparison was done based on non-weighted linear combination of each index. For this, each index score is divided by its number of items.

Social responsibility index consists of four dimensions, each of which was measured by a number of questions. In sum, 35 questions were used to measure

social responsibility index. Seven questions were for legal dimension, six questions for economic dimension, ten questions for moral dimension and twelve questions for altruism dimension. These questions were measured based on a Likert scale (very low to very high (1 to 5)). It should be noted that all questions (items) used in the assessment of rangeland condition and social responsibility were based on the results of 20 interviews with university academic members and also, experts of Natural Resources Offices in Gorgan and Gonbad-e Kavus counties which took about 700 minutes in sum. Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics (correlation and Kruskal Wallis test) were used for data analysis. To compare social responsibility and respondents' range condition with regard to different groups of education level, Kruskal-Wallis test was used. In order to examine the relationship between demographic characteristics of respondents with their social responsibility index, Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were used.

**Table 1.** Number of exploiters and sample size

Row	Pastoral unit name	Households	Sample size
1	Kuki Chopanchugh	16	10
2	Ghachagh Sheikh	14	9
3	Aghbandkokh	12	8
4	Sonboli Gukche	20	13
5	Haldardi	21	13
6	Gugcheh	25	16
7	Chopanchugh	15	10
8	Ahmacheh Parsiman	20	13
9	Molamusa	37	23
	Total	180	115

**Table 2.** Cronbach's alpha coefficients of indices

Index	Dimensions	No. of items	Cranach's alpha coefficient
Range condition	Vegetation	13	0.730
	Soil	6	0.674
Social responsibility	Range condition	19	0.717
	Legal	7	0.843
	Economic	7	0.746
	Moral	9	0.846
	Altruism	12	0.689

**Table 3.** Indices and their dimensions

<b>Indices</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Items</b>	
Rangeland condition	1-Vegetation	1-Increased size of shrub plants	
		1-Increased number of shrub plants	
		1-Increased diversity of plants	
		1-Increased percent of vegetation	
		1-Suitable vegetation composition	
		1-No visibility of plant roots from top soil	
		1-Increased palatable plants	
		1-Decreased invasive plants	
		1-Increased forage quality	
		1-Less vigorous plants	
	1-Lack of wilting		
	1-Less space between plants		
	1-Increased shavings		
	2-Soil	2- No sheet and rill erosion	
		2-Soil color	
2-Lack of bare soil			
2-Lack of wind erosion			
2-No salt soil			
	2-Soil fertility		
Social responsibility	1-Legal	1-In this rangeland, relationship is a function of utilization system based on regulations	
		1-In my opinion, rangeland farming systems in the region is subject to legal regulations	
		1-In my opinion, exploiters exploit this area in legal manner	
		1-In my opinion, everyone should do his best	
		1-Natural Resources experts' satisfaction is very important to us	
		1-People are right to have a healthy rangeland	
		1-My pleasure is servicing when I benefit	
		2-Economic	2-I am not basically involved in the problems of people because I do not care
			2-I pay much more attention to rangeland profitability
			2-To achieve profits in the exploitation of pastures is more important to me than everything
	2-It is my duty to do something about the people around me anymore		
	2-In my opinion, the main interests of the tribes of the pastures is the exploitation of it		
	3-Moral	2-In the present circumstances, I cannot think of another person	
		3- Dedication is one of the basic principles of life and my work	
		3-Timely payment of taxes is a social task	
		3-If I have a choice between people and pastures, rangelands is more important to me	
		3-Pasture is important to me and my right to consent to do is not important to me	
		3-I think it is the duty of all to prevent from rangeland degradation	
		3-If I help (material or immaterial) someone, I'd do it without expectation	
		3-I would spend some of my time to solve problems of people	
		3-In my opinion, one should keep the surrounding environment clean and healthy	
		3-If any livestock enters to mine, I will return it	
	4- Altruism	3-I always like to help others	
		4- I do not believe that kindness brings its own reward	
		4-I would like to warn others on various issues related to pastures	
		4-I can solve the problem of the problems I'm happy	
		4-To those associated with pastures needs help, I am ready to help	
		4-I am responsible for preventing from rangeland degradation	
		4-I think if Exploiters just do not work according to rules and regulations, there will be no problem	
		4-Sometimes to push things I have to pretend	
		4-Honesty and truthfulness are values in my work I do not accept	
		4-I feel obliged to help poor people	
		4-Helping your fellow man is like worship	
		4-To support the elderly and disabled is a task	
		4-I would love to work with good intentions into different groups and people anymore	

**Results**

According to the results, the average age of respondents was 48.61 years old. The highest and the lowest ages were 81 and 30 years old, respectively. Also, 42.86%

of the respondents with the highest frequency had 46 to 55 years old. As the results showed, 43.81% of respondents were illiterate or literate to read and write and 56.19% had educations at

elementary, secondary and high school levels. In addition, 47.62% of the respondents had 26-35 year experience on livestock husbandry and 62.7% had less than 15 year experience. The lowest frequency of livestock number among respondents was 151 to 200 heads so that most of them i.e. 37.14% had less than 100 heads of livestock. Also, about 61% of respondents had farming experience so that 70.48% of them did not have any agricultural lands. The results of prioritization in terms of vegetation and soil indices are shown in Table 3. Items of "Increased percent of vegetation" and "Increased palatable plants" were prioritized as first and second priorities respectively in the vegetation index. In

other words, exploiters believed that presence of high vegetation cover percent and palatable plants in rangelands are signs of good rangeland condition. However, items "No visibility of plant roots from top soil" and "Increased size of shrub plants" had the lowest mean and were in the last place. The findings of items on soil index indicate that "No sheet and rill erosion" and "Lack of bare soil" were considered as first and second priorities with means 4.11 and 4, respectively so that items "Soil color" and "Lack of wind erosion" had the lowest means (Table 4).

As Table 5 shows, mobile pastoralists believe that vegetation index has a higher importance than the soil index.

**Table 4.** Distribution of the items of range condition index (vegetation and soil)

Dimensions of range condition index	Items	Mean*	SD.	Rank
<u>Vegetation</u>	Increased size of shrub plants	3.51	0.90	13
	Increased number of shrub plants	4.10	1.02	8
	Increased diversity of plants	4.49	1.00	6
	Increased percent of vegetation	4.81	0.78	1
	Suitable vegetation composition	4.52	0.91	5
	No visibility of plant roots from top soil	3.65	0.82	12
	Increased palatable plants	4.66	0.85	2
	Decreased invasive plants	4.60	1.01	3
	Increased forage quality	4.58	0.85	4
	Less vigorous plants	3.95	0.77	11
	Lack of wilting	3.98	0.87	10
	Less space between plants	4.20	0.97	7
	Increased shavings	4.00	1.10	9
<u>Soil</u>	No sheet and rill erosion	4.11	1.00	1
	Soil color	3.60	0.91	5
	Lack of bare soil	4.00	0.85	2
	Lack of wind erosion	3.52	1.11	6
	No salt soil	3.93	0.99	3
	Soil fertility	3.77	0.81	4

\*Range: 1-5

**Table 5.** Prioritization of rangeland degradation indices

Rangeland degradation index	Non-weighted linear combination	SD.	Priority
Vegetation	4.68	0.96	1
Soil	4.21	1.01	2

The distribution of items of social responsibility index is presented in Table 6. Accordingly, the items "the right people who meadows we remain intact" and "I think it is better that anyone in the meadows comply with its duty to act" in the dimension of law are at the highest priorities. So, the items of "satisfying

natural resources experts very important to me" and "my time serving the people enjoy themselves is also an advantage to have" are at the lowest priorities. Likewise, the highest and lowest priorities of items could be understood in other dimensions.

**Table 6.** Frequency distribution of social responsibility items

<b>Social responsibility dimensions</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD.</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Legal	In this rangeland, relationship is a function of utilization system based on regulations	4.44	0.79	5
	In my opinion rangeland farming systems in the region is subject to legal regulations.	4.58	0.87	4
	In my opinion, exploiters exploit this area in legal manner.	4.58	0.81	3
	In my opinion everyone should do his best	4.65	1.00	2
	Natural Resources experts' satisfaction is very important to us.	4.26	0.95	6
	People are right to have a healthy rangeland.	4.71	0.66	1
	I pleasure servicing when I benefit	3.99	0.83	7
Economic	I am basically not involved in the problems of people because I do not care.	3.00	1.21	6
	I pay much more attention to rangeland profitability	4.37	0.98	4
	To achieve profits in the exploitation of pastures is more important to me than everything.	4.82	1.19	3
	It is my duty to do something about the people around me anymore.	2.90	1.10	7
	In my opinion the main interests of the tribes of the pastures is the exploitation of it.	4.83	1.02	2
	In the present circumstances I cannot think of another person.	3.26	1.14	5
	Dedication is one of the basic principles of life and my work.	4.87	0.95	1
Moral	Timely payment of taxes is social task.	3.63	1.11	2
	If I have a choice between people and pastures, rangelands is more important to me.	3.01	1.06	6
	Pasture is important to me and my right to consent to do it is not important to me.	3.14	1.31	5
	I think it is the duty of all to prevent rangeland degradation.	3.75	0.86	1
	If I help (material or immaterial) to someone, I'd do it without expectation.	3.36	1.17	4
	I would spend some of my time to solve problems of people.	2.81	1.42	8
	In my opinion one should keep the surrounding environment clean and healthy.	2.78	0.88	9
Altruism	If any livestock's enters to mine, I will return it	2.94	0.99	7
	I always like to help others	3.57	1.20	3
	I do not believe that kindness brings its own reward	2.91	1.02	8
	I would like to warn others on various issues related to pastures.	4.01	0.87	5
	I can solve the problem of the problems I'm happy.	4.24	0.55	3
	To those associated with pastures needs help, I am ready to help.	4.26	0.89	2
	I am responsible for prevent rangeland degradation	4.24	0.53	1
	I think if Exploiters just do not work according to rules and regulations, there will be no problem.	2.00	1.24	12
	Sometimes to push things I have to pretend.	2.41	1.00	10
	Honesty and truthfulness as a value in my work I do not accept.	2.12	0.88	11
	I feel obliged to help poor people.	3.99	0.91	6
	Helping your fellow man is like worship.	3.97	1.12	7
	To support the elderly and disabled is a task.	2.65	0.95	9
I would love to work with good intentions into different groups and people anymore.	4.18	1.10	4	

For further analysis, Table 7 compares the dimensions of social responsibility index. The results indicate that the moral dimension has greater rank position. The findings also indicate that the economic

dimension is at the lowest rank position in social responsibility index. It should be noted that the non-weighted linear combination is used for this comparison.

**Table 7.** Prioritization of social responsibility dimensions

<b>Social responsibility dimensions</b>	<b>Non-weighted linear combination</b>	<b>SD.</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Legal	3.99	1.13	3
Economic	3.85	1.00	4
Moral	4.32	0.88	1
Altruism	4.05	1.10	2



Results in Table 8 shows that the correlation between age and social responsibility is significant and positive. This means older mobile pastoralists have more social responsibility than younger ones. The level of education has a significant and negative correlation with social responsibility. It means the lower education, the higher social responsibility they have.

The results of Table 9 showed that there were significant and positive correlations between social responsibility and the state of rangeland condition. This relationship was the same between all dimensions of social responsibility and the state of rangeland condition too.

As the results of Table 10 shows, social responsibility among educational groups is different significantly. Social responsibility of illiterate and also who could read and write was more than other

groups. Results also showed that there were no differences between compared groups with regard to range condition.

**Table 8.** Correlation between demographic characteristics and social responsibility index

Variables	Correlation coefficient
Age (year)	0.490**
Education (year)	-0.327*
No. of household members	0.055
No. of livestock	-0.027
Ranching experience (year)	0.378*
Land area (ha)	-0.53
Farming experience (year)	0.288

**Table 9.** Correlation between social responsibility index and range condition index

Social responsibility dimensions	Pearson's Correlation
Legal	0.558**
Economic	0.447*
Moral	0.644**
Altruism	0.530**
Social responsibility	0.565**

**Table 10.** Comparison of social responsibility index and range condition index with regard to education level

Index	Education level (mean rank)					Chi- Square	Sig.
	Illiterate	Reading /writing	Primary	Secondary	High school		
Social responsibility	58.15	60.21	58.73	52.08	50.36	16.350	0.000
Range condition	48.20	50.00	50.18	54.62	49.26	4.772	0.144

## Discussion

One of the important concepts related to development and status of ranges is social responsibility. In this regard, we examined the social responsibility of the mobile pastoralists of winter rangelands in Golestan province. The results showed a positive and significant correlation between age and social responsibility. There was a positive and significant correlation between job history of mobile pastoralists and their social responsibility in management of pastures. Furthermore, the vegetation index was more important than the soil index in determining rangeland condition.

There was a significant and positive relationship between social responsibility and the state of rangelands condition. This means that more responsibility could result in better rangelands condition. Among the dimensions of social responsibility, the ethical dimension was

at the highest level. In this regard, Gupta *et al.* (2007) indicated that the ethical dimension is the most influential in determining social responsibility. Furthermore, the ethical dimension had the strongest correlation with rangelands condition which is consistent with the findings of Khalili *et al.* (2014).

Findings also indicated that there were direct relationships between age and husbandry history of mobile pastoralists with their social responsibility. This relationship was reverse with regard to education level of mobile pastoralists. This means older mobile pastoralists have more responsibility which could result in their more experience than younger mobile pastoralists. Furthermore, younger people had more opportunities for education. Results also showed that social responsibility of mobile pastoralists who had other jobs was more

than others who did not have another job except pastoral husbandry.

### Conclusion

Given that all aspects of social responsibility had direct relationships with range condition, measures are recommended to be taken in enhancing all aspects of social responsibility. It is needed that mobile pastoralists have to be familiar with different aspects of social responsibility so that they could have an effective role in rangeland management. In this regard, providing training courses with focus on individual and collective responsibility is recommended. Focus on moral dimension of responsibility should be at priority because it had the strongest link with range condition.

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## مسئولیت اجتماعی و حفاظت از مراتع: مطالعه‌ای درباره مرتعداران عشایری در استان گلستان، ایران

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**چکیده.** مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی دینفعان یکی از مهم‌ترین عناصر و بخش جدائی‌ناپذیر بهره‌برداری از مراتع می‌باشد. مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی نه‌تنها به سلامت بهتر مرتع می‌انجامد، بلکه رضایت‌مندی دینفعان جهت استفاده پایدار از مراتع را تقویت می‌نماید. مطالعه حاضر به بررسی نقش مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی در وضعیت مراتع عشایری شهرستان گنبد در استان گلستان پرداخته است. تحقیق حاضر با روش تحقیق پیمایشی و در سال ۱۳۹۵ انجام شد. جمعیت مورد مطالعه شامل ۱۸۰ خانوار عشایری بودند که ۱۱۵ خانوار با استفاده از روش نمونه‌گیری طبقه‌بندی شده تصادفی در ۱۰ سامان عرفی مرتعی (نظام عشایری و عشایری-روستایی) انتخاب شدند. ابزار جمع‌آوری اطلاعات پرسشنامه بود که روایی محتوایی آن با استفاده از نظرات اساتید دانشگاه و متخصصان اجتماعی مدیریت مراتع مورد تأیید قرار گرفت. یافته‌ها نشان داد که مسئولیت اجتماعی مرتعداران در حد زیاد قابل ارزیابی می‌باشد. این در حالی است که آنان از نظر بُعد اخلاقی مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی وضعیت بهتری قرار دارند. در مقابل، بُعد اقتصادی مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی در اولویت آخر جای دارد. نتایج نشان داد که رابطه مثبت و معنی‌داری بین مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی و وضعیت مرتع وجود دارد. هم‌چنین، مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی افراد دارای سواد خواندن و نوشتن بیشتر از سایر گروه‌ها از نظر تحصیلات بود. به دلیل وجود ارتباط مثبت بین مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی و وضعیت مراتع، پیشنهاد می‌شود با استفاده از روش‌های مناسب نسبت به تقویت مسئولیت‌پذیری اجتماعی دینفعان به منظور بهبود وضعیت مراتع اقدام گردد.

**کلمات کلیدی:** عشایر مرتعدار، مسئولیت اجتماعی، وضعیت مرتع، سامان عرفی، ایران