



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**SOCIAL CAPITAL, PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
COOPERATIVES AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AMONG
FARMERS IN ISFAHAN, IRAN**

MOHSEN KOOHI NASRABADI

FEM 2012 30

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By

MOHSEN KOOHI NASRABADI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

September 2012

DEDICATION

Dedicated to my late parents, whom I owe everything I having my life, and to my late elder sister who offered great love and care to all the family and to my elder brother who dedicated his life in the war as a martyr.

Dedicated to my beloved wife

"Faezeh"

to my son

"Saeid",

and

my daughter

Shakiba

For all of whom I feel great love and passion inside my heart

Abstract of Thesis present to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in the fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor for Philosophy

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September 2012

Chair: Associate Professor Ma'rof Redzuan, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

The present thesis is an investigation of participation, social capital and farmer's economic empowerment (FEE) in agricultural production cooperatives (APCs) in the rural area in Isfahan Province in Iran. It aims to develop a framework for empowerment to analyze farmer's economic empowerment.

This current thesis begins with an exploration of empowerment and it argues about the concept and philosophy and theories of empowerment. It then builds a conceptual framework of farmer's economic empowerment. Using this framework, three elements of farmer's economic empowerment (FEE) are outlined as follow: enterprise development of farmers, financial assets and marketing strategies. It continues with an explanation of dimensions of participation, subjective and objective participation. Then, it builds a conceptual framework for social capital.

Using this framework, three core elements of social capital are considered as follow: social trust, social relations and social solidarity.

The main survey was conducted during the winter 2010 and spring 2011. Ten agricultural production cooperatives (APCs) have been chosen as samples. All of these APCs have more than 15 years background from date of establishment and have covered 42 villages with 5365 members in rural area in Isfahan Province. In this study, based on Krejcie and Morgan formula, the sample size is 400 farmers who participate in 10 APCs. The primary data has gathered by questionnaires from 400 farmers as the members of mentioned APCs.

The results of the ANOVA test showed that there were significant statistical differences between some demographic variables groups for contributing farmer's economic empowerment. The findings also demonstrate that among seven socio-economic variables, which were studied in current research, education, annual income and cultivated land size were the variables influencing in economic empowerment of farmers. Education had the most impact among this three. It is concluded that education plays an important role in increasing economic empowerment. In the other words among the socio-economic variables, education is the most contributing factor on economic empowerment of farmers.

Results of analyzing of data showed that there was a significant relationship between participation and social capital, as independent variables and farmer's economic empowerment (FEE) as dependent variable ($p=.00$, & $p=.00$).

Three proxies of social capital and two proxies of participation were measured in this study, among which social trust appeared as the contributing factor or key function of economic empowerment. It was the most significant social capital variable which contributed to the level of overall economic empowerment of members of APCs. Objective participation, subjective participation and social solidarity were also found to be the key factors in enhancing the farmer's economic empowerment. It is concluded that social trust and social solidarity as two dimensions of social capital and participation are positively affecting on economic empowerment of farmers in agricultural production cooperatives in Isfahan Province in Iran.

Abstrak Tesis dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENYERTAAN, MODAL SOSIAL DAN PEMERKASAAN EKONOMI KALANGAN
PETANI DALAM KOPERASI PENGELUARAN PERTANIAN DI DAERAH ISFAHAN,
IRAN**

Oleh

MOHSEN KOOHI NASRABADI

September 2012

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Ma'rof Redzuan, PhD

Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia

Tesis ini merupakan satu penyelidikan terhadap penyertaan, modal sosial dan pemerksaan ekonomi petani (FEE) dalam koperasi pengeluaran pertanian (APCs) di kawasan luar bandar di daerah Isfahan di Iran. Ia bertujuan untuk mereka bentuk satu rangka kerja pemerksaan bagi menganalisa pemerksaan ekonomi petani.

Tesis ini dimulakan dengan penerokaan terhadap Seterusnya ia menggariskan konsep dan falsafah pemerksaan dan membahaskan mengenai teori pemerksaan. Ia kemudiannya membina rangka kerja konsep pemerksaan ekonomi petani. menggunakan rangka kerja ini, tiga elemen memperksakan ekonomi petani (FEE) digariskan seperti berikut: pembangunan perusahaan petani, aset kewangan dan strategi pemasaran.

modal sosial dan membina kerangka konsep bagi modal sosial. Menggunakan rangka kerja ini, tiga elemen teras modal sosial adalah seperti berikut: kepercayaan sosial, perhubungan sosial dan perpaduan sosial. Ini diteruskan dengan penerangan dimensi penyertaan, penyertaan subjektif dan objektif. Kaji selidik telah dijalankan pada musim sejuk 2010 dan musim bunga 2011. Sepuluh koperasi pengeluaran pertanian (APCs) telah dipilih sebagai sampel. Semua APCs telah mempunyai lebih daripada 15 tahun pengalaman daripada tarikh penubuhan dan telah meliputi 42 kampung dengan 5365 ahli di kawasan luar bandar di daerah Isfahan. Dalam kajian ini, berdasarkan formula Krejcie dan Morgan, saiz sampel ialah 400 petani yang menyertai dalam 10 APCs. Data primer telah dikumpul dengan menggunakan soal selidik daripada 400 petani yang menjadi ahli dalam APCs.

Hasil daripada ujian ANOVA menunjukkan bahawa terdapat perbezaan statistik yang signifikan antara beberapa kumpulan pembolehubah demografi dalam menyumbang kepada modal sosial, penyertaan dan pemeraksanaan ekonomi petani. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan dalam kalangan tujuh pembolehubah sosio-ekonomi yang dikaji dalam kajian ini, hanya pendidikan merupakan pembolehubah yang mempengaruhi ketiga-tiga pembolehubah bersandar. Ini menyimpulkan bahawa pendidikan memainkan peranan yang penting dalam meningkatkan modal sosial, penyertaan dan pemeraksanaan ekonomi.

Keputusan analisis data menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungan yang signifikan antara modal sosial dan penyertaan sebagai pembolehubah tidak bersandar dan pemeraksanaan ekonomi petani (FEE) sebagai pembolehubah bersandar ($p=.00$, & $p=.00$).

Tiga proksi modal sosial dan dua proksi penyertaan telah diukur di dalam kajian ini, dimana kepercayaan muncul sebagai faktor penyumbang atau fungsi utama pemeraksanaan ekonomi. Ia merupakan pembolehubah modal sosial yang paling signifikan yang menyumbang kepada tahap keseluruhan pemeraksanaan ekonomi ahli APCs.

Penyertaan objektif dan penyertaan subjektif juga didapati menjadi faktor utama dalam pemeraksanaan ekonomi petani. Dapat disimpulkan bahawa kepercayaan social dan penyertaan secara positifnya mempengaruhi pemeraksanaan ekonomi petani dalam koperasi pengeluaran pertanian di daerah Isfahan di Iran.

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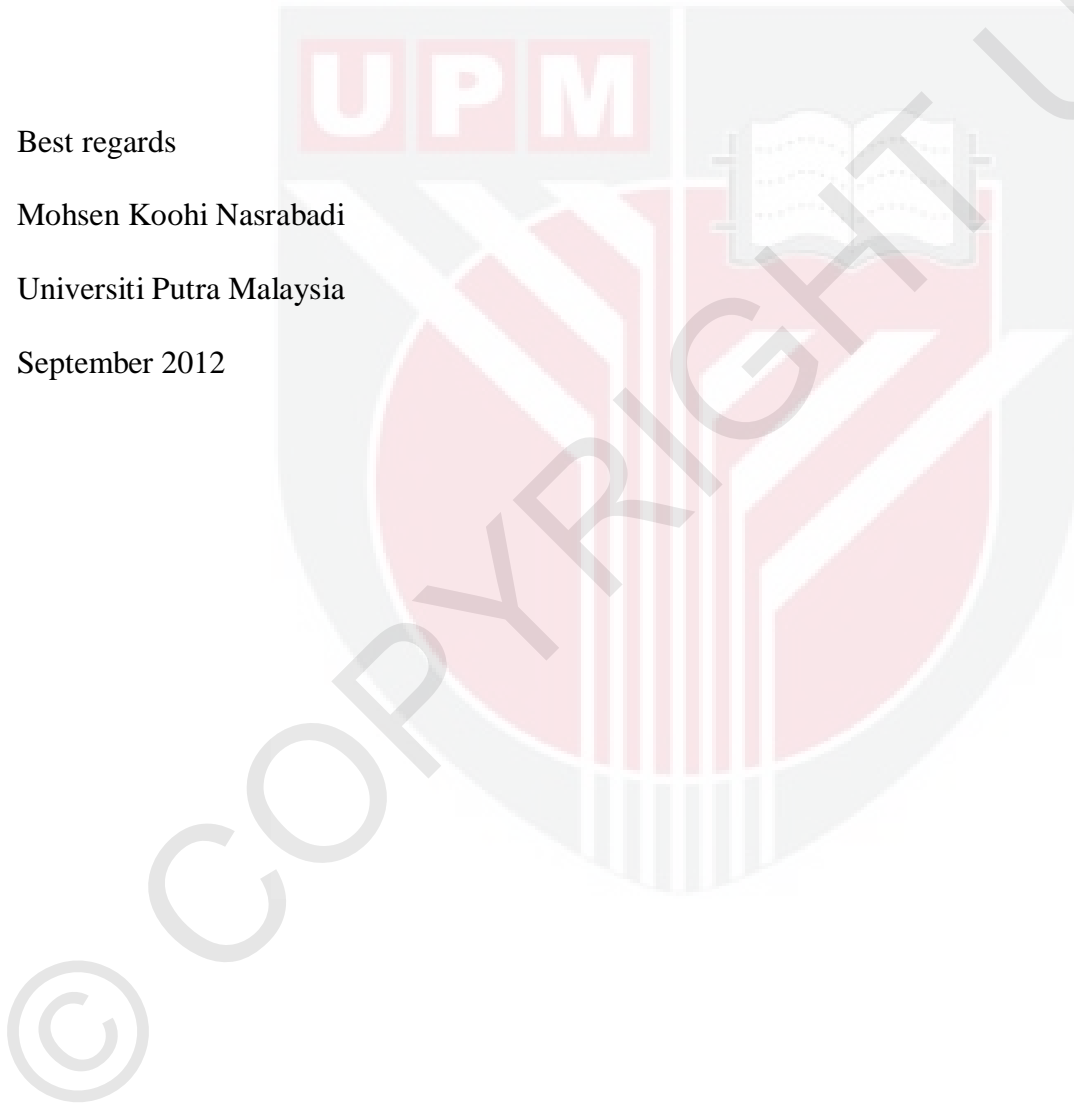
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Best regards

Mohsen Koochi Nasrabadi

Universiti Putra Malaysia

September 2012



This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

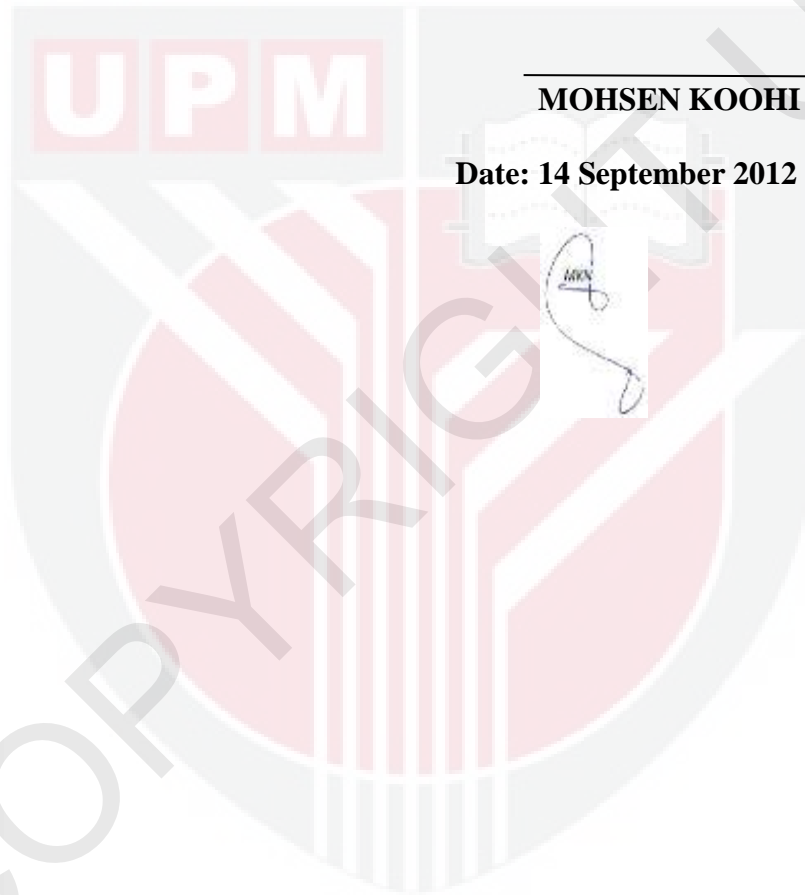


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