

## **Abstract**

Iran is located in the world's dry belt and about 61 percent of the country has a dry climate and very dry. Currently, the desertification is considered as one of the biggest environmental problems of central, southern and eastern Iran. In the socioeconomic sphere, this phenomenon causes a decrease in operating income, overcome poverty and eventually discharge and the depletion of habitations of human society but it can be taken to counter and mitigate the effects of that the first step is the accurate understanding of this phenomenon and its impact on different dimensions based on that, strategies and solutions can be applied to solve this issue. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the functional role of socioeconomic factors on the process of desertification (Case study: northern city of Hirmand). The study, households (rural farmers) villages located in the northern city of Helmand (Qorqori district) respectively. Qorqori section has 74 villages and 3,242 households respectively. The statistical sample of 343 heads of households were selected using a formula-Cochrane. And tools for collecting data was a questionnaire. Validity or content validity of the questionnaire was approved with some experts in the field of economic, social and Natural Resources. To establish the reliability, a pre-test questionnaire was taken that its Cronbach's alpha values were in an appropriate extent for indicators of socio-economic indicators for the psychological 0.84 and 0.94. Economic and social data analysis using descriptive statistics including frequency, mean and standard deviation and inferential analyzes compare the mean differences, T-TEST, ANOVA and Pearson correlation was performed based on EXCEL and SPSS software. The results showed that, low income, acreage, livestock numbers, fuel type used by villagers, immigration and education as indicators have known effective on desertification that illiteracy has higher effect among them as a marginal effect in the study area of the development of desertification. Therefore, in these villages have held training courses and to reduce the impact of livestock on factory farms desertification have become traditional livestock that would-be possible through low-interest loans cheap and the villagers.

**Keywords:** desertification, rural households, social and economic factors



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