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**The Thesis Submitted for the Degree of M. Sc
In the field of Watershed Management**

**Assessing the Socio-Economic Effects of Natural Resource
Projects from the Perspective of the Beneficiaries of Seyed
Morteza Watershed in Rabor City**

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Abstract

The planning and administration of watershed projects are performed with the participation of watershed residents and so in order to develop of the areas and preserving of the water and soil resources. The aim of this research was to evaluate the socio-economic effects of the performance natural resource projects from the perspective of the watershed inhabitants of Seyed Morteza watershed of Rabor city located in Kerman province. Since the jobs of farmers and ranchers depend on water, the rainfall control and storage can play an important role in the livelihood of farmers and ranchers. This research was done by descriptive and analytical method and the questionnaire was used to collect field data. The statistical community of this research is all heads of beneficiary households and resident in Seyed Morteza district in Rabor city, which includes 180 households. Among them, 130 households were assessed in person by a simple random method using Cochran's formula. The content validity of the questionnaire was performed using the opinions of natural resources and watershed experts. In order to check the internal stability of the questionnaire questions, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used in SPSS 22 software and the reliability test was used. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the analysis of the collected information. Then, the social and economic effects arising from the watershed structures were surveyed and prioritized with the dispersion coefficient test. The results of the research indicate that among social activities, increasing of the people's participation in decision-making after the watershed management operations with a dispersion coefficient of 0.378, and also among economic activities, increasing of the job opportunities with a dispersion coefficient of 0.397 was the first priority. The results show that the residents and local communities of the Seyed Morteza watershed had relative satisfaction from the implemented watershed projects, especially in the case of projects that reduce flood damage, ensure the safety of people's lives, as well as residential houses and their lands, and preserving of the communication roads, increasing of the productions and crops and decreasing in the immigration. The results of this study showed that by involving people in the implementation of projects, the effects of the projects are tangible for them and they cooperate more. The obtained results showed that, from the point of view of the stakeholders, the implementation of natural resources projects in this area has had a positive effect on increasing of the job opportunities, increasing of the agricultural productions, increasing of the garden crops and increasing of the livestock productions in the area.

Key words: Economic effects, Social effects, Social participation, Watershed management, Flood and its damages.