**Relationship between social solidarity and conflicts over using shared natural resources of Dorgeh Sangi wetland**

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**Abstract**

Evidence indicates that there are conflicts and competition over the use of natural resources among the farmers while trying to meet their basic needs and provide their conflicting interests. The present study was carried out in order to investigate the relationship between social solidarity and the conflicts in the use of shared natural resources like water, animal species, and plantation in 4 villages of the basin of “Dorgeh Sangi wetland of Urmia Lake, Iran”. The present study was a descriptive-correlational one in which Cochran Formula was employed to determine the sample size of 185 individuals who were selected in a random method and using proportional allocation. The descriptive results of the study indicated that the villagers used the resources existing in Dorgeh Sangi wetland in an indiscriminate and unprincipled manner. The analytical results also showed that there was a significant inverse relationship between social solidarity and the rate of conflicts over the use of shared resources. The results of the regression analysis indicated that the components of social solidarity (the villagers’ tendency toward each other, the interaction among the villagers, and the conflicts among the villagers) predicted 0.62 of the changes in conflicts over the use of shared resources of Dorgeh Sangi wetland. In fact the social solidarity available among the villagers can lead to unity and solidarity among the villagers against the Environmental Protection Agency employers for indiscriminate use of the water resources, vegetation, and animal species of the wetland. It is suggested that the villagers should be provided with necessary training about sustainable use of the resources available in the wetland. Moreover, the communication among the Environmental Protection Agency employers and the villagers should be improved so that a trust-based relationship can be established among them.

**Keywords:** Conflict; Dorgeh Sangi wetland; Natural resources; Social solidarity