Effects of livelihood assets on food security of rural households in the COVID-19 condition

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Introduction

- In early December 2019, the outbreak of Covid-19, a new form of severe respiratory syndrome, began in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China (Harapan et al., 2020).
- Covid-19 disease has had a profoundly negative impact on all sectors, including: economic, social, cultural and educational.
- Due to the lack of knowledge of scientific communities about the effects of coronavirus and its threats to human societies particularly rural area in developing world, this study was conducted with the aim of investigating the effect of livelihood assets on food security during the Corona period in rural areas of southern Iran.

Methods

- This study was planned and carried out through a sectional online survey.
- The statistical population of this study was farmers in Dashtestan County of Bushehr province in southern Iran.

- The sample comprises 235 farmers selected through a multistage random sampling procedure.
- The Data were collected by a questionnaire administered during face-to-face interviews with farmers.
- SPSSversion24 software was used to analyze the data.

Results

- The results show that households are not in a favorable position in terms of food security because more than 70% of them are in a state of food insecurity and their biggest problem during pandemic has been their inability to prepare a balanced diet and worry about running out of food.

- The results regarding the effects of corona virus on livelihood assets (financial, psychological, physical, human, social and natural) showed that the highest effect of coronavirus on financial and psychological resources.

- The results showed that there was a significant difference between the effects of coronavirus and food security levels.

- The results of rural households' livelihoods assist on the levels of food security in corona virus conditions showed that four assets including psychological, physical, human and financial have positive and significant effects on rural household food security.

Conclusions

- The results of the present study could help planners and policymakers identify ways to improve rural households' livelihoods in coping with COVID-19.