Criminological review of Violence (Library Research in Some Cities in Iran)

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive - analytical study using a document library and field studies aimed at identifying areas of effective In formation and development of strategies to deal with violence and consequently predicts took the field in 1391(2012). Violence tends to be short, areas are divided into four categories, this area include: Biological, psychological, social and cultural rights Most significant trends in the social context of violence and the social dimension, Structural disparities major role in people's attitudes to violence, especially violence and individual and group social uprisings. The main tool to deal with violence in society in terms of social trends, strategies that aim to reduce the level of structural disparities And the political and economic practices largely into two categories fit. In addition, specific skills training, life skills training, especially for handling anger plays a key role in curbing the violence. The practice of religious teachings and rituals can help people more effectively with stressful situations likely to be encountered.

Introduction

Violence is a vague concept that has massive impacts on social life of people, and people have suffered loss and damages in the course of time, in spite of a theoretical consensus on the denial of such impacts. However, human being does not always commit or suffer from violence. There are some glorious times during the course of history, when people have sought a way to dominate violence against others (Wortley, 2002). The concern of today's society is the increasing outbreak of violence, whose news is issued in several columns of newspapers every day, or which is observed day by day in social or individual levels.

The increase in the rate of homicide, battery, rape, disputes, and outbreak of wars, internal strife, ethno-religious conflicts, and social riots indicate that tendency to violence is increasing steadily and its model is changing. Until the last decade, it was generally thought that violence was restricted only to special categories of violence including violence against women or children. Today, it is not however enough to limit our concern to one or only several special types of violence (Gilling, 2005).

Violence is sometimes a protesting answer to the internal and external pressures imposed to those committing violence, and sometimes the realization of fear and anxiety. The effective role of violent acts in committing crimes is an important reason to include violence and methods of quelling violence in criminology. Such an effective impact on the commitment of crimes requires finding solutions of quelling violence (Wortley, 2002).

Perhaps, we are experiencing tendency to violence in this era more than other times in the history. Pressure of daily life on people, unstable social conditions, and generally the pressures imposed by life direct have psychological effects on individuals to direct them to violence. Certainly, one of the causes of violence, especially pervasive social violence, is the abnormal conditions of societies. Economic difficulties, political disorders, and infringing the fundamental rights of individuals pave the way for unrest and socially pervasive violence. The outbreak of violence, in any form, has caused concern. The questions are what violence is in essence, which factors are involved in the commitment of violence, and what solutions can be employed to confront violence. These are only a part of questions that may be faced by us on violence at the first look.

Now, the question is what solutions can be provided to solve this problem. Certainly, some measures are to be combined to fight against violence. That is, the methods of social and situational preventions are to be applied together to confront tendency to violence. Another solution is to pay attention to the issues that were ignored up to now, for example education. Alleviating the pressures of life and acquiring personal and social skills are the facts of life that have been realized in different forms during the course of time. The complications of today's life accompanied with the development of metropolises, and enhancement of interpersonal, educational, and occupational communications require to be equipped with different skills including the skills of confronting stress and anxiety. The improvement of life skills helps people to cope with the tensions of life. To cope with violence and provide appropriate solutions for this purpose, it is required to recognize and study the grounds for tendency to violence. The deeper such recognition is, more efficient the strategies chosen to fight violence are.

Although some studies have been carried out on the social aspects of violence and the coping methods, they are not sufficient, and other studies have to be done to fill the gap. One of the fields that must be researched, because of the relation existing between violence and crime, is criminal law. For this purpose, we aim to review the literature of research and find out the essential methods of coping with tendency to violence in social fields of Iran.

Review of Literature

Violence Studies

Definition of Violence

According to Black's Law Dictionary, violence is the unlawful, aggressive, and unjust use of power, and it has been interpreted as the misuse of power against freedoms and public

rights. Violent crimes are those ones with adverse physical impacts, and this feature is necessary for recognizing such acts as crimes (Campbell, 1998). In French language, violence has the following meanings:

1-The use of any physical force leading to injury or abuse;

2-Damaging by paralyzing or disabling somebody, or making something inefficient;

3-The use of any violent force, feeling, and threatening or destroying expression (Taheri, 2006)

In general, violence is a type of behavior of a person, who uses physical or nonphysical force to impose his or her intent to any other person. This might be the simplest definition of violence. However, due to the vastness of the concept of violence, the definition must not be limited only to one aspect. Therefore, relatively different definitions have been provided for violence in the different disciplines of human sciences including sociology, epistemology, political science, philosophy, psychology, criminology, and religion studies. In the following, we define violence from the perspective of religion and criminology.

In terms of criminology, violence is the illegal and unlawful use of force and power (Najafi Abrandabadi, 2000). In religion, violence is to put pressure or afflict damages, whether physical or nonphysical, on somebody excluding those cases prescribed in the religion. The point in this definition is the permission or prohibition of the violating act by the religion. According to the above facts, the following definition is provided for violence:

"Any intentional behavior that hurts somebody, causes financial damages, or imposes special conditions to an individual, a group of people, or the perpetrator him/herself, who do not deserve such consequences, due to internal or external conditions, whether with a special intention or for abreaction". The following results are extracted from this definition:

1-Unintentional acts are not to be considered as violence, event they cause considerable losses and damages to the other party. It must be noted that violence is not always synonymous with crime in order to consider intentional crime as a typical specimen of violence. Indeed, the extensions of violence and crime may overlap.

2-Violence is not limited to physical acts. Therefore, the realization of violence is not provided to physical acts, and verbally violent acts such as insults and slurs are considered as violence.

3-The damage from violence is not limited to physical types; rather it includes mental traumas too.

4-It is not required that violence is committed against any other person. That is, any violent act against one's self is regarded as violence.

5-It is not necessary that an act is conducted unlawfully or illegally to consider it as a violent act, since legal or authorized violent acts are excluded from this definition. Indeed, legality or lawfulness of an act shall not exclude it from violent acts.

6-Violence shall not cover only individuals. It may be used against different groups or a society, even if it is not imposed to each individual. An example of violence against a group of people is war against a country (Gilling, 2005).

The Causes of Violence

In recent century, scientists and sociologists have spent time diligently to find the motives and causes of increasing violence and aggressions in personal and social life during the present era (Morrison, 2006). Various questions have been framed by sociologists on violence and aggressions including why do some people act violently, what are the most important factors effective in aggressive behavior, and many other questions. To answer these questions, different notions have been framed. Some of these notions focused on human being and his nature as the decisive and effective factors of tendency to violence. In these notions, psychological motives and factors are introduced as the main factors of violence and aggressiveness. On the other hand, some other approaches question the role of individual in the eruption of violence, and in contrast, they focus on social, political, and economic structures as the effective factors of aggressions, and committing violence. This paper aims to introduce and study the most important approaches and theories on violence in social fields.

When the theories of frustration-aggression hypothesis and instinctive behaviors were counted relatively unsuccessful in providing an account of violence and aggression, the researchers of humanities turned attention to sociological approaches as regards violence (Morrison, 2006). In this section, sociological approaches and theories that are related to criminology are introduced. For this purpose, this section is divided into two parts. At first, the theories are explained. This part addresses therefore theoretical issues. In the second part, social conditions and existing indices are addressed. Social condition here has a general meaning and it includes cultural and economic conditions. As cultural grounds, above all media, must be discussed due to its importance in another study, we exclude it from our research.

First Part: Sociological Theories

In general, the sociological theories on violence, especially political violence, can be categories into three groups. The first group includes Marxist analyses of violence, which was employed in the Soviet Union's sociology as the main axis of analysis of revolutionary phenomena, and broad and violent forms of political change.

In addition to Marxist theories, there are generally two groups of sociological analyses. The first group includes the theories on the relation between social expectations and meeting them and the balance between them establishes the basis of each society. According to these theories, and any deviation from such a balance leads to violence. According to De Tocqueville, a society may face the crisis of political violence if it goes into a short depression after a long time economic and social development and it returns to the period before the upturn. Crane Brinton, James Davis, and Ted Robert Gurr are proponents of these theories (Fokouhi, 1999).

Another group of theories was provided by functionalists such as Emile Durkheim, Parsons, and modern functional sociologists such as Johnson and Smelser, who always emphasized on the necessity of equilibrium in society. In each society, new social norms, values, and roles are emerged because of the increase in the divisions of social work and complication of the relations, and members of that society are to conform themselves to such norms and values in order to find their position in new conditions, and preserve their solidarity in their society. Despite this fact, the members of societies are not always able to do so, and especially when changes accelerate, they cannot conform to the changes. As a result, they face strains, and stress, and such an imbalance leads to personal or group violence (Fokouhi, 1999).

We must add the theory of "social learning" to the above-mentioned theories. According to social learning theory,

violence and aggressions are learnt by people like all other behaviors. The proponents of this theory believe that although frustration may lead to violent behavior, all of those, who experience frustration, do not necessarily display aggression. This theory focuses on the process of socialization as the root of tendency to violence. Socialization is a process, through which children learn behaviors, attitudes, and values within their culture. By socialization, children learn specific behavioral patterns that will accompany them until their adulthood. Accordingly, violence is a behavior too, which is learnt, and it accompany people until their death. Albert Bandura, Gabriel Tarde, and Edwin Sutherland, developer the theory of differential association, are the researchers, who presented their theories within the theory of social learning.

Second Part: Iran Conditions in terms of the Indices of Structural Deprivation

In this part, some social indices of deprivation in Iran are addressed, and the problems are discussed.

Population Policies

The growth of the young population of each country may be a factor of increase in violent behaviors based on local and temporal conditions including social, cultural, political, and economic situations. Iran is a country with a young population on the one hand, and a developing country in terms of development index on the other hand. The imbalance between the population growth of Iran and economic growth level has created social conditions, whose deleterious consequences are not only harmful to economic sector but also, disastrous politically, socially, and culturally.

The results of the censuses that have been carried out in Iran since 1956 at intervals of 10 years show that the population of Iran has been increased by 4.5 times during the last 50 years.[1] What makes this change more important is its quality. Increase in the population was not equal in all ages, and the young generation had a higher percentage in population growth in comparison to other age groups. The statistics show that the population of the age group of 15-24 years has been increased by 4.2 times during the period from 1956 to 1996, while the total population of Iran has been increased by 3.2 times during the same period. That is, the ratio of the young population to the total population has been changed from 15.6% to 2.54% (Aghai, 2008). The census carried out in 1986 gave a warning to the authorities, as the birth rate was increased drastically during the period from 1981 to 1986. At that time, the authorities forecasted that the population of the age group of 0 to 4 years would grow up to the age ranges of 10-14 in 1996, and 20-25 in 2006. Hence, the demographic composition of Iran in 2010s is very decisive in all political, social, and economic aspects.

In some countries, the relation between young population and violent crimes has been studied. For example, it was reported in French that in 1975, 86% of violent crimes such as armed robbery, or physical assaults were committed by the young people under the age of 25. In addition, 77% of the cases of ravishment, and 82% of the cases of robberies using torture were carried out by the youth between the ages of 16 to 30 (Peyrefitte, 1998).

Anyhow, the population of Iran has a special age group that has its own needs, such as marriage, employment, housing,

pleasure, etc, which cannot be met mainly by families. On the other hand, the age group that forms the majority of Iranian population is full of physical abilities and potential energies, which enables them to take any action individually or collectively. Although the present conditions is a result of the unwise polities of 1980s in Iran, measures can be taken to change this threat to an opportunity, and use this considerable force for the development of the country in order to prevent any disadvantages that may lead to violence among the young generation.

Immigration

Immigration is an index that can be used to reveal any structural deprivation throughout the country. In addition, immigration may create the grounds of committing offences and tendency to violence among immigrants. As most immigrants, who arrived a new environment, are not able to conform to the cultural atmosphere of that society, and have little information about the sociological characteristics of the new environment, and as they may be subject to humiliation and in some cases threatened by the native inhabitants of that society, they are under devastating pressure and feel deprived more than other people may do. As a result, these conflicts, pressures, and disadvantages may increase the potentials of violence in the immigrants. In the following, the statistics are applied to study immigration in Iran and its causes.

In 2006, the Statistical Center of Iran issued an estimate about the arrived immigrants during the last 10 years based on the gender, age, and reason of immigration. Some of its information is important for the purpose of this research. According to that report, 12,148,148 individuals went through immigration. From that population, 1,063,035 individuals immigrated for employment purposes, and 5,589,508 immigrants followed their families. Meanwhile, 609,791 individuals went through immigration for finding a better work (www.Salnameh.Sci.org.ir).[2]

According to the statistics, more than half of the immigrants had occupational purposes, and it is revealed that these people could not find any appropriate job in their primary residence; therefore, they had to immigrate. This shows that deprivation is not distributed throughout Iran equally, some regions suffer from deprivation more than other regions do, and development facilities are not made available in all parts of the country. This has caused that the people of some regions feel relatively deprived, and motivated to immigrate to other regions with lower deprivation. Among the immigrants, 2,497,177 individuals were 20 to 24 years old, and 2,112,641 ones 25 to 29 years old (Ibid). As mentioned in the section of population policies, this increasing population is the result of the unwise policies made during 1980s in Iran.

Looking at the statistics of each province reveals that most of the immigrants, i.e. 2,195,024 individuals, poured into Tehran province. From this number of immigrants, 132,610 ones searched for job, 102,926 ones for better jobs, and 1,061,844 ones followed their families. The next provinces that welcomed immigrants were Khorasan Razavi (870,784), and Isfahan (676,586) respectively (Ibid). All of these three provinces are industrialized, privileged, and economic hubs of Iran.

As regards emigration, the statistics show that the rate of emigration has increased, and about 25 percent of all educated

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[1] In 2006, the population of Iran was declared at 70,472,846. See: http:// www.Farsnewz. Com code: 8602250307 (25/02/1386)

[2] See Statistics Yearbook of the Statistical Center of Iran, available in http:// www.Salnameh. Sci. org. ir (02/03/2011)

Iranian people live in developed countries. According to the statistics of IMF, around 150,000 to 180,000 Iranian individuals leave Iran for emigration. Among 91 countries in the world, Iran has the first rank in emigration (www. Fardanews.com).

Unemployment

Long-term unemployment is stressful, and such stresses and tensions may direct the person towards abnormal and antisocial behaviors. Certainly, unemployment in Iran is affected by the huge number of the young individuals entered labor market to find job. The increase in graduated people, which had not precedent in the past, and their job search have created a high demand for employment in labor market, in such a way that all job opportunities and facilities of the country can only meet half of the demands. Therefore, it is required to develop new plans and complementary methods to control the consequences of such insatiable demands (Samara, 2003).

Some contradictory studies have been conducted in European countries on the relation between unemployment and tendency to violence. For example, in a research conducted by French researchers, two different periods, during which unemployment crisis was exacerbated, were selected, and the criminal statistics of those periods were compared with each other. The first period was from 1931 to 1939, and the next the period between 1965 and 1973. All researches and studies showed that there was no relation between unemployment crises and the activities of criminal tribunals.

Another study conducted between 1953 and 1973 showed that both variables had an upward trend during this period (Peyrefitte, 1998). However, unemployment is an index that can reveal the level of structural deprivation in societies, and increase the dissatisfaction level of the public leading to social violence and civil disorders. In addition, unemployment may drive individuals to offences. According to Islamic teachings, people are prohibited from living without working, as unemployment may cause people do evil.

In the statistics issued in 2009 by the Statistical Center of Iran, the rates of unemployment of each gender in each province were provided for a period of 10 years. The highest unemployment rate belongs to Hormozgan province (9.6 %). Kerman and Tehran achieved the second rank in unemployment (9.11), and the third rank was awarded to Kohgiluye and Boyer-Ahmad province (8.14). In the following, the unemployment rates of the previous years of each province have been studied.

In 2001, the average unemployment rate of Iran was 2.14%, and meanwhile, Markazi province had the highest rate equal to 9.8%. In 2005, the average unemployment rate increased by 5.11%, and Sistan and Baluchistan province had the highest rate equal to 9.9. In 2006, this rate had a 2-percent decrease and reached 3.11%. At this time, Khuzestan was had the highest rate equal to 9.12. In 2007, the average rate of unemployment increased again and reached 5.10%, and Golestan province was the first ranked province in terms of unemployment rate. In 2008, the average rate of unemployment was declared equal to 4.10, and Ardebil with the average unemployment rate of 9.9% the province with the most unemployed people. In 2009, the average unemployment rate increased unprecedentedly and reached 9.11%. At the same time, Hormozgan province had the highest unemployment rate (9.6) among other provinces. The statistics show that unemployment is not solved unless the related authorities take diligently all required measures (www.salnameh.sci.org).

Economic Status

Economic and financial status of people in any society is considered as a development index of that society. In poor and underdeveloped countries, most people suffer from poor economic conditions, the gap between different social classes is increased, and the total income of many people is less than poverty threshold. In contrast, the gap between the different classes of developed societies is insignificant, and most people have satisfactory incomes.

Economic factors are the causes of many tensions and struggles within the society and even in families. Stress imposed on people due to economic disadvantages paves the way for many aggressions. Anyhow, economic factors may cause many pervasive political and social violent acts. Therefore, the improvement of economic conditions may be an important measure to reduce dissatisfactions, cope with the feeling of relative deprivation, and as a result, the tendency to individual or collective-level violence.

To have a better analysis of the economic conditions in Iran, it is required to study some existing statistical data in this regard.

According to the head of the Statistical Center of Iran in 2009, the income of 10 million people was below the absolute poverty threshold, and that of 30 million others less than relative poverty threshold (www.aftabnews.ir).[3]

In 2009, the poverty threshold was 850 thousand Tomans per month for a 5-member family living in Tehran, while this threshold was 780 thousand Tomans a year ago. Moreover, the poverty threshold in big cities was 780 thousand Tomans in 2009. It must be noted that it is not possible to determine the national poverty threshold of Iran, since there is a considerable difference in terms of development in the different sectors in Iran. For example, the poverty threshold in Tehran was 400 thousand Tomans in 2004, while it was equal to 178 thousand Tomans in Zaheden in the same year (www.farsnews.com).[4] In 2009, 6,886,394 individuals were financially supported by the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation. From this number, 1,562,544 persons were covered by Shahid Rejai Plan, and 5,323,850 ones by relief work plan. These people, who are covered by these plans, form 5.25 percent of the total population of Iran (www.salnameh.sci.org).[5]

It is also required to look at the average income and expenses of a rural and an urban family for three years of 2007, 2008, and 2009. The department of demographic statistics, labor, and census of the President's Office has studied the total income and expenses of rural and urban families during the above-mentioned three years and provided the following statistics:[6]

The total average expenses of a rural family were 48,846,045 Rials in 2007, 53,994,926 Rials in 2008, and 59,263,578 Rials in 2009. It shows that the expenses of a rural family had a 10.54-percent increase in 2008 in comparison to

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[3] See Aftab News agency available in http:// www.Aftabnews. Ir code: 100272 (07/03/1389).
[4] See Fars News Agency available in http:// www.Fansnews. Com code: 8712200266 (20/12/1387)
[5] See the Statistical Yearbook of the Statistical Center of Iran available in http:// salnameh. Sci. org. ir (02/03/2011)
[6] For more information, see the brief results of the census of incomes and expenses of rural and urban families in 2009 attached to this paper.

the year 2007, and a 9.76-percent increase in 2009 in comparison to the year 2008. Meanwhile, the average incomes of a rural family were 47,106,949 Rials in 2007, 48,423,874 Rials in 2008, and 52,437,600 Rials in 2009. Accordingly, the increase in the income of a rural family in 2008 was only 2.80 percent, and such and increase reached 8.29 percent in the next year.

Now, we look at the incomes and expenses of an urban family during the same three years. The total average expenses of an urban family were 81,289,139 Rials in 2007, 94,214,107 Rials in 2008, and 99,191,329 Rials in 2009. That is, the expenses of an urban family had a 15.9-percent increase in 2008 in comparison to the previous year, and a 5.28-percent increase in 2009 in comparison to the year 2008. Meanwhile, the average incomes of an urban family were 77,994,257 Rials in 2007, 88,219,386 Rials in 2008, and 93,602,471 Rials in 2009. These statistics show that the increase in the income of an urban family in 2008 was 13.11 percent, and such and increase was reduced to 6.10 percent in the year 2009 (the brief results of the census of incomes and expenses of rural and urban families in 2009).

These statistics show that the incomes and expenses of families were not in conformity with each other, and the relation between income and expense was negative during all these three years. Moreover, the average income of the families had *never* been more than the average expenses of the same families during this period.

Moreover, the statistics show that despite the diligent efforts of the authorities, and considerable progresses in the different fields in Iran, no significant progress was made in the economic sector, especially the more tangible sectors that are related directly to the life of people. Considering that economic sectors are in direct relation to the psychological conditions of people, many aggressions and violent acts in individual level are committed because of such stresses, which are the results of economic pressures imposed on the perpetrators. In social terms, the economic conditions of Iran can cause the feeling of deprivation in a broad range of people, and lead to social dissatisfactions that may increase in social and civil protests, social violence, and as a result the possibility of political violence. Therefore, enough attentions are to be paid to the economic status in national level.

Methods of Prevention of and Coping with Violence

Criminology is the scientific study of criminal phenomena. The main objective of this science is to recognize the factors effective in the commitment of crimes, and finding the solutions for deterring the realization of such factors. Therefore, crime prevention is an integral part of criminology and one of its important objectives (Tavris, 2009). Several definitions have been provided for prevention in criminology. Some scholars have defined it as "a series of criminal policies, excluding penal measures, whose exclusive or at least partial goal is to restrict the possibility of the commitment of crimes" (Najafi Abrand Abadi, 1999).

In another definition, prevention has been defined as "any action or tactic employed by an individual or public organizations to reduce the damages of the acts described by the government as criminal acts" (McLaughling & Muncie, 2001). The definition of prevention helps us to categorize the measures required for the prevention of crimes. Within the framework of preventive criminology and based on the different criteria, prevention has been classified into general and specific prevention, active and passive prevention, prevention based on

medical model, situational and social prevention, defensive and releasing prevention (Tavris, 2009).

In this paper, we focused on general and specific crime prevention methods as the solutions of deterring factors that are effective in tendency to violence. For this purpose, general prevention includes any measure that is applied against all criminal factors, and specific prevention is any measure that is employed to deter the commitment of a specific criminal act.

Methods of Coping with the Social Factors of Tendency to Violence

Social factors can be traced to violence, whether in individual or collective levels such as social unrests. The most fundamental solutions for coping with social factors triggering violence is to apply the measures, whose goal is to fight against social disadvantages and fair distribution of the facilities required for meeting legitimate goads and desires. For this purpose, these solutions are divided into two economic and political levels.

Economic Solutions

As mentioned in the social factors involved in tendency to violence, the feeling of structural deprivation is one of the most important factors effective in tendency to violence, especially in a broad social level. The economic status of a country is another factor that plays a role in the intensification of this feeling. The economic status of a society may be one of the main factors of tendency to violence in individual level, as poor economic conditions increases stress and tensions, and threatens the mental health of individuals and the whole society. Therefore, it is required to pay enough attentions to economic issues as the solutions of coping with violence, especially in collective level. For this purpose, the solutions that can improve the economic status of Iran have been provided briefly in the following:

Eradication of Poverty and Social Inequalities

Poverty and social deprivations are the most important problems hindering development of a country. Social inequalities and structural deprivations are the results of class relationships and the performance of the government in the society. In general, two strategic plans have been carried out in Iran in recent years to eradicate poverty and social deprivations.

The first strategy was based on the replacement of capitalist system by an economic system, which is based on justice. This strategy however was not successful. The second strategy aims to eradicate poverty and inequalities by distributive justice through the development of free of charge education and health, rural development, development of social security system and aids provided by the government. This strategy attained success to some extent. However, the implementation of this strategic plan was so that it led to the loss of resources and decrease in economic efficiency (Hadi Zonoz, 2006). For the eradication of poverty and social inequalities, the following solutions are recommended:

- Special focus on the development of infrastructures by the enhancement of roads network, generation of energy, natural resource control and regulations activities, as well as the improvement of other communication networks (Azimi, 1991).
- Securing peace, ensuring internal security, preventing tensions in foreign policies: to secure economic growth and development, it is required to ensure internal stability, security, and interact with other countries in internal level. In such conditions, foreign and domestic capitals are applied to invest in the economic projects of Iran, and out national interests are secured.

- The chronic inflation is to be brought down in order to provide economic stability and improve business conditions and investment environment. This leads to the creation of new job opportunities, generation of income, and it prevents from an inappropriate distribution of income, and worsening of the deprived and poor people (Hadi Zonoz, 2006).
- Population control: the population exceeding the capacity is of consuming type and an obstacle to development. It causes all measures taken by the government for investment and progress to be unsuccessful. Therefore, it is required to create a balance between population growth and investment as an important solution for improving the economic empowerment of a country (Aghai, 2008).
- Coordinated development and decentralization: certainly, in countries, where different social groups have identical or at least similar consuming patterns and public services are distributed equally, poverty and inequality are less than those of other countries are. Therefore, the executive authorities should prevent the accumulation of welfare and production facilities and opportunities in special sectors, and try to drive all sectors harmoniously towards development.
- Rural development: according to the World Bank criteria, rural development is an strategy to improve social and economic life of a specific group of people living in rural areas. The evidences show that despite the implementation of more than eight development plans in Iran, no enough attention has been paid to the development of rural areas as it was required based on the functions and status of these areas, and as a result rural areas have unequal access to opportunities, resources, and interests arising out of growth and development. Therefore, it is inevitably required to reduce such social, cultural, and territorial inequalities and create a balance between rural and urban areas (Rezvani, 2003).
- Dynamic increase in the rate of national product and per capita income
- Economic liberalization: the government is to create the legal and organizational facilities required for market economy, since it is proved by experience that state-run economy is consistent neither with distributive justice nor with rapid economic growth. According to some economists, economic liberalization requires fundamental changes in different aspects, especially the constitution. The constitution of Iran, specifically in the articles 43, 29, 30, and 31, has focused on the establishment of a just and appropriate economy to provide people with welfare, uproot poverty and deprivation in the different sector. The obligation of the establishment of such an economic system has been vested to the government. These economists believe that the constitutional articles on economy were formulated based on the principles of mixed economy and welfare state, which were developed in industrialized countries. Indeed, the constitution of Iran was formulated when the idea of welfare state was challenged seriously in the western countries, which attempted to minimize their state in terms of economy (Hadi Zonoz, 2006).
- Fight against economic corruptions in public institutions, and rentiers, and attempt to be bound to the law.

Fight against Unemployment

Long-term unemployment is stressful for any individual. As mentioned previously, the pressures arising out of such stresses and tensions may drive unemployed people towards abnormal behaviors. According to economists, today's unemployment rate of Iran is due to two factors. The first factor is population change, which is itself a result of the rejuvenation of population

and increase in the participation rate of women, leading to a insatiable demand of work force especially university graduates for employment. The second factor is the change in the role of the government in the generation of employment, and recruitment of university graduates, as well the inability of the private sector in recruiting the unemployed. To alleviate the problem of unemployment, the following solutions are recommended:
- Modification and control of workforce supply: one effective and short-term solution in this regard is the longitudinal and latitudinal increase in higher education. This delays the entrance of the young population into the work market, and balances the number of those entering work markets (Jahangir, 2003);
- Development of new self-employment methods such as distance works, computer-based works, work-at-home jobs;
- Encouraging the youth for self-employment;
- Development of the plans for sending workforce, especially university graduates, abroad (Samara, 2003);
- Revising the number of the students, who are admitted to the universities for the study of the different academic disciplines, and conforming this number with the demands of work market;
- Removing all law-related barriers in order to increase the demands of the private sector for workforce;
- Reducing the age of retirement, increasing the salary and benefits of the retirees to encourage them to retire sooner;
- Paving the way for the investors to invest in production activities;
- Encourage to increase the attraction of foreign investments;
- Development of tourism industry'
- Development of free economic zones (Nourbaha, 2007);

Political Solutions

To cope with pervasive social violence on the one hand and alleviate the feeling of structural deprivation on the other hand, the political performance of states and governments are of great importance. Indeed, flawed policies can drive a country to social violence and even civil wars. In contrast, coherent policies can prevent such violence (Eysenck, 1992). To cope with social and collective-level violence, the following solutions are recommended.

General Solutions

i- *Meritocracy and appropriate distribution of social capacities:* for this purpose, it is required to accept the natural principle of competition and supremacy, and pave the way for their realization in an appropriate manner without prejudicing the freedom of others (Rashidi, 2006). The promotion of meritocracy is an important step for uprooting structural deprivations. If people are ensured that they are employed based on their skills and competencies, they trace any deprivation to themselves, and do not blame the state for any frustration arising out of deprivation.

ii- *Commitment to Political Pluralism:* Accepting political pluralism is a political tool of democratic institutions. In principle, political pluralism includes the freedom of using all instruments that the citizens need to express their opinions, and have practical effects on the governing state (Navabi, 2001).

iii- *Freedom of Belief and Thought:* Thinking, asking questions, finding answers, and curiosity are the origins of understanding. Understanding of some people is found sometimes in conflict with the interests of some people, and it may threaten their security. Although it is clear that thinking cannot be barred, measures always are taken to restrict belief and thoughts (Saidi, 2001). Therefore, it is required to remove

all such barriers to enable people to express their ideas without any fear. This was advised by Imam Khomeini in an interview with Oriana Fallaci, as it was expressed that in Iran, there is freedom of thought, speech, and freedom to write, but nobody is free for conspiracy or corruption (www.jamaran.ir).[8] This has been also prescribed in the teachings of the Islamic leaders. Imam Ali respected the freedom of belief and thought too. In the Battle of Siffin, the soldiers of Abdullah ibn Masud, who doubted the rightfulness of Imam Ali's path, promised him to accompany him in the battle, but in separate military quarters to observe which side would commit a religiously unlawful act or inflict cruelty and decide which side was right in order to assist the right side of the battle. In response, Imam Ali welcomed them and encouraged them as they showed insight about religion and tradition. According to Imam Ali, anyone who acts to the contrary, he is a betrayer and oppressor.

iv- *Enforce the Constitution:* The constitution of each country is the symbol of the realization of the will of a nation in terms of governing their country. The constitution can help a nation to achieve progress. For this purpose, it is not sufficient to draw up a good constitution, but also its articles must be enforced unconditionally. Unfortunately, some articles of Iranian constitution are not enforced, as it is required, and in contrast, some other articles, such as the articles 168, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, and 27, are focused excessively. Certainly, the exercise of all articles of constitution can alleviate the dissatisfaction of people, and prevent them from social violence.

v- *Prevention from Factional Conflicts undermining National Unity* (Saidi, 2001)

Special Solutions

The solutions provided in this section are classified as follows:

i- *Elastic Security Structure Theory:* the theory of elastic or plastic security structure is opposite to the theory of non-elastic or glass security structure. In this security structure, all pressures are absorbed by the structure, and in contrast to the glass security, the pressure is not able to break the structure. Countries such as the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia had non-elastic security structure. In contrast, there are countries, in which some protests and conflicts may happen, but they do not face the same destiny as the above-mentioned countries did (Abdi, 1999). France is a good example of the countries with elastic security structure. Indeed, the security structure of these countries is so that it acts like a relief valve to control pressures.

In the modern world, any state or system of government applies amicable and legal procedures for hearing people and use the will of the majority of the people. Accordingly, the people express their collective needs through predefined channels and exercise their will. This provides permanent changes within the framework of the state and system of government (Aghai, 2008). As a result, in a society that welcomes democratic values, the tendency to violence is decreased (Abdi, 1999). In fact, there must be amicable procedures, by which those people, who have a special objective, express their requests. Otherwise, security structures are so formed that no peaceful channels remain to meeting such objectives. This forces the individuals to violate the norms. This is of great importance for the prevention of social and political violence.

ii- *Developing the Culture of Criticizing and Welcoming Criticism:* A problem of the Iranian people existed in the

underlying structures of this society is that they are not open to and avoid criticism. Criticism for the purpose of accountability and modification of the society is valuable. Although criticism has its roots in culture, and should be discussed in cultural perspective, we provide it here as a solution and avoid any more duplication. The recognition of shortcomings and attempts to remove such shortages are steps toward individual and social prosperity. In case the culture of criticizing is developed, the principles and guidelines of criticizing for critics are determined, and the critics aim to modify the problems, many tensions, conflicts, and shortages are prevented. The society, above all the authorities, needs to be criticized constructively. However, it is also required that those who are criticized to be open to such criticisms, and use the guidelines provided by the critics. For this purpose, the authorities should be aware that they may make mistakes like others, as to err is human. This was advised by Imam Ali, who is regarded as an innocent and immaculate person, too, and he encouraged people to offer their opinions on the method used by him to govern the Islamic caliphate (Haghpanah, 2004). According to Imam Ali, any person, who is not benevolent and avoids welcoming benevolent people, will never enjoy prosperity (Haghpanah, 2004). He introduces a person, who warns other people of a harmful event, is like a person, who delivers them good news (Nahj al-Balagha, 2008). According to his advices, self-admiration is a barrier to progress (Ibid, 2008). Therefore, receiving advices, and being open to criticism are necessary for administering issues. This enables the authorities to become aware of their mistakes and shortcomings and take required measures for the remedy of such shortcomings (Haghpanah, 2004). If the people find out that the authorities are indifferent to the criticisms, and act despotically and obstinately, they start to find new channels to protest, and this may drive the society to an irreparable catastrophe. This has been pointed out by Imam Ali in the 216th sermon of Nahj al-Balagha, which was delivered in the Battle of Siffin. At first, he blames the despotic rulers, who are reluctant to listen to the truth, and then he describes his humble and truth-seeking attitude that enables him to accept reasonable expectations and advices of advisers. He requests people to tell the truth, and introduces such a truth seeking as a right of the rulers. Therefore, the development of the culture of criticizing and welcoming the criticisms of others among the authorities and politicians is an important measure to reduce tensions and conflicts inside the society, and any measure taken to develop such a culture has a tangible effect on decreasing tensions and as a result violence in the society.

Discussion and Conclusion

In this paper, we determined the factors effective in tendency to violence, and it was revealed that violence is a complicated concept that dominates people's life pervasively, although there are consensuses on its approval or rejection. The factors having effect on tendency to violence are classified into four general social, biological, psychological, and cultural groups. Here, we studied the social factor inside Iran. Structural deprivations built our main presumption for the study of the factors effective in tendency to violence.

Structural deprivation, which is indeed a social factor, means the difference between the value-based expectations of people and value-based abilities. The factors causing structural deprivations may drive people to violence. In fact, people want to reach their objectives through legitimate channels. When they fail to relate logically these two value-based issues, they search for the cause of such an imbalance. When dissatisfaction is

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[7]http:// www. Jamaran.ir (10/12/1389). Code: 213

[8]http:// www. Jamaran.ir (10/12/1389). Code: 213

increased, and people fails to find the source of such dissatisfaction in their social environment, they become ready to resort to violent and aggressive behaviors, in both individual and social levels. To determine the relation between structural deprivation and tendency to violence in Iran, it was required to study the economic status, as well as employment and immigration conditions of Iran. The indices and statistics proved our hypothesis on the existence of such a relation. The statistics show that there are structural deprivations in Iran. In fact, there is no balance between objectives and the means of achieving such objectives. Meanwhile, it is always tried to raise the value-based expectations of people. These measures promote the level of value-based expectations of people, but in practice, they see that nothing serious is done to meet such expectations. Gradually, these people start to search the source, and try to cope with. This lead to violence and this is what expressed in anomie theories, especially Merton's anomie theory.

Education is another issue, which is very important for the prevention of violence. However, it has not been studied enough. There is famous quote on prevention that tells us prevention is better than cure. The teaching of life skills, especially the skills to control anger can be an important step towards fighting against violence. In fact, our children and juveniles lack the skills required to control and cope with tensions and stressful situations. In no level of education, from primary school to university, life skills are taught to them. There are even not enough schools or educational experts for this purpose. Therefore, our children have no ability required to analyze stressful situation and decide appropriate when they face sensitive conditions. Because of such inabilities, they commit violent acts (Keynia, 2007). To solve this problem, it is required to pay sufficient attentions to education as an essential measure for coping with violence.

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