Social security position in a political system

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Abstract

Social security at the community level is the result of the continued existence of cultural values such the process of socialization, discipline, solidarity and social cooperation, eliminate risks, optimal use of opportunities and enhance social life. Social security is a fundamental capability of society to care for the fundamental characteristics of social and ethnic groups in response to the objective changes and threats in a society or the strengthening of social and ethnic identities. The term "security" literally means the freedom from danger, threat, vulnerability, anxiety, fear and worry. Social Security as a phenomenon is introduced in the course of social evolutions and development of the present situation and the situation desired by people and social groups. Increasing attention to the social issues is due to increased social capital. In the community, whatever the environment conditions and the density of social interactions becomes higher, cohesion, trust and social interaction will be greater. Among the schools of sociology, functionalism likens structural social discipline to security and its relevant aspects. Regarding the societal security, Giddens considers objective and subjective aspects to examine the existential security. In this context, and relying on the state-oriented approaches, Barry Buzan has studied this phenomenon.

Keywords: Social Security; Negative Discourse; Positive Discourse; Social Order; Security

Introduction

Social security has always been one of the basic needs of human society, because the presence of this phenomenon in the society has created order and survival as its important basic function. In fact, this phenomenon is one of the most original and most basic functions of social institutions of a state. This shows the significance of the sovereignty as a social institution to ensure the protection of public and private rights of people and social groups. Sociology investigates security mainly in the context of political and social relations in the community and among citizens. In addition, three main pillars of this area include social security, social capital and social movement, which depiction of sociology of security without these three is not possible. In general, social security and the sociology of security include protection of social privacy (public, private and family), elimination of risks, and optimal use of opportunities. Also, by using such sustainability, it is possible to enhance family life and to adopt some strategies to achieve the opportunities in social life. Also, it is possible to develop social values, our sense of being, social potentials of citizens in order to achieve sustainable development and comprehensive progress.

Statement of Problem

The role of security at any level and dimension in the context of development of human societies is to provide an intellectual space, to manage social life, and to participate in social relations at any community. Therefore, security has led to the development of human communities during history and different study areas on security encompass a variety of issues. The continuity of social security aspects can guarantee security of community and social institutions. How could we create the necessary backgrounds to establish security in the community? And also what are the most significant functions and fundamental objectives of such social phenomenon in the community?

Security and social issues

Social security as a social phenomenon in a community takes advantage of action patterns and

conditions, and as a critical phenomenon acts in the course of the development of the present situation and the social changes desired by people and social groups, and without realizing it, the realization of the goals is not possible and social order and development of society are threatened. Given that development and improvement of social life has two aspects including normative and positive, security is considered as a social phenomenon to achieve the goals and ideals desired by society, and also to eliminate regulations and limitations in the course of a sustainable development (Abdollahi, 2008:11). Security, especially social security, plays critical roles in achieving further consensus and social cohesion of society, and enhancing social capital and increasing social participation of various social groups and identities in order to sustain social order and sustainable development, and as a social problem with regard to the subjective criteria of the elite (political, socio-cultural and economic) is expected to improve society and social life. Security studies and the relevant subfields in the community have a set of specific conditions and requirements as follows.

1- Having a unit of analysis

It means the presence of a social unit whose members have common goals. Thus, as the analysis unit of social security is ethnic and social groups in the society, social security plays critical roles in the community as a social, collective phenomenon subject to certain conditions at a local, national and international level.

2- Having the expertise, insights and knowledge-based methods

Enhance and protect social security and its relevant aspects is a specialized issue. Therefore, it must be handled by those with the expertise. This is because people are unable to correctly identify and recognize the existing situation. In addition, people lack a clear and accurate assessment of the future and are not able to specify required specifications and limits to achieve an optimal level. In the area of social issues and its relation to social security, major objectives are usually pursued which some of them are as follows.

a) **Typology and description of social issues:** in this area, different criteria including cultural, social, political and economic issues are categorized. Based on this division, the issue of security and especially social security in line with patterns to achieve goals, collective commitment and social identity are broached.

b) **Classification based on software and hardware areas:** based on this classification, social security and security studies at any dimension and level are generally related to intellectual, cultural, social and state issues. In fact, at a hardware level, use of power and coercion to establish social order is so critical, which revolves mainly around public, disciplinary and national order.

c) **Providing proper solutions to rectify and prevent social problems:** whatever the results have more scientific and practical value, more appropriate solutions can be achieved accordingly. Therefore, the researchers should pay attention to multiple solutions in this area. Three critical factors in this regard include: 1-Comprehensivness of solutions based on subjective and objective origins of the security issue; 2-Scietific validity; 3-Scientific value. Given these objectives and the relationship between social security and social issue, it should be said that the significance and necessity of social security has been more developed since the late 70.

Definition of Social Security

Security literally means lack of worry and concern. Substantially, it means freedom from risk, threat, damage, fear, concern or anything that disturbs comfort. Based on basic security system, a person experiences its being from the world composed of man and objects, a world which is identified and organized through fundamental trust. Basic security system is the source of a sense of existential security. From an ontological perspective, security means having answers to some fundamental existential questions at the subconscious and consciousness level that all people have come across in their lifetime "(Giddens, 2008: 72).

Security is addressed at three different levels in every society qualitatively. At a passive level, security is provided when injury and insecurity are created in society and the political and social system passively attempts to resolve or prevent them under the protection of relevant legal institutions, such as the discovery of crimes and thus imposition of penalties by the police and judicial system, and the security forces that are required to control and to ensure the security of their citizens.

At the second level, security is provided in a preventive form, i.e. before the occurrence of unrest, social and political system actively takes action and prevents any insecurity in the community. At the third level, security exists in the community and the security of the community is provided in a proactive form. In this level, security moves toward a positive approach rather than a negative one. In this approach, the components of quality of life are considered. Therefore, in the first and second levels, the main responsibility and the leading role is played by the police and judicial system. However, in the third level, the main role is played by institutions responsible for policy making, planning and decision-making in the various economic, cultural, social and political domains (Sweeney, 2012: 3).

Individual security and social security

Personal security in society is ensured when the basic and vital rights of a person is recognized on the basis of the national charter and the constitution, and also the defense of such the legal rights is accepted in a stipulated, institutional and structural way. Third, institutions and security forces of the fundamental rights of individuals should be held accountable. Fourth, the provision of individual rights should not have a rectifying role and a posteriori. There is a relationship between individual security and social security, due to the fact that people constitute the members and components of community and social groups. Social groups provide the members with a unique character and vision and they per se will be affected by the vision and personality of its members as well. So the human person, both when is the issue of the intentional and unessential dangers and when a

member of a group is influenced by social security (Nasri, 2012: 68).

National security and social security

Social forces in various political systems show different behaviors. This difference is due to various reasons including culture, organized parties, ways of political power, the nature of social and political forces and groups, distribution of power and resources. Nowadays, at the community level, we are faced with assimilated processes in the form of ethnic and urban wars, religious fundamentalism, and women seeking the right. These issues underline a review of identity and how to strengthen its relevant bases. National security plays significant roles in maintaining the integrity of community. This type of security has two different dimensions.

A) Internal or introverted aspect, which refers to the establishment of peace, order and internal security, public interests and the ability of governments to meet the increasing demands of society, and finally the progressive development of culture and civilization.

B) External dimension (i.e. output), which intends to determine a country's position at the international scene (Ghasemi, 2007: 31). Today, the concept of national security for many countries suggest the need to preserve the independence and territorial integrity, maintain national life, and prevent foreign interference in the internal affairs of the country through military power (Asgari, 2005: 392).

National Security has some prominent characteristics including: 1- It focuses on performance and behavior of foreign countries in providing security or strategies to eliminate insecurity, 2-Pays attention to any conspiracy and violations of foreign countries, 3- Uses government ideology as a criterion in identifying friend and foe.

In addition, social security has some common features including 1- Focus on the performance and behavior of members of the group in providing security. 2- Considers the obstacles, shortcomings and weaknesses that attenuate attachments and shared

customs, and lead to the loss of personal sensation, such as neglect of the ceremonies and rituals; 3- The values of the group are criteria for distinguishing a familiar person from a stranger. 4-It is based on educational and training facilities (Adapted from Navidnia, 2006: 67).

Main Characteristics of Social Security

1-Comprehensiveness: comprehensiveness in the field of social security and generally in the area of security discussions is related to the inclusion, i.e. each area that could be related to public affairs can be used to extend social security. The reason for this comprehensiveness and inclusion is on the grounds that the individual or society must be immune from any threat.

2-Naturalness: it means the lack of need to causation for the establishment of security and also critical necessity and inevitability of such phenomenon. Therefore, social security means protection and the need for protection, and it aims to provide safety and it is a defender of it.

3-The correlation between security and other aspects of human social life: in fact, having a sense of security at every level means that it security is of the utmost significance for the community compared to other social phenomena. Today, in every society, social security or security at any dimension can have a relationship with other matters such as the economy, health, politics, religion, culture, etc.

Negative Discourse

In this approach or discourse, the lack of security or the lack of social security in the community has led to the formation of a phenomenon known as threat. The main strategy in this social approach is the ability to strengthen military power in order to fight against and suppress enemies. From this perspective, war is the successor of politics, yet with other tools and devices. Security can be accomplished in the absence of military threat, and so security policy addresses the maximum military power to overcome internal and external enemies. Negative discourse underlines the lack of risk and threat and also taking advantage of

comfort and composure. Buzan reinstates that the aim of this approach is to establish and to maintain order and stability. In this approach, the social security is the "capacity of the lack of threat by an external actor in relation to the vital interests of all key players". Therefore, threats in a negative approach have such features as 1- they are the categories produced from an outer space, 2- have a hardware nature, 3- they are not subject to any threat and could be changed in congruent with the situation and facilities that have led to their evolution, and 4-exist in a compressive form; i.e. old faces does not annihilate old faces (Buzan, 2000, 58).

Positive discourse

In the area of positive discourse, security is defined as the lack of threat. Security has an institutional nature which must be established by citizens in the community. In general, the approach emphasizes the fact that society has reached an acceptable stage of awareness, education and knowledge, so that it can preserve the security in the community and prevent external and internal factors from causing insecurity (Navidnia, 2009:27).

Modern approaches to social security

Today, we are witness of a series of social evolutions in different areas of social life, and discourse on social security has been developed considerably. This development could be found in two areas including society-based discourse and government-based discourse. This discourse, first of all, represents itself based on the idea that where is the source of power? Government-based discourse regards the source of power in the state institutions and specifically government organization. In contrast, society-based discourse emphasize solely on community. In the framework of these two discourses, social security also finds a different form and content.

In the form of government-based discourse, it is assumed that only by reliance upon government power, it is possible to accomplish social security, and it is expected that government can be the sole guardian of social security. This approach is a

relatively old dialogue. In society-based discourse, government is one of guardians and agents of social security, and it is assumed that the security firstly roots from society and so the term "social security" is presented and discussed (Qafari, 2012:118).

Postmodernism and social security

Postmodern thinkers have considered some concepts such as security as incomplete. From their perspective, security is a relative term, and takes special meanings at any society and time. Nowadays, postmodern thinkers have argued that government itself has threatened security and created some security-related problems. David Campbell reinstates that "governments can preserve their identity only through dealing with external threats beyond their national borders". As post moderns believe that the sources of threat are varied, they think that there is a myriad of ways to achieve security. Therefore, they do not consider excessive application and exploitation of software as the only way to establish security (Roy, 2003:692).

The concept of security in the Third World

The definitions of the term "security" in the West are different from those proposed in the Third World. In the West, security is defined mainly in an external dimension, i.e. it is mostly relevant to external environment and actors. In contrast, security in the Third World has internal dimensions, and when it is defined in external dimensions in few cases, it is influenced by internal security issues to a great extent. In the West, the security has a continuity of positive relations with international structure and system. However, in the Third World, there is a negative association between international order and international security structure, or at least there is not a constructive and positive continuity between these two. Security in the West has been provided mainly through constructive alliances among different countries, while constructive and positive alliance among Third World countries or these countries with the Western countries has been always strained, and Third World countries has not been able to define their security in connection with the security of other countries. Ayoob considers

security in the Third World based on government and political issues. However, he believes that emphasis on the priority of political area does not mean that this area can or should be distinct from areas and social activities relevant to security issues (Ayoob; 1995, 1-21). From the view of Ayoob, the term "security" in the Third World has been used in political terms, and due to its state-based nature, it is defined on the basis of internal and external vulnerability of the relevant state defined. Therefore, in accordance with the views of Ayoob, whatever a state proceeds in the direction of vulnerability towards the lack of vulnerability, it will be more secure. According to Ayoob, to have a sufficient explanatory power in the framework of the Third World, security should have two qualities: 1) it must be beyond the traditional definition of the security proposed by the West; 2) It must have strong roots in the political sphere and it must be sensitive to the matters in other areas, including economic, social and environmental spheres which impact the political field (Ayoob, 1991, 257-83).

Cultural theories and security issue

Jeffery Legro believes that armies have different organizational cultures which guide them toward adoption of different military methods. This view is based on the impact of culture of each organization on its military strategies. Noburo Okawara, Stephen Rosen, and Tomas Berger believe that local political orientations regarding the use of military forces is considerably different even among the countries with a similar international situation (Peter. J. 1993, 84-118). Stephen Rosen argues that the societies with different social structures provide military weapons at different levels (Stephen.1995, 5-35). In other words, different social structures will lead to security and military strategies. Iain Johnston considers the best explanation for major policymaking of a country as its internal-cultural strategy rather than the internal requirements of the international system (Iain Johnston, 1995, 247-262). This strategy influences the role of strategic culture in shaping security policies and approaches. Finally, Thomas Risse-Kappen states that factor to the integration of the members of some treaties such as NATO is the global standards rather than common threats. All of these

cultural orientations have paid their attention on cultural trends that indicate the material interests of the countries cannot explain a proper explanation for a strategic choice. Cultural theories on security express that cultural and material variables play a secondary role in explaining the strategic behavior of countries (Thomas Risse, 1996, 99-357).

Giddens and Security

In defining security, Giddens believes that trust and security, taking risks and exposure to risks are the phenomena which have been domineering in a modernized society due to different historical events during centuries. Trust and security, and risk and danger influence bipolar and violent features of modernity in all aspects of daily life, and once again show the incredible interweaving of local and global situation (Navidnia 2009: 33). Giddens emphasizes that to understand the need to address the security the precarious nature of modern society should be carefully taken into account. He considers this nature as globalization of risks. These risks have affected people around the world. Similar to international division of labor, such risks have influenced the fate of the people. With regard to this issue security can be called a situation in which a series of specific threats are opposed or minimized. Experience of security depends on trust and taking risk. Therefore, Giddens has defined immunity against risks as security. According to Giddens, risk and security are mutually connected, such that when security is put to risk, risk disappears, and when we are faced with risk, security is disrupted (Qafari, 2011:120).

In the area of security, Giddens refers to the term "existential security" which is "immunity or to be equipped with some questions at the unconscious level, and self-awareness to answer some fundamental existential questions which man has raised during the history". He believes that, to live and spend life, man usually considers the issues as definite which cannot tolerate the cynical and doubtful perspectives based on research and investigations made by scholars and researchers for centuries. Therefore, based on Gidden's view, some points on security could be inferred. Firstly, the security could not be defined per se, and it is defined

based on the presence or absence of risk. Secondly, security is a time-dependent process which is established with time, and every minute alters depending on risk estimation. Thirdly, intellectual and subjective aspect of modernity is more important than the objective aspect of security. Giddens considers existential security as the fundamental aspect of security. According to Giddens, take advantage of such security forms the fulcrum and basis of security aspects. Giddens presents two aspects of security. Regarding the objective aspect of man's life, people can live on the basis of the standards defined by the modern community. However, in the area of underline personal self-satisfaction, by selecting life style such critical goal will be accomplished per se. .

Buzan and Social Security

Buzan has defined social security in line with potentials and capabilities of a society in order to guard and preserve traditional patterns of language, religion and culture. Buzan begins its discussion by an organic expression inherent in this theory and believes that he deals with the risks that threaten the identity of people in the society in the form of actual or potential forces. According to Buzan, social security is a series of characteristics by which people regards themselves as a member of a social group, i.e. it focuses on those aspects of individuals' life that gives his social identity a unified form. Therefore, Buzan considers the organic concept of social security as identity, and likens social security to identity security (Navidnia, 2003:60).

Buzan underlines the concept of social security as the security of identity and has cited a conceptual misunderstanding regarding the term "Societal". He believes that societal security should not be mixed with social welfare, because the latter is related to people and more broadly economic issues. However, social security is about human communities and their identity, and it cannot be relegated to economic phenomena. Rather, it is related to collective identity and interactions that aim to preserve identities (Bayat, 2009:86-87). According to Buzan, security is mostly state-based and pays less attention to serious new cultural and social evolutions, thus it has been

criticized because of this matter. According to Weever as the founder of Copenhagen School, Buzan's approach to social security is not in line with environmental, political and economic security, rather it is congruent with national security" (Rabiei, 2005:149).

Conclusion

One of the main objectives of national security in any country is the protection of core and vital values of its cultural system. In contrast, some of the main functions of each cultural system include ensuring security and continuity of the social life, the development of social identity and establishment and maintaining solidarity. Social security in the community creates order and survival as its most important basic function, and it can lead to the continuation of cultural values, socialization process, consensus and cooperation among citizens. From a sociological perspective, firstly, this type of security in the community underlines the necessity of benefiting from a secure social life. Secondly, it influences social and political affairs in the community. Accordingly, sociology of security focuses on the preservation of social privacy in any society. In addition, social security is the capability of a community to take care of the fundamental characteristics of ethnic and social groups in response to objective threats and alterations in a community or strengthening of ethnic and social identities. Social security is an intellectual, cultural, social and structural instrument in the area of development and its relevant consequences. In addition, security and its relevant aspects are the phenomena that in the course of social evolutions play critical roles for the majority of people and social groups. The function of social security is to protect the social identities. Therefore, through the expansion of social space and the elimination of social constraints faced by social and ethnic groups, community seeks to preserve the identity patterns that will contribute to strengthening social security. Today, the mass media and public opinion as a conduit of the social security play a prominent role in the development of information and communication, adoption of privacy laws and cyber crimes and ethnic solidarity, national unit, etc.

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