Analyzing the inequality and welfare status in Iran and its competitors: applying multi-decision-making techniques

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Brief contents

- Introduction and literature
- Inequality and Welfare Status in Iran a comparative analysis
- Methodology
- Concluding remarks

Introduction and literature

- Inequality and welfare status ,**IWS** ,as key socio-economic concerns in many countries …
- Historically, **IWS** as a unidimensional and solely economic-centered issues …
- Their visibility as **multidimensional issues**, after the 1970s (the **first wave**), and especially in the 1990s (the **second wave** of socio-economic changes), and in the continuation of 21 century…
- Analyzing the **IWS** for Iran and its competitors' for 1980-2020…using **Multi-Criteria Decision-Making techniques….**

- **Selected countries, South-West Asian ones**: Azerbaijan, Qatar, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Lebanon, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, Georgia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Pakistan, Kirghizstan, Yemen, Kuwait, Emirate, Turkey, and Syria…
- due to deficiencies of previous indices, this paper using different indices for **education**, **health**, and **environmental** issues, alongside economic ones…no consensus regarding the meaning of **welfare** … so in general impression, including prosperity, happiness, **health**, success, utility, etc....

- Traditionally, the **per capita income** as an index of welfare…Rejecting it, however, for disregarding the **distributional concerns…**Thus, using different indices … including **income distribution ,**consumption ,wealth, security, even **certainty** with respect to the future income…
- **Inequality** as a sub-index of **welfare**: thus **welfare** encompassing **it** as well…
- One mission of this research comparing **economic**, **social** and **political** aspects of **IWS** in South-West Asian countries as Iranian competitors…**IWS** as a **multidimensional issue** and thus, bailing out it from the **monopoly** of economics…

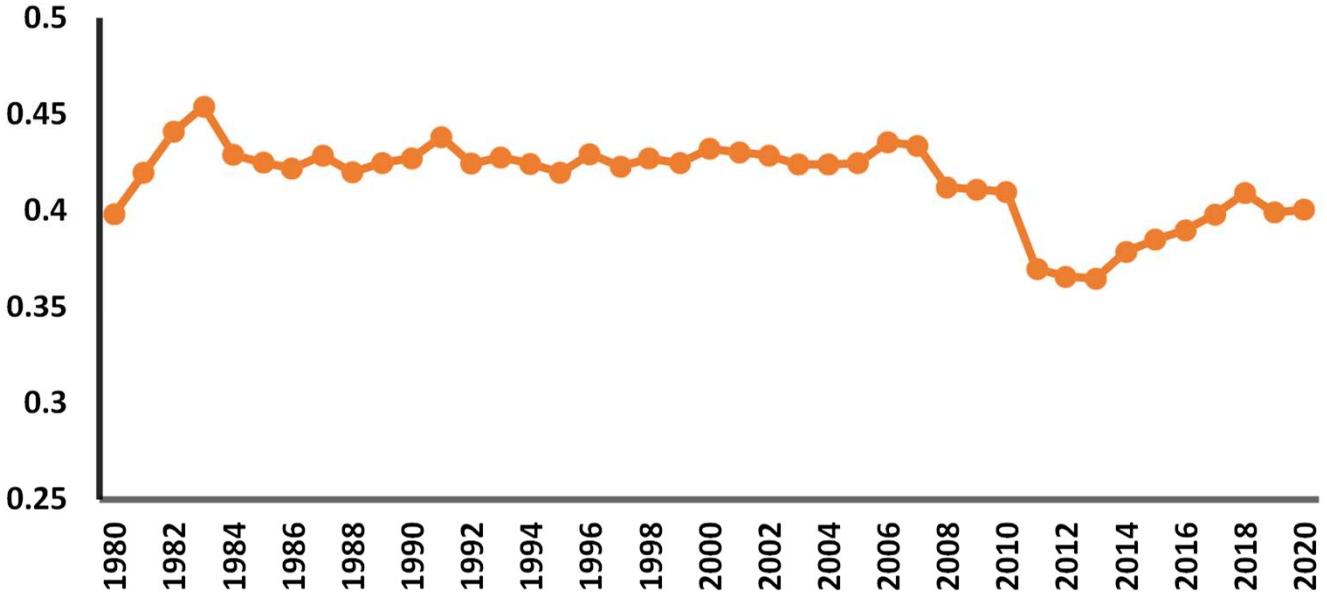
- no strong relationship between the growth in **per capita income** and **well-being** of citizens (Falkingham, 1997 …) …
- **Empirical studies** : Using **per capita income** as a welfare index and **overestimating** the growth of well-being…Some other proving the welfare role of **security** greater than that of wealth…**So international organizations** including World Bank, …using **indicators** encompassing, economic and noneconomic ones…
- Finding: the calamity of **IWS** in Iran, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan …good **IWS** for Qatar, Emirate and Kuwait… So The urgency of improving the **social, environmental** and **political institutions** of former group as a policy implication of this research…

Welfare and inequality in Iran: comparative analysis

- This article using **TOPSIS method** as an efficient way to evaluate the **sustainability** of components of **IWS** for Iran and its competitors…
- **Problematic inequality** and welfare in Iran…Due to **Usual-Technical Factors**, **UTFs**, and **Primal Cause Factors, PCFs** too…
- High inflation, **inefficient tax-subsidy** framework, and **low economic growth** as typical **UTFs**…
- Structural deficiencies, like , lack of well developed private sector and bad governance as typical **PCFs**..

- Due to the **high inflation**, no positive impact of subsidy program of Iran on **IWS**(CBI, 2021)…
- Cash oriented framework as another reason for the **inefficiency** of the subsidy program…A consensus of experiences in **failure of paying subsidies in cash…**
- High **inflation**, paying subsidies to consumers, paying it to **all population** (and not just to poor people) and its cash style as key factors behind the **failure of subsidy program** in Iran…
- Unprecedented **inflation** rate and downgrading the **IWS** in Iran ,imposing high Genii (Bellow)…

Figure 1. Gini coefficient trend in Iran, 1980-2020



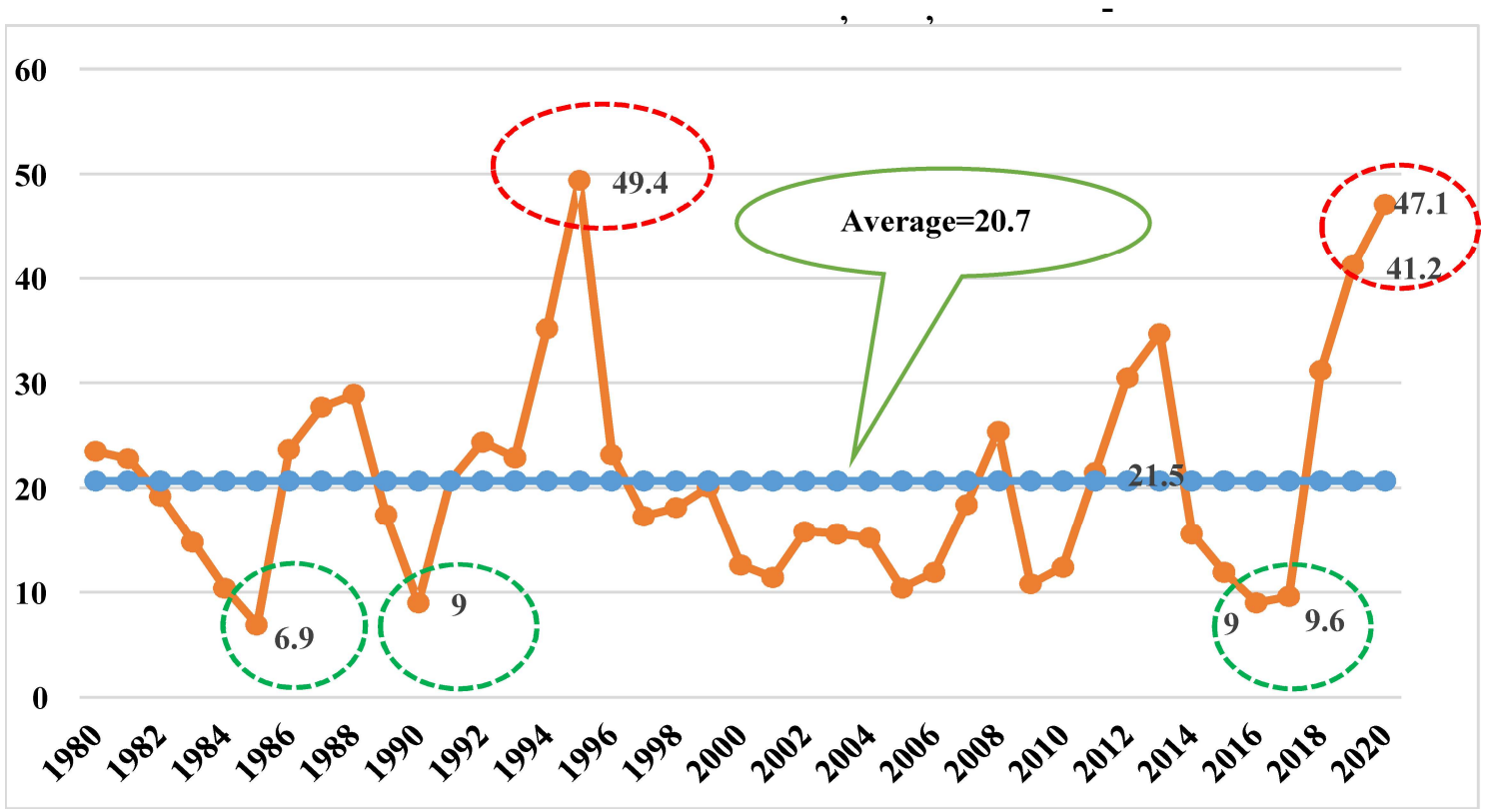
Source: Authors compilation based on data from the Central Bank of Iran(SBI 2021)

- Imposing **inflation** rate between 31.2% through 47.1% in Iran between 2018 to 2021(Food prices above 70%), and increasing the cost of living and raising the **poverty line** to 38% in 2020 and 2021…
- In addition to **structural roots** and **bad governance** , **exiting the US** from joint comprehensive plan of action of Iran as the main factors behind high inflation in question…
- inception of **Covid19** aggravating the case in Iran (Farzanegan and Alaedini, 2016; MCLSW, 2021; CBI, 2021; SCI, 2021; World Bank, 2021)…

- role of two **structural deficiencies** in the Iranian economy for better illustration of the welfare crisis in question…
- These two: **non standard taxing** system and lack of **well developed private sector** … These and suffering government from a lack of a usual source for **financing** its public expenditure... So relying on the revenue of **selling crude oil**…
- **Bad governance** and sanctions (albeit that too as outcome of **bad governance**) ,aggravating the above difficulties…

- The Covid19 provoking the case, reducing the **potential demand** and leading to continuing the **stagflation** (MCLSW, 2021; SCI, 2021a; World Bank, 2021)…
- rising the **inflation** rate in May 2018 to 51.1%, decreasing slightly in 2019 and increasing rapidly afterwards…
- moreover, Shortage of oil revenue, massive **budget deficit** as main factors behind the high inflation rate in 2021(figure)…

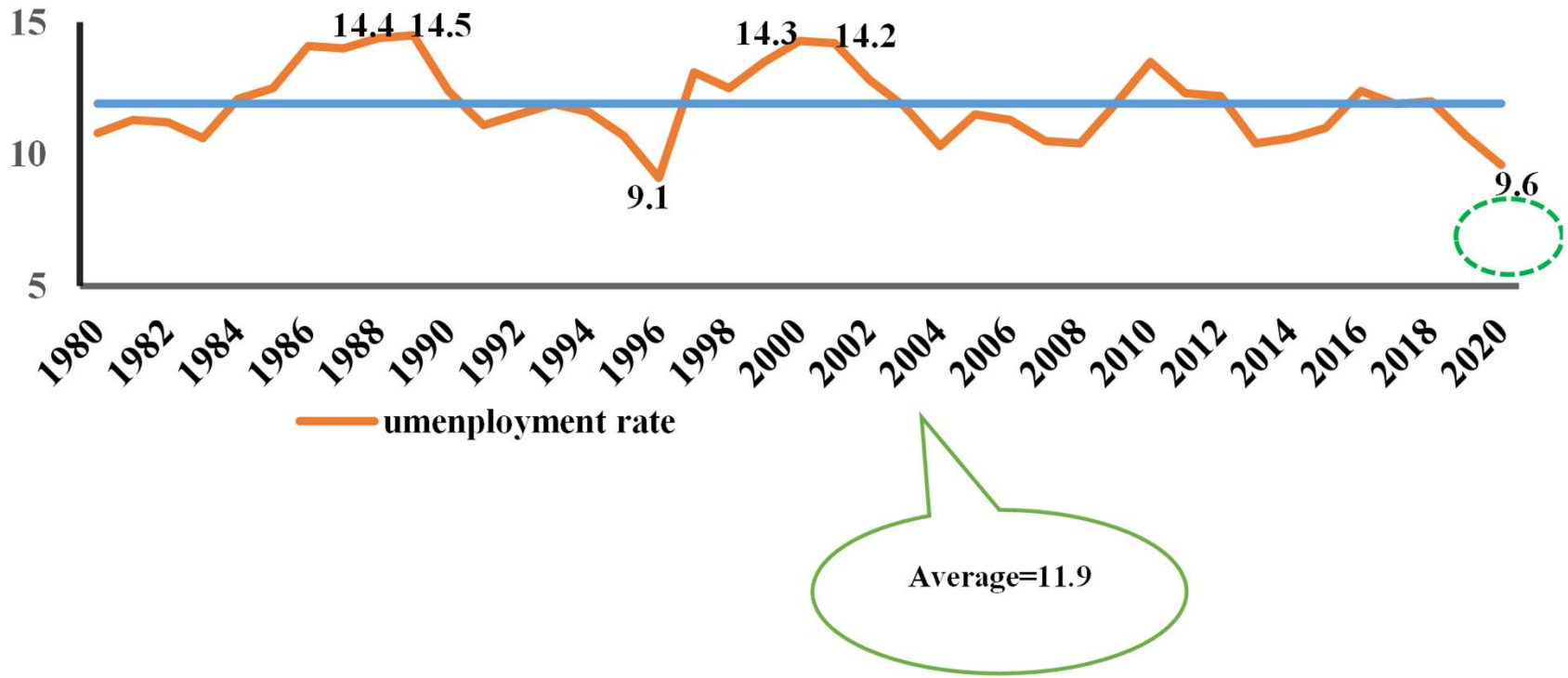
Figure 2 the trend of inflation rate, Iran, 1983-2020



- Lack of efficient instruments to finance budget **deficit** and relying it on borrowing from banking system, as another byproduct of bad governance in Iran, intensifying the inflation rate and declining **the standard of living**, as well…
- Imposing 47.1% inflation in 2020-2021 leading to the reduction of the **well-being** of citizens…
- Adding the unemployment rate to the above blind circle and triggering the crisis…
- Iranian economy after revolution and enduring double digit **unemployment** rate… (fluctuating it between 10 to 14 percent)…

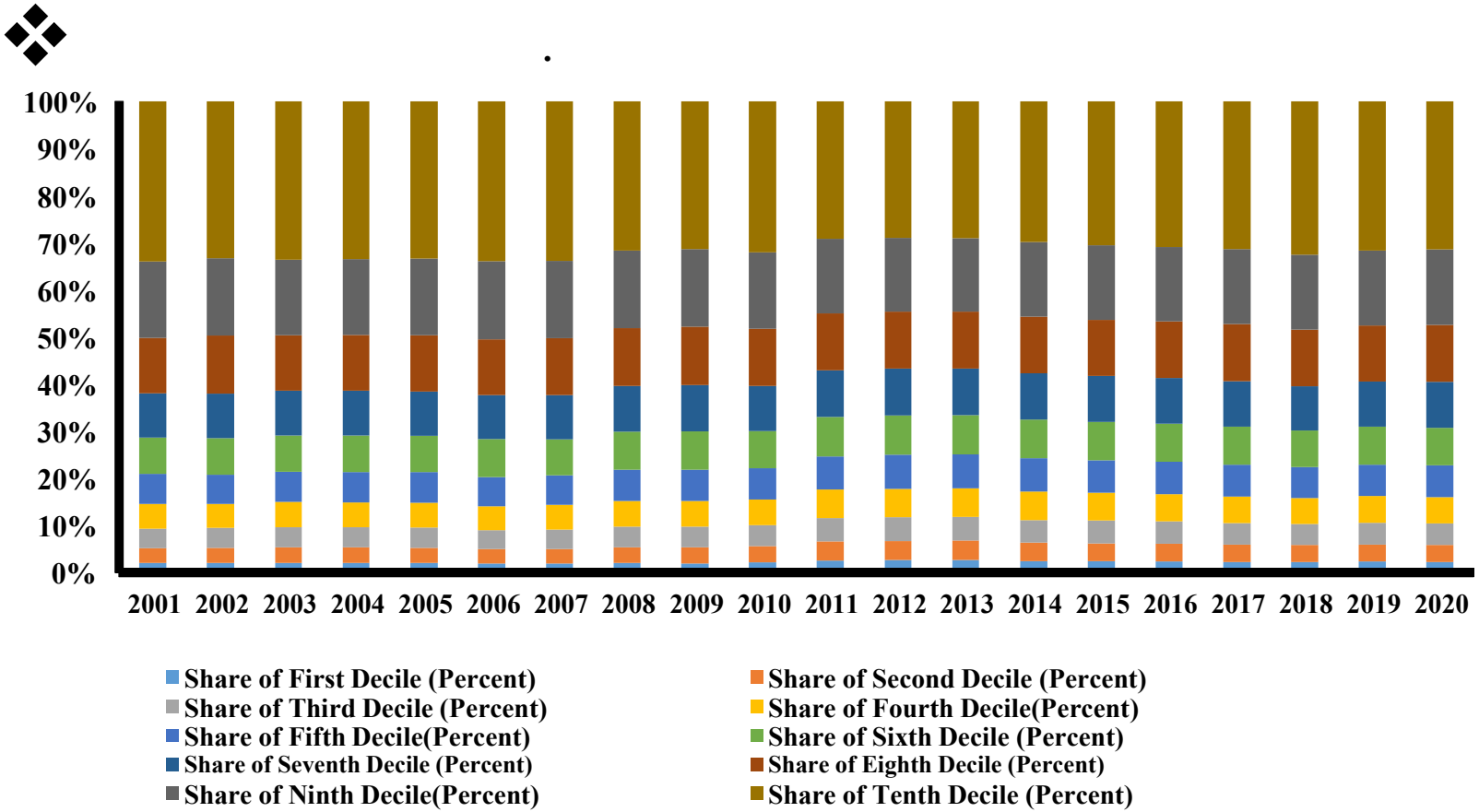
- In addition to lower wellbeing, **higher unemployment** among poor people ,and lack of efficient taxing-subsiding system leading to worsening **inequality** trend too.
- Due to lower **labor participation**, the 2020 showing a lower unemployment drastically… The participation rate falling about 3% in 2020…so…
- Also **labor participation** over 15 years approaching to 37.3% , 2.1% lower than 2019…
- On average …the unemployment rate , 12% during 1980-2020 (Below) …

Figure 3. The trend of unemployment rate 1980-2020



- 1996 and the lowest rate of unemployment in Iran… as a result of **economic reform program in that year** …
- The rising **unemployment rate** along with **high inflation** worsening the **IWS** much more…
- Higher **unemployment** in the low group income ,losing more income in that group as compared to **upper-income groups**…
- As the three bottom deciles make up 51% of employees and three deciles of higher-income form 22%, the rising **unemployment** in the Covid19 period and much pressure on former groups and intensifying more the **inequality** (MCLSW, 2021)…Figure 4 the share, of **income deciles** in Iran(Bellow)…

Figure 4- share of income deciles in Iran



- Lack of positive **growth** in GDP and its reduction in the Covid19 era, raising **unemployment of low-income classes** and upraising inflation ,and **worsening the IWS.**
- Unlike other governments, **too low Iranian government support** during the Covid19 to influence the welfare of low-income and unemployed groups…
- The **covid19 support pack** less than 50 dollar loan (not transfer payment) for 3 months!!…**70% increase in food prices** and inability of low income groups to demand consumption goods as another signal of widening the **inequality**..

- The **increasing trend of cost of living** for the last 5 deciles as a significant index to show the hardship status of **IWS** in Iran…
- The ratio of cost of living of 10, 20 and 40% of **highest income group** to the lowest ones, as another sub-index for problematic income distribution (SCI, 2021a)
- Figure (5) and (6) illustrating this case… Figure (5) the share of 10, 20 and 40% of **highest** income to that of **lowest** ones(bellow)…

Figure 5. The share of 10, 20 and 40% of highest income groups to that of lowest ones

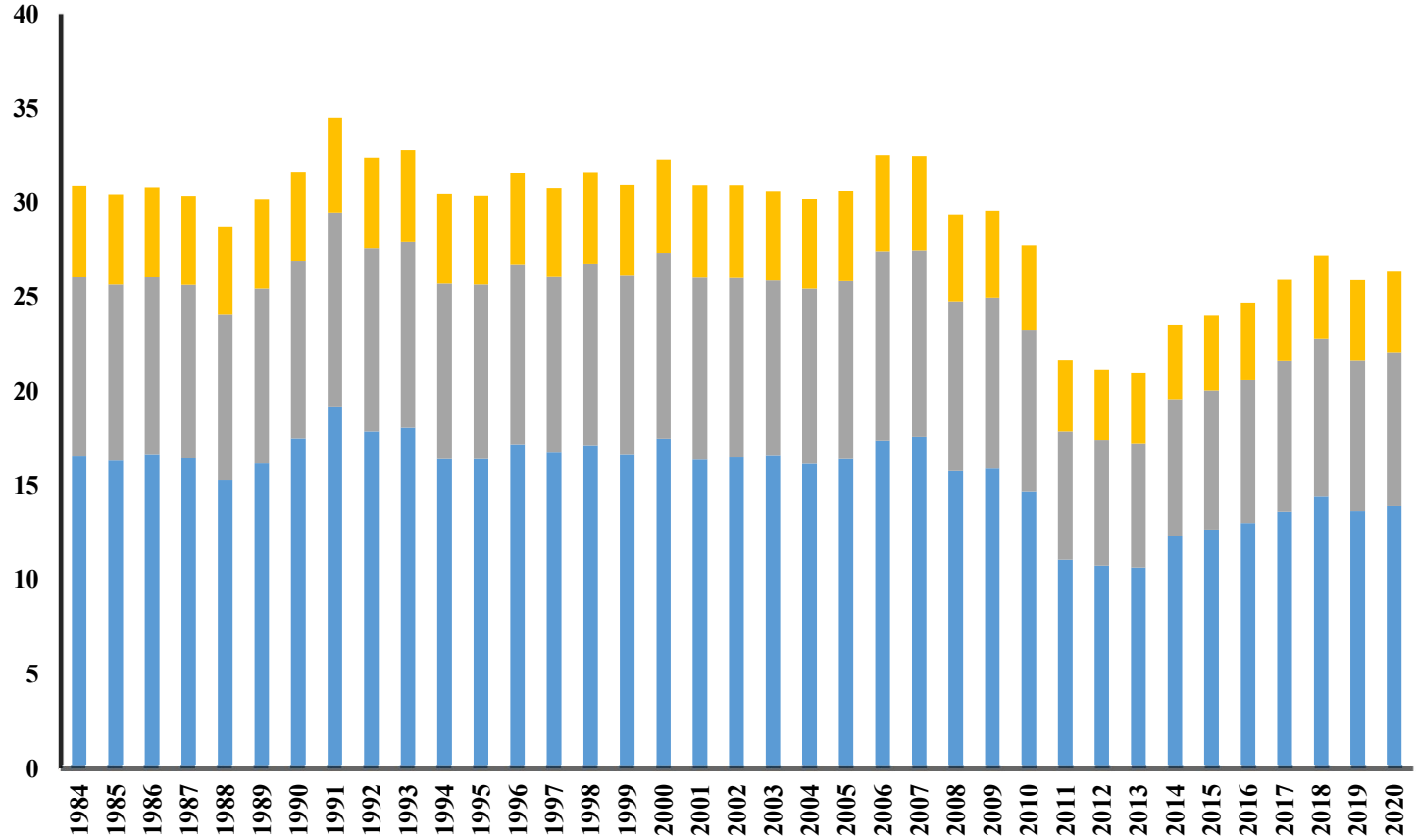
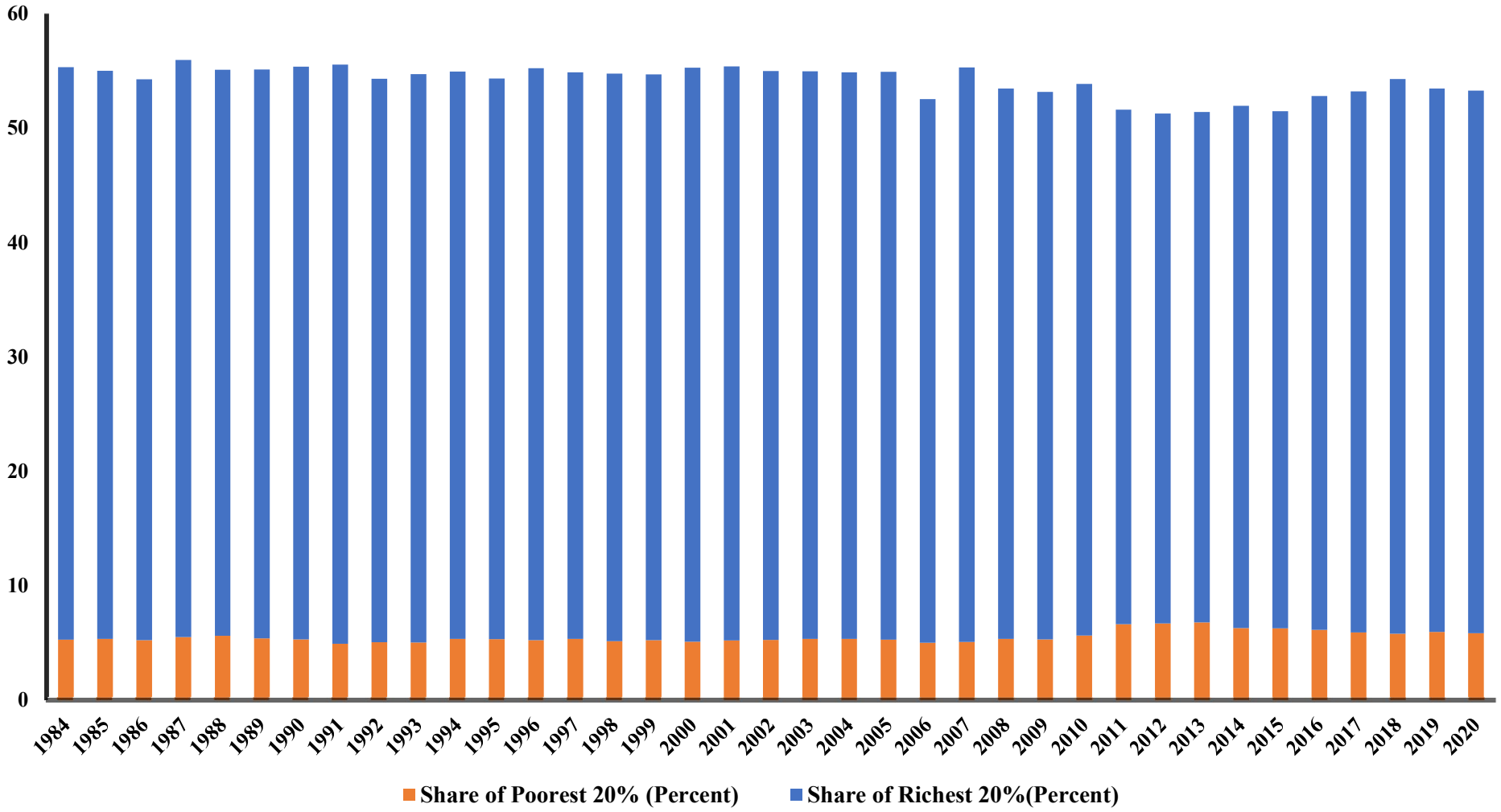


Figure 6. The cost share of 20% of lowest and 20% of highest income population



- **Palma**, **Theil** and **Atkinson** indicators showing the **promotion** and the **demotion** of the income distribution…
- **Palma index** as a change comparison index between poor and rich… illustrating the change in cost of living of 10% of **richest** and 40% of **poorest** …
- **cost of living** of the 10th decile (the **richest**), two times the total cost of living of 40% of **poorest** income groups (from decile 1 to decile 5)… Figure (7), the **Palma index** , figure(8),Theil and Atkinson indexes for Iran in 1984-2020…All indices illustrating the undesirable **IWS…**

Figure 7- the trend of Palma index, 1984-2020

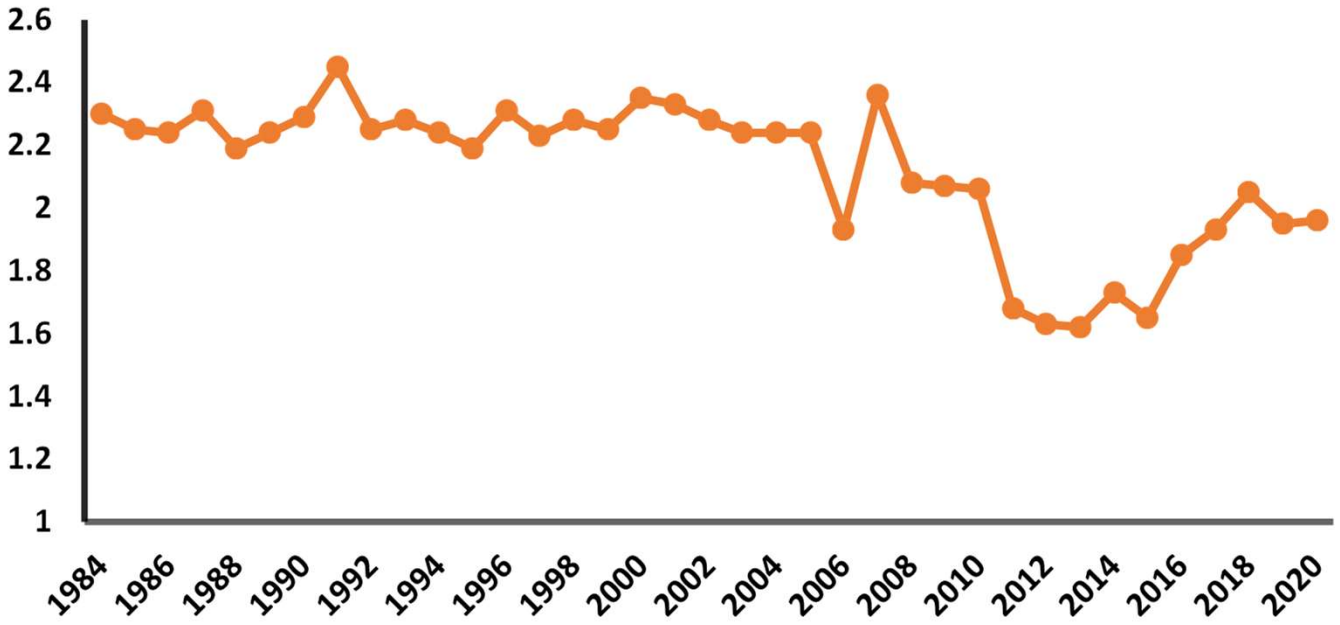
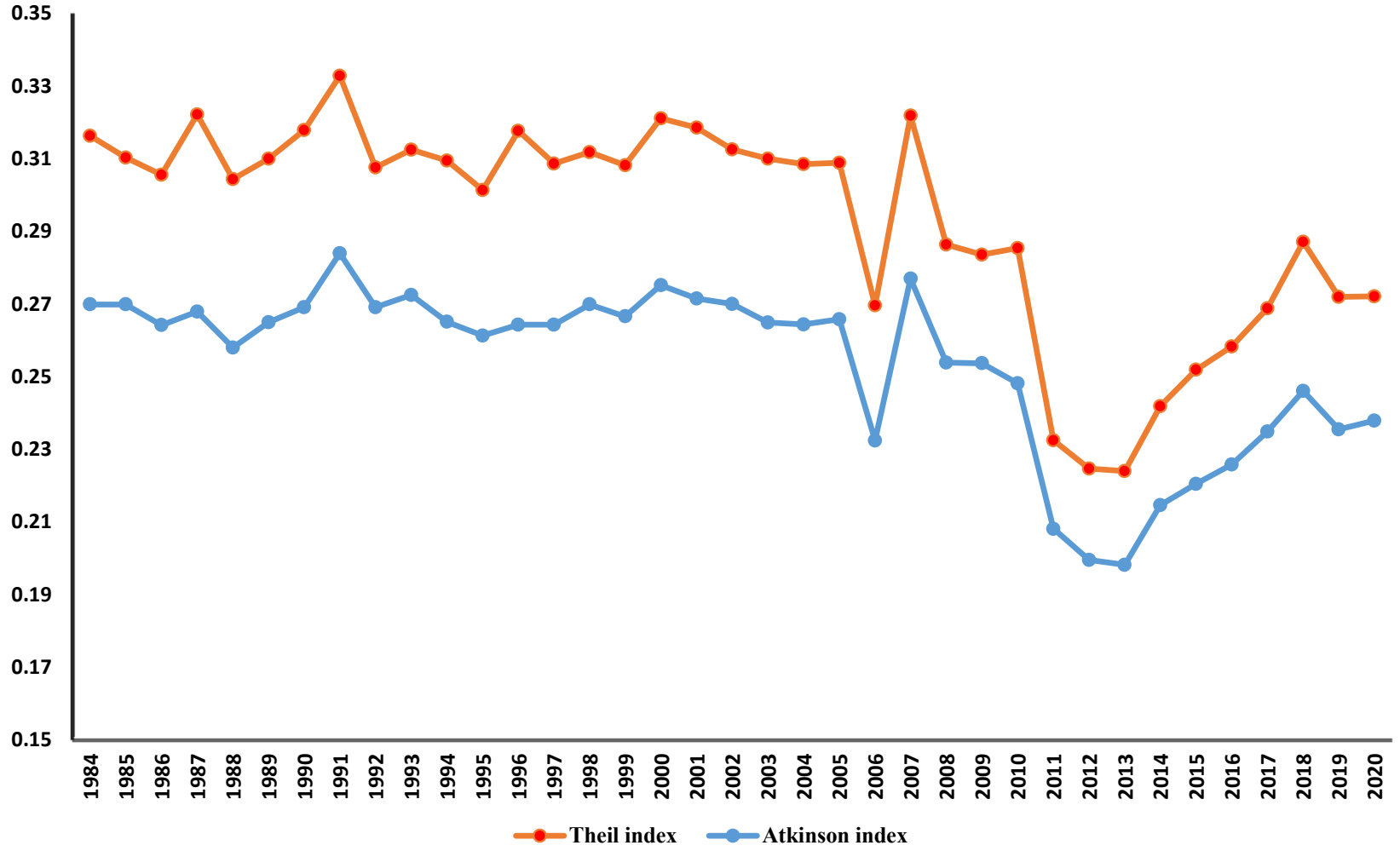


Figure 8. Theil and Atkinson indexes in Iran 1984-2020



- **The significance of the primal cause and cause of the cause factors ,PCFs, of IWS in Iran: bad governance** and structural issues… international sanctions(as the effect of bad governance as well)…
- not surprisingly, the crucial impact of **,PCFs** on Usual-Technical Factors, **UTFs** too…
- High **inflation** and double digit **unemployment**, Dutch Diseases, rentier government and resource curse as other effects of those Primal cause factors in question….

- Huge **speculation** in the **exchange market**, housing market , gold, land and so on , and rapid rise of housing price all intensifying the gap between poor and rich… …and worsening the **IWS**…
- the share of **housing** in the cost basket of Iranian citizens raising from 30% to about 60%... As the majority of poor not owning house and are applicants for renting a shelter, the rapid increase in the **cost of housing** imposing on them (MCLSW, 2021; SCI, 2021a; World Bank, 2021)…

Methodology, Data, variables, indexes

- Using **TOPSIS** and **VIKOR** methods due to measuring the multidimensional aspects of **IWS** for Iran and its competitors..
- **TOPSIS** as method of ranking according to "similar through the ideal solution"…The more similarity an option does have to the ideal solution, the higher its rank would be (Tang et al. 2019)…
- Applying in Multiple Attribute Decision Making, MADM…TOPSIS, and with two reference options; **positive ideal solution** and the **negative ideal solution**…
- TOPSIS= the closeness of the options to the positive ideal and away from the negative ideal solution…

- Some **TOPSIS** advantages : avoiding **value judgment**, simultaneous applying of quantitative and qualitative methods, easiness of calculation, **the possibility of weighting** and its clear **mathematical logic**…
- **VIKOR** Method like the TOPSIS method as a tool for multiple criteria decision making…**Calculating the weight of indices** and Determining the highest and the lowest value…
- In measuring **IWS** using two kinds of indices: single indicator and synthetic indicators… single indicators with limiting analytical capacity …for instance, GDP as a single indicator and paying attention only to the **consumption aspect** of welfare….

- The **synthetic indices**, as combinations of different indices measuring the **IWS** from different aspects….
- A list of **typical synthetic indicators**: welfare index, Genuine Progress Index, **social health index**, development index, **sustainable welfare index** …
- By using TOPSIS and VIKOR methods, this article analyzing the **IWS** of Iran and its competitor, for 2018 through 2020 by individual and synthetic indexes…
- **Individual variables** include education, gender inequality, misery index, GDP per capita, Gini coefficient and **life expectancy index…**

- Synthetic indices encompassing **Social Progress Index, Human Development**, Human Wellbeing, **Happiness**, Human Capital, **Prosperity**, economic wellbeing and Environmental wellbeing…
- **Leveling results :** Level (1) the **lowest inequality**, level (2) below average, level (3) average, level (4), high and level (5), the highest inequality…
- According to **individual indices** and the VIKOR and TOPSIS methods, **Qatar, Emirates** and **Kuwait** having the best and **Syria** and **Yemen** the worst **IWS**(table1-2)…

Table 1. Ranking of South-West Asian countries in 2018-2020 by VIKOR method (individual indices)

Position in the ranking	Country	VIKOR 2018	Class 2018		VIKOR 2019	Class 2019		VIKOR 2020	Class 2020
1	Qatar	0.028	1	Qatar	0.031	1	Qatar	0.000	1
2	United Arab Emirates	0.053	1	United Arab Emirates	0.045	1	United Arab Emirates	0.370	1
3	Kuwait	0.256	1	Kuwait	0.227	1	Kuwait	0.380	1
4	Saudi Arabia	0.433	2	Saudi Arabia	0.414	2	Oman	0.464	1
5	Oman	0.452	2	Oman	0.436	2	Saudi Arabia	0.526	2
6	Kazakhstan	0.489	2	Kazakhstan	0.478	2	Kazakhstan	0.587	2
7	Turkey	0.499	2	Turkey	0.513	2	Turkmenistan	0.625	2
8	Azerbaijan	0.623	3	Azerbaijan	0.598	2	Azerbaijan	0.631	2
9	Lebanon	0.634	3	Lebanon	0.621	3	Lebanon	0.693	3
10	Armenia	0.635	3	Armenia	0.631	3	Iraq	0.699	3
11	Georgia	0.642	3	Georgia	0.631	3	Kyrgyzstan	0.719	3
12	Iran	0.655	3	Turkmenistan	0.642	3	Turkey	0.759	3
13	Turkmenistan	0.667	3	Bahrain	0.679	3	Jordan	0.759	3
14	Jordan	0.712	3	Kyrgyzstan	0.684	3	Egypt	0.767	3
15	Kyrgyzstan	0.715	3	Jordan	0.698	3	Pakistan	0.768	3
16	Bahrain	0.716	3	Iran	0.699	3	Armenia	0.773	3
17	Uzbekistan	0.728	3	Iraq	0.714	3	Afghanistan	0.782	3
18	Tajikistan	0.748	3	Uzbekistan	0.721	3	Georgia	0.799	3
19	Egypt	0.750	3	Tajikistan	0.723	3	Tajikistan	0.818	3
20	Iraq	0.772	3	Syria	0.746	3	Uzbekistan	0.840	3
21	Syria	0.804	3	Egypt	0.752	3	Bahrain	0.846	3
22	Pakistan	0.900	4	Pakistan	0.826	3	Yemen	0.907	4
23	Afghanistan	0.944	4	Afghanistan	0.849	4	Iran	0.978	4
24	Yemen	1.000	5	Yemen	1.000	5	Syria	0.998	5

Table 2. Ranking of South-West Asian countries in 2018-2020 by TOPSIS method (individual indices)

Position in the ranking	Country	TOPSIS 2018	Class 2018	Country	TOPSIS 2019	Class 2019	country	TOPSIS 2020	Class 2020
1	Qatar	0.93	1	Qatar	0.919	1	Qatar	0.976	1
2	United Arab Emirates	0.737	1	United Arab Emirates	0.756	1	United Arab Emirates	0.669	2
3	Kuwait	0.6426	2	Kuwait	0.669	2	Kuwait	0.652	2
4	Bahrain	0.5418	3	Bahrain	0.567	3	Saudi Arabia	0.587	3
5	Saudi Arabia	0.537	3	Saudi Arabia	0.554	3	Oman	0.575	3
6	Oman	0.5045	3	Oman	0.540	3	Bahrain	0.560	3
7	Kazakhstan	0.4632	3	Kazakhstan	0.513	3	Kazakhstan	0.480	3
8	Turkmenistan	0.4114	4	Azerbaijan	0.478	3	Azerbaijan	0.464	3
9	Lebanon	0.3937	4	Kyrgyzstan	0.447	4	Turkmenistan	0.463	3
10	Kyrgyzstan	0.3922	4	Lebanon	0.437	4	Lebanon	0.444	3
11	Turkey	0.3849	4	Turkmenistan	0.434	4	Kyrgyzstan	0.434	4
12	Iraq	0.3783	4	Iraq	0.430	4	Iraq	0.431	4
13	Azerbaijan	0.3765	4	Afghanistan	0.430	4	Pakistan	0.411	4
14	Armenia	0.368	4	Georgia	0.428	4	Jordan	0.397	4
15	Georgia	0.3662	4	Syria	0.426	4	Afghanistan	0.395	4
16	Pakistan	0.3629	4	Armenia	0.422	4	Armenia	0.377	4
17	Tajikistan	0.3493	4	Pakistan	0.420	4	Georgia	0.367	4
18	Uzbekistan	0.3421	4	Tajikistan	0.420	4	Tajikistan	0.360	4
19	Jordan	0.3262	4	Turkey	0.420	4	Uzbekistan	0.349	4
20	Syria	0.326	4	Uzbekistan	0.385	4	Egypt	0.344	4
21	Afghanistan	0.3058	4	Jordan	0.384	4	Turkey	0.338	4
22	Iran	0.3049	4	Egypt	0.311	4	Yemen	0.252	5
23	Yemen	0.2388	5	Iran	0.259	5	Iran	0.158	5
24	Egypt	0.2386	5	Yemen	0.120	5	Syria	0.146	5

- **Synthetic indices and VIKOR Method:** Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Azerbaijan and Qatar the best IWS, Yemen and Afghanistan the worst IWS (table3)…
- **TOPSIS method and synthetic indices:** Bahrain and Qatar the best IWS and Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan the worst one(table4)..
- **By combining the individual and synthetic indices and VIKOR**: Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Qatar the best ,Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan the least IWS (table 5).
- **TOPSIS method (individual and synthetic indices)** Qatar ,Emirate and Bahrain the best and Iran, Egypt and, Yemen the worst IWS(table 6).

Table 3. Ranking of South-West Asian countries in 2018-2020 by VIKOR method (synthetic indices)

Position in the ranking	Country	VIKOR 2018	Class 2018		VIKOR 2019	Class 2019		VIKOR 2020	Class 2020
1	Uzbekistan	0.092	1	Uzbekistan	0.113	1	Azerbaijan	0.122	1
2	Bahrain	0.169	1	Bahrain	0.165	1	Georgia	0.283	1
3	Azerbaijan	0.202	1	Azerbaijan	0.180	1	Bahrain	0.284	1
4	Qatar	0.271	1	Qatar	0.209	1	Kyrgyzstan	0.323	1
5	Kazakhstan	0.305	2	Kazakhstan	0.307	2	Uzbekistan	0.351	2
6	Georgia	0.380	2	Georgia	0.333	2	Qatar	0.371	2
7	Kuwait	0.417	2	Kuwait	0.414	2	Kuwait	0.390	2
8	Egypt	0.464	2	Kyrgyzstan	0.425	2	Jordan	0.468	2
9	Kyrgyzstan	0.483	2	United Arab Emirates	0.434	2	Egypt	0.478	2
10	United Arab Emirates	0.500	2	Egypt	0.463	2	Kazakhstan	0.497	2
11	Turkmenistan	0.505	2	Turkey	0.479	2	Armenia	0.499	2
12	Armenia	0.533	3	Saudi Arabia	0.504	2	United Arab Emirates	0.500	2
13	Saudi Arabia	0.537	3	Armenia	0.541	3	Turkey	0.546	3
14	Oman	0.558	3	Turkmenistan	0.585	3	Oman	0.552	3
15	Jordan	0.562	3	Oman	0.603	3	Lebanon	0.602	3
16	Turkey	0.569	3	Jordan	0.606	3	Turkmenistan	0.628	3
17	Iran	0.623	3	Tajikistan	0.642	3	Syria	0.643	3
18	Tajikistan	0.649	3	Lebanon	0.676	3	Saudi Arabia	0.658	3
19	Lebanon	0.657	3	Iran	0.741	3	Tajikistan	0.694	3
20	Iraq	0.771	4	Pakistan	0.773	4	Iraq	0.729	3
21	Pakistan	0.785	4	Iraq	0.773	4	Iran	0.729	3
22	Syria	0.794	4	Syria	0.800	4	Pakistan	0.730	3
23	Yemen	0.954	5	Yemen	0.920	5	Yemen	0.880	5
24	Afghanistan	1.000	5	Afghanistan	1.000	5	Afghanistan	1.000	5

Table 4. Ranking of South-West Asian countries in 2018-2020 by TOPSIS method (synthetic indices)

Position in the ranking	Country	TOPSIS 2018	Class 2018	country	TOPSIS 2019	Class 2019	country	TOPSIS 2020	Class 2020
1	Bahrain	0.719	1	Bahrain	0.676	1	Bahrain	0.614	1
2	Qatar	0.696	1	Qatar	0.674	1	Kyrgyzstan	0.590	1
3	Uzbekistan	0.621	2	United Arab Emirates	0.565	2	Qatar	0.586	1
4	United Arab Emirates	0.587	2	Uzbekistan	0.558	3	Azerbaijan	0.525	3
5	Azerbaijan	0.577	3	Azerbaijan	0.536	3	United Arab Emirates	0.515	3
6	Kazakhstan	0.559	3	Kyrgyzstan	0.530	3	Georgia	0.499	3
7	Turkey	0.536	3	Kazakhstan	0.511	3	Uzbekistan	0.485	3
8	Georgia	0.498	3	Georgia	0.497	3	Tajikistan	0.484	3
9	Kuwait	0.498	3	Armenia	0.480	3	Armenia	0.479	3
10	Armenia	0.492	3	Kuwait	0.475	3	Kuwait	0.474	3
11	Kyrgyzstan	0.486	3	Turkey	0.473	3	Syria	0.447	3
12	Turkmenistan	0.467	3	Turkmenistan	0.457	3	Turkmenistan	0.442	3
13	Saudi Arabia	0.458	4	Tajikistan	0.451	3	Turkey	0.440	3
14	Egypt	0.429	4	Saudi Arabia	0.445	3	Kazakhstan	0.439	3
15	Tajikistan	0.425	4	Oman	0.384	4	Saudi Arabia	0.407	4
16	Oman	0.404	4	Egypt	0.383	4	Jordan	0.398	4
17	Jordan	0.402	4	Jordan	0.381	4	Yemen	0.397	4
18	Lebanon	0.376	4	Syria	0.378	4	Egypt	0.392	4
19	Pakistan	0.370	4	Lebanon	0.351	4	Oman	0.346	4
20	Iran	0.354	4	Yemen	0.338	4	Lebanon	0.346	4
21	Syria	0.341	4	Iran	0.321	5	Iran	0.308	5
22	Iraq	0.299	5	Pakistan	0.308	5	Pakistan	0.304	5
23	Yemen	0.290	5	Iraq	0.281	5	Afghanistan	0.302	5
24	Afghanistan	0.239	5	Afghanistan	0.227	5	Iraq	0.266	5

Table 5. Ranking of South-West Asian countries in 2018-2020 by VIKOR method (individual and synthetic indices)

Position in the ranking	Country	VIKOR 2018	Class 2018		VIKOR 2019	Class 2019		VIKOR 2020	Class 2020
1	Uzbekistan	0.150	1	Uzbekistan	0.159	1	Qatar	0.016	1
2	Azerbaijan	0.152	1	Azerbaijan	0.178	1	Kuwait	0.111	1
3	Qatar	0.199	1	Qatar	0.192	1	Kazakhstan	0.278	1
4	Kazakhstan	0.273	1	Kazakhstan	0.311	1	Oman	0.290	1
5	Kuwait	0.389	2	Georgia	0.377	2	United Arab Emirates	0.317	2
6	Georgia	0.397	2	Kuwait	0.417	2	Turkey	0.384	2
7	Kyrgyzstan	0.464	2	Kyrgyzstan	0.429	2	Azerbaijan	0.400	2
8	Turkmenistan	0.475	2	United Arab Emirates	0.446	2	Bahrain	0.427	2
9	United Arab Emirates	0.512	2	Egypt	0.499	2	Turkmenistan	0.458	2
10	Oman	0.534	2	Turkey	0.532	2	Saudi Arabia	0.495	2
11	Saudi Arabia	0.548	2	Saudi Arabia	0.541	2	Armenia	0.518	2
12	Armenia	0.561	2	Armenia	0.567	3	Georgia	0.535	3
13	Jordan	0.581	3	Turkmenistan	0.589	3	Lebanon	0.564	3
14	Bahrain	0.597	3	Oman	0.595	3	Kyrgyzstan	0.590	3
15	Turkey	0.619	3	Bahrain	0.610	3	Jordan	0.598	3
16	Tajikistan	0.648	3	Jordan	0.635	3	Uzbekistan	0.608	3
17	Lebanon	0.661	3	Tajikistan	0.644	3	Iraq	0.629	3
18	Iran	0.668	3	Lebanon	0.681	3	Egypt	0.632	3
19	Iraq	0.770	3	Pakistan	0.768	3	Iran	0.643	3
20	Pakistan	0.782	3	Iraq	0.780	3	Tajikistan	0.758	3
21	Syria	0.802	4	Syria	0.794	4	Syria	0.804	4
22	Egypt	0.823	4	Iran	0.814	4	Pakistan	0.819	4
23	Yemen	0.999	5	Afghanistan	0.967	5	Yemen	0.931	5
24	Afghanistan	1.000	5	Yemen	1.000	5	Afghanistan	1.000	5

Table 6. Ranking of South-West Asian countries in 2018-2020 by TOPSIS method (individual and synthetic indices)

Position in the ranking	Country	TOPSIS 2018	Class 2018	country	TOPSIS 2019	Class 2019	country	TOPSIS 2020	Class 2020
1	Qatar	0.801	1	Qatar	0.7936	1	Qatar	0.774	1
2	United Arab Emirates	0.709	1	United Arab Emirates	0.7143	2	United Arab Emirates	0.601	2
3	Bahrain	0.701	2	Bahrain	0.7025	2	Kuwait	0.583	2
4	Kuwait	0.659	2	Kuwait	0.6734	3	Bahrain	0.560	2
5	Kazakhstan	0.630	3	Azerbaijan	0.6575	3	Saudi Arabia	0.516	3
6	Saudi Arabia	0.612	3	Kazakhstan	0.6481	3	Oman	0.492	3
7	Oman	0.588	3	Kyrgyzstan	0.6268	3	Azerbaijan	0.453	3
8	Kyrgyzstan	0.571	3	Saudi Arabia	0.6143	3	Kyrgyzstan	0.450	3
9	Turkmenistan	0.570	3	Oman	0.6062	3	Kazakhstan	0.448	3
10	Azerbaijan	0.566	3	Georgia	0.5751	3	Turkmenistan	0.435	3
11	Uzbekistan	0.554	3	Tajikistan	0.5705	3	Lebanon	0.398	4
12	Armenia	0.522	4	Turkmenistan	0.569	3	Armenia	0.388	4
13	Georgia	0.519	4	Uzbekistan	0.5659	3	Georgia	0.383	4
14	Lebanon	0.512	4	Armenia	0.5641	3	Tajikistan	0.380	4
15	Pakistan	0.510	4	Syria	0.5435	4	Jordan	0.375	4
16	Turkey	0.503	4	Lebanon	0.5392	4	Iraq	0.371	4
17	Tajikistan	0.498	4	Pakistan	0.5363	4	Uzbekistan	0.367	4
18	Iraq	0.475	4	Iraq	0.5124	4	Pakistan	0.365	4
19	Jordan	0.456	4	Afghanistan	0.509	4	Turkey	0.361	4
20	Syria	0.444	4	Turkey	0.5087	4	Afghanistan	0.350	4
21	Afghanistan	0.393	5	Jordan	0.4982	4	Egypt	0.339	4
22	Iran	0.387	5	Egypt	0.4201	5	Yemen	0.289	5
23	Egypt	0.350	5	Iran	0.3107	5	Syria	0.255	5
24	Yemen	0.333	5	Yemen	0.2388	5	Iran	0.218	5

- According to the Legatum welfare index, **Emirates** and **Qatar** getting the highest and Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen the lowest **IWS .**
- In sum, **Qatar** and **Emirate** obtaining the best ,**Syria**, **Iran**, **Afghanistan** and **Yemen** obtaining the worst **IWS…**
- Despite the fact that: Iran **potentially speaking**, as one of the **wealthiest** countries in the region, so Not surprising for other ….

Concluding remarks

- using TOPSIS and VIKOR for investigating the **IWS** of Iran and its competitors amongst **South-West-Asian countries**…
- Based on individual indices, **Qatar**, **Emirates** and **Kuwait** having the best and **Yemen and Syria** the worst **IWS…**
- According to synthetic indices, **Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Azerbaijan and Qatar** obtaining the highest and Afghanistan, Iraq, and Yemen showing the lowest **IWS…**
- By using general and composite indices **Qatar** getting the best and **Afghanistan, Yemen, Iran** the worst **IWS.**
- As technical factors are concerned, high **misery index**, low and negative **GDP growth**, and inefficient **tax-subsidy** framework as influential factors behind the problematic **IWS** in Iran….

- As the primal cause or cause of cause factors are concerned, **bad governance** along with **structural difficulties** the main elements to explain the position as such…
- the roots of current bad **IWS** in Iran and few of its competitors, not merely economical, rather originating from non-economic factors including institutional, environmental, political and so forth…
- According to the finding of this article and for resolving main difficulties, **structural reform** is urgent in the region generally and in Iran particularly…

THANK YOU