

# THE SURVEY OF EFFECTS OF POLITICAL TRUST AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION ON THE ATTITUDE TO DEMOCRACY (THE INITIAL SAMPLE CONSISTED OF 400 STUDENTS FROM PUBLIC, MEDICAL SCIENCES, ISLAMIC FREE AND PAYAME NOUR UNIVERSITY

Abbas Ali Rahbar<sup>1</sup> and Ali Zolfaghari<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of political Science, University of Allameh Tabatabaee in Tehran (Iran)

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Law and Political Science at University of Allameh Tabatabaee in Tehran (Iran).

Corresponding Author: Ali zolfaghari, [Email: Ali\\_Zolfaghari2007@yahoo.com](mailto:Ali_Zolfaghari2007@yahoo.com)

**ABSTRACT:** The aim of this study was to evaluate and validate the survey of effects of Political trust and Participation on the attitude to democracy. This dissertation follows a case-study design, and was adopted descriptive, interpretive and empirical data. Also, it was conducted in the form of a survey. The simple random sample of patients with kukri formula was recruited from this study. The scope of study is consisted of 400 students from public, medical science, Islamic free and Payame Nour University. This case-study presents the findings of the research, focusing on the several key themes that have been identified in analysis. 1) Taken together, these findings suggest a significant positive correlation between political trust and attitude to democracy. 2) suggest a significant positive correlation between political participation and attitude to democracy. 3) and suggest a significant positive correlation between political trust and participation.

**Results:** The most striking result emerge from the data is that there is a significant positive correlation between political trust, participation and attitude to democracy. This has been widely investigated (Putnam, 2000; Fukuyama, 1995; Durkheim, 1978; Marx, 1957; Max Weber, 1951 and etc) The following conclusions can be drawn from the present study is that the rapid changes in political trust are having a serious effect on the Attitude to democracy. Also, the indexes of individual's political participation have the direct relationship on the attitude to democracy.

**Keywords:** Political trust, participation, political participation and attitude to democracy

## INTRODUCTION

In different societies, the role and importance of governments are very important. In new societies; the governments have an important role in different areas of citizens' life. For example, trust between two parts of societies specially citizens trust on government are taken into consideration. As far as, there are the positive correlations among the ratio of citizens' trust and government' acceptability. Although, the citizens of a society don't rely on to their responsible; they don't show the necessary fortune toward the affirmative rules and the different functions. Also, they depend on the societies' responsible for performing their needs. They attempt to achieve the new methods for their needs except the legal methods and refer to their responsible. And, gradually keep distance from responsible. By continuation of distrust, this is important that the ruling responsible and governments don't the necessary ability for governorship and this is useful to governments [1].

## RESEARCH QUESTION

1. Is there any correlation between social trust and attitude to democracy?
2. Is there any correlation between political participation and attitude to democracy?
3. Is there any correlation between political participation and trust?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Dr Hossein Bashiriyeh in his books [2, 3] entitled "Passing democracy", by the survey of different attitude to democracy processes believed that the attitude to democracy has the direct relationship with freedom, participation and political competition, and its basis is

equality; it means that in spite of all undeniable the differences of opinion among humans in citizens, the element, aspect or the basic quality let us behave which human beings as the equal person with other citizens.

While, Majid Movahed in his case of study [4] entitled "traditional religiosity and attitude to democracy among the students of Shiraz university concluded that the democracy variable has three parts:

1. Civil rights and liberties;
2. Democratic and responsible government;
3. Democratic (civil) society. This is noticeable that they are used by the opinions of technical experts after the primary test and finally by changes in localization in Iranian community.

But, Zamani in his book [5] described that the democracy has caused the lawful framework for peaceful solution of political and economic competition for promotion of political stability, constructive competition and sustainable economic development.

### Definition of Political Trust:

First of all, we should clarify that which word adopts with "political trust". In literature of "political trust", we face with three concepts such as: political confidence, trust and efficacy; so that, political efficacy takes into consideration on political efficacy of citizen's feelings for their interaction effects on political events. This concept shows the effects of individual's beliefs on social and political changes. Against this concept is political alienation

### Political Trust Theories:

First of all, we should clarify that which word adopts with "political trust". In literature of "political trust", we face with three concepts such as: political confidence, trust and efficacy; so that, political efficacy takes into consideration on political efficacy of citizen's feelings for their

interaction effects on political events. This concept shows the effects of individual's beliefs on social and political changes. Against this concept is political alienation

In "sitrin point of view", "political confidence" refer to the citizen's feelings about political and their policies. In "Lazarfeld" and "Merton" paper entitled "The effect of Media on political trust, believed that the root of "confidence" is "fait-together" They use this word for trust to political responsible. They believed that the media have the hard effects on political trust of citizens

In "stone" point of view, political trust is a group of positive attitudes toward political subjects. He says that the political trust take into consideration political regime and also the authoritarian in a society (Ibid).

In "Norris" point of view, the "political trust" pay attention to 7 indexes:

1. Protection of political community like:  
Nation- state (protect of a country in war period of time);
2. Protection of country's constitution.
3. Protection of regimes executive affairs such as:  
democracy and so on;
4. Protection of regime institutions such as:  
Government, parliament, Judiciary, police and bureaucratic system and political parties;
5. Protection of political and political and executive chiefs (Ebid).

In addition, the "political efficacy" refers to the scene of individuals political high – powering. This word is in contrast with the political alienation.

The political confidence pay attention to political leaders and elites; but, "political trust" the public concept and also takes into consideration the activations, institutions, and partially political system.

So, among three words: efficacy and confidence and also paying attention to all political aspects of words, the "political trust" is remarkable.

"Anthony Giddens" [6] pay attention the "trust" in head stock of distinction between modernism and tradition. Based on this, he explains the base of trust in societies. "Giddens" takes into consideration the "trust" based on the modernity potentiality; separation of time and place; transformation of the mechanisms and the rethink able devotion of knowledge.

He also pays attention three principles:

For definition of "trust", Giddens pays attention. Its elements; then, based on this, he defines the "trust". These elements are:

1. The "trust" relates to the lack of "time" and "place"; it means that there isn't any enough information from people and system. In fact, while we see the individuals' activities gradually or know the functions of specific systems: at this time, no need to "trust";
2. Basically, the "trust" depends on "probability" and guide to probable outcomes. And, no difference, these outcomes relates to individuals interactions or to the functions of systems;
3. The trust originates the faith and self confidence of a system or a person and connects the faith and confidence;

4. The trust can refer to the symbolic and specialized symbols; of course, trust to people always relates to trust of system to some extent; but, this trust relates to the trust of individual's realization from the suitable systems; neither to their real functions.

5. Also, the jeopardy and trust are intertwined and trusts usually serve for decrease. Of risks and the special kinds of humanistic activities are faced;

6. In modernity conditions, especially in trustful conditions, and material world, the public's (citizens) the humanistic activity is the Nat mortality of the humanistic communities (neither the nature of things or divine effect. Also, the jeopardy is instead of fateful concepts and moral duties of humans and natural reasons and religious astronomy;

6. Although, the individual and their interactions probably test the probability of risk and schism consciously; but, partially, do interactions and naturally are dangerous without knowing those risks. Also, the "trust" can define as confidence of trust- acceptability of people and system based on specific outcomes; as for as, this confidence is the faith to honesty or loving to other; or speaking on principles (technical knowledge) [7].

#### **Definitions of Attitude to Democracy:**

With these descriptions, this is considerable that the different definitions from attitude to democracy are taken the consideration. Here, the attitude to democracy is the governmental method based on: legalism, belief to law and attitude to democracy. "Ingelehart" and "Christian Welzel speech", in democratization processes, the massive attitude has the key [8], consequently, the "Aristotle" in fourth book entitled "politics" believed that the democracy in some communities with the middle classes with the orientations of equal participation is the best choice. Thus, the most latter theorists claim that the question about the type of political system in each country based on ordinary orientations of citizens in that system.

Now, it can be paid attention: legalism, belief law, human role in government, essence of political parties and political consciousness. The assessing the rate of individual's modernism based on attitude to democracy is other activities of "modernization school thinkers".

"Sharma" believed that a modern society is a society with democratic attitude that the democratic attitude has the key role in all different levels of society: political, cultural and social. He added that the modernization changes methods of citizens' attitudes and the society individuals become the followers of democratic principles like: political pluralism and public control on power.

The attitude to democracy speaks about the positive assessment legal or negative (disagree) of individuals on democratic government. This form is a form that the leaders are elective, the political fractions are free emergence of expression freedom and the elections are free and equal.

This attitude is measured by 9 items (questions) and also this is one grade. Also, this attitude has three value negative, some extent negative and positive.

Attitude to democracy depends on some conditions:

1. Belief opened and free elections.
2. The significance of human role in government.
3. Political parties in society.
4. Achieving political consciousness.
- 3.2, 1, Approaches on Attitude to democracy:
- 3.2, 1, 1, Structural Theories:

The theoretical literature on attitude to... democracy is divided in two parts. One part, macro structural theories (long-term) the other one is the active and short-term theories. The structural theories point: economic, social and cultural such as, urbanity, communication and education. These theories have the cause and effect and show the sympathy among all forms of development.

Proactive Approaches:

This theory points the conscious role of social and political forces and agents and, also class, political and social competitions. This theory is divided in two categories: the axis and community.

### **Theories of Attitude to Democracy:**

#### **Marxism Theory:**

In Marxist class analysis, the state is the result of economic inequality and different classes. On the other hand, the state is reflection of economic power and inequality in productive ability. Because of these reasons, the Marxists criticize the pluralistic democracy. They also believed that the power can't be scattered in society; because, the class, power has been distributed unequally. Thus, they protect one-party democracy. In Marxist- Leninist approach, the representative democratic system is should be completed as system, similarly in communist party level. So, the passing to socialism and communism needs trained professional leaders and revolutionists. With these descriptions, the communist party can prepare the necessary framework for this passing.

#### **Neo-Marxism Theory:**

The new Marxists can't deny election, as for as the European communists believed that the democratic ad peaceful thoughts (instead of revolution) are the "best road to socialism". Some neo-Marxists such as: "Habermas" and "claus Offe" [9] pay attention to the natural conflicts and instability in capitalism democracy and criticized them.

"Habermas" defense the other model named "consultative and dialogue democracy" and say that the consultative and dialogue democracy" is against liberal contract democracy based on legal majority and civil community. Thus, pluralism, multi-tribes and /// are the characteristics of dialogue attitude to democracy. This model of attitude to democracy pays attention on dialogue interaction.

#### **Elitism Theories:**

Some elitists like: Pareto, Moska and Milkhlz believed that the attitude to democracy is useless thought; because, the political power is done by a minority (who has some scores means elite). Thus, in elitism theory, democracy means the elitist political system. In this system, the group of power elites governs. The classic elitism believed that the attitude to democracy is a fiction; but, the new elitist theorists believed that the special political system prevent the democracy. C Wright Miles says that the power consists of big army and political agents in U.S.A that surrounds the

U.S.A president. Schumpeter also believed that it can make decision that which elite group governs; but, they can't change this fact that the power is always governed by elite groups.

In elitist theories, and by realist approach, say the attitude to democracy is the circle of power among the ruling elites. Later, they take the consideration the party competitive attitude to democracy. In this way, the competitive elitism is ruler (govern) and this is the weak problem of attitude to democracy.

#### **Corporatism Theory:**

In corporatism's point of view, the determinant organization of governmental officials, employment groups and guides the states' unions. Thus, this form leads a form of functional representative government, in this model, the perspectives and individuals interests are presented by those groups (neither by mechanism of comparative elections. Against this, most interpreters believed that corporatism is useful for democracy; because, in this form of government, inter-governmental groups may influence politically (neither the external groups). And, this form of government follow the interests of state nor others. Based on this theory, the representative democracy is important (of course, because of its governmental nature is damaged basically.

#### **Functionalism Theory:**

The functionalists with opened political system present the effective symbol of democracy. Parsons inspiration of Weber, with affirming on democracy criticizes on threatening risk of democracy and affirms on significance of citizenship for democratic system. He defenses the voting rights, nomination of elective system, the right of participation in parties and political participation as citizenship right. In this model of democracy, he affirms on free mark capitalism system.

#### **Pluralism Theory:**

The base of pluralist theory is based on the legitimacy of political group's pluralism in democracy. One symbol of this theory is Medisons symbol that is suggested the separation of power. In this model, the different groups compete to each other.

#### **New Right Theory:**

This theory is used in analysis of state's economic policies. In this model, the different groups compete to each other. This theory is used in analysis of state's economic policies. In their opinion from democratic system, they followers of new right) affirms on free market and take the consideration the risks of corporatism, because, it leads to dominance of pressure groups on state and the increase of state's intervention in economics and load economic collapse.

#### **Minor State Theory:**

The minor state theory as symbol of democratic state affirm on the dominant attitude of citizens-centered theories such as: new right, conservatism, neo-liberalism, neo anarchism the minor states are some states which intervene in economic spheres and other spheres less- such states are restricted to some cases such as: implementation of order, preservation of national security, supervision on contracts,

prevention from offence to individuals rights, preservation of citizen's freedom, guarantees of economic security and preservation of private properties. This model of states is composed from the state interventions in economics, increase of society functions, political system democratization. In this condition, the role of state in democracy is the protective role.

#### Theoretical frame work

Considering on the social capital theories such as: the exchange and credits and debits theory of "Zimmel", the "drift financial capital theory of some Iranian sociologists", critical condition of Marx, economic capital of Bourdieu" and "relationship between political government and social capital of Putnam", it seems that finally, Robert Putnam's argument relies on heavily as theoretical framework under localization condition of Iran.

In his opinion, the social capital involves some concepts such as: trust, norms, communicative networks among the individuals of a communality and added that the social capital is a tool for political and social development in different political systems.

Putnam also relied on the "trust", in his opinion, the trust and mutual communication in social networks is as a source for action of existing society members. The state involves all areas and institutions; because, devotion of power is done and in all case, the power of state is restricted and this is main factor for decrease of social capital. In fact, the individuals in all areas know the state as responsible and don't participate for solution of affairs and problems.

The other part, the deepened duties of states and lack of citizen's participation for citizenship duties prevent their slate duty well. Finally, the citizens facing the problems in all areas, the citizens don't rely on the state and pessimist to the states; whenever, the states are democratic, the democratization is stabilized.

The ether part, with devotion of power among private sector and the citizens, the duties of the state decreases and the states are supervisor and control all parts. In addition, all things are done rapidly and the public is satisfied and finally their trust to state increases. In this condition, the citizens of that society, attempts to do their citizen duties well such as: participation in election, cooperation in symposium, helping to different organs and institution for more welfare.

#### RESEARCH METHOD:

In this research, the research method is the survey. Based on recent research, "the survey of the effect of political trust and participation on the attitude of democracy is described and presented:

Tests and the scope of study:

The scope of study is consisted of 400 students from public, medical science, Islamic free and Payame Nour University based on kukri formula.

#### Sampling Method:

In this paper, the method for data collection among the citizens of society is simple random method which is shown in figure 1.

#### Evaluation Tools:

In this paper, tools of data collection are questionnaire. First of all, for evaluation and validity of questionnaire, 400 questionnaires among statically sample are delivered and the validity of questionnaire is measured by Kronbakh' Test (table 1).

#### Research Model:

Effects of the independent variable (political trust and participation) on Attitude to Democracy.

#### RESEARCH FINDINGS:

As shown in figure (2) most samples are from Tehran and the least is from kordestan. 75% sample is aged between 18 and 25. The most sample (%79) is single and bachelor (%58) and also %33 found in the humanities, art and education disciplines. (%69) the majority of respondents' father studies are diplomats and (%69) (The majority of respondent's mother studies are also diploma, (%60) of citizens study the newspaper and political and cultural parts. According the Figure 2, attitude to democracy is 10 %( low); 70 %( average); 21 %( high). This shows that the attitude to democracy is high. According the Figure 3, political participation is 63 %( low); 31 %( average); 4 %( high). This shows that the political participation is low.

According the Figure 4, political trust is 25 %( low); 53 %( average); 23 %( high). This shows that the political trust is low.

The hypotheses that will be tested; are that:

First hypothesis: the correlation between political participation and attitude to democracy is tested.

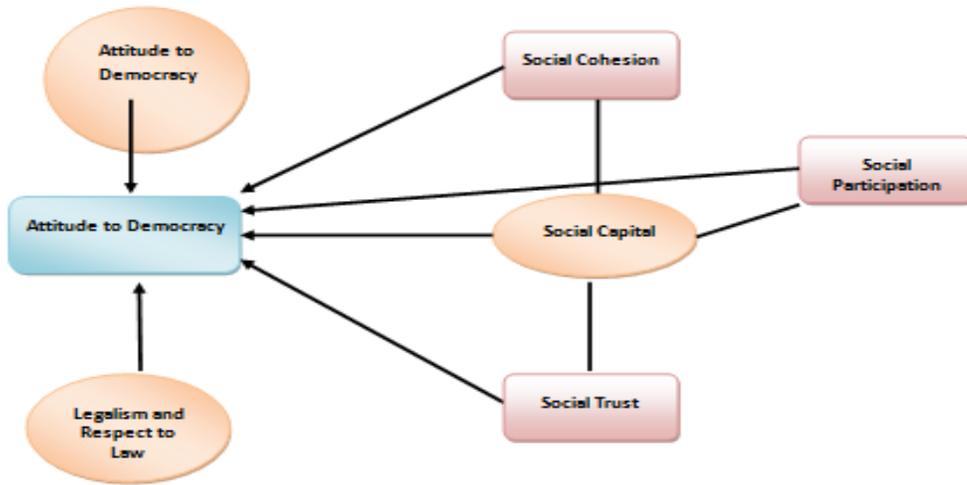
According below diagram, individuals with attitude to democracy positively; have the high political participation ratio. In spite of these problems, (the type of attitude to democracy: %62 inter correlation and %39 optimist). The people who believe to attitude of democracy negatively; have the low political participation, the type of attitude to democracy: %13 pessimist, %74 inter-correlation and %13 optimist). The findings show that significantly more political participation as well as attitude to democracy positively.

Based on Pearson's product moment correlation, on Medium the political participation and attitude to democracy is equivalent 0.289.

The significance level was set at the 0.000 level using the Pearson's product moment. Also, the ratio of achieved significance validity is less likely than 0.05. So, the result of this study show the positive hypothesis between political participation and 0 hypotheses is rejected. On the other hand, there is correlation between political participation and attitude to democracy.

**Table1: Kronbakh' Test Coefficient**

<i>Social Participation</i>	<i>Social Trust</i>	<i>Social Cohesion</i>	<i>Social Capital</i>	<i>Attitude to Democracy</i>	<i>Items</i>
0.72	0.74	0.71	0.79	%81	<i>Kronbakh' Test Coefficient</i>

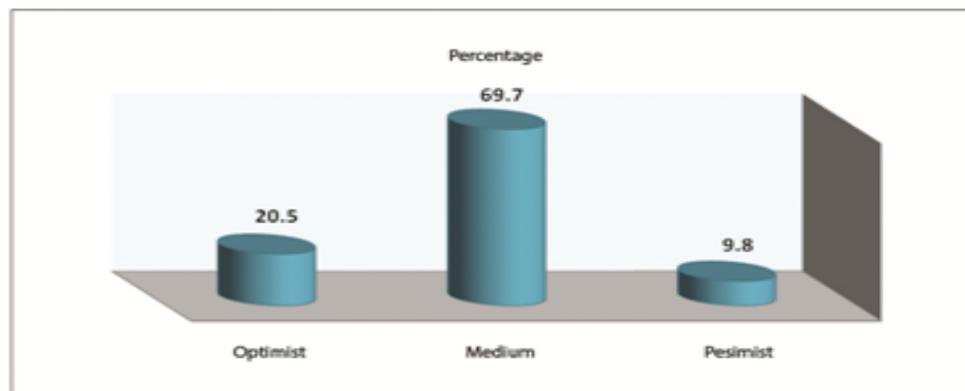


**Figure 1: Kronbakh' Test procedure**

**Attitude to Democracy**

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Aggregative Percentage
Size	Pessimist	34	8.5	9.8	9.8
	Inter-Correlation	241	60.0	69.7	79.5
	Optimist	71	17.7	20.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-
		<b>56</b>	<b>13.9</b>	-	-

**Attitude to Democracy**



**Figure 2: Attitude to democracy variation**

**Political Participation**

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Aggregative Percentage
Size		34	8.5	9.8	9.8
	Inter-Correlation	241	60.0	69.7	79.5
	Optimist	71	17.7	20.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-
		56	13.9	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-	-

**Political Participation**

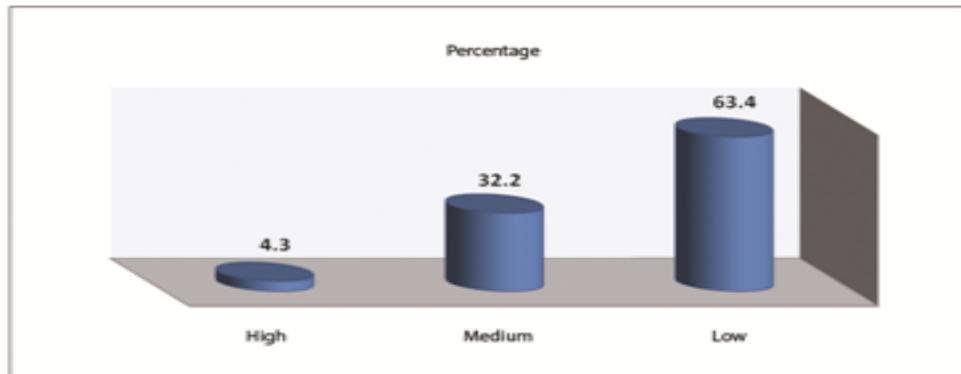


Figure 3. Political participation rates

**Political Trust**

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Aggregative Percentage
Size		234		9.8	
	Inter-Correlation	241	60.0	69.7	
	Optimist	71	17.7	20.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-
		56	13.9	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-	-

**Political Trust**

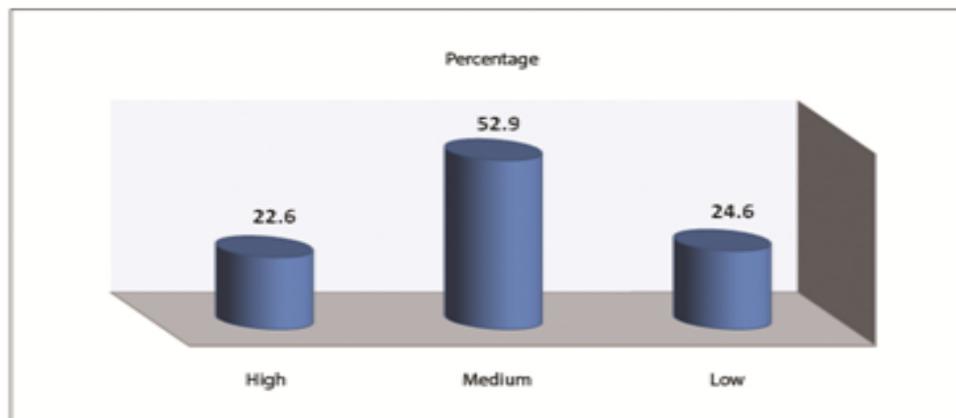


Figure 4. Political trust variation

**Table 2: Correlation between political participation and attitude to democracy**

		Attitude to Democracy			Total
		Pessimist	Inter-correlation	Optimist	
Political Trust	low	32.9%	64.5%	2.6%	100.0%
	Medium	3.6%	79.9%	16.6%	100.0%
	High		43.7%	56.3%	100.0%
Total		9.8%	68.0%	22.2%	100.0%

Political participation	Attitude to Democracy		
.289(**)	1	Pearson' Test	Attitude to Democracy
.000	.	Significance Level	
327	345	N	
1	.289(**)	Pearson Test	Social Trust
.	.000	Significance Level	
369	327	N	

		Attitude to Democracy			Total
		Pessimist	Inter-Correlation	Optimist	
Political participation	Low	12.8%	74.4%	12.8%	100.0%
	Medium	6.8%	57.3%	35.9%	100.0%
	High		61.5%	38.5%	100.0%
Total		10.4%	68.5%	21.1%	100.0%

Political Participation	Attitude to Democracy		
.622(**)	1	Pearson' Test	Attitude to Democracy
.000	.	Significance Level	
316	346	N	
1	.622(**)	Pearson' Test	Political Trust
.	.000	Significance Level	
350	316	N	

**Table 3: Correlation between political trust and participation**

	Political Participation			Total	
	Low	Medium	High		
Political Trust	Low	73.2%	22.0%	4.9%	100.0%
	Medium	66.1%	30.5%	3.4%	100.0%
	High	44.7%	47.4%	7.9%	100.0%
Total		63.0%	32.2%	4.8%	100.0%

Social Participation	Attitude to Democracy		
.184(**)	1	Pearson' Test	Attitude to Democracy
.000	.	Significance Level	
332	369	N	
1	.184(**)	Pearson' Test	Social Trust
.	.000	Significance Level	
350	332	N	

Second hypothesis: the correlation between political trust and attitude to democracy is tested.

According to results presented in table 2 and 3, individuals with attitude to democracy positively; have the high political trust ratio. In spite of these problems, (the type of attitude to democracy: % 56 pessimists and %44 inter-correlation). The people who believe to attitude of democracy negatively; have the low political trust, the type of attitude to democracy: %33 pessimist, %65 inter-correlation and %3 optimist). The findings show that significantly more political trust as well as attitude to democracy positively.

Based on Pearson's product moment correlation, on Medium, the social cohesion and attitude to democracy is equivalent 0.184.

The significance level was set at the 0.001 level using the Pearson's product moment. Also, the ratio of achieved significance validity is less likely than 0.05. So, the results of this study show the positive hypothesis between political trust between political participation and attitude to democracy. On the other hand, there is correlation between political trust and attitude to democracy.

Third hypothesis: the correlation between political trust and political participation is tested.

According to diagrams above, individuals with democracy positively; have the high political participation ratio. In spite of these problems, (the type of political participation: % 45 lows, %45 inter correlation and %8 high). The people who believe to political participation lowly; have the low political trust, the type of political participation: %73 low, %22 medium and %5 high). The findings show that significantly more political trust as well as political participation positively.

Based on Pearson's product moment correlation, on Medium the social participation and attitude to democracy is equivalent 0.184.

The significance level was set at the 0.001 level using the Pearson's product moment. Also, the ratio of achieved significance validity is less likely than 0.05. So, the results of this study show the positive hypothesis between political trust between political participation and attitude to democracy. On the other hand, there is correlation between political trust and participation.

Conclusions:

The political trust is used while the systems are protected by the votes of citizens. This kind of systems have experienced the hard years after revolution and war by protect of citizen. But, the political systems with low political trust, deal with the lack of citizens protect from responsibilities; respect to rules by force; decrease of political participation; lack of tax payment; distrust to public institutions and organizations and, also legitimacy crisis.

According to "Britc", the political trust is divided into three parts: trust to system; institutions and political among respondents. This indicated that the political trust with all aspects is moderate generally. In this paper, the legitimacy source such as/ government capability; content ratio; trust of citizens to government are satisfying. Also in modern societies, and political systems can't achieve legitimacy by pretending the foreign common enemy; but, should preserve and promote the legitimacy by the different ways such as: welfare's state, freedom of press, promotion of social security and so on, the Islamic Republic of Iran have done the good steps.

In spite of these problems, there is the positive correlation between political participation and trust; it means that the high political trust promotes the high political participation and this has the positive effect on democracy.

But, in this paper, the political participation is low and society should the more participation in society.

## REFERENCE

1. Saraee, H; Safiri, N., "The survey of student political trust; the case of study; student of Amir kabir University", *the magazine of contemporary sociology*, 1th, N40 autumn: pp71-96. (2010)
2. Bashiriyeh H., "Transition to Democracy: Theoretical Issues" Tehran: Negah-e Moaser Press, (2006)
3. Bashiriyeh, H, "Transition to Democracy: Collection of Essays", Tehran: Negahe Moaser Press, (2008)
4. Razmjoo, S.A., Movahed, M., "In the Relationship between Socio-cultural Factors and Language Proficiency (Case Study: Shiraz University MA Students)", *Pan-Pacific Association of Applied Linguistics* 13(2), pp59-76, (2009)
5. Zamani, H., "Democracy & sustainable economic development, case of Iran", *Kitāb-i Arzān*, (2004), [In Persian].
6. Giddens, A., "Modernism and Post-Modernism", No. 22, *Special Issue on Modernism*, Tehran; Duke University Press, pp 15-18, (1981).
7. Mestrovic, S., "Anthony Giddens: The Last Modernist", Routledge, New York, (2005).
8. Welzel, C., Inglehart R., "The Role of Ordinary People in Democratization", *Journal of Democracy*, 19(1), pp. 126-140, (2008).
9. Merkel, W., "Is there a crisis of democracy?", 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, (2013).