

Librarians' Attitudes towards the Privatization of Public Libraries; a Case Study of Kerman Public Librarians

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to examine the attitudes of librarians and library staff of Public Libraries in Kerman towards privatization.

Methodology: This is a descriptive survey. A pre-formulated questionnaire for data collection from a master thesis (Khorshid, 1377) was used. The questionnaire collects the viewpoints of librarians in relation to 6 different areas namely, individual, economic, equitable advancement opportunities, job security, government regulations and measures of devotion. Reliability coefficients were obtained for 0.934. The study population consists of all librarians and library workers of public libraries in the year 1390 in the city of Kerman.

Findings: The results reveal that librarians have neither awareness of, nor interest in privatization personally. However, from an economic perspective, they agree with the economic benefits of privatization for the purpose of the development of organizations and for the country in general. They disagree with privatization feeling that it does not provide opportunities for everyone to progress and do not also believe that privatization will necessarily help their job security. However, librarians voted for the alteration of government rules and regulations designed to accelerate the privatization process. Finally, as a measure of their devotion librarians showed their willingness to overlook their own ideas for the sake of the organizational progress.

Originality/Value: This is a unique research project which was conducted to assess, for the first time, the attitudes of librarians towards privatization.

Keywords: Attitude, Librarians, Public Libraries, Privatization, the City of Kerman.