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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Explaining of the Status of Electoral Geography in the City Council by Using a Matrix Method (Case Study: Tehran City, from the first period until the end of the fourth period)

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### Abstract

Participation is the most important tendency of affairs control. Political participation is the central focus of elections. Voting is the lowest form of political participation, because it requires a minimum commitment. Election is one of the indicators of political development and is a kind of performing for the people's role in the government. Electoral laws, its implementation, and the turnout in the elections represent the relationship between the government and the people and their social situation. In this regard, the elections of the City Council of Tehran have been analyzed in this paper from the first period of 1998 to the fourth round of 2003. In this analysis has been used from the main variables seven; Education, gender, place of birth, party affiliation, the number of membership in the City Council of Tehran, age and occupation by matrix method and for each of the main variables are considered other minor variables. Method of this research is quantitative – analytic and has been used written sources and the variables documents. The purpose of this article is to explain the status of electoral geography in the City Council of Tehran.

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## INTRODUCTION

Foundation and the index of electoral geography are based on concepts like democracy, elections, political participation, decision-making and electoral constituency. . . . Democracy in the status of universal concept is a type of political system which the people are in power. There are numerous questions about every word of this statement (the rule and the rule by the people) (Giddens, 1997: 329). Speaking about democracy in geography returns to the role of its environmental and territory. Democracy and elections will be related to the political geography due to relationship three elements of people, state and territory each others. The lack of separation of this triangle is the result of the transfer of people's will to the state. In other words, democracy and elections is the most important means to influence the nation's will on the state way in controlling the territory. Accordingly, democracy is the most geography of type of the state (Mojtahedzadeh, 2000: 37). If we know political geography as a study of geographic heterogeneities related to the areas political process, electoral geography as a subset of this study focuses on the study and analysis the influence of spatial differences in political behavior. Although some consider merely electoral geography as a training variety and the results of the votes of voters of different areas (Estes, 2005). Electoral geography is considered as a subset of political geography to analyze the interaction of space, place and the electoral processes and yet is connected to electoral studies and social sciences (Johnston and Pattie, 2006). Accordingly, elections of representatives of the people in the separated electoral districts (or political areas) complete the political

system. In this process, electoral districts are considered as its political areas which play the role of the political geography units. In this regard, the authors seek to determine the position of electoral geography of the City Council of Tehran from the first period until the end of the fourth.

## 1- Methodology

In this paper, the research method is quantitative – analytic. Gathering of information is used by the conventional means such as tables, charts, and Internet sites. . . . To analyze the data has been applied matrix method. Thus, certain percentage of the studied components in Tehran compared to the total representatives of requirements of the City Council of Tehran will be calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{(Relative Percentage) } X = \frac{X(\text{in Tehran})}{X(\text{total representation of every period})} \times 100$$

[X] Is variable components. According to this study, independent variables are the electoral geography of the city council of Tehran that include 7 components of the educational, gender, place of birth, party affiliation, membership periods of employment groups.

## 2- Studied Variables

In this study seven components are evaluated including: Educational variables (diploma or equivalent variables, associate degree or equivalent, bachelor and equivalent, master's degree or equivalent and doctoral or equivalent), gender variables (including man and woman variables), the place of birth variables (the place of birth in Tehran, in Tehran province, the place of birth in other provinces), factional dependency variables (fundamentalist factional dependency, reformist factional dependency and independent), the variables of number of membership in the City Council of Tehran (two consecutive periods, two intermittent periods, three consecutive periods and three alternating periods), age variables (under 30 years, from 30 years to close 40 years, from 40 years to close 50 years, from 50 years to close 60 years, from 60 years to close 70 years, and more than 70 years), and employment variables (including cultural variables, market, sports, top managers, governmental employees, civil and military retired).

### 1-Theoretical Foundations of the Research

#### 1-1 Participation, the Foundation of the Democratic System

Participation is the most important tendency in controlling of affairs. Political participation will be pivotal focus of the elections. Political participation is involvement of individuals in the various levels of activity in political system and includes lack of involvement to having political position. Because we assume participation is a transformation in the making of political power and the rationalization of people's lifestyles (Tavasoly, 2003: 63). Voting is the lowest form of political participation. Because it requires a minimum commitment and when the vote was threw in ballot box, it may end. Therefore, there is a high correlation between political participation and the extent of what is "political efficacy" is known. On the other hand, individual influences on policy (Nagibzadeh, 1995: 12).

Therefore, elections are one of indicators of policy development and interpreter of the role of people in the state. Electoral laws, its implementation, and the turnout in the elections represent the relationship between the government and the people and their social status (Saelikordeh deh, 1999: 15). In fact, elections are the operational tools for the people's administration which in modern pluralistic societies is the only way to gain acceptance and legitimacy of the political system. Individual's decision to participate in the elections is also a political response. If we consider the election as an integral part of the political geography of the modern state, electoral geography is the study of the spatial distribution of political phenomenon of voting across the country. Since the elections is a criterion for identifying the attitudes, perceptions, bottlenecks and problems of society, distribution of voting results on the map indicates the behavioral differences among different locations. Richard Muir believes that in the political geography, the statistical data related to the election is valid that from the point of view of spatial focus on the individual's electoral behavior. Generally it is assumed that the selection of candidates is based on the interests of the voters and this choice is influenced by social, economic and ethnic status. So the geographers know importance of the influence of environmental factors in elections (Muir, 2000: 256).

**1-2 Geographical Position**

Tehran is the capital of Iran and the most important city in Iran. This city has located in 51 degrees and 6 minutes to 51 degrees and 38 minutes of east, and 35 degrees and 34 minutes and 35 degrees and 51 minutes of north latitude. Its height from the sea level is variable (1800m in north, 1200m in central parts, and 1050m in south). Tehran is located between two mountains and deserts in the southern foothills of the Alborz mountain range. Tehran is surrounded by mountains of Rey, Bibi Sharbanou, and flat plains of Varamin and Shahriyar in the south, and is also surrounded by mountains in the north. Its extent is approximately 730 square kilometers and is located in the center of Tehran province. It has a population of over 10 million people (<http://www.tebyan.net>).

**(Map No 1): Map of Iran (The Position of Tehran)**



Source: (www.google.com)

**(Map No 2): Map of Tehran Province**



Source: (www.google.com)

**2- Research findings**

**2-1 Effective educational Variables**

The most important of effective educational variables in determining of the electoral geography position of Tehran city are shown in the following table and graph:

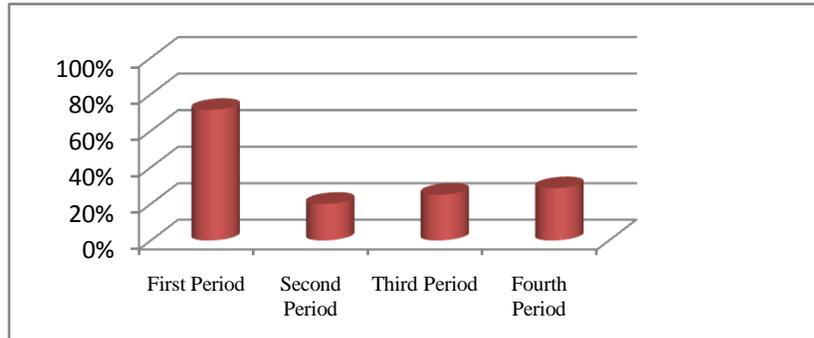
**Table (1): Educational Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Educational Degree	First Period		Second Period		Third Period		Fourth Period	
	Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent
Diploma or Equivalent	-	-	6/67	1	-	-	-	-
Associate Degree or Equivalent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bachelor and Equivalent	66/67	10	33/13	2	20	3	25/80	8
Master's Degree or Equivalent	26/26	4	26/67	4	40	6	48/40	15
Doctoral or Equivalent	6/67	1	53/33	8	40	6	25/80	8

(Designed by the Authors)

**Educational Indicators Charts of Members of the City Council of Tehran:**

**(Chart 2-1-1) BA Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

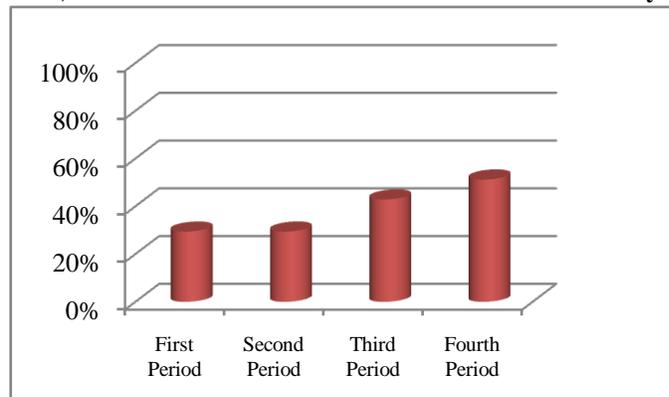


(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

- First Period %66/67 (from 1998 to 2002)
- Second Period %13/33 (from 2002 to 2006)
- Third Period %20 (from 2006 to 2012)
- Fourth Period %25/80 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-1-2) MA Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

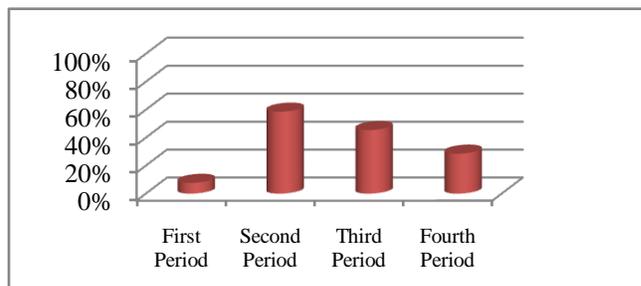


(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

- First Period %26/66 (from 1998 to 2002)
- Second Period %26/66 (from 2002 to 2006)
- Third Period %40 (from 2006 to 2012)
- Fourth Period %48/40 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2- 1-3) PhD Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period %6/67 (from 1998 to 2002)

Second Period %53/33 (from 2002 to 2006)

Third Period %40 (from 2006 to 2012)

Fourth Period %25/80 (from 2012 to 2016)

**2-2 Effective Gender Variables**

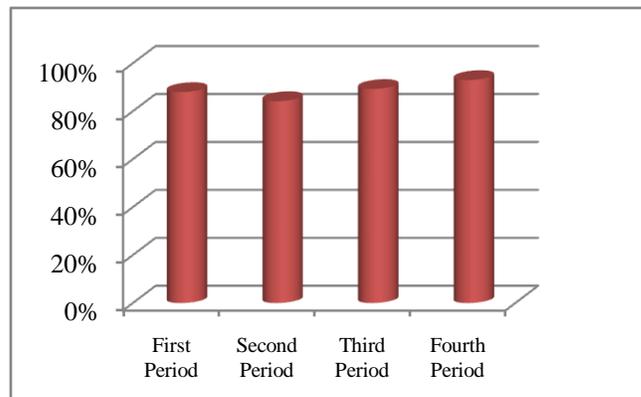
The role of gender variables is very important in electoral geography. In this paper, it is tried to show the number and percentage relative distribution of these variables in table 2 and figure 2.

**Table (2): Educational Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Gender	First Period		Second Period		Third Period		Fourth Period	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Number	Percent
Man	86/67	13	80	12	86/67	13	90/32	28
Woman	13/33	2	20	3	13/33	2	9/68	3

**Gender Indicators Charts of Members of the City Council of Tehran:**

**(Chart 2-2-1) Gender (Man) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

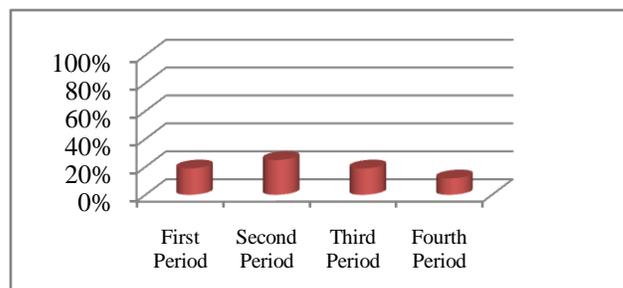
First Period %82/67 (from 1998 to 2002)

Second Period %80 (from 2002 to 2006)

Third Period %86/67 (from 2006 to 2012)

Fourth Period %90/32 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-2-2) Gender (Woman) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period % 13/33 (from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period % 20 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period % 13/33 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period % 9/68 (from 2012 to 2016)

**2-3 Effective the Place of Birth Variables**

The role of the place of birth variables is very important in electoral geography. In this paper, it is tried to show the importance of these variables in table 3 and figure 3.

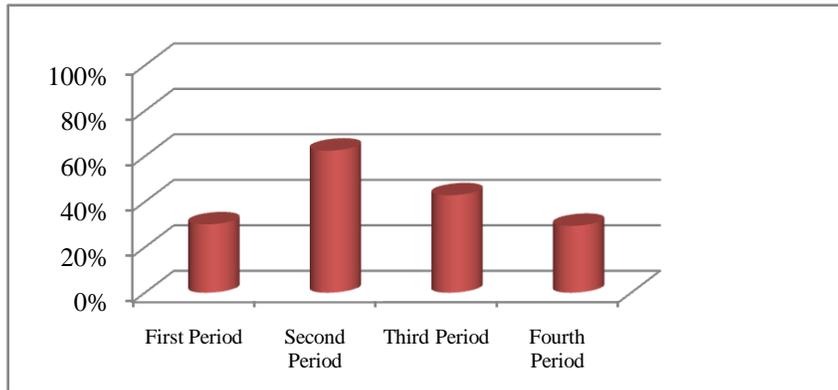
**Table (3): The Place of Birth Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Birth of Place	First Period		Second Period		Third Period		Fourth Period	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Tehran City	26/67	4	60	9	40	6	25/80	8
Tehran Province	13/33	2	6/67	1	20	3	12/90	4
Other provinces	60	9	33/33	5	40	6	61/30	19

(Designed by the Authors)

**The Place of Birth Indicators Charts of Members of the City Council of Tehran:**

**(Chart 2-3-1) The Place of Birth (Tehran City) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

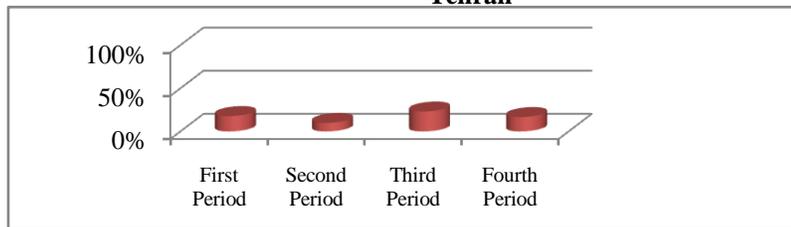


(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period % 26/67 (from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period % 60 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period % 40 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period % 25 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-3-2) The Place of Birth (Tehran Province) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

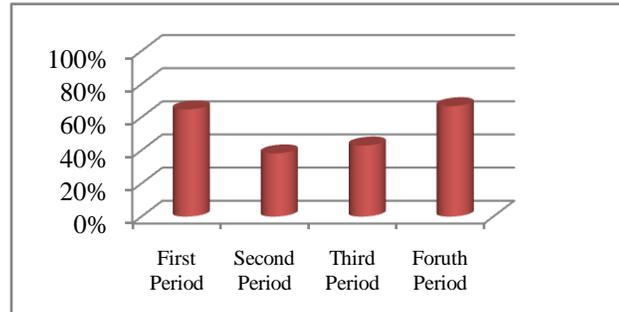


(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period % 13/33 (from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period % 6/67 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period % 20 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period % 12/90 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-3-3) The Place of Birth (Other Provinces) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period % 60 (from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period % 33/33 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period % 40 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period % 61/30 (from 2012 to 2016)

**2-4 Effective factional dependency Variables**

One of the most important of variables in electoral geography is factional dependency of individuals. It is tried to show them in table 4 and chart 4.

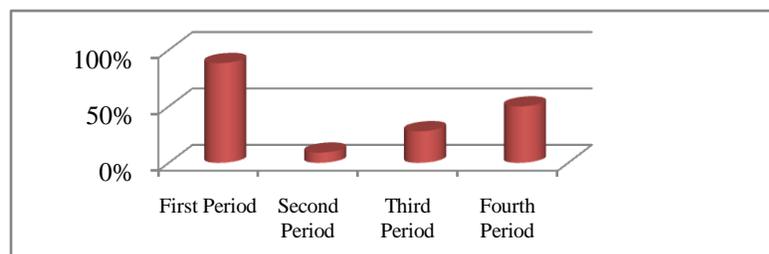
**Table (4): factional dependency Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Factional Dependency	First Period		Second Period		Third Period		Fourth Period	
	Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Reformists	86/66	13	6/67	1	26/67	4	48/39	15
Fundamentalists	6/67	1	93/33	14	73/33	11	51/61	16
Independent	6/67	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

(Designed by the Authors)

**Factional dependency Indicators Charts of Members of the City Council of Tehran:**

**(Chart 2-4-1) Factional dependency (Reformists) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

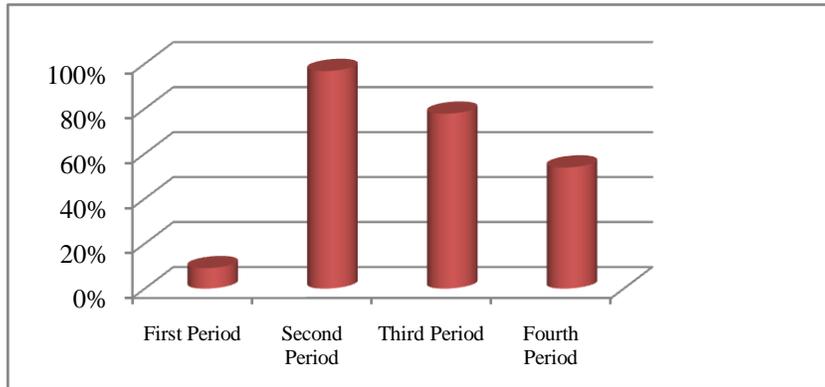


(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period %86/66 (from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period %6/67 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period %26/67 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period %48/39 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-4-2) Factional dependency (Fundamentalists) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

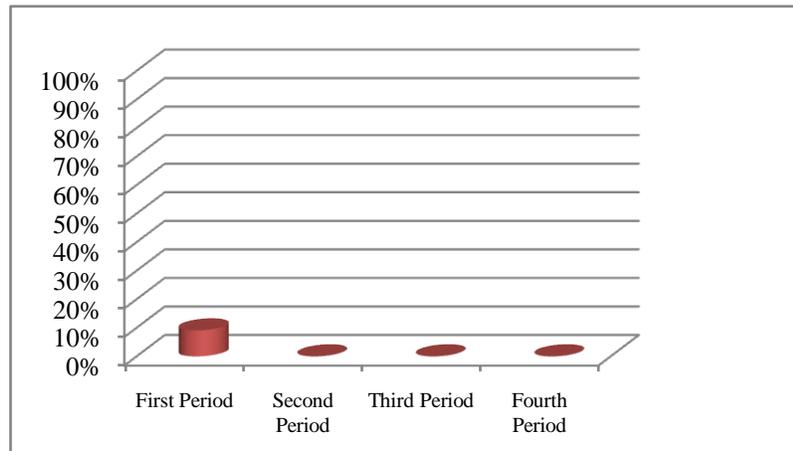


(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period %6/67(from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period %93/33 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period %73/33 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period %51/61 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-4-3) Factional dependency (Independent) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

First Period %6/67(from 1998 to 2002)  
 Second Period %0 (from 2002 to 2006)  
 Third Period %0 (from 2006 to 2012)  
 Fourth Period %0 (from 2012 to 2016)

**2-5 Effective Membership Number Variables in the City Council**

Big shot persons with previous membership in the City Council can promote the person to obtain again the post of membership of the City Council of Tehran.

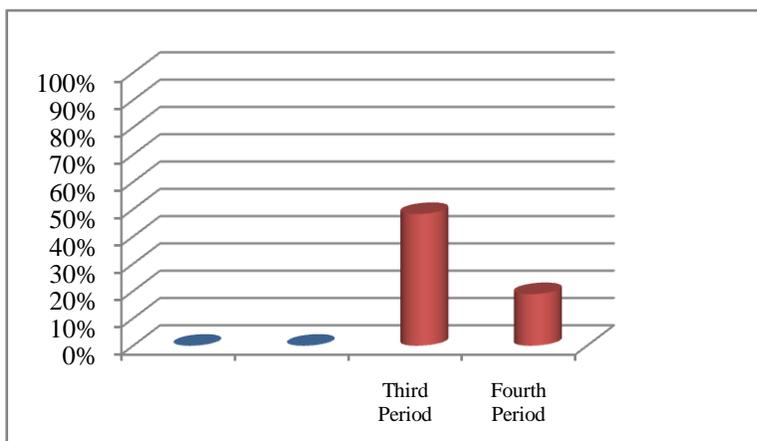
**Table (5): Membership Number Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Numbers of Membership	Second Period		Third Period		Fourth Period	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Two consecutive periods	-	-	46/67	7	16/13	5
Two intermittent periods	-	-	-	-	3/22	1
Three consecutive periods	-	-	-	-	9/68	3
Three alternating periods	-	-	-	-	-	-

(Designed by the Authors)

**Membership Numbers Indicators Charts of Members of the City Council of Tehran:**

**(Chart 2-5-1) Membership Numbers (two consecutive periods) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



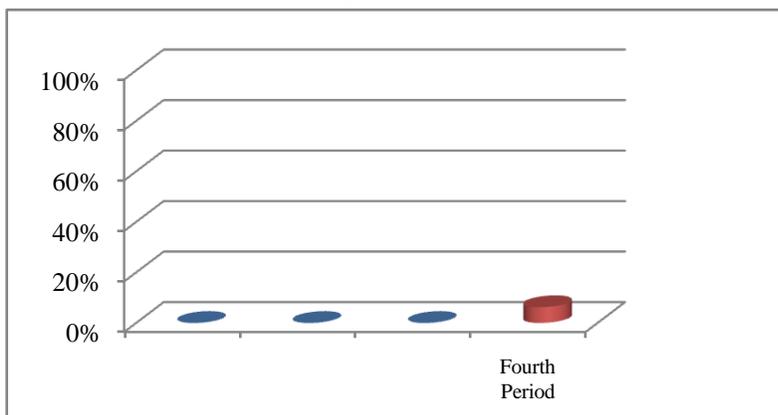
(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

Third Period %46/67 (from 2006 to 2012)

Fourth Period %16/13 (from 2012 to 2016)

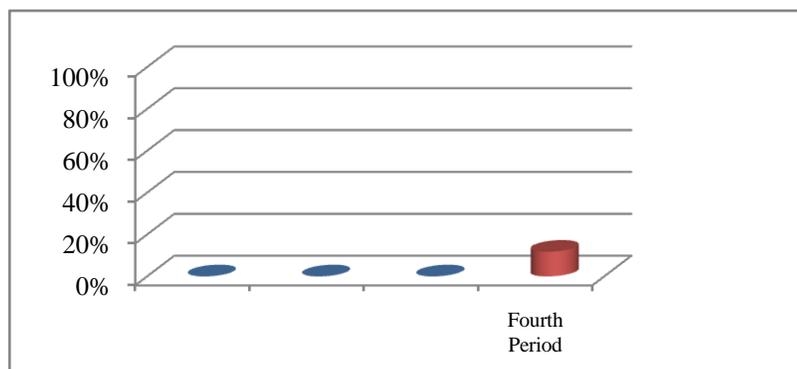
**(Chart 2-5-2) Membership Numbers (two intermittent periods) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

Fourth Period %3/22 (from 2012 to 2016)

**(Chart 2-5-3) Membership Numbers (three consecutive periods) Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

(Designed by the Authors)

**Chart Features:**

Fourth Period %9/68 (from 2012 to 2016)

**2-6 Effective Age Variables**

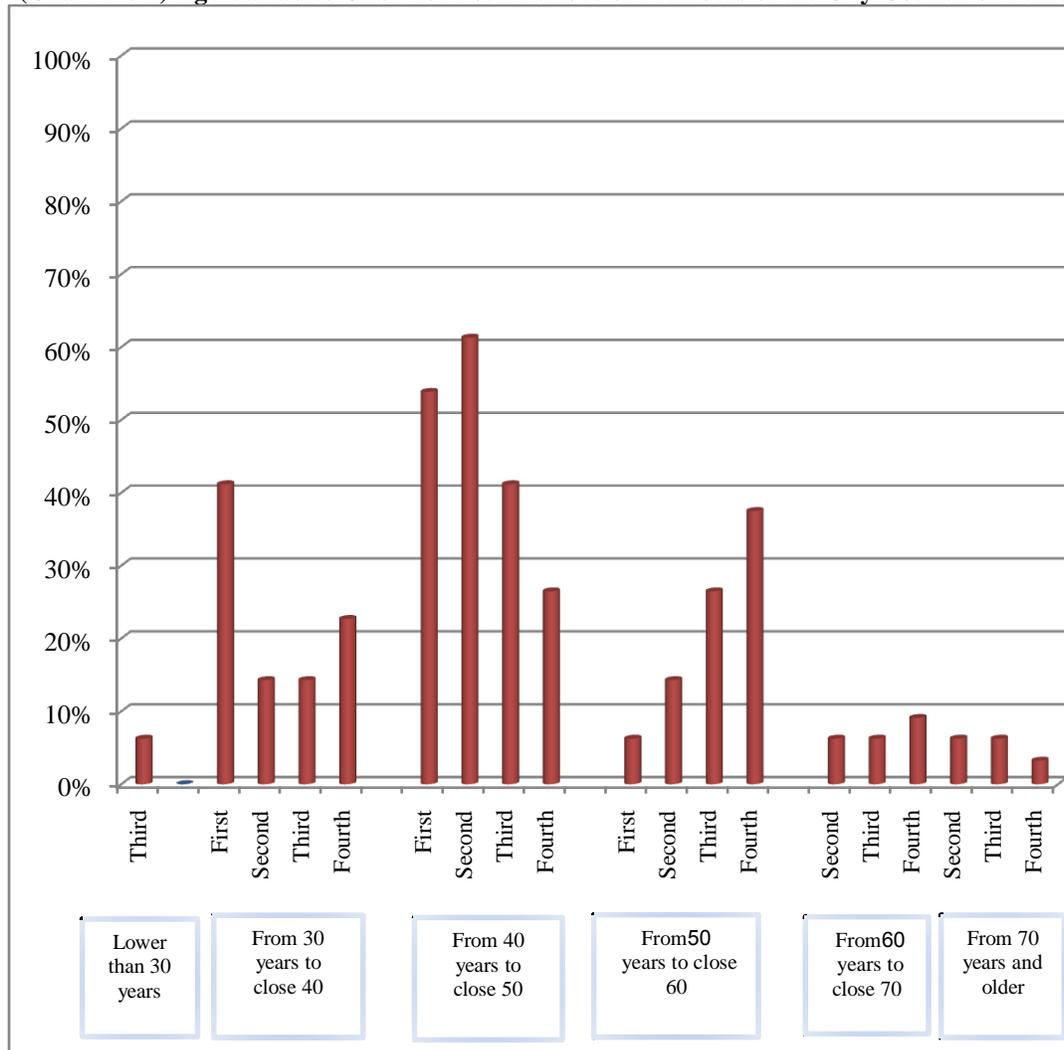
This variable is also important somehow has been shown in the following tables and charts:

**Table (6): Age Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Ages	First Period		Second Period		Third Period		Fourth Period	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Lower than 30 years	-	-	-	-	6/66	1	-	-
From 30 years to close 40 years	40	6	13/33	2	13/33	2	22/59	7
From 40 years to close 50 years	53/33	8	60	9	40	6	25/80	8
From 50 years to close 60 years	6/67	1	13/33	2	26/67	4	38/71	12
From 60 years to close 70 years	-	-	6/67	1	6/67	1	9/6	3
From 70 years and older	-	-	6/67	1	6/67	1	3/23	1

(Designed by the Authors)

**(Chart 2-6-1) Age Variables Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of Tehran**



(Designed by the Authors)

**2-7 Effective Occupational Variables**

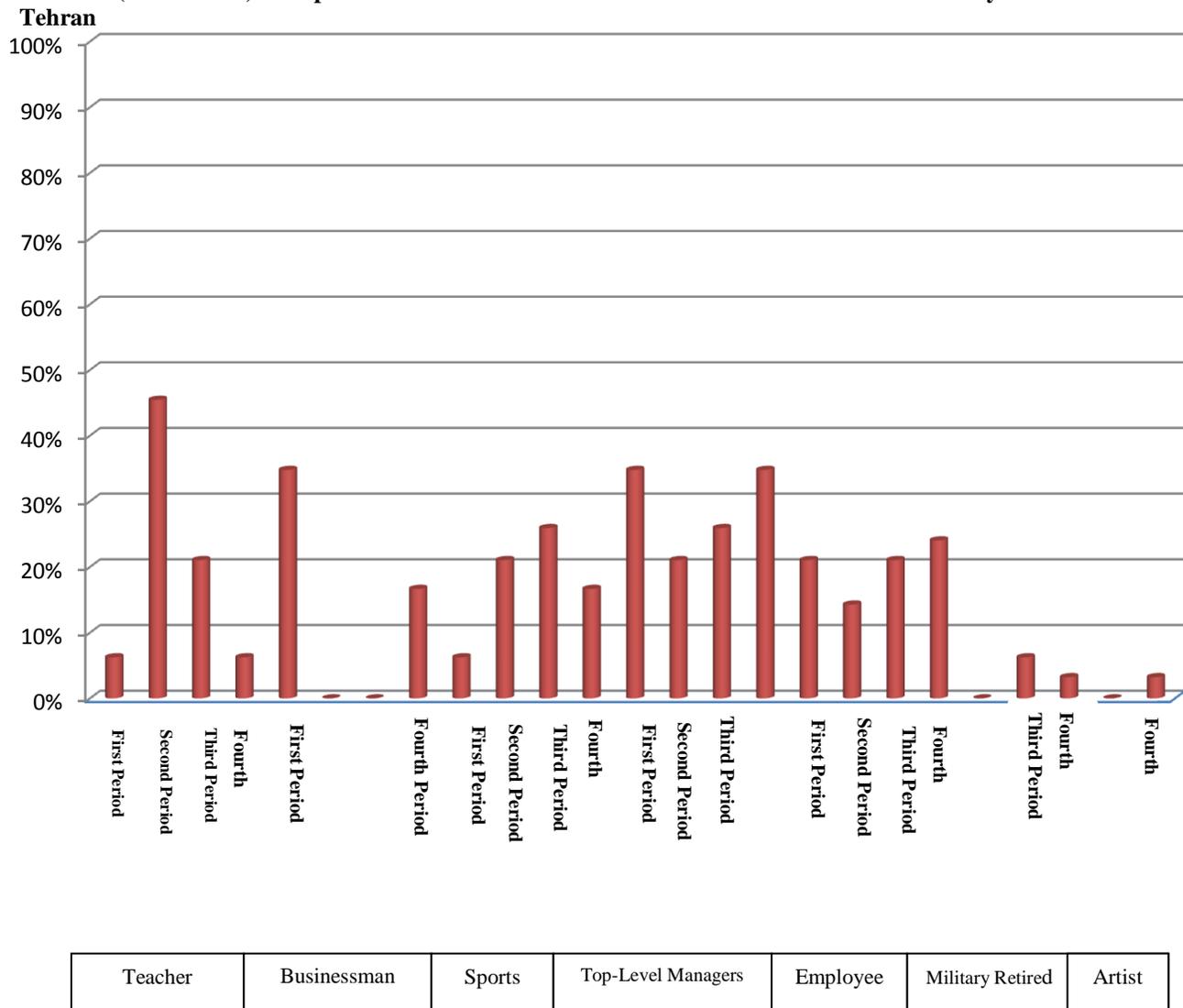
This variable is one of the most important of variables which can promote individuals to obtain the post of member of the City Council. It is tried to show the main occupations in the following tables and charts:

**Table (7): Occupational Variables of Members of the City Council of Tehran**

Periods	Teacher		Businessman		Sports		Top-level Manager		Employee		Retired				Artist	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Employee Percent	Military Number	Percent	Number		
First	6/67	1	33/33	5	6/67	1	33/33	5	20	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Second	46/67	7	-	-	20	3	20	3	13/33	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Third	20	3	-	-	26/66	4	26/66	4	20	3	-	-	6/67	1	-	-
Fourth	6/45	2	16/13	5	16/13	5	32/26	10	22/58	7	-	-	3/25	1	3/25	1

(Designed by the Authors)

(Chart 2-7-1) Occupational Variables Chart for Four Periods of Members of the City Council of



(Designed by the Authors)

**Conclusion:**

According to the research findings in this paper, we can obtain the following results:

- a) In section of educational variable is understood that the holders of doctoral degree or equivalent is almost a constant number. But the greatest changes are seen for holders of bachelor's and master's degree in city council members of Tehran and form many members of the City Council of Tehran with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent;
- b) By comparing of gender variable becomes clear that men always form the largest number of members of the City Council of Tehran and their chances are greater than women in elections;
- c) Number of city council members of Tehran who were born in other provinces has had a better chance to membership of the City Council of Tehran;
- d) By comparing of the factional affiliation of the members of the City Council of Tehran is shown that the competition has been between reformers and fundamentalists and almost independent members don't have any place in the City Council of Tehran or is very negligible;
- e) The number of membership periods (two consecutive terms) in the City council of Tehran shows that can increase individual's chance of selection in subsequent periods in the elections of the City Council of Tehran;

- f) The most members of the City Council of Tehran form (from 40 years to close 50) in four periods;
- g) Something that has attracted our attention in the calculation of the occupational variables, the presence of permanent and fix groups of teachers, marketers, and sports persons and even high-level managers in the members of the City Council of Tehran.

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