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The place of trust and trust-building components in Kelileh and Demneh

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Expanded Abstract

Introduction

Kelileh and Demneh is amongst the oldest books about politics and perspicacity science and one of the most important literary works, which has been regarded as the mate of kings, accepted by the scholars, companion of storytellers, a close associate of the public, formula of life, the means of salvation, an exemplary of morality, and a guide to life, and it is still famous amongst nobles and public figures even after 13-14 centuries from its popularity (Bahar, 1994: 253; Mahjoub, 201: 9; Shamisa, 2007:85). One of the important issues reflected in this work is trust. The importance of trust in the formation of stable relationships, especially in the politics area has been the cause of proposing and exploring this issue in different standpoints and discourses. This book has both depicted the positive and negative effects of trust-building and trust deprivation in the relationships between individuals and has determined the type and basis of trust and factors affecting it. This study mainly aims to investigate the above mentioned issues in this literary work.

Research method

This descriptive-analytical research was conducted using a documentary study method. First, trust components were extracted given the objectives and theoretical basis of the research. The categories and subcategories were then grouped, and they were finally described and analyzed.

Discussion

The importance of trusting and being trusted in Kelileh and Demneh is to the extent that achieving goodness and bliss goes hand in hand with it. Gaining benefit is the rule and basis of establishing a communication and trust-building in this work. People must calculate the profit and loss of each relationship and trust in the person who brings profit. The rule is to comply with moderation requirements. A variety of factors such as the impermanence of worldly life, disasters, diseases, and weakness of political and religious institutions threaten trust. In the politics area, the subordinates should not be trusted until they are properly known. Meanwhile, "testing and examination" is a tool both kings and agents can use it. Investigation of the role delegation to others in Kelileh and Demneh indicates that besides their friends and relatives, kings trust in capable and skillful people with moral and religious virtues as well. The most important moral components affecting trust-building or trust deprivation are: honoring and doing good, being patient, kind, and forgiving towards others, having consistency, self-control, and being benevolent and sincere. Avoiding immoral traits and behaviors such as deception, mischief, tantrum, buttering up, backbiting, cunning, vilification, and thievery has been essential.

Conclusion

In order to achieve their individual and collective interests in Kelileh and Demneh, people need to trust in and be trusted, and the importance of social trust in vertical relations is to the extent that achieving bliss depends on building trust. Trust in this work is of rational type rather than moral type because trust is built based on the profit and loss computation and hazards such as diseases, natural disasters, and weakness of political and social institutions have caused the effective values and norms in trust building not to be internalized in the society. In such a situation, trust radius is confined to the acquaintances network and others should be known to enter this network. In fact, aliens can be trusted in after knowing about their life history and moral traits through examining. In order to prevent social disruption and to build trust in a society in which an atmosphere of mistrust governs the relationships between its different groups, some principles have been suggested such that the governors have been asked to trust in knowledgeable, skillful people committed to their responsibilities rather than their relatives and friends. Moreover, the subordinates should surrender to the kings to win their trust and benevolence should be seen in their criticisms if they criticize. Although the subordinates should be religious, truthful in actions and words, trustee, confidant and benevolent to win the trust of superiors, the trusted superiors are also compassionate, religious, benefactor, kind and patient who provide security to subordinates and the words of backbiters do not change their opinions about the trusted people.

Investigating the trust issue in Kelileh and Demneh from the sociologists such as Giddens, Fukuyama, and Putnam's point of view indicates that besides some commonalities in general, e.g., trust importance, factors affecting trust building, and trust radius, there are some differences in details due to intercultural differences and differences between the works studied by researchers. Despite Giddens' opinion about traditional societies, in Kelileh and Demneh, skill factors, rationalism, and moral foundations are of paramount importance in building trust, especially in political arena. Although in Fukuyama's view, the radius of trust is confined, the trust radius can be extended by knowing the people's level of loyalty, commitment, and art, and the nobles-oriented trust can become public-oriented trust.

Keywords: Kelileh and Demneh, Trust, Knowledge, Cognition, Moral virtues