

Key Factors Influencing the Planning of a Creative City (Case Study: Urmia)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

The 21st century is a century of urbanization influenced by globalization that affected the economic and social issues in most cities in the world. The economic and social processes, such as transfer of international capital, the steady increase in mobility and shifting of the talents and labor force of companies, are widespread today in most cities around the world. This can clear the need for innovation and specialized services and dynamic and interconnected networks to connect the local level to a vast geography of global markets. Cities in the world are highly competing in the context of the global economy as network nodes. These cities need to offer specialized products and creative services to global markets to participate in the global economy. They are also seeking to attract foreign capital and talent for sustainable economic development. However, it should be noted that these competitive advantages are not deployed anywhere in any city. The creative city is a new initiative evolved from a state of emergency to a new transition to emphasize on simultaneous attention to technology, infrastructure, manufacturing and human resources. In this regard, the present study aims to identify and analyze the key factors affecting the planning of the city with emphasis on the city of Urmia, to answer the following questions: What is the status of the system is how to analyze the variables in terms of stability and instability And to analyze the key factors in creative urban planning in Urumia

Methodology

This is an applied research in terms of nature and it is based on new methods of future study and exploratory science. In this research, data have been gathered to study the components of creative city in 10 main criteria including scale, creative industries, creative class, creativity infrastructure, efficiency and effectiveness, vitality, communication technology, social diversity, social capital, and quality of life. The analysis has 16 sub-criteria and 106 indicators based on careful examination of external and internal resources in order to answer the research questions in the scope of the study. There are two types of documents including secondary data and surveying initial data. The tools used in the survey method were questionnaires and interviews.

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The statistical population of this research is 30 persons of professors and experts in the subject matter of the research. To analyze the data, a combination of expert panel methods, cross-impact analysis, and MicMac software have been used.

Results and discussion

According to the research criteria, 100 factors using MicMac software have been analyzed to choose the main factors influencing the development of the creative city in Urmia. Dimensions of the matrix were 100×100 , with 10 different sections. About 60.13% of the matrix is filled by the respondents. This indicates that the selected factors have a relatively high and dispersed effect on each other. Of the total of 6013 relationships in this matrix, 3987 is the ratio of zero. This means that the factors do not affect each other or have not been mutually exclusive. The number one is 2106 relationships (representing that they have little effect on each other. Up to 2174 relationships, which their number was 2, represent that they had a fairly strong influence. Up to 1040 relationships have number 3, meaning that key factor relationships have been very influential and influential. Finally, there were 693 relationships, their number P, which indicated the potential and indirect relationships of the factors.

The distribution of variables in the dispersion shows the stability or instability of the system. This first analysis of the state of the system shows how to analyze effective variables. The output of the system indicates the dispersion of the influencing variables in the creation and development of urban creativity in Urmia. The instability situation in the system is further affected by independent variables. There are a few other factors indicating that they have a high influence on the system and the rest of the variables are in a similar situation to each other, with only varying degrees of intensity and weakness. Therefore, the variables have two direct and indirect effects which each of them are decisive or influential variables, two-sided variables, influential variables, independent variables, and regulatory variables. They are discussed in terms of the distribution of variables in the software output graph.

Conclusion

The results of the research and the distribution and dispersion of the variables on the dispersion page indicate the system's instability. In the analysis of 100 variables selected by the MicMac software, the 15 factors were selected as the key factors given that they had the most important direct and indirect effects. Among these key factors, performance of service organizations has had the greatest impact on the planning of Urumia creative city. Distribution of urban services and population has been selected as the most effective factors in the planning of a creative city. We have selected 15 key factors. Six factors including physicians, lawmakers and top-level people, bachelors, technicians, specialists, masters and PhD professionals, and number of artists are related to the creative class and three factors including number of research and development units, number of researchers, and number of universities are related to creativity infrastructure. This indicates its high impact on the planning of Urmia creative city.

Keywords: creative city, cross-impact analysis, Mick Mac, Urmia City.

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Identification of Effective Factors Creating Space in Periphery of Cities (Case Study: Urmia City)

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Introduction

Peripheral urban space is part of the environment formed by living spaces with different characteristics. Peripheral urban space includes built areas, network of connecting routes, headquarters, industrial enterprises, transportation companies, orchards, and places for entertainment and games. This means that it is part of the space that is available for residents of the areas around the cities. Geographical theories state that production of space around the cities, in addition to physical factors, are dependent upon some other factors including perceptions, beliefs, opinions, ideologies, cultural features, level of awareness, way of thinking, and cultural, economic and political systems.

A glance at the history of Urmia City in the Northwest Iran, West Azarbaijan, shows that production of peripheral urban space in Urmia is resulted from some factors such as groups and social, economic and political classes, multiple sources of income, proximity to the city center, land speculation, achieving greater profits and so on. This indicates that creation of residential, industrial, service, and communication spaces not only led to the concentration of capital, activity and population, but also developed speculative activities and bribery culture. Accordingly, the purpose of this study is to investigate the process of production of space in the areas around the cities. Using satellite images, we attempt to identify the areas developed within the radius of 15 kilometers from the city of Urmia during the years 2000-2014. Then, we try to identify the factors and mechanisms leading to the production of space in the areas around the cities.

Methodology

The present study is a mixed research using qualitative and quantitative approaches in terms of methodology through continuous explanatory research project. This study is an applied research due to its methods and library and field methods for data collection. In analysis of data in quantitative phase of this research, we examined the generated spaces by satellite images of TM and OLI Landsat Satellite during two time series of years 2000 and 2014. The statistical population is the agencies related to urban and rural affairs including Agriculture Organization, Office of Governor General, Office of Governor, Office of District Governing, etc. Sampling was non-randomly based on snowball sampling. In collecting data, we used in-depth and semi-structured interviews and direct observation.

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Results and discussion

The analysis obtained by classifying spaces indicates that in 2000 and 2014, the area of residential, industrial, green, empty and barren spaces and connecting networks is about 115245.949 hectares. Among the studied spaces, residential (3069.28 hectares), industrial (4736.73 hectares) and connecting (0.1866 hectares) spaces have increased in production. This is resulted from decreases in green spaces (farms, orchards, pasture and forests) and empty and arid spaces. Increase in the area of the produced spaces in the study area had been due to changes occurred in many spaces. After identifying the areas around the city of Urmia, the foundations affecting the production of space in these areas were discussed during the period of the study. In order to achieve the factors influencing the production of space in the areas around the city, we used the method of Grand Theory. As a result of grounded theory method, the factors affecting the production of peripheral urban space include: Suburbanization, economic diversification, inefficient management, Weak laws, modernization policies and capitalism system such as the Commission on Article 100 of municipalities.

Conclusion

The spaces generated in the study area including the economy, politics, culture, society, and nature. According to the analysis and school of political economy of space, the most important factors affecting space production around the cities are suburbanization, economic diversification, inefficient management, weak legislation, modernization policies and capitalism system. The produced spaces in the areas around the cities are developed to provide basic needs and achieve higher profits. The spaces had some consequences including increased migration from village to city, rising inflation and the government's inability to solve the high inflation, impairment in planning system, overloaded variety of activities in the lands, mass production of varieties of space, capital accumulation and commodification of land, increase in the culture of bribery, destruction of green spaces, exploitation of natural resources, increase in social and economic diseases, components of space caused by capitalism, including speculation in the production of space, and the segregation of space due to it and so on. Today peripheral urban areas are separated and divided with manipulation for sale as a commodity. Results also have revealed speculative and rent-seeking tendencies in the areas around the cities. Unless this trend stops to continue, it will cause irreparable damage to the natural ecosystem of the area. Therefore, it can be concluded that the areas around the cities are considered as the consequences and initiatives of capitalism.

Keywords: space, production of space, political economy of space, peripheral urban areas, Urmia.

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Resilience of Vital Landuses against Earthquake Disaster in Tabriz Metropolis

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Introduction

Nowadays, the process of urbanization is expanding and growing in all the countries of the world. Establishment of more urban districts has increased the main places for possible disasters. Tabriz Metropolis is located in an area prone to earthquake hazard and seismic natural disasters in different return periods. Thus it is required to study resilience of the vital landuses of the city. These vital landuses including water tanks and electricity transmission stations, gas stations, gas pressure reduction centers, hospitals, fire stations, airports, and terminals are necessary to rehabilitate critical circumstances and optimize service. Deficiency of the sensitive and vital sites may disrupt vital performance of the city. Thus, lack of comprehensive plans and rational decision-making models in this area may create irreversible problems.

Methodology

The present study is a descriptive-analytical survey that attempts to evaluate resilience of vital uses in Tabriz Metropolis against earthquake risk in terms of building strength, land resistance, application of regulations in construction of structures, their intelligibility, and emergency storage of fuel and water. The present study detected the effective indices influencing resilience of vital uses. The data were collected through the questionnaire distributed among 30 crisis management experts. We obtained 12 indexes of questionnaire. The collected data were analyzed by T-tests, Friedman, and Chi-square in SPSS software.

Results and discussion

According to the 12 criteria and indexes that influence resilience of vital uses in Tabriz city, the mean score and Friedman score for application and full implementation of building regulations and standards are 3.00 and 7.84; the values are 2.96 and 7.98 for strength and resistance of buildings; and for logical relationship between private vital uses and governmental vital uses they are 2.94 and 6.52, respectively. This reveals that resilience of vital uses in Tabriz city in terms of these indexes are in a relatively desirable condition.

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The results of Chi-square test (375, 397) revealed that there is a significant relationship (0.000) between promotion of the quality of vital uses and resilience of them against earthquake; the insurance level is equal to 99 percent. The results of t-test revealed that three indices examined in resilience of vital uses in Tabriz are not in a desirable condition and their t value is less than 3. The t value of intelligence and the index of installing earthquake forecasting tool in vital applications is -1.25; the t value of people participation in resilience of vital uses index is 0.27; and t value for prediction of emergency fuel and water storage index is 1.56.

The ANP multi-criteria analytical method was used to make pairwise comparison of the criteria. The obtained results were examined by Super Decisions software; the accuracy of the process was ensured by controlling the compatibility coefficient of judgments. A set of calculated coefficients were presented in the form of a matrix. By combining these comments with scores of ANP model, dissimilarities among vital uses in different districts of Tabriz were estimated by 30 crisis management experts in 10 districts of Tabriz city; the data of the questionnaire were analyzed based on VIKOR model.

Conclusion

By combining the findings of the ANP and VIKOR model, it can be concluded that the evaluation of resilience of vital uses in Tabriz city revealed that districts 9 and 4 are in desirable condition, districts 1 and 2 are in relatively desirable condition, district 3 in moderate condition, districts 5, 6, 7, and 10 are in relatively undesirable condition, and finally district 8 is in undesirable condition. Thus, by examining the current condition, the following suggestions are provided for resilience of vital uses in Tabriz: In districts 1 and 2, with relatively desirable resilience, building density around critical uses must be avoided. In district 3, with moderate resilience, it is recommended to maintain the current status and attempt to improve and promote the quality of vital uses and create spatial opening around these uses, and equip these applications to smart systems. In district 5, with relative undesirable condition, it is necessary to increase vital uses by focusing on correct location around open areas, prevent compression of developing areas around vital uses, and avoid creating these uses within the fault line range. In districts 6 and 7 with relatively undesirable condition there are various industrial divisions and intensive constructions, thus it is recommended to have vital uses in accordance with practical and functional activities in order to meet the needs of the areas at the time of crisis with the resilience of these uses. In district 8 as an old part of Tabriz, the resilience condition is undesirable; thus, it is necessary to attend to renovation and improvement, observe regulation and required standards, and participate in increasing the resilience of current vital uses and transferring and moving vital users with trans-regional performance to other areas. District 9 is in desirable condition and it is regarded as new developed areas of the city which is added recently to Tabriz city. Therefore, it is suggested to emphasize on the complete implementation of the approved draft plan without subsequent modifications through Article 5 of the Commission. District 10 is in relatively undesirable condition; it is suggested to balance the spatial organization of the city through the expansion and development of vital applications and avoid creation of these applications in the vicinity of the fault line. It is necessary to monitor the principles and criteria in the preparation of comprehensive urban plans in terms of resiliency, more closely. When using advanced systems, the units of the facility must consider the relevant standards, in addition, they must comply with the relevant standards in order to cut off the electricity and gas through smart grids.

Keywords: resilience, vital land use, earthquake, natural disaster, Tabriz.

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Role of Creative Tourism in Regeneration of Historical Texture (Case Study: District 12 of Tehran)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

Creative tourism is a powerful approach used in many countries for regenerating historical textures of the cities. The policy of urban regeneration to meet public needs can also help identify historical structure depending on creative urban tourism. Some of the new methods that can create regeneration through tourism are development of cultural industries. Using cultural industries is a comprehensive approach to urban regeneration of historical texture depending not only on attractions but also on development of cultural industries. The need to regenerate the historic texture of Tehran and to contribute to the integrated development of this city require a different approach. It should be noted that the creative development of tourism is a set that must be integrated with this industry. It is not possible to apply attractions to the central part of Tehran, regardless of cultural industries and important factors that they influence on emergence of a creative city. Therefore, the realm of this study is well understood, and it is clear that the historical context of the 12 regions has the potential of creative tourism helping regeneration.

Methodology

The study has been conducted by descriptive and analytical approach using explorative model that generally uses statistical descriptive techniques, statistical data processing, and data analysis.

Results and discussion

The district number 12 of Tehran municipality has the potential and actual historical, natural, social and cultural measures of tourism, in the form of natural, historic, memorial, cultural and social attractions. These attractions were analyzed according to the criteria and indicators of cultural industries. The indicators for cultural industries in the Cultural Heritage, there are 148 attractions including 4 House of Culture and 1 Culture Centers and in the art section, 4 cinemas and 3 theaters. A review of the capabilities of other cultural industry for regenerating was made through relevant specialists and models.

The results showed that index of the artistic variables with a coefficient of 0.68 is ranked the first and the advertising index of the creative service variable with a coefficient of 0.66 is ranked the second. The index of painting from the visual arts variable with a coefficient of 0.61 is ranked third. One of the most important factors and priorities for the tourism and urban experts in creative regeneration of the district 12 is to develop cultural tourism through development of cultural industries.

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Conclusion

An effective model that could contribute to the development of cultural industries was creative tourism. In creative tourism, attractions and historical spaces along with a variety of cultural elements in historical areas serve as a set of cultural industries that innovative arenas make in cultural production and consumption, areas of competition with each other, increase in the attractiveness for potential investment and improving interaction with local communities and creation of memories. Since these industries are based on innovation and flexibility, they can be a major driver for widespread and effective transformation on the economy of the region.

Keywords: regeneration, creative tourism, historical texture, District 12 of Tehran.

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Identification of the Components Influencing Urban Poverty (Case Study: Akhmafhayeh Neighborhood of Tabriz)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

Urban poverty, generally appeared with unemployed or expelled workers and poor rural immigrants, transforms social structure of spatial space in urban areas. Urban poor groups are the rural community (from immigrants to the city), as well as production poverty and reproduction in urban society (by intra-urban displacement) and it is known for its characteristics, such as high commercialization rates, higher health and environmental hazards, social rupture, crime and conflicts with the government. Urban poverty and its spatial extent are among the most challenging issues in most of cities of Iran. Given that urban poverty is increasing day by day in Tabriz metropolitan area, therefore, it is necessary to consider the poverty through scientific methods to determine the effective factors. There are many poor and very poor urban quarters in the past in the urban spaces of Tabriz, the most important of these spaces are in the southwest part of the city (Aqmaqiya sector). Aqmaqiya is one of the old sectors in the district 7 of the city, next to the Tabriz to Khosroshahr highway. This sector was one of villages in the vicinity of Tabriz city in the past and after the expansion of this city it was known as one of the Tabriz sectors. Presence of these spaces in the metropolitan city of Tabriz gives them the need to identify the factors affecting the scope of urban poverty. In this study, we have attempted to identify the factors affecting urban poverty by providing an appropriate framework for policymaking of urban managers in order to reduce the extent of urban poverty.

Methodology

Given that this investigation seeks to develop applied knowledge in identifying the components influencing the extent of urban poverty, this study is an applied research in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytical in terms of method. We have examined the households in the neighborhood of Aqmaqiya in Tabriz city, in district 7 of the municipality. This neighborhood in the past was known for the villages around the city of Tabriz. After the expansion of this city, the villages are considered as the neighborhoods of Tabriz City. To determine the sample size, we have followed the special rules of the partial least squares method as the model used in this research, so that the sample size required in the modeling of the partial least squares method is considerably smaller than the structural equation method. In this method, we have one of the newest rules for sample size selection. It suggests that the sample size should be equal to or greater than the number of structural indices with the highest number of combinations of reagents; ten times the largest number of structural paths ending up in a particular structure in the internal route model. The sample size was 362 using the Cochran formula, which was

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reduced to 342 using the modified Cochran formula. Given the rule of partial least square model and some of the questionnaires, we have gathered heterogeneous and unreliable data.

Results and discussion

Based on the output of PLS algorithm, load factor and observable variables and the Cronbach's alpha are acceptable for all obvious variables. According to the available data in the research, the average of variance criteria for hidden variables is more than 0.5 and their Cronbach's alpha is higher than 0.7. Redundancy and average subscriptions, as a measure of the quality of the model, are indicative of quality of the variables. As indicated, the values of 0.67, 0.33 and 0.19 for endogenous variables are described as significant, moderate and weak in the structural path model, respectively. The results of this study indicate that the obvious variables have the highest reliability and validity of the measurement model. The determination coefficient index shows percentage of the variation of the endogenous variable. The values of 0.19, 0.33 and 0.67 are weak, moderate and significant, respectively. The coefficient of magnitude of the complementary path is significant for model. At the values of 90%, 95% and 99% are compared with minimum statistics of 1.64, 1.96 and 2.58, respectively. In this study, model GOF index was found to be 0.688 that indicates the model overall utility.

Conclusion

The results show that all of the affected components in extent of urban poverty have a positive and significant role and there is an external relationship between the components of lack of social capital, lack of psychological capital, and the physical disability. The external indicators of consumer behavior and utility are effective on the demographic index, which means that the two indicators have internal relationship with their defined variables and external relationship with the extent of urban poverty of the target community. The internal and external relationships between consumer behavior and utility are considered in the demographic range with their variables and they are together in the next category. The third priority is also explained by a strong correlation between the indicators of social and political exclusion and disability with the extent of physical deprivation. The existence of a strong positive relationship between the components affecting urban poverty in the study area brings to mind that the components including absence of social capital, absence of psychological capital, and consumer behavior are a key indicator to determine the extent of urban poverty in the study area. This finding is partly consistent with the results of the study by Das et al. (2014), which considers social indicators as the greatest impact on poverty. The results of this research are consistent with the radical theory and the view of poverty, which stemmed from the state of the political economy that crystallizes in social, political, and economic relations. The adversaries of the study view are cleared by investigating the structures that create poverty to address root causes of poverty.

Keywords: urban poverty, spatial scope, Akhmafayeh Neighborhood, Tabriz.

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Assessment of Citizen's Satisfaction about the Quality of Residential Environment (Case Study: Zarghan City)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

Residential satisfaction is one of the main topics in which the urban researchers are interested. Residents' assessment of the quality of their residential environment is effective in measuring the achievement of the goals and the success of the urban projects. According to the 2016 statistics, more than 54 percent of the world's population lives in cities. The urban residential environment has become the main habitat for the people around the world. According to the country's census in 2016, over 59 million people live in cities. With respect to the increasing urbanization and the high rate of changes in urban texture due to various reasons, the quality of residential environment in urban areas has been severely reduced. Therefore, in order to continue the urban life by satisfying the minimum human needs, it is necessary to pay attention to the urban environment quality and the citizens' satisfaction from the quality of their habitat. Therefore, as the small towns have their own specific features and environments; it is important to evaluate the quality of these environments to reflect in the degree of satisfaction. The purpose of this present study is to assess the quality of residential environment in Zarghan, Shiraz County. We try to answer the following two questions: A) what is the degree of the satisfaction from residential environment quality in Zarghan? B) Which indices of satisfaction from the residential environment quality have the greatest effect on the citizens' willingness to reside in this town in the future? It is noteworthy that the theoretical approaches to the residential environment quality can be divided into the following categories of A) The physical design and B) social-spatial approaches including human ecology, quality of life, social and interactive indices, and assessment of the degree of residential satisfaction. According to the objectives of the approach, the degree of satisfaction has been selected as the theoretical approach in this study.

Methodology

This research is practical in scope and is descriptive and analytical in method. To collect the required data, two methods of library and survey methods were applied. The statistical population of this research is the households living in Zarghan. The sample size of the study was 120 people who were randomly selected and completed the questionnaire. The unit of research analysis was the households residing in the city in the time period of the year 2018. The validity of the questionnaire was evaluated based on the opinions of the urban planning specialists and its reliability was examined and confirmed by Cronbach's alpha test. Descriptive and inferential statistics (one-sample t-test, one-way ANOVA, correlation coefficient and

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regression method) were used to process the data. Zarghan is located at an altitude of 1600 meters above the sea level, about 30 kilometers to Shiraz in northeast part and on the southern slope of Zarghan Mountain.

Results and discussion

The analysis of the individual characteristics of the respondents indicated that 62.5% of the participants were male and 37.5% were female with an average age of 37.23 years old and the average duration of their residence in Zarghan was 29.5 years. In terms of education, the majority of respondents (31.7%) had undergraduate education; and in terms of occupational situation, most of them (35.8%) were active in the service sector of economy. An investigation on the respondents' views about their satisfaction of residence in this city showed that 16.7% of the respondents had very low and low satisfaction, 30.8% were almost satisfied, and 52.5% of them were very satisfied and highly satisfied. In relation to the desire to stay there in the future, the results indicated that 20% of the opinions showed very low and low willingness, while 33.3% of the people were almost willing to reside in this city and 46.6% were highly willing to reside. In terms of satisfaction with the quality of the residential environment, the findings showed that in all the five indices, the degree of satisfaction was above the average level. In this regard, the study of the calculated significance level showed that apart from the index of residential unit, the significance level was less than 0.05. The results of ANOVA test indicated that there was a significant difference between the indices of satisfaction about the residential environment. The findings indicated that there was a significant relationship between each of the 5 studied indices.

Conclusion

Urban development requires attention of experts and planners to different indices. Satisfaction with the residential environment quality is one of these indices which play a significant role in the process of urban planning and development. Citizens' satisfaction with their residential environment quality results in their willingness to reside as well as participate in urban development plans and projects. This research has assessed the people's satisfaction from the residential environment quality of Zarghan. According to the results of one-sample t-test, satisfaction of the residential environment quality in Zarghan was higher than average. The results of ANOVA showed that among the indices of the study, the index of public services and the index of social characteristics of the environment have the highest score. Finally, the results of the regression method revealed that among the indices of satisfaction of the residential environment quality, the social characteristics of the environment and accessibility had the highest influence on the willingness to future residence in the city. According to these interpretations and the obtained results, it is suggested that it is necessary to improve the degree of satisfaction of the the quality of residential environment in Zarghan.

Keywords: urban development, residential environment, satisfaction, Zarghan.

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Changes in Urban Spatial Structure in Lahijan, Iran, Using Landscape Ecological Concepts and Metrics

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Introduction

Earth's landscape is continuously changing due to natural and human factors. Changes of cities and urban sprawl become faster because of human intensive modification of environment in favor of economic land uses for utilization of society. Urban sprawl is the most important socioeconomic and spatial phenomenon that makes environmental changes faster and widespread. Landscape and land uses are changing rapidly due to driving forces of urbanization and population growth. Analyses of the composition of land-uses in a natural environment and understanding how they may change over time and space are central for planning. Analysis of spatial and temporal variations of landscapes is linked to prediction of future development of the city and its control is one of the main concerns of environmental managers and planners. For this purpose, remote sensing techniques and geographic information systems are essential tools to assess urban landscape to determine the changes in urban development. Remote sensing technology is the best tool for monitoring environmental changes and rapidly extraction of land uses. Landscape is a mosaic, tens of kilometers wide in which local ecosystems and land uses are repeated and as a matter of fact it is the nature and general characteristics of an area. Landscape metrics are a suitable tool for quantitative characterization of spatial patterns. Quantitative measures can be obtained by assessing the landscape metrics, which illustrate the quantitative changes of the current state of the landscape. The purpose of this study is to investigate spatio-temporal variations in Lahijan city to evaluate the process of structural changes in urban land use and the landscape principles and metrics.

Methodology

To achieve this goal, Landsat images of ETM+ and OLI in the years 2000 and 2016 were used to prepare land use maps at first and the study area were separated in ENVI 5.1. The classification has been done through maximum likelihood algorithm in this software, by one of the methods of supervised classification. For monitoring the change detection of land use in this period, the produced maps of 2000 and 2016 were compared in IDRISI SELVA software. The land cover changes map of the period from 2000 to 2016 were created using CROSSTAB algorithm. The rate of land use change during this period was calculated. Converting the rate of a land use change to another and the area of each land use was calculated separately. Finally,

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using landscape ecology metrics approach the following metrics were calculated in two levels of class and landscape; these metrics are including Class area, Number of Patches, Largest Patch Index, Landscape Shape Index, Total Edge, Euclidean Nearest Neighbor Distance, Patch Area Mean, Perimeter-Area Fractal Dimension, Contagion, Shannon Diversity Index. Spatial pattern was determined with Fragstats 4.4 software to extract landscape metrics in two levels of class and landscape. This software includes a complete series of landscape metrics that are suitable for spatial pattern analysis.

Results and discussion

The results revealed that the matrix area is agriculture and also the trend of changes shows that the area of agricultural land use has increased. This means increases in semi-natural land use. The number and the total edge of the agriculture patches have decreased; this means more aggregation and compactness of these patches. Increase in the Largest Patch Index and Patch Area Mean shows that agriculture land use became more integrated. Increases in the Euclidean Nearest Neighbor Distance indicated that distance between agriculture patch has increased. The Perimeter-Area Fractal Dimension of agricultural land use has augmented slightly and, therefore, its complexity has increased.

Increases in the area and the number of urban developed patch showed a fragmentation in the urban built class and creation of new man-made areas. The shapes of urban built patch were increased and, therefore, it was disaggregated and total edge was increased and this land use was disconnected. The Largest Patch showed belongs to urban class. Reducing Euclidean Nearest Neighbor Distance of urban patches leads to an increase in aggregation and slight decrease in Mean Patch Area. The Perimeter Area Fractal Dimension for urban built class was increased and its complexity has also increased. The area and the number of greenery land patches were decreased, and also landscape Shape Index was decreased. This led to green cover class to become more aggregated and compact. Decrease in the values of Total Edge, Largest Patch Index and Patch Area Mean for green cover class indicated a destruction in natural and forest areas. Decreases in the metric of Perimeter Area Fractal Dimension of green cover resulted in decreasing its complexity. Increases in Euclidean Nearest Neighbor Distance of green cover led to isolation of these patches and, therefore, decreases in ecological connections between them. Examining the metrics on the landscape level revealed that the complexity of the landscape of the region became simple and the diversity of the landscape pattern is decreased. The results of monitoring the changes between 2000 and 2016 indicated that the dominant land use changes belong to conversion of natural land cover class into agricultural land use. In the later stage, all types of land uses tend to be converted into urban construction class. Increase in urban constructions means increase in man-made patterns and more influences on natural areas.

Conclusion

In this paper we evaluated the dynamics of urban land-uses and the changes as one of the biggest human impacts on the terrestrial environment. Understanding this change in the spatial configuration of urban areas and urban growth over time will be important for decreasing the impacts of urban growth. The results of this research showed that to prevent destruction process of forest cover by increasing the unplanned urban development, it is essential to prepare development plans for resource management to achieve sustainable development. It seems that if this process is continued in the future, it can destroy green areas. If appropriate and professional policies are not made, all of patches are changed into urban built areas and even this city may be linked to another city. It was suggested that we should use predicting models to determined future developments and make decisions based on sustainable development goals to prevent unsuitable development.

Keywords: landscape ecology, metrics, remote sensing, land cover, urban built.

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Structural Equation Modeling of the Dimensions of Place with a Cross-cultural Approach (Case study: Isfahan Naghsh-e-Jahan Square)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

The issues of place and culture can be studied within the context of human and social geography. The cultural characteristics of society (like a soul) manifest and influence the body of “place”. The city as a substrate is a cultural-physical collection formed by the needs, activities and behaviors of inhabitants. The most desirable structure of a good city should facilitate the connection between different cultures. The aim of this research is to make structural model of place dimensions in Isfahan Naghsh-e-Jahan Square with cross-cultural approach. The necessity of conducting this research is to investigate several main categories which include place, cross-cultural dimensions and the position of Naghsh-e-Jahan Square. In the category of place, the attention is focused on empirical, behavioral and practical dimensions of place in urban areas with emphasis on Iranian context and its features; in the category of cross-cultural dimension, the attention is focused on the explanation of multi-dimensional look at spatial and space categories; and in the category of Naghsh-e-Jahan Square, the attention is focused on the importance of surveying to identify the capacities of cultural/historical places for international exploitation and cultural-social and economic strategies.

Methodology

This study has been designed in survey method, with the aim of structural relation modeling between place variables with cross-cultural approach. The model and hypothetical relationships were tested by the information gathered from visitors of Isfahan Naghsh-e-Jahan Square in nowruz holidays. In selecting people for interview; we tried to consider different characteristics such as gender, age and education. The selection of samples was done systematically and the interviews were conducted with passengers and visitors in four sides of the square and during two morning and afternoon shifts. We gathered information via researcher made questionnaire. All questions were asked on a scale of 5 options. In this study, statistical population is all the people with the age of more than 18 years old in Naghsh-e-Jahan Square and in the period of data collection. Cronbach’s alpha coefficients and factor loadings derived from confirmatory factor analysis indicate the appropriate validity and reliability of research tools. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to test the research hypotheses. This model includes two

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parts: measurement model and structural model. In order to assess the goodness of fit of the model, various fit tests such as NFI, PGFI, GFI, RMSEA, Chi-Square and PNFI have been used; the figures of all indicators show the goodness of fit of the model.

Results and discussion

The study of statistical distribution of four dimensional locations with cross-cultural approach indicates the criterion of power-attractive capacity with the average of 51.07 and standard deviation of 7.07 as the best situation among all criteria. This criterion was considered by respondents as a very favorable. Other criteria with favorable average values and higher indicate that Naghsh-e-Jahan Square with special location characteristics and cross-cultural approach can be considered as a favorable place. The results of correlation tests indicate that all place dimensions with cross-cultural approach have positive and meaningful relationships with each other. This shows that in terms of semantics, the quadruple dimensions of place model with cross-cultural approach have a relatively good relationship with each other; they can interact with each other in a common conceptual space. Using confirmatory factor analysis, test of the first hypothesis indicated that a place with cross-cultural approach of the raised quadruple dimensions is combined with the theoretical model of the research and the criteria of the goodness of fit based on appropriateness of confirmatory factor analysis model with research observations. The second hypothesis of this research indicates causality relationship between the factors of power persistence capacity and power- interactive and evolutionary capacity; the standardized path coefficients associated with this path express the positive and significant impact of the factor of power-persistence capacity on power-interactive and evolutionary capacity. The third hypothesis of this research indicates causality relationship between the factors of power- persistence capacity and power-event capacity; the standardized path coefficients associated with this path express the positive and significant impact of the factor of power-persistence capacity on power-event capacity. The fourth hypothesis of this research indicates causality relationship between the factors of power- attractive capacity and power-event capacity; the standardized path coefficients associated with this path express the positive and significant impact of the factor of power-attractive capacity on power-event capacity. The fifth hypothesis of this research indicates causality relationship between the factors of power-interactive and evolutionary capacity and power- event capacity. The standardized path coefficients associated with this path express the positive and significant impacts of the factor of power-interactive and evolutionary capacity on power-event capacity. All goodness of fit indicators on the structural part of the model is as acceptable as the measurement model.

Conclusion

The place approach of this research is a new approach that has not been investigated directly. Therefore, the present research can be regarded as an innovative and creative perspective on the concept of place. This study indicates that the place with cross-cultural approach has a complex concept with different dimensions. In the current research, the four-dimensional model derived from the previous studies was tested in the format of the grounded theory. The findings of the present study express that in assessment of the respondents, the factor of power- persistence capacity is declined in score compared with other place dimensions with cross-cultural approach. This shows that special facilities should be provided for power- persistence capacity to convert Naghsh-e-Jahan Square to a place with cross-cultural approach. The findings indicate that among all factors of a place with cross-cultural approach, the respondents allocated the highest score to the factor of power-attractive capacity. Therefore, it can be concluded that if Isfahan Naghsh-e-Jahan square is considered as a place with cross-cultural approach, it is possible that the power-attractive capacity will be more useful. The findings indicate that the places with more possibility of interaction will probably provide better opportunity for conversion and also play the role as a place with cross-cultural approach.

Keywords: cross-cultural approach, dimensions of place, Isfahan Naghsh-e-Jahan Square, structural equation modeling.

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Evaluating the Potential of Urban Development Areas using Artificial Neural Network (Case Study: Kermanshah City)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

Some of the important phenomena occurred in recent centuries in the social and economic life of different countries of the world are the emergence of numerous new cities, development of ancient cities, advances in urbanization and urban development. Urban development and changes in land use patterns lead to widespread social and environmental impacts including reduction in natural spaces, increases in vehicle accumulation, reduction in agricultural fertile lands with high production potential and degradation of water quality. Urban development in any country is not coincident with other aspects and, on the other hand, controlling future development requires careful planning. Understanding the right patterns of urban growth is needed to manage sustainable urban growth and planning for urban development. The high rates of urban population growth in Iran and the lack of urban infrastructure in one hand and the increasing trend of land use change, followed by the loss of valuable ecological landuses in urban and peri-urban areas and industrial pollution provide the necessity of modeling for urban development.

Methodology

The data used in this research can be generally divided into two main categories: the data used to extract land uses in the study area, e.g., satellite imagery, and the data considered as effective factors on urban expansion and land use change. Identifying the variables affecting the creation of the main prerequisites for the development of land use models, we try to use independent groups of variables including socioeconomic, biophysical and land use in this study. Since there are several decision-making rules for exploiting these variables, in this study, the distance between these variables was considered as an indicator. To work with the artificial neural network, the effective parameters in urban development should be given as input to the network (INPUT), and then a number of educational points are provided to the network for using these points (TARGET) to measure the impact of each. It determines the input layers, in fact, the

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network has learned the necessary training to deal with new areas. After determining the number of hidden layers in the network structure, the entire study area is provided to train the network for zonation of the potential areas of urban development. MLP network with 16 input layers (effective factors in urban development), 12 intermediate layers (test and error method), a neuron in the output layer as an outline map (final map of urban development potential), and the Leuvenberg Marquard training algorithm was executed and, thus, the network was trained with new samples.

Results and discussion

The network stopped after 44 repetitions and got the necessary training. In repetition 38, the optimal possible condition has the highest correlation and the least error. Given the 0.93 second factor, it can be ensured that network over-network learning is well prevented. Finally, the total regression coefficient of the network is resulted from the company total data network (95%). Then, the entire study area was evaluated by the network and the network based on the weight of the criteria received the training. The output from this stage was a valuable layer between zero and one.

Conclusion

It can be clearly seen that with the evolution of urban facilities and potentials, the vast majority of regions with urban development potential are located at the closest distance between these facilities and urban areas, especially the main roads of the city. The areas displayed in blue have the greatest potential for urban development. The most potential areas of urban development are located in the southwest of Kermanshah and around the main roads of Kermanshah-Islamabad and Kermanshah-Kangavar. The northern areas of the city have a low development potential due to their height and slope. The results of the study could be used to identify the areas for urban development to prevent development of irregular towns that have severe impacts on urban ecosystems and the lives of urban residents, as well as the loss of city capital. The future planning of the city of Kermanshah is relying on sustainable development with the least damage and inconsistencies in the agenda of urban managers and planners.

Keywords: urban development potential, neural network, classification, MLP.

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Factors of Formation of Native Housing in the Neighborhoods of Meybod City

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Extended abstract

Introduction

Improvement of the quality of human life is necessary to enhance the quality of the residential environment because housing as a place of family life is a hub for comfort and relaxation. The characteristics of economic, social and cultural rights of individuals play important role in the selection and use of housing. The natural characteristics of each location are required for specific pattern of housing. However, today with technological advances housing is unfortunately developing in many cities without regard to these characteristics. City of Meybod City, Yazd province, has hardworking people with rich culture and ancient civilization. Therefore, the pattern that matches the characteristics of the native housing is of great importance and can greatly affect quality of life of citizens and reduce household costs..

Methodology

This study is an applied and development research in terms of target using descriptive-analytical research method. Data collection was conducted in two forms of library and survey.. We made a survey to complete questionnaire by citizens and experts. Statistical population of the research is population of 66907 people of Meybod with 17,629 households. According to Cochran formula, we determined 380 heads of households as sample size. In order to determine the most important factors affecting the formation of native housing in the city Meybod, the questionnaire have been completed by experts, professors and local authorities using factor analysis in SPSS to analyze the results of the questionnaires.

Results and discussion

In order to determine the appropriate test of this research, we initially tested normality through the Kolmogorov-Smirnov. We used nonparametric test for Mann-Whitney U and Kruskal-Wallis.

In order to determine whether the old and new textures of Meybod city are developed based on native housing indicators, we have used Mann-Whitney U test. This test shows that the Z value is less than 1.96 with a significance level of less than 0.5. Thus, there is a significant difference between native housing indicators in the old and new textures of Meybod city. In order to identify the indicators for native housing in the Meybod city, we have also used Kruskal-Wallis Test in SPSS. There is also a significant difference in the indicators of native housing. The indicators of socio-cultural and physical indicators have relatively better condition.

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To determine the most important factors affecting the formation of native housing in the Meybod city, 43 components is considered for assessment and weighing of the results using factor analysis. Eventually, 4 factors with 33 indicators have been named as follows: the first factor: the social and physical, the second factor: the economic, the third factor: services and infrastructure, the fourth factor: the culture.

Conclusion

In order to evaluate the native housing in the city, four indicators of socio-cultural, economic, physical, and service – infrastructural aspects are analyzed using Kruskal-Wallis and U Mann-Whitney test. The results have indicated that there is a significant difference between the neighborhoods of the Meybod city in native housing indicators. Indicators of socio-cultural and economic indicators in the old neighborhoods of Meybod city have better situation relative to the physical indicator and infrastructural services. The results obtained from the factor analysis technique shows that 33 factors can be effective in achieving native housing in the Meybod city. Thus, it is expected that in the future planning of housing in the city Meybod, we can apply housing planning to improve the situation of native housing.

Keywords: native housing, housing planning, Meybod City.

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