

## **Assessment of Quality of Life in Syroos Neighborhood in Tehran**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The early urbanization process is an inevitable reality. In the meantime, rapid urbanization, especially in developing countries, has led to a sharp decline in the quality of life for citizens and it has always plagued the national government, local and urban management. Given the rapid urbanization in the world, quality of life in urban areas has become a central issue for planners and urban managers. The importance of this issue is doubled with the increasing trend of urbanization in the country (72% of the urban population in 1390). Over the past few decades, the attitude that cities have become center of development, it seems important to consider economic growth and socio-economic renewal, quality of life, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. In Iran, although consistent with international developments, global transformations are taking place in the attitudes and policies of city officials and executives and, thus, paying attention to the opinions of residents in recent years is a significant turning point in the traditional duties of the provincial authorities. But surveys show that any policy and planning to raise the level of quality of life and environment in neighborhoods has been based on expert opinions. This means a planning from top to bottom. In other words, the quality of life and environment, the assessment of the locations and the decisions made based on these assessments were mainly performed by experts. The studies conducted globally suggest a low correlation coefficient between the evaluation of experts and residents in this regard. In the meantime, the Syroos neighborhood of Tehran (12th district of Tehran) has not been an exception and has less to do with residents' attitudes. This research seeks to assess the quality of life of citizens in the Syros neighborhood of Tehran and attempts to scientifically explain the impact of various environmental (noise, pollution, etc.), psychosocial and physical indicators

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(services and facilities, etc.) in terms of residents in three levels of the neighborhood, residential unit and improvement of quality of life based on residents' opinions and expert reviews.

### **Methodology**

The methods used in this research are descriptive - analytical based on applied aims for improving the quality of life. The instrument of measurement in this research is questionnaire, interview, observation and statistical data. The statistical population in this research is all residents of Syroos community in the 12th district of Tehran municipality (with a population of 7,175 and about 1944 households), 5% of households (97 households) were selected for sampling. The sampling method used in this research is simple random and the samples were selected from the people aged 15 years and older. In this study, one-way t-test and one-sample t-test were used to assess the quality of life of residents of the neighborhood, and also to measure the residents' satisfaction from the 5-option Likert scale.

### **Results and discussion**

The results of life quality assessment in the Syroos community indicate that although the quality of life in this middle-to-low neighborhood is 2.97, the resident's satisfaction from quality of life in general is lower than the average. However, residents' satisfaction values show different results in the main elements of the quality of urban life in the study area and its sub-criteria (environmental, social, psychological and physical). Thus, the lowest level of satisfaction (the most distressed), despite the implementation of renovation projects in the community of Syroos, was related to the indices of identity and belonging (2.64) and lower than average. In the meantime, the emphasis on physical goals and lack of attention to social goals in the framework of the modernization project (due to the traditional urban planning approach) has occurred in the face of current facts. The effects and consequences of this purely physical approach have been one of the reasons for considering the concept of quality of life in urban planning (multifaceted and comprehensive) in recent years. The physical indicators including transportation with an average satisfaction value of 3.16, housing units with an average of 3.29, and services with an average of 3.3 are placed in the following classes in terms of satisfaction of residents. Other psychological indicators including social security, with an average satisfaction 3.42 and beauty, diversity and readability with an average satisfaction 3.49 and environmental indicators (average satisfaction of 3.81) are followed. The above situation represents a relatively different but low status.

### **Conclusion**

Quality of life has always been one of the main urban issues in developing countries, including Iran. The results of this research show that quality of life is a multidimensional and complex subject. It affects many factors and the level of satisfaction with the elements of the quality of life for different individuals and groups. It has different impacts according to different conditions of time, place, social, economic, cultural and physical circumstances. Therefore, it is necessary to study the inner layers of the issue. The results of measuring the quality of life in the Syroos community indicate that the residents' satisfaction from quality of life is, in general, lower than the average (2.97). Given the low quality of life in the community, improving the quality of life is necessary to increase the satisfaction level of residents. In the meantime, any policy and planning to improve the quality of life in this neighborhood should not only be based on the views and needs of residents, but it has to be integrated. Therefore, the measures to increase the identity and consistency and also improve the transportation system are in the first and second priorities. Other priorities are including development of comfort in the residential

environment, strengthening existing facilities and services, neighborhood security, and improvement of the environmental situation.

**Keywords:** quality of life, quality of environment, satisfaction, Syroos community.

## **The Role of Social and Cultural Factors in Formation of Local Governments in Iran based on System Approach**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The increasing growth of local and public institutions and their necessity in managing the general affairs of the country and the localization process for handling the general affairs in the final decade of the twentieth and the early decade of the twenty first centuries have changed the status of local government as an indispensable reality in the World. The geographical places require local autonomy and management for a better management of the affairs, the horizontal and vertical planning of relations with other regions and the establishment of institutions and organizations. Such independencies and the political management of space in the local domain are referred to as the local government or local state in the geopolitics literature. Conceptually, local government is a political-administrative structure as the result of spatial distribution of political power process that is created by the central government. In other words, it is a process making decision-making, implementation and supervision of local affairs, in the framework of general policies of central government, to be assigned to the public institutions and organizations. The studies conducted in this regard indicate that there are a variety of influential factors in the creation of local governments. Such influential factors can be classified in five aspects including sociocultural, political, legal- judicial, financial-economic and geographical factors. . Based on the above-mentioned ideas, the present study attempts to identify the influential factors in the formation of local government in Iran according to the systemic thinking approach in a sociocultural framework. In fact, the main objective of the study is to make a modelling of the influence of sociocultural factors in creation of local government within the framework of systemic thinking using Vensim software.

#### **Methodology**

The current research study is to investigate the role of sociocultural factors in the formation of local government in Iran. In this investigation, role of systemic thinking in different domains of

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planning and management is addressed using this approach. This study has a descriptive-analytical method based on an applied and exploratory approach. More generally, the present study is conducted to identify and prioritize the influential factors and to examine their relationship in the formation of local government in Iran and to recognize the existing challenges in the sociocultural aspect and finally to model the influential factors in a systemic thinking framework for the formation. For such purposes, based on the library studies and the systemic thinking approach, the influential factors were determined and the relationship between these factors and with the necessity of forming local governments in Iran were examined using quantitative and qualitative methods. In the quantitative method, we made a questionnaire based on the Likert scale ranging from 1 as very few and 5 as very high responses. The reliability of the questionnaire has been determined using Cronbach alpha. The participants of the study were forty scholars in the field of local government and were selected based on estimations of the researchers. In the qualitative phase, seven experts were selected based on the snowball sampling method. We have used independent samples t-test and Friedman test to investigate the effects of the sociocultural factors in the formation of local government in Iran and to prioritize the effects in the sociocultural aspect, respectively. The Vensim software was used in order to design the cause and effect diagrams, based on the systemic thinking approach.

### **Results and discussion**

For the successful formation of local government in Iran, the effective sociocultural factors must be identified and the upcoming challenges should be removed. In such a process, systemic thinking which is capable of solving complicated managerial issues has a great potential. In other words, for recognizing the influential factors in the formation of local governments, we should investigate and analyze them as a system. In this study, the attempts have been made to identify and prioritize the influential sociocultural factors and to explore their relationship with each other to shed some light on their effects in the formation of the local government and their modeling in a systemic thinking framework. The survey about the literature helped us to extract influential factors including ethnic-linguistic diversity, increase in the public awareness of in deprived areas, the religious diversity, people's attention and tendency towards democracy, increase in the local and national requests, existence of sense of belonging to a place and localizing tendencies, existence of common local assets and needs, increase in the contribution of people and development from the bottom with reviving the local capabilities. The results of interviews in this research found other influential factors including increase in informational networks, the continuation of ethnic-religious domain over the borders, human talents and abilities in each environment and the growth of urban residents. It can be asserted that the set of above mentioned factors are highly influential in the formation of local governments in the sociocultural aspect.

### **Conclusion**

The findings of the study have revealed that the sociocultural aspect is one of the influential aspects in the formation of local government in Iran. According to the quantitative part (the statistical data of the research) and the qualitative part (the interviews), the research indicates that there is ethnic-linguistic variety among the extracted influential sociocultural factors, the existence of spatial senses and localization tendencies and also the existence of national and local demands, due to their high degree of influence compared with the other factors.

**Keywords:** Iran, sociocultural aspect, local government, system thinking.

## **A Review and Application of City Prosperity Index (CPI) for Iranian Society (Case Study: Cities with a Population over 100 Thousands People, North-Western Iran)**

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### **Extended Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

City is a social realm on a natural context which is established by human beings to fulfil their basic needs for well-being, comfort and social relations. In the process of rapid urban growth and while the world moves into urban age, there are an array of problems and difficulties in genuine development. Thus, urban development is considered as one of the most important global challenges and its measurement is a controversial issue among policymakers and planners. During last decades, a variety of indices has been developed and applied to measure the level of development among cities. At the beginning, the economic indices were prevalent, since development was correlated with economic growth, especially GDP and income per capita. Gradually the deficiencies of this reductionist view became evident, recognizing other interrelated and imperative aspects. These results are obtained from composite indices with social and environmental components as well as economic one. Later with the growing consensus about the unsustainability of existing urban growth, the theoretical umbrella for measuring urban development has become sustainable development paradigm. Also, underlining both subjective and objective dimensions in one hand and emphasizing community-driven development on the other hand bring about the need for a holistic and inclusive index to embrace the ultimate outcome of development in a more generic term. In this regard, following dialogue of experts at United Nations Human Settlements Program (Habitat), a new index labelled as "City Prosperity Index" (CPI) was introduced in 2013 flagship report. The composite index of CPI contains five indices in the following dimensions including productivity, infrastructure, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. It is emphasized that all these dimensions should be seen interactive and balanced in a wheel shape. UN-Habitat's wheel of prosperity symbolizes the well balanced development of the five dimensions of prosperity, the current condition of which is measured through the City Prosperity Index (CPI). The 'outer rim' of the wheel absorbs the cumulative forces transmitted through the spokes – the five dimensions of prosperity. It provides some level of direction and

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symbolically contributes to guide the city towards a more prosperous path. Whereas CPI depicts strength and weakness of cities in each of five dimensions separately, it is considered as a strong tool for policy making to show the priority fields to guide the cities towards genuine development and its outcome prosperity. In the same vein, Iranian cities have also experienced fast growth and uneven development during the past decades exacerbating unsustainable development. It seems in light of CPI, a better measurement of development level of cities can be achieved to guide the policy makers for concentrating on most important shortcomings. At the same time, the comparison between the cities urges the backward cities to emulate the policies of upper cities in these measurements. At the same time, since comprehending development is a culturally sensitive issue, measuring development should be contextualized according to the target society. The authors argue that the cultural aspect with more emphasis on the subjective side of grasping development is crucial to Iranian citizens and, therefore, we have added the sixth dimension to CPI wheel. In other words, a city may enjoy all the five dimensions of CPI still missing the psychological health and social serenity. The sixth index named health and was added to CPI.

### **Methodology**

In this article, we have attempted to revise and apply CPI for cities with more than 100 thousands residents in north-western region of Iran. The research method is descriptive-analytical, using secondary data for the cities in 3 provinces of Ardebil, East Azerbaijan and West Azerbaijan. To apply Iranian CPI, 65 variables turned into indicators in six dimensions. To classify the cities, RALSPI model was recently developed by two Iranian scholars, was carried out as a method of multi-criteria decision making.

According to this model, by applying fuzzy method the indices were de-scaled. Then, for each indicator of Iranian CPI, we determined  $2n+1$  class of development and calculated the maximum and the minimum scores for each of the 6 indices. The weight of each variable/indicator was determined by applying Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) technique and the general score for each of the 6 indices was calculated through dividing the total weights of variables by the maximum possible scores in each group. Finally, the average scores of all 6 indices were calculated as the value of Iranian CPI for each of the cities in this research.

### **Results and discussion**

The results of this research have identified 6 classes of cities ranging from strong to weak performance in terms of Iranian CPI. This means sharp inequality among the cities in this region from the viewpoint of prosperity. Tabriz as the capital of East Azerbaijan has the highest score at the first class, Then, Uremia as the capital of West Azerbaijan is categorized in the middle class. Khoy, Maragheh, Ardebil (Capital of Ardebil province), Mahabad, Miandoab, Marand and Boukan, all these cities fell into the lowest class, showing a serious cleavage. The findings indicate the regional disparity and uneven development in this region while the concentration of development facilities in the large cities is evident. Given that only one city is classified in each of the high and the middle classes, a kind of polarization process can be seen in the results.

### **Conclusion**

The results show that most of the cities are in the lowest class of Iranian CPI. These cities have lower performance in dimensions of infrastructure, quality of life and health. Therefore, the initially prioritization suggests that dimensions of productivity, equity and social inclusion and environmental sustainability are in the following priorities. The study suggests the priorities for policy makers to uplift the situation of these cities. Disintegrating the Iranian CPI of each city in

the 6 indices and measuring each one separately enable the urban managers to discrete the field of actions towards bringing about prosperity to the cities in the future.

**Keywords:** City Prosperity Index (CPI), prioritization, urban development, city performance.



## **Prioritization of Tourism Development Strategies to Determine its Role in Urban Development Plan (Case Study: Kermanshah Province)**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The cities of Iran each have different talents and capabilities of the natural landscape, cultural and historical monuments, the growth of tourism and the tourist industry and mining. The historic city of Kermanshah with rapid urban growth in recent decades requires urban development strategies for consistent and systematic combination of tourism planning and strategic urban development. In the planning of the city involves many factors including historical context, architecture, and protection of cultural heritage, traditions, and social customs. In urban tourism trends and developments, the question arises how to develop tourism in the city? Many experts in the field of classification and typology of various spheres of tourism are named for the cities for urban planning in these areas. It is necessary to identify the trends in tourism and tourism management using strategic management of urban development in a sustainable perspective.

#### **Methodology**

The research methodology we used in this study is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. In quantitative way, this research has a practical purpose in terms of descriptive-analytic method. Based on qualitative method, we have conducted in-depth interviews in order to extract various experts in the field of tourism. In order to collect data, we have used documents and library studies, questionnaires and interviews. In a literature review, all the texts in the field of tourism in Kermanshah province has been collected from previous published researches. In addition to prioritization of internal and external factors enumerated in each of the

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twelve districts, we made a questionnaire for pairwise comparison to prioritize the areas of tourism and to categorize the strategies extracted in each of the twelve areas of strategic planning. The information is gathered through interviews to extract internal and external factors for analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. In each of the twelve districts, experts were interviewed in this area in two stages.

In this study, the effects of the external environment are examined to identify opportunities and threats in relation to tourism development for assessing the internal environment to identify strengths and weaknesses in the evaluation matrix for the four strategies of the SWOT model. Then, in two stages, prioritization of internal and external factors is made to identify and determine the relative importance of each of the areas of tourism via AHP method to prioritize the strategies set by QSPM matrix.

### **Results and discussion**

The realization of these goals can only be possible through employing all the existing potential to employ them in development process for providing a hardware and software infrastructure. One of the requirements of the overall level of development of CDS documents is stabilization of the urban economy and empowering the levers of development based on internal resources. The city is able to realize its vision to be traced without relying on the credit of the central government. The conditions necessary for revenue and finance is needed to achieve the plans for this practical and realizable plan of implementation.

### **Conclusion**

According to the results of this study, the city of Kermanshah with high potential of tourism is one of the priority areas in the country and with a proper planning we can achieve significant growth in this area. In this regard, tourism is one of the most important areas of interest in the sustainable development of urban economy. The importance of this area for the field component of the program was the development of the CDS document. The output of this study has significant impact on the finalization of the strategic priorities in the plan.

**Keywords:** prioritization, development, tourism, CDS, Kermanshah.

## **Urban Sprawl, Annexation of Village to City, and Analysis of Effects and Outcomes from the Viewpoints of Residents (Case Study: Villages Annexed to Shiraz Metropolis)**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Rapid urbanization referring to the rapid population growth living in urban areas is an attribute of many developing countries. This phenomenon has occurred in some metropolises of Iran, e.g. Tehran, Mashad, Isfahan, Shiraz and Tabriz. Expansion of urban spaces, corrosion of villages and their peripheral lands are outcomes of rapid urbanization. If urbanization process accompanied by urban expansion is not managed properly, it would lead to urban sprawl, pollution, environmental discount, and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Besides, unorganized expansion of cities has several spatial outcomes on peripheral villages, e.g. land use and land coverage changes in common territory of villages. Physical expansion of settlements toward each other usually leads to annexation of smaller settlements (village) to larger settlements (city).

The outcomes of annexation of villages to cities may have positive or negative effects. Some positive outcomes include improvement of physical infrastructures, development of urban services and increment of constructions. Changes in agricultural lands, conversion of production work forces into consumers, rise of expectations, and promotion of consuming and increment of life costs are examples of negative outcomes. When some villages are joined to a city, these villages would consequently be part of that city; but in many cases, we can see obvious differences between joined villages and main city in respect of social, cultural, economic and environmental attributes. In the way of urban sprawl, the cities impose main changes and evolutions on peripheral areas. In fact, new spatial interactions between those two different areas necessitate these changes. This is a process experienced in many developing countries including Iran.

Shiraz, an Iranian metropolis, experienced considerable physical expansion in recent years. The physical area of the city is increased from 3540 hectare in 1976 to 24000 hectare in 2011. During this period of time, population is increased from 425813 to 1460665. In other words, during 1976-2011, urban population is increased 3.43 times and its area 6.78 times; this condition is a sign of notable acceleration of urban physical development in comparison with population increment. In the way of expansion of city toward peripheral lands, adjacent rural

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areas would gradually annex to the urban areas. As mentioned before, annexation of the villages to city has various outcomes in social, economic, cultural and physical dimensions. Given the importance of the issues, this paper investigated the effects and outcomes of annexation of rural settlements to Shiraz city area.

### **Methodology**

In this paper, we have investigated the effects of annexation of some rural settlements to Shiraz metropolis in economic, socio-cultural and environmental-physical dimensions, from the residents' viewpoints. We have collected the required data through library studies and questionnaire. Research population is the head of households in 12 villages joined to city. Sample size based on Cochran method was 315. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. We initially studied demographic evolutions and changes in urban area over the period of 1976-2011 and, then, analyzed the data extracted from filled questionnaires using statistical methods.

The questionnaire included 43 questions about various effects and outcomes of annexation of rural settlements to Shiraz city. This study emphasize on economic, socio-cultural and environmental-physical dimensions for which we have 11, 18 and 14 criteria, respectively. Some of these criteria are related to positive effects and some other negative. Analysis of the data were carried out using some statistical tests including Chi-squared test, Wilcoxon, Friedman test, Pearson correlation coefficient, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, and Phi-Cramer's V.

### **Results and discussion**

Analysis of economic effects of the annexation showed that from the viewpoint of respondents, negative economic effects of annexation of studied villages to Shiraz city are relatively more than positive ones. Hence, the mean value of all economic criteria is over the mean value except the criterion of job stability. We assessed socio-cultural effects via 18 criteria; mean value of all these criteria are over test mean. Evaluation of environmental-physical effects of annexation (via 14 criteria) showed that among these criteria only mean value of "officials' attention to the physical condition" is lower than default mean value. In socio-cultural dimension, as the economic dimension, negative effects of annexation are relatively more than positive effects.

The results showed that there are significant differences between socio-cultural and environmental-physical dimensions, and there is no significant difference between economic and environmental-physical dimensions. Results also revealed that the negative effects of the annexation of villages to Shiraz city are relatively more than positive ones in economic and socio-cultural dimensions from the respondents' viewpoints. Other results showed that among personal variables including gender, age, job, literacy and habitation duration, the relation of satisfactory was significant with all variables except gender. Correlation coefficient of 'satisfaction' with two criteria of age and habitation duration is negative, i.e., those respondents who lived for longer time in annexed villages, declared less satisfaction. It seems that from the viewpoint of old residents of annexed areas, gradual changes happened in patterns of life and activity and relationships system may be a threat for sustained social attachments and place identity.

### **Conclusion**

It can be concluded that according to respondents in respect of economic and socio-cultural dimensions, negative effects of annexation of studied villages to Shiraz city is relatively more than positive effects. About environmental-physical dimension, there isn't significant difference between positive and negative effects. However, there is significant difference between the

effects of the three dimensions of economic, socio-cultural and environmental-physical. It is noteworthy that the results of this paper cannot be generalizable to all other cities encountered with this issue without accurate investigation and case studies, because of different conditions of various urban areas.

**Keywords:** urban sprawl, urbanization bubble, physical development, annexation of village to city, Shiraz.

## **Challenges and Performance of Mehr Housing from Citizens' Viewpoint (Case Study: Pardis Town – Kazerun)**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Having a safe and secure shelter has been one of the oldest wishes of any human being. To attain suitable houses, human societies have always attempted to improve the quality and quantity of houses by the use of various methods and technologies. According to the fact that high quality residential areas will transfer the feeling of satisfaction due to the properties that might be physical, social or symbolic to a community, there's no doubt that houses have an essential importance in human beings' improvement. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations states that all people have the right to reach a standard living condition for their family. This standard level of living condition according to the United Nations includes the required food, clothes, house, health care and social services. One of the regions in which Mehr Housing policies have been applied is Kazerun County in Fars Province, Iran. At first, the settlement of about 5000 households was taken into consideration but due to lack of allocation of enough credit, this quantity decreased to 900 units and currently the project of 104 units has been operated in Pardis Town in Kazerun with the aim of providing services to the citizens. While the studies show that researchers have carried out numerous studies to examine citizens' satisfaction from Mehr Housings and no studies have been carried out so far to coherently evaluate the challenges of Mehr Houses. The researchers attempt to explain the following issues in the present study: What is the level of satisfaction of settlers in Mehr Houses of Pardis Town in Kazerun? What are the most important challenges of Mehr Housing in Pardis Town in Kazerun? What strategies do the settlers in Mehr Houses suggest to overcome the identified challenges?

#### **Methodology**

The current research is an applied study in nature and it is a descriptive-analytic study in terms of methodology. Documentary and field studies were used for data collection. Research population included all the heads of households of Mehr Houses in Pardis Town in Kazerun.

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Among the residents, 100 subjects accepted to participate in interview and complete the designed questionnaire. It is noteworthy that the aforementioned questionnaire has been designed in four sections. The first section deals with the personal information of the respondents (demographic variables) and general information about the residential units of Mehr Housing Project in Pardis Town. The second section of the questionnaire deals with the variables related to the satisfaction of citizens from residential units of Mehr Housing Project which has been designed in eight indices of facilities in the complex, transportation, physical, environmental, security, economic, social, and cultural and management parameters. The third section of the questionnaire was allocated to the variables related to the challenges of Mehr Housing Project and the fourth was designed in the form of an open question: "what is your most important solution to solve the problems of Mehr Housing?" The second and third sections of the questionnaire were designed in a Likert format, 1) Very low importance, 2) Low importance, 3) Average importance, 4) High importance, 5) Very high importance. Descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, standard deviation and coefficient of variation), the tests of compare means and exploratory factor analysis were used in the form of SPSS to analyze the data according to research purposes.

### **Results and discussion**

The results of this research about the citizens' satisfaction from Mehr Housing in Pardis Town in main indexes show undesirable satisfaction of citizens in facilities of the complex, access and transportation, physical, environmental, security, economic, social, and cultural and management indices, because more than half of the respondents' satisfaction level was at average, low and very low levels for all the indexes. Despite this, research results show that the least level of satisfaction among respondents was for three indexes of access and transportation, facilities of the complex and the physical condition of the complex; because the level of satisfaction in these indices was 92 percent, 80 percent and 76 percent at the levels of average, low and very low, respectively.

Results show that 30 percent of the citizens had acceptable level of satisfaction, 22 percent had average level of satisfaction and 48 percent had weak level of satisfaction in Mehr houses in Pardis Town. The results of one-sample t-test show that the total average level of satisfaction of the respondents in Mehr houses in Pardis Town was 2.73 which was less than the reference number. Therefore, it can be stated that in general the level of citizens' satisfaction living in Mehr houses of Pardis Town is in an inappropriate condition. The results of prioritization of the strategies for overcoming the problems of Mehr houses of Pardis Town show that citizens have suggested 9 substantial solutions to overcome the problems. Among the suggested solutions, three solutions of establishing fundamental service centers (schools, hospitals, firefighting stations, parks, etc.) near the town, a closer monitoring of the quality of the materials used for the construction of Mehr houses by contractors and allocation of public services to overcome the difficulties of citizens commuting to downtown with 93, 86 and 76 repetitions were the most important solutions suggested by citizens to reduce the problems of Mehr Housing in the region under investigation.

### **Conclusion**

The current research has been conducted in Pardis Town in Kazerun with the aim of studying the level of citizen's satisfaction from living in Mehr houses and identifying its challenges. The primary research results showed that the level of satisfaction of citizens settling in Mehr Houses of Pardis Town was in an inappropriate condition. The obtained results confirm the research results of Purmohammadi and Asadi (2014) about Mehr Housing Projects in Zanjan and the

research results of Rafiiyan et al. (2014) about eleven thousand Mehr residential units project in Mahdasht, which showed that the level of citizens' satisfaction from Mehr Residential Complex is lower than average. On the other hand, research results were not in line with research results of Rezaii and Kamalizadeh (2012) about the satisfaction of the residents from Mehr Residential Complex of Fatemi in Yazd which indicated that the level of citizens' satisfaction from Mehr houses is in average. After explaining the satisfaction level of residents in the area under study, researchers studied the problems of Mehr Housing Project or in other words the reasons for the settlers' dissatisfaction from Mehr houses. Research results showed that the most important challenges of Mehr Housing in this research area include: inappropriate locating, weakness of welfare services, socio-economic problems, weakness of management factors and environmental problems.

**Keywords:** urbanization, housing plan, low-income groups of people, Mehr Housing, Kazerun.



## **An Explanation of Inequalities and Ranking in Universities of Tehran toward Sustainable Development**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Development of higher education in the recent years makes it necessary to ensure quality in evaluation of universities. The importance of the evaluation is that it can determine the realities. Education assessment is a formal activity to determine the quality and efficiency of curriculum. To measure the quality, we have to consider the criteria and indices. The indices and criteria are numerical values representing qualitative attributes in numbers. The numerical indices were used as a mechanism for efficiency analysis to assess the universities. This is the task of the governments to show and eliminate the inequalities in education. Equal education opportunities in schools mean equal access of all to the efficient education for sustainable development. The education for sustainable development is learning based on some principles with the aim of sustainability in all levels. Thus, the purpose of this present research is to make a ranking of the universities of Tehran City using document indices.

#### **Methodology**

This is an applied research with survey method for data gathering. The population of this study is all the students of the universities of Tehran City. Using Cochran, we have selected 383 individuals by proportional classes and distributed questionnaires among them. The tool has Cronbach alpha quotient of 0.951 and its reliability and validity have been confirmed. We have used SPSS for data analysis. The Analytic Network Process model has also been used to prioritize the indices and TOPSIS to make the ranking of the universities. In the TOPSIS analysis as a multi-criteria decision making, an  $m \times n$  matrix has been formed and the indices and universities have been assigned in the columns and rows. Following the scale changes, the weights of indices have been determined by entropy. After that, we got positive and negative ideal solutions. The differences of the universities from the ideal indicate their position relative to each other.

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**Results and discussion**

In this research, the universities of Tehran City have been assessed in terms of the indices of higher education. The results of this research have indicated difference among the universities in the enjoyment in the indices. In the integration of the indices, the results have indicated that the Sharif University of Technology, University of Tehran, and Tarbiat Modares University are ranked first, second, and third, respectively. This ranking is mainly consistent with international reports. In two classes of universities of technology and comprehensive universities, the results of this research have indicated that Sharif, Amierkabir, and Science and industry are in the first, second, and third ranks among the universities of technology, respectively, and University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares, and Shahid Beheshti are ranked in the first, second, and third ranks among the comprehensive universities. The results have stated that the possibilities have the efficiency of 0.88, process indices of education have efficiency of 0.79, and environment and interaction indices have the efficiency of 0.69 as the most effective indices in the ranking. These have also been detailed in direct and indirect effects.

**Conclusion**

Education is considered as the most important means to equalize social differences. The equal education only can be achieved by equal access of all to the education. The ranking of the universities can show education and research achievement of the universities. An approach in the ranking of the universities is awareness of their position relative to other universities of the world. As the universities active in a given mission are compared with each other, their position would better be discerned. This study has assessed the inequalities of the universities of Tehran in two groups of technology and comprehensive universities. This study has also made a ranking to eliminate the inequalities in order to achieve the sustainable development goals. For the ranking, we have analyzed more than 500 components in a variety of indices not just research findings indices.

**Keywords:** education inequality, sustainable development, TOPSIS, university ranking.

## **Status of the Informal Sector in Sustainability of Urban Economy (Case study: Tabriz City)**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The informal economy is the diversified set of economic activities, enterprises, jobs, and workers that are not regulated or protected by the state. The concept is originally applied to self-employment in small unregistered enterprises. It has been expanded to include wage employment in unprotected jobs. The present research is an attempt to realize the location of informal economic section in the sustainability of Tabriz megalopolis. This phenomenon involves many variation and widespread development. Importance and specific location of the informal economic section in urban economy is so intensive that could never be ignored. The informal economic section has attracted numerous people of Tabriz megalopolis and plays an important role in the economy of that. Conventional approaches to urban development generally are of one-way model and are dependent on political conditions and economic purposes. Nevertheless, since the late decade of twentieth century, this subject has taken systematic and multiracial condition to itself.

#### **Methodology**

This study as an applied development research involves descriptive and case study methods using documentary-library and field techniques. The tools for gathering data are including questionnaires, observation, interview, statistic documents of Iran statistics center. The information acquired from analytic maps is provided in Geographical Information System (GIS). The study is a descriptive- analytic research in method. Thus, the quantitative models and techniques like  $X^2$  test and V cramer are employed in GIS, Arcview and SPSS. The statistic population of this research involves the people working in informal economic section of Tabriz megalopolis. Through an accidental sampling method, we selected 390 samples, including 282 men and 108 women. The present investigation is analyzed by the use of descriptive-inferential statistic methods in SPSS.

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**Results and discussion**

The Tabriz megalopolis is an example of urban development models which is entirely changed due to variation of urban planning in recent decades. This investigation attempts to evaluate the economic roots of this problem based on urban sustainability views to provide a proper context for better judgement in urban planning. The results of this research indicated that most of the businessmen in informal economic section of Tabriz megalopolis are men (72.3 percent) and married people (82.3 percent).

The activities of informal economic section in Tabriz megalopolis are clothes sellers (11.5 percent), fruit sellers (10.8 percent), and building workers (8.5 percent), carpet knitters (5.4 percent). The most important kinds of occupations in informal section of this city are salesmanship, domestic service giving people, scientific, educational, artistic services, transportation and agriculture. The businessmen in informal section of Tabriz are mostly unqualified people in education. Average age of these people is 42years old. Most of the people working in this section are rural – urban immigrants and their inhabitants are mostly in margins of Tabriz city. The most important reason for the people to enter to this informal section is the lack of enough capital and specialty to qualify better opportunities. These businessmen are mostly in Abrasan (5.9 percent), Seilab (4.6 percent), Maralan (4.6 percent), and Abbasi (4.4 percent) areas. The most important occupational problems of this group is the inadequacy of capital, lack of specialty and qualification, and lack of fixed location for performing economic activities. Most of the working people in this section (31.4 percent) have revenues between 400 to 600 US dollars. This shows that the people are below poverty line and affected by intensive poverty.

**Conclusion**

Geographical distribution of informal economic section in Tabriz megalopolis is not uniform. Most of the people working in this informal section are rural-urban immigrants in the city. The occupational variety in informal economic section in Tabriz megalopolis is more intensive for men than Women.

**Keywords:** informal economy, informal job, megalopolis, urban sustainability.

## **A Semi-Automated Approach for Identifying and Classifying Urban Old and Modern Textures Based on Spectral and Spatial Patterns in Object-Oriented Remote Sensing (Case Study: Isfahan City)**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Urban environment has been facing with significant changes in terms of land use/cover (LULC) over time. Accurate and up-to-date data describing LULC changes can promote such studies. They can be applied to quantify the amount of rural to urban changes, identify change trajectories, study legacy effects, help understand how change is occurring, and predict future changes. In terms of urban change detection and monitoring LULC, the remote sensing technology is known as a very effective methodology for monitoring urban environments and LULC changes. There are several approaches for processing remote sensing satellite imagery such as pixel based and object based image analysis. An Object Based Image Analysis (OBIA) is considered as one of the well-established techniques for processing satellite images when applied to environmental monitoring of cities. Unlike pixel based approach, the OBIA make use of spectral information together with spatial characteristics of ground objects. Such specific ability allows effective modeling of ground objects. OBIA has gained prominence in the field of remote sensing over the last decade. This approach has the potential to overcome weaknesses associated with pixel based analysis in disregarding geometric and contextual information. When it is used within the “geo-domain” or at the scales related to earth “geo-centric” applications,, in scientific literature it is often referred to as geographic object-based image analysis (GEOBIA). OBIA is a knowledge-driven approach in which a range of diagnostic features for a particular object can be integrated on the basis of expert knowledge. This approach aims to represent the content of a complex scene in a manner that best describes the imaged reality by mimicking human perception. An integrated approach in OBIA allows us to incorporate spectral information (e.g., color) and spatial characteristics (e.g., size, shape), together with textural data and contextual information (e.g., association with neighboring objects), for modeling urban objectives effectively. Based on this statement, OBIA techniques can be used in the review and observation of the difference and adaptive comparison between the traditional and modern quarter pattern of the urban environments. In this regard, OBIA is

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known as effective and powerful image analysis processing method which helps obtain high accuracy satellite images.

### **Methodology**

This research utilizes OBIA's capabilities for modeling urban characteristics. The aim of this study is to compare textural-patterns of distressed and modern areas in Esfahan city by applying an object based approach. To achieve this goal, two categories of urban neighborhoods namely Nokhajo and Mardavij were selected from distressed and modern areas, respectively. The Quick Bird satellite images were acquired for the year 2015. In order to perform object based approach, the object based image processing started off by applying multi resolution segmentation based on spatial and spectral patterns of each area. Accordingly, object based methods are applied for identifying the spectral and spatial patterns of those areas. For this goal, the shape indexes were used as compactness for segmentation under specific scale parameters. The segmentation process was performed several times to obtain more accurate scale parameter. In order to extract the urban texture patterns, the rule based classification was performed by applying OBIA based algorithms consistent with physical and spectral characteristics of the urban objects. For this to happen, variety of OBIA techniques including geometrical information, texture, compression ratio, irregular shapes and etc were employed to derive spatial patterns of each part. The outcome of these OBIA algorithms was used to identify spatial patterns of distressed and modern zones. In doing so, after identifying the appropriate algorithms, fuzzy classification with nearest neighbor algorithm was applied for class modeling process. In terms of fuzzy rule based classification, the process was performed by employing fuzzy membership function as well as fuzzy operators. The memberships functions allow define the relationship between feature values and the degree of membership to a class using fuzzy logic. By comparing the membership degree achieved from membership function, the "AND" operator was selected to be effective operator for object based fuzzy classification. Accordingly, fuzzy rule based classification was performed by employing "AND" operator and applying textural, shape, geometric, statistical, spatial and spectral indices. In order to assess the accuracy of results, the accuracy assessment process was done based on data gathered in field operation. The error matrix and kappa coefficient were derived by comparing the ground truth dataset and results of classifications.

### **Results and discussion**

Results of this research indicated that OBIA is indeed an effective method for modeling urban structure and classifying the urban objects based on characteristic of each item. According to the results, integration of spectral and spatial patterns leads to effective modeling of urban structure. Our research results also confirmed that textural algorithms lead to detection of urban component. Well organized road network system together with distribution of green space and normal density in building were identified as the most important indicators in modern part of Esfahan. However, very high density in building, less green space area with narrow road network systems were observed as spatial characteristics of the distressed area. According to this statement, OBIA represents very effective and powerful methodology for modeling urban structure by means of integration of spectral and spatial characteristics.

### **Conclusion**

Within this research, we present a novel methodology for comparing the different structure of urban environment based on object based remote sensing. Since we have carried out a comprehensive analysis for capability of each object algorithm, the results of this research are important for identifying and classifying urban texture patterns. The archived results can be

used in rapid identification of texture patterns in urban environments and is useful to a variety of urban planning studies. The proposed approach in this research will support researchers/students to employ effective algorithms in OBIA which lead to obtain more accurate results. The results are also important for regional governmental departments such as the Municipality of Esfahan for updating land use/cover maps which are the bases of any decision and planning.

**Keywords:** urban texture patterns, segmentation, spatial and spectral algorithms, object-based image analysis, Isfahan city.

## **Spatial Analysis of Rural Development Level in the Province of Khuzestan Using Multiple Attribute Decision Making Compensation Method and Integrated Collection**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Many researchers and academics believe that the discussions of urban and rural development are separated from each other. Such studies can be conducted in the form of regional development strategies. Therefore, strategies and policies for regional development have an important role in boosting economic activities and the development of deprived areas to reduce differences between regions. Regional allocation of public facilities and funds can be a step forward to achieve balanced development and reduce regional inequalities; otherwise, the continuation of existing trends by focusing on economic development in developed areas will lead to divergence and dissonance in national development. In general, regional development is seeking to create conditions and framework conditions suitable for continuous improvement of living standards to reduce unemployment, diversify economic activity, increase investment in the private and public sectors, promote economic prosperity and, as a result, social and economic sustainable development. Given the importance of economic growth, the objectives of the strategy of regional development are justice, poverty elimination, and economic sustainability. Much research has been done based on the assessment of regional disparities in global and national level. However, with the increasing number of case studies from developing countries, there are a plenty of reports of failure of the sustainable development approach in achievement of environmental, economic and the ideal goals. In rural communities, have special problems, resources and facilities, needs and priorities of their own. For this reason, in the context of national development planning, it is necessary to consider the requirements as a special and specific section. In relation to Iran, although the managers and decision makers periodically have increased issues, such as rural planning, rural management, a fair distribution of resources, and poverty elimination, but there are serious problems and inequality in rural areas of Iran despite the attempts of different organizations in the affairs of villages. This is a

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holding back at the expense of not developing in other areas and increase the gap between regions. Thus, it seems necessary to determine weaknesses of each of the townships from the different indicators of development at the provincial level. It would be a good base to determine distribution for local managers and the needs of the regions on a comparative assessment and by taking advantage of spatial planning with the maximum optimal use of resources. In this study, to meet the situation township of the province we selected about 76 variables in the form of 8 indicators, using multiple attribute decision making compensation method and integrated collection to specify the degrees of development of the province.

### **Methodology**

This study is a functional research in goal and in terms of methodology it has a descriptive analytical method. In order to achieve the research objectives, we initially classified rural development indicators in nine indices and 76 variables. The information about the variables is collected from statistical yearbook 2012 of Khuzestan governor general. We have used some applications such as TOPSIS, Electre, Vikor, Promethee to determine the level township of the province, based on the rate indicators for rural development in the form of Excel software. .

### **Results and discussion**

From the integration of different sectors of development indicators with shared overlap function, 27 counties of Khuzestan province were categorized into five groups. The first group contains the counties of Izeh, Dezful and Shoosh; the second group contains counties of Baghmalek, Behbahan, Shooshtar Ahvaz, Ramhormuz and Shadegan; the third group contains the counties of Andika, Andymeshk, Abadan, Dashte Azadegan, Karoon, Bandar Mahshahr and Bavi; The fourth group contains the counties of Ramshir, Khorramshahr, Lali, Omidiyeh, Hamidieh, Gotvand; The fifth group also includes the counties of Masjed Soleiman, Hendijan, Hoveize, Haftgel and Aghajari. By this, we can spatially distinguish different parts of the province. The areas of the first and the second groups are located mainly in the north and east provinces and deprived areas are the fourth and fifth groups in the south and west.

### **Conclusion**

In this study, we tried to achieve balanced development of rural areas in the counties of Khuzestan province. This is to determine the distribution of rural development among the counties and their position relative to each other. The geographical distribution of rural development measures and the existence of spatial mismatch between the cities in Khuzestan province are significant at the province level in terms of indices of population issues of health, education, culture, politics, services, communications and infrastructure. Most measures of development are concentrated in northern central and western parts of Khuzestan province. A closer look at the results of the study could be detected in three separate areas in Khuzestan province; some of the counties experienced rapid growth and development, one located in the west province (Izeh) and two in northern provinces (Dezful and Shoosh). In general, the county earns high ratings and this result of having potential environmental powers as well as long term policies implemented in this field can cause development of these areas. Deprived areas cover five counties of Aghajari, Haftgel, Hoveize, Hendijan and Masjed Soleiman, with the lowest level of development in most criteria.

**Keywords:** spatial analysis, rural development indicators, multiple attribute decision making compensation methods, integrated collection, Khuzestan Province.

## **An Evaluation of Compatibility of Tehran's Bus Rapid Transit with Transit-oriented Development Approach**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Today, increasing tendency of using cars instead of walking to public transport has increased environmental pollution. The air pollution in many countries of the world, especially big cities in Iran, is so critical that it forced the government to take serious policies and make short term and long term programs. In a different perspective, it is necessary to think about these problems. Urban planners dependent on their views on this issue have taken transit-oriented development approach. This approach has been considered in urban planning from the 1970s in USA among policymakers and researchers in the field of planning and urban design. Citizens are encouraged to use public transportation in the areas with mixed-use residential, commercial and office near a node or transit stops (bus, subway, etc.). If implemented properly, this type of planning can bring many benefits, including reduction in transport costs, reduction in congestion, sustainability and urban vitality, open shape in development of cities and etc. In Iran, using public transportation has benefits in the cities, especially big cities. The plans have been implemented in these areas. In Tehran, large-scale projects such as metro and bus systems were highly operating; but development of such systems requires understanding the effectiveness in various dimensions. The aim of this study is to answer questions about the operation of the bus system in Tehran to find out the framework for transit-oriented development approach and its physical properties. One of habitable transit-oriented development quality objectives in this study is that air pollution. We attempts to understand the relationships between air pollution zoning in Tehran and the requirements of transit-oriented development approach.

#### **Methodology**

The aim of this study is applied in terms of development and descriptive-analytical methods

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with an approach outlining the concepts to determine the consistency of fuzzy clustering technique using two physical features. To evaluate the viability of the relationship between quality objectives in this study, air pollution is taken into account. Using fuzzy clustering and interpolation of air pollution zoning maps, we have taken transit-oriented development approach to the bus system.

### **Result and discussion**

The results showed the adaptability of transit-oriented development approach in different lines. In mixing land uses, except in the areas of north and northeast and southeast Tehran there is a greater extent than mixing appropriate user. In other areas, especially in the east, southeast and southwest between stations there are smaller cases. The mixing member further includes a separate application that is enclosed within residential applications. The composition and distribution of inappropriate land use leads to internalization of trips in the development area. Thus, it can create demand for travel and the subsequent parking. The population density is only half in northern, northeastern, southern and western edges as good density. This is due to the following areas of immediate gate stations where passengers can easily have access to transportation lines. There are the most convenient connections between people with access to the use of public transport and reducing the desire to travel by car. In the final map resulted from combination of two layers of integrated land use and population density, we reduced population density in the areas of 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20 and mixed use transit-oriented development approach in conformity with the requirements. In the second part, after zoning map pollution in Tehran for six key pollutants over the past 5 years, the results indicated critical situations in terms of air quality in the zones of 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 20. After comparing pollution hazard map with the map of requirements of transit-oriented approach, we can see the areas with unfavorable air quality.

### **Conclusion**

It can be stated that providing requirements of the approach to development of transport system of buses around the major lines was an obstacle to achieve the goals. In some areas, the components and parameters of transport system have a great impact on the amount of pollution. Accordingly, different areas of Tehran in terms of transport indicators and the type of passages, per capita lamps, LED density, percent of networks and parking space have different roles in air pollution. It is essential in these plans to utilize the requirements of this development pattern and to take advantages of this form of development as a successful and effective way in reducing traffic congestion. It is proposed to see the metropolitan Tehran and other large cities in these projects and the development of comprehensive plans in order to establish successful and effective solutions to decrease traffic congestion and social development.

**Keywords:** Transit-oriented development approach (TOD), Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), clustering method, mapping, air pollution.

## **Quality of Life in Rural Areas of Bahmaei District, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Iran**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Quality of life is better living conditions in which balance, coordination, desirability and equality has become institutionalized. The fields required for life are health, safety, comfort, peace, joy, creativity and beauty. This is resulted from the fact that the indices of quality of life are ranged from feeding and clothing to health care and social environment in the physical environment. The main purpose of this research is to analyze the indicators of the quality of life in rural centers in Tropical Village Bahmaei city. Quality of life is a complicated word in relation to living conditions and demographic situation. Quality of life has some aspects of objective and subjective indicators such as satisfaction, happy and security in the cover and in some cases, it is also called social satisfaction. This research is aimed to identify quality of life measures in the social, cultural, physical, and economic environment in rural villages in the southern city Bahmaei, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer.

#### **Methodology**

The study was descriptive survey that selected 8 villages of more than 60 households after studying the documents.. We distributed 243 questionnaires (using the Cochran) systematically among heads of households. After collecting information, we made a sorting of the statistical processing (descriptive and inferential analysis) in SPSS and GIS. In the survey questionnaire, interview and observation data required for the study were collected. In the field survey, 243 questionnaires were systematically distributed among the heads of households. The questionnaire contains 44 questions in the economic, social, cultural, physical and environmental design and the heads of households were asked to questions in the five-item Likert (very poor, poor, average, good and very good). The satisfaction level is measured by the factors affecting the quality of life in 4 cultural-social, physical, environmental and economic

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variables including 8 domain (44 items) related to quality of life. Questionnaire construction, validity of the consultants and supervisors was conducted to determine the reliability of the results of Cronbach's alpha. Using the analysis, 8 villages of more than 60 households were selected. The encoded data is then transferred to SPSS software. To assess and compare the current situation with the ideal state, we employed Wilcoxon test and defined the data in the GIS software for geometric topology mapping.

### **Results and discussion**

In the statements of the quality of education have more positive effects than negative ones. The quality of leisure items shows more negative ratings than positive ratings. In the statements of more negative ratings than positive ratings are residential environment. In statements, the quality of home lightening and heat supply, proper cooling of housing, have more positive impacts. In the statements of infrastructure more negative ratings are observed. To avoid waste and pollution of water resources and prevent degradation and soil erosion, we can see more positive impacts.

### **Conclusion**

By examining the different aspects of quality of life, the results measured social and cultural conditions. Interaction and participation of villagers in the district has its roots in indigenous cultures. Urban renewal was dominated by the residents of the district's attachment to work, social interaction and solidarity. The efforts of the authorities in better services especially in the areas of education, health, and security are in addition to the villagers. The economic weakness of villagers in the village show social destruction in the village. In the physical residential environment, component analysis results indicated a major part of biomarkers is weak and unsatisfactory. On the economic index, financial and economic conditions are very poor in rural areas.

**Keywords:** quality of life, quality of life measures, rural areas, rural development, Bahmaei.

## **An Inquiry about the Law in Geography with Emphasis on Political Geography**

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### **Extended Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Discovering theories and laws explaining the patterns and behaviors of natural and human world is one of the main goals of science. In social science realm, there have been two antagonist and different approaches about law of these sciences. Some schools based on realistic approach have insisted on assimilation of the natural and human sciences on the contrary idealistic school. Given humanism, we consider social science different from natural science and the similarity between the laws of social natural sciences. This issue in geography is also from those disputable issues that has already been the subject of many disputations among different geographical schools. Some of the theories in the geography are environmentalism and behaviorism in spatial and systematic aspects. In opposition, possibilism, exceptionalism and radical schools (critical and post-modern) consider the geography as a lawless knowledge. This research analyzes the issue differently. We want to address the issue whether geography is a lawless science? If it is, then how are its laws? According to the analysis of the paper, geography is considered as a law-able science.

#### **Methodology**

This paper is a fundamental research by the typology for problem resolving purpose, mental and philosophical problem. This analysis is based on logical and epistemological theorems and reasoning. The sources used in this paper are documentary and library references.

#### **Results and discussion**

Scientific law is a kind of generalization with comprehensive reliability. In other words, this kind of law is unbounded at time and space with three characteristics such as universal, conditional prediction and experimental falsification. In this field, some of the positivistic geographers following the nature are seeking lawful order and dominating on society and

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livelihood. The geography is an objective, observational, quantitative and lawable knowledge. Therefore, the laws and rules can be exploited by the deduction. In this regard, observation without theory has upper priority and geometrical models are most significant. According to this perspective, geography is considered as a science seeking to discover universal rules and principles dominating over environmental elements such as social and natural issues. The duty of geographer is to discover causative relations between phenomena and representing them based on geographical general and comprehensive laws. In contrast, some geographers doubtfully look at causative and necessary relationships in geography. They have reacted against such attitudes. They believe in lawless geography emphasizing on human will and liberty and natural, cultural, historical and ideological differences. These groups among geographical spaces have searched for understanding the meaning of human society. The present study consider geography in general and political geography in particular s credit science with the concepts such as state, territory, border, political management of space, government, nation, administrative division, spatial management, and political organization of space. Also in credit science, it is not necessary to have various truths, even if the subject of proposition or law is personal it can be considered as a law. Therefore, according to the results of this study, geography can be considered as a law-able science.

### **Conclusion**

Science is an effort to discover existing order in various phenomena. In other words, the goal of science is to discover theories and rules explaining patterns and behaviors of natural and social world. According to this definition, any kind of science fields and branches investigates the order of a part of the world. For example, physics investigates existing order in movement of energy and material. Medicine explains the order of body. Hence, geography attempts to recognize the existing order in features on place and dominated process on patterns, spatial behaviors. Totally, any scientific category is composed of real, objective and tangible subjects that have some characteristics like experimental analyses and *falsificationality*. It is also based on analogical and inductive method or logic; , the categories are based on compositional mechanism of induction and syllogism. A brief deliberation on theme, structure, subject and methodology in geography will indicate that all the features and characteristics of a scientific knowledge can be found in geography. Therefore, scientific explanation in geography is just like other “lawable sciences”. Of course, there is no consensus among geographers about the lawability in geography. As law is a generalized science with comprehensive credit and truth or, in other words, unbounded universal are in space and time and the necessary condition for lawability of a scientific phrase is having a universal generalization. Therefore, some geographers due to particularity and specification of places, un-repeatability of human phenomena and interference of human wills, values and motivations believe in geography as a lawless science. But since geography is a Credit science, not real, its lawability isn’t necessarily based on plurality and frequency proofs (just like in natural sciences), rather the lawability in geography is based on causal relations between subject and object or dependent and independent variables particularly in human and social sciences. Therefore, unlike naturalist geographer’s point of view, even if a geographical proposition is also personal but there is a causal relation between subject and object, then the personal proposition will be a general rule that can be generalized to all other spaces and places. Therefore, according to the analysis of this paper, geography in general and other geography sub-fields like political geography in particular, are considered as lawable sciences.

**Keywords:** scientific law, realistic laws, credit laws, epistemological analysis, political geography.

## **The Obstacles to Achieve a Clean City Based on Garbage Collection Using Grounded Theory (Case Study: Rasht)**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The city and urbanization is a prominent social process that has changed the interaction between human and the environment and other people. The city is not a fully independent and autonomous complex phenomenon, but it is a part of the social and economic structure and manifestation of the complex that has formed in accordance with the socio-political changes from the past to the present. Therefore, discussion about city is not limited only to its physical development and it must be recognized that the city is complicated phenomenon and engaged with various issues. Garbage generated in cities is one of the most important challenges in urban planning and in achieving a healthy city and consequently the clean city. In fact, urbanization has led to rapid social and economic development and at the same time emerged many problems such as the concentration of population, traffic jams, lack of housing, lack of resources, loss of biodiversity, the effects of heat islands, noise and air and water pollution. Urban cleanliness as one of the most important criteria to achieve a healthy city has recently been a special place in the literature of urban studies and occasionally a number clean world are introduced by international organizations. Since the formation, garbage is involved with important issues such as collection, recycling, disposing style and location of disposing. The issue of garbage collection from the cities can be studied in relation to urban cleanliness because they are directly affected by the face of the city and negligence in this area creates many problems in urban space. Addition to technical issues, it is involved with social, economic, cultural, and management problems and it can be useful to identify them and rank them. This paper aims to study the bottlenecks in garbage collection in the Rasht city via qualitative methods using Grounded Theory.

#### **Methodology**

In this paper, grounded theory method is used to identify the obstacles of assessment of the clean

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city in Rasht. Grounded Theory is a qualitative research method to study social processes in human interaction. This method developed by Glaser and Strauss, is rooted in the school's interpretation of symbolic interactionism. This method is a kind of research that examines and describes phenomena in their natural position. It involves a five-step process: first step is research design (technical literature review and select items), second phase is data collection, third stage is the setting and writing data items and concepts, fourth stage is analysis of the data (the original investigation) and the fifth stage is design and validation of the model. The purpose of the research project is questions and research area. Based on purposeful and theoretical sampling, 48 citizens were selected. Techniques used for data collection are focused on semi-structured interviews and field observations. Interviews are continued until theoretical saturation stage.

### **Results and discussion**

The findings were analyzed in three coding stages and analysis units. The results of coding, as the first stage of data analysis, contain the 114 codes that were extracted from interviews with citizens. Up to 16 concepts expressed from master codes and other codes directly from the person being interviewed. In axial coding process, we identified several extensive concepts with data analysis that formed 14 extensive classes. Based on the Grounded Theory, data coding was done in three stages and, as a result, five nuclear issues are extracted as the factors related to the social and cultural, economic, infrastructure, management and rules. Therefore, by analyzing the results of the extensive concept, five core subjects of social, cultural, economic, infrastructural and legal issues were identified as effective factors in achieving clean city in Rasht.

### **Conclusion**

Citizenship principles such as respect for urban cleanliness are one of the important indicators of community mental health. In this principle, both law and tradition have a strong role. Another factor in this context can be cited as the lack of necessary life skills for people who have not received adequate training in their educational process. The people's attitude to life and level of education and their conception of the life are affected on the rights and duties of citizenship, such as trash issue. Another effect is a feeling of not belonging; when a person does not have a sense of belonging to the community, does not feel responsible. Other factor affecting urban cleanliness besides the infrastructure S is the level of urban cleanliness. If the city as a whole unit is not clean, citizens will feel that their garbage make this mess and this is very inconsiderable. Thus, they do not feel bad dropping garbage in the city. Therefore, the main factors to achieve clean city can be summarized in social, cultural, economic, infrastructural, administrative and statutory factors. These factors, according to the results of research, are the most important factors affecting Rasht to be a clean city. Overall formation of clean city and Continuity of cleanliness in the city, in its various dimensions, have some pre-requisites, that in case of failure of their condition in the one hand and the lack of continuity can reduce the efficiency of the initial conditions of its creation on the other hand. Lack of urban infrastructure in the Rasht city, in relation to the principled collection, led to the loss of opportunity in the field of citizen participation development. The economic problems can increase the dimension on their reluctance. Accordingly, the citizens are encountered with the contradictions on the path of citizenship education of good behavior, who find themselves alone in these areas. As a result, this leads to a kind of apathy even among committed citizens. This makes planning related to social and cultural promotion of citizens ineffective and the managers have to adopt peaceful behavior in the face of polluted urban spaces.

**Keywords:** clean city, healthy city, garbage collection, grounded theory, Rasht City.