

## **An Analysis of the Physical - Structural Condition of Mahabad City by the Approach of City Development Strategies (CDS)**

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Received: 2014/10/17      Accepted: 2014/11/13

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

City is the most important form of human life on the earth surface and the most prominent dwelling for human societies. Considerable population growth of cities in the past half century has led to extensive urban growth and made extensive land use change in local-to-global scale. This process, most observable in the developing countries, has brought up physical and demographic development for many urban regions, urging for an intensive demand for development of infrastructures. Iranian cities also follow the rule: the emergence of capitalism and its evolvment, capital accumulation, production, and the need for workforce all led to the development of urbanization. City Development Strategy (CDS) is the process of developing a long-term perspective of the future of a city. Among the major goals of the strategy it is the integral cooperation of all effective social sections with the aim of reaching the long-term and integrated vision of the city. This results in the bureaucratic priorities and identifying short-term plans. In CDS, the issues such as poverty and economic development are addressed collaboratively. Strategic plan is prepared for the improvement of the life quality of all city dwellers, especially the poor. The main goal is to provide sustainable urban development by generating social capabilities for public participation. The urban models have always been based on positivistic models of cognition, analysis and design. These models have been devised in an idealistic view distant from the existing capacities of the urban society. Today, with the numerous ever growing issues of cities, CDS is seen a proper approach in comprehensive study and strategic management of cities. The approach has provided a basis for rigorous studies by urban directors and planners as wells as politicians. It is notable that Iranian cities have relatively centralized procedure of urban planning and management (carried out in the form of

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comprehensive, detailed, and directorial plans). The effectiveness of these plans on cities and citizens has already been studied. Therefore, there is the necessity for an overall alteration of these plans using a dynamic systematic vision, citizen partnership, and collective thinking for the preparation, execution, and perspective thinking of the urban development. These planning can focus on social, economic, and cultural processes of the cities that eventually lead to the enhancement of local forums, and good urban ruling with clarity, responsibility, coherence, partnership appealing, comment accepting, etc. Therefore, the present research includes the results of desk and field studies on a portion of CDS execution in Mahabad, Iran, and argues about the structural and physical status of the city.

CDS means pulling together a long-term perspective of the city for the short-term executive plans. The focus of CDS is on eradication of poverty and supporting competitive economy, environmental, urban, and infrastructural enhancement and financial aspects.

### **Methodology**

The present study is a practical research with descriptive-analytical method. After investigating the premises related to the research subject, the field study method is used for data gathering (direct observation, interviews with people, experts, and elites of the city). In this stage of the study, for full observation of the situation and the existing problems, the mentioned individuals were interviewed and consulted. An age group from 31 to 46 years old was examined as the largest age group in the community. Finally, by the field studies and interviews with citizens and authorities and regarding physical and structural problems of this city, the Urban Development Strategy (CDS) was presented for urban management of Mahabad city.

### **Results and discussion**

The findings of this research show that more than 91% of the people participated in this survey are not aware of current and future plans of municipal management (municipalities). The most important problems in the city of Mahabad are lack of urban facilities and infrastructure, no suitable recreational and sports spaces, non-efficient urban management, inadequate financial resources for residents, no support of the authorities in applying modern scientific methods in agricultural sectors, weak utilization of natural tourism facilities and related welfare services and no participation of citizens in urban management, and the existence of old texture especially in central areas.

### **Conclusion**

The results of this study in Mahabad city show that urban landscape, especially in the central texture of the city, has implicated the integration of urban and rural textures. Congested texture is disturbed and illegible due to the development of the city, especially in the areas such as Ashababa Sefid, Shaygan Garden, Baza Tup, Sanandan Abad, Kani Soufi Rashid, Kani Sufi Taha. The marginal landscape of this city is extremely inferior in quality due to its landscape in the central and mountainous regions of the city (pollution and visual disturbance). The inefficiency is resulted from the disposal of surface water, especially in the central and mountainous regions of the city, due to inadequate materials and low durability, low widths of the spiral roads, limited street space. The most important issues in the structural-physical studies of the city from the perspective of urban development strategy are regularity of the marginal streets in utilization and urban landscape and lack of proper coverage and even pavement in the streets.

**Keywords:** CDS, Mahabad City, physical - structural condition, urban management.

## **Patternization of Landuse Changes in the Villages of Isfahan Province Using GWt-Test Model**

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Received: 2014/10/10      Accepted: 2015/11/19

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Regional planning and management involves accurate and updated spatial information of landuse and landuse change patterns. Exploration and monitoring of these patterns can provide the planners and policy makers with useful exact information about the existing situation of development and nature of changes for an efficient planning. Land cover changes and dynamics have considerable impacts on the environment and environmental processes. Population increase and development of human activities in the recent decades have considerably influenced the earth surface. Thus, the decision makers and researchers require updated and exact information of vegetation and land cover situations. Now, the satellite image data are greatly useful to derive the landuse and land cover maps, particularly in vast areas. In addition that the updated and exact information about the land use and land cover can be of great importance for the decision makers, the changes of these properties can also be important for the managers and planners. The knowledge about the ratios of land use changes over time makes it possible to predict future alterations to take appropriate measures. Therefore, it seems necessary to utilize change detection methods to specify the trends over time. Exact and on time detection of the changes in the earth surface features and topography provide a basis to better understand the interactions between human and natural environment for more efficient use of the natural resources. Generally, this is one of the essential needs in management and assessment of the natural resources.

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There are many studies on the classification of land cover and development of a landuse map using remote sensing and GIS techniques. In this research, we have provided land use maps for the villages of Isfahan Province. Subsequently, we have applied GWt-test for patternization of the land use changes in order to test the hypothesis of spatio-temporal changes of land use in the villages of Isfahan Province. The land use changes have been classified in four groups of barren lands, water bodies, vegetation, and settlements.

### **Methodology**

We have initially determined the land use map and subsequently made a classification of satellite images. The image classification have been performed in four stages of training data, execution of the test samples on the images, image classification, and post classification of the images. After the classification, we have prepared geographical weight matrix and, then, executed GWt-test.

The GWt-test is an initiated model based on geographical weight matrix. To develop this model, a spatial weight matrix is added to the standard T test equation. To do so, the calculations is conducted as following: 1) calculation of geographical weight mean, 2) calculation of geographical weight variance value of the test, 3) calculation of geographical weight T value, 4) testing the hypothesis of equality of geographical weight means during two periods.

### **Results and discussion**

In this present research, we have classified satellite images of 2002 and 2014 to categorize the land use of Isfahan province. For the analysis and test of hypothesis, we have used GWt-test. The results of this research have indicated that the area have experienced land use changes in all the four categories of vegetation lands, barren areas, water bodies, and settlements in rural and urban areas from 2002 to 2014. The hypothesis of land use changes have been confirmed in all the villages for changes in water bodies, in 124 villages for changes in barren lands, in 118 villages for changes in settlement areas, and in half the villages for changes in vegetation areas. This research has investigated spatio-temporal changes of the lands in Isfahan Province. More exploration about the subject and the cause of the changes require a further deep investigation by a land use planning approach.

### **Conclusion**

The results of this research have provided land use maps and landuse changes for the villages of Isfahan Province applying GWt-test for patternization of the changes. The hypothesis of spatio-temporal changes of the land use has also been tested by the model. The results of the study have also indicated considerable landuse changes in the villages of Isfahan Province. Generally, the villages of the province have experienced changes in classes of water, settlement, barren land, and vegetation.

**Keywords:** geographical weight T test, Isfahan Province, landuse changes, Spatio-temporal analysis

## **Physical Development Pattern Analysis of Khorramabad City Using Shannon Entropy and Holdern and Optimization Using AHP**

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Received: 2013/10/12      Accepted: 2016/01/20

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The unsustainable growth and development of cities and their outsized densities have led to phenomena such as slums and informal settlements. The growth of these informal settlements in most urban areas has resulted in many socio-economic and environmental consequences. The consequences of these phenomena are the inability of urban spaces to respond to the rapid urbanization and needs of their residents. Generally, this unbalanced urban development occurs in urban areas with no competent planning and leads to increasing unused lands, the high share of open spaces, reduction of population density, disruption of different urban parts and social segregation. Therefore, the most important issue in urban development is the future development orientation. Selection of optimal location for future development requires the observance of its optimal principles and criteria. In selection of the location, the different parameters should be considered in relation to each other.

#### **Methodology**

The purpose of this paper was to study the physical development of Khorramabad city. This research attempts to identify the factors affecting the spatial development of Khorramabad city, to examine its physical development model, to identify the capabilities and limitations of its physical development, and to provide guidelines for the systematic and practical planning for its spatial expansion. In this descriptive-analytic research, first, the process of urban development was examined; and then, the factors and constraints affecting the spatial development of Khorramabad had been investigated. Afterwards, we have studied the role of urban development

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plans, e.g., comprehensive plans, detailed plans, site plans, cooperatives, and etc., in the physical expansion of Khorramabad. Finally, the appropriate lands for future development were determined by preparing different layers of information such as land suitability, altitude, slope, land sustainability, communication network, airport, cemetery, river, natural habitats, industrial town, marsh and rural areas. These analyses have been conducted through ArcGIS software and the AHP model.

### **Results and discussions**

All urban development theories and patterns cannot go down in a city, because each has its own morphology. However, they can be used as the main lines and guides to understand the pattern of development in the city under study or even other cities. Each of these theories represents many realities. A combination of several patterns and theories may be used in just a city. Harris and Ullman, two famous American geographers, proposed "The multiple nuclei model" based on the ideas of *Burgess* and Hoyt. This theory argues that cities do not grow a single nucleus but several separate nuclei; each nucleus acts like a growth point. Another theory concerning urban spatial development is "Radiant City" in which the city is non-stationary due to its growth and development. City development can occur within the city or around the city. In Radiant City theory, the city has a main center the important networks are branched it out. The spaces are usually linear and the distances between the lines are covered by agricultural or open spaces. The circular networks form an appropriate relationship within the whole complex. Commuting is done through internal and external belts.

### **Conclusion**

The results of this research have showed that the natural and human factors play a major role in urban spatial development orientation. It was also found that housing cooperatives, the integration of the rural in urban services, and informal settlements played a significant role in the Khorramabad physical development. Moreover, the findings of the AHP hierarchy analysis model indicated that suitable lands for future development of Khorramabad are located in the south part of the city.

**Keywords:** Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), horizontal growth, Khorramabad, Physical development, urban growth patterns.

## **Improvement of Injured Transportation System during Natural Disasters in Different Geographical Areas**

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### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

To prevent the harmful impacts of natural disasters including flooding, earthquake, tsunami, storms, and etc., it is required to enhance structural reinforcement in crisis management planning. One of the main causes of death in these events is weak transportation system of emergency management agents. To mitigate death casualties in the natural catastrophes, we have suggested cumulative integrated transportation system. In this system, the injured people are initially brought to primary emergency sites via ambulance or automobiles. Then, they can be transferred via a supplementary cumulative integrated transportation system using helicopter or airplanes to appropriate treatment centers according to their health requirements. In other words, due to high expenses and restrictions of air transportation system, it can be suggested to use the cumulative integrated transportation system as a supplementary alternative for transportation of the injured people. The most important reason to select the air transportation system is that in hazard conditions the roads are usually closed due to the natural events. Thus, a heavy traffic can be expected in these conditions. The integrity in the system states that the injured people can be easily transferred to safe treatment centers in case of destruction in infrastructure of the damaged regions. The integrated transportation system has been compared with two systems of direct transfer of the injured and two-stage transfer of them through ground transportation system. The purpose of this research is to minimize the elapsed time for transportation of the injured individuals to treatment centers.

#### **Methodology**

This is an applied research that can be implemented in real situations. This study has been conducted by an analytical approach using a developed version of Genetic Algorithm (GA) called Dynamic Genetic Algorithm (DGA). In the DGA, dynamic state of chromosomes helps them to find the best way for the answers. To find the best alternatives for the problems, we

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have used the opinions of 8 experts in crisis management and emergency section in hospitals. To cover the maximum range of problems, up to 216 problems have randomly been selected in possible situations in crisis conditions. In artificial intelligence, the GA is a heuristic search using natural selection. This is a meta-heuristic method to solve and optimize many problems of different dimensions. The method has been conducted by MATLAB2013a.

### **Results and discussions**

After some test executions of the program in MATLAB, the values of 100 has been obtained for the primary population, 0.05 for mutation, 0.04 for crossover, 0.5 for close parameter, and 50 for number of iterations to reach the best answer.

In this study, we have proposed three scenarios; 1) direct transportation of the injured people to the major treatment centers, 2) two-stage transportation of them using ground transportation, 3) application of the cumulative integrated transportation system initially by ground transportation and then by air transportation. The results have indicated that the injured local people are initially examined and treated in local emergency sites through ground vehicles. Subsequently, they are transferred through supplementary cumulative integrated transportation system by air transportation to appropriate treatment centers. We have demonstrated that third scenario can minimize the elapsed time of transportation to treatment centers.

### **Conclusion**

Weak transportation system to bring the injured individuals to hospitals can increase the number of casualties in natural disasters. Thus, we have suggested a two-stage cumulative integrated transportation system by ground transportation for the first stage of help and air transportation for the second stage. The DGA approach has been accepted to solve a wide variety of 216 problems. The analyses have indicated that the suggested method can reduce the elapsed time to help the injured people in emergency centers. Compared with the ground transportation, the air transportation system can reduce times of returns and take more number of people in each time. Thus, it can be argued that use of the cumulative system by air transportation can be an optimized method for the purpose.

**Keywords:** Cumulative integrated transportation system, Genetic Algorithm, natural disaster, two-stage injured transportation system



**The Role of Third Places on Enhancement of Social Life in Zanzan City  
from Constitutional Revolution to Islamic Revolution  
(Case Study: Sabzeh Meydan District of Zanzan, Iran)**

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Received: 2014/05/09

Accepted: 2016/03/04

**Extended Abstract**

**Introduction**

There have been lots of changes in Iran during the last century. Occurrence of two revolutions - constitutional revolution and Islamic revolution - and then a war for eight years have been the source of changes in urban spaces and social life in this country. One of these transformations is experienced in third places. Third places, as one of the most important institutions of public sphere, are attractive public places which shape informal life of the citizens and repair their social relationships out of their formal working and family life. So, the third places stand in contrast to the formal life at homes and workplaces and have witnessed various transitions during the past decades. These places are vital elements in cities' public realms, which at different levels, from city level to neighborhood unit's level, are able to redefine the social structures and promote the concept of social interactions from shallow and ephemeral interactions and relationships to stronger social bonds. These places can accept different types of connections, interactions and activities and gather people together regardless of their social position, classes, ethnic-racial situations and etc. Therefore, these places have a significant impact on social lives of citizens. A Third Place is a place where people can visit regularly and get in touch with friends, neighbors, colleagues and even strangers.

These days, urban life has been dominated by two domains: family & government. Zanzan which has been an important city due to its location between Tehran and Tabriz in one hand and the big influence of religious leaders on public opinion in this city on the other, has always been affected by evolutions and tensions created at national level and have also affected them. Therefore, by identifying third places in different periods in the past hundred years, in Sabze-Meydan space, we attempt to explain their impacts on public and social life of Zanzan citizens and examine the historical developments of these places.

It should be noted that research on new concepts such as "third places" in Iran is faced with many challenges. Professor Ray Oldenburg, as the one who has introduced this concept for the

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first time, has almost focused all his studies on American cities and in a few cases, has pointed to European cities. Hence, reviewing such a concept in Iranian cities have significant differences with Western countries in regard to the social - political context and flow of life in cities requires understanding of the context and then redefining the concept of third places and their characteristics according to local conditions.

### **Methodology**

By applying the qualitative methods, we have initially investigated the changes in third places and somehow their formation and transformation in Zanjan and mainly introduces them through a Descriptive Approach by extracting codes of third places and using Content Analysis Method. Afterwards, the roles of third places in promoting social life are explained and compared through the use of codes on these places and also application of Analytical Matrixes.

### **Results and discussion**

Over the past hundred years, various third places have been shaped in Sabze-Meydan district. Form and function of some of them have basically changed, some others have been eliminated and some have maintained their form and function. To conduct this research, the available historical documents have been examined and, then, the process of transition of form and function of these places and the changes pertaining to the social interactions resulted from the places have been studied through surveys and field studies.

The Great Mosque, from the beginning of its establishment has maintained its function and has always been a place for informal and voluntary gatherings of people and has been visited by different social groups with different intentions. There was a time when its minaret was used as a watchtower for the Tudeh Party members in the event of conflict between supporters and opponents of the Tudeh Party in 1946 and another time when its yard was converted into Basij resistance base. But regardless of these minor changes its pulpit has always been a place for religious leaders' speeches and its space has been a place for meeting, discussion and exchanges of public opinions. Therefore, it can be noted with confidence that until recent years, this place has been the most fundamental and important part of the city's public sphere and the most influential place for dissemination of common sense.

Following the Great Mosque, Sabze-Meydan space ranks second among the important third-places which similar to the Mosque has roughly retained its form and function and has had remarkable impact on the social lives and public opinion.

Except for the Mosque and Sabze-Meydan, almost all third-places which existed in this district do not exist anymore. Teahouses, delis and peddlers who used to sell ice creams are no more there. Nowadays, retail shops have surrounded this district and other public gathering places cannot be found except for the two pre-mentioned cases.

### **Conclusion**

Although Sabze-Meydan district's third places were not devoid of social damages (like gender segregations), but their positive social impacts were undeniable. It seems that authorities' attention to such places and their attempt to recreate these places and of course controlling their probable social damages can be a guarantee of increase in positive social interactions of citizen, expansion of spaces for talks and exchange of ideas and, consequently development of public sphere. The results of this research showed that third places have always had a remarkable role in people's social lives and an enormous influence on the mobility of their informal lives in Zanjan. But this role recently has been weakened because of different reasons and now these

places require urban planners and designers' special attention to recover and regain their previous conditions.

**Keywords:** Iran, Public Social Life, Third Place, Sabzeh Meydan, Zanzan.

## **Visitor's Satisfaction of Coastal Tourism Destinations in Rural Areas of Guilan Province**

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Received: 2014/05/13      Accepted: 2016/12/14

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

One of the most important changes in today world is the variations in offerable values for buyers. This is considered as a main factor in organizations (destinations) in any industry. The success to supply quality products (valuable) to buyers in comparison with their competitors is of great importance in industries. . Research has shown that the quality and value of services received plays an important role in satisfaction and consistent decisions. Thus, it can be said that tourism is a mix of different activities that the chain of services to tourists encompass all phenomena and relationships resulting from the interaction between visitors and host communities, governments and recruitment process and reception. Hence, one of the methods to measure the efficiency of services and facilities in a tourist area is assessment of beneficiaries and consumers opinion (tourists) of these services. Indeed, right relation of visitors with the services and the needs in cities can play an effective role in measurement of efficiency or shortages of the services. The significance of tourism and recreation is often most evident in the coast. Coastal tourism is the sum of activities related to the travel and stay over by people visiting the coastal zone. Coastal tourism developments comprise developments and activities conducted upon land immediately adjacent to the shoreline, coastal wetlands, estuaries and tidal waters and associated marine waters. Tourism activities are considered coastal tourism activities as they utilize coastal or marine resources, either natural or manmade, within the coastal strip. Therefore, one of the important and basic factors in increasing the number of tourists is facilities and service quality requirements. According to traditional attitudes, assessment of the quality characteristics of the goods or services was defined as a measure of quality, but in the new management approach it was defined as customer interests. For the clients or recipients of service, the service quality is evaluated by comparing their expectations and perceptions of the service. Tourists and other customers, usually before visiting the destination has the level of the

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expectations to services will receive in tourist centers. The purpose of this paper was to measure visitor's satisfaction of coastal tourist destinations in rural areas of Guilan.

### **Methodology**

Research method is descriptive- analytical using library resources and documents for the theoretical framework. The data have been collected using a questionnaire. The statistical population of the study was coastal tourists in Guilan province that using the statistical method, 390 people have been selected as sample size. Ten tourism destinations have also been selected in seven counties of Guilan. Reliability of the questionnaire by Cronbach's alpha is equal to 0.824 that indicating a high reliability of the instrument. In this study, for descriptive statistics, we have used centrality indices such as frequency and percentage. The t-test and variance analysis have also been used for statistical inferences of the data.

### **Results and discussion**

According to the results of the study, the highest satisfaction is related to the security services and the lowest satisfaction is related to the informing services in the coastal tourism destinations. Satisfaction of tourists from other dimensions in terms of the highest average are interactions, beach area, transportation and accessibility, recreation facilities, amenities - catering and destination management.

The total average satisfaction of destinations is 1.431. Therefore, it can be said that the tourist's satisfaction of the tourism destinations of Guilan province is carried out at the lower level. The results of variance analysis were used to compare the average satisfaction of ten coastal tourist destinations. Variance Analysis was used to compare the average satisfaction among ten coastal tourism destinations. The destinations were divided into 4 classes based on the average satisfaction. According to the results of the variance analysis, three plans (Jefrud, Alalan, and Darogar Mahale) are on the first category, with the least tourism satisfaction. On the second category, there are three other projects (Taze Abad, Anbarsar, Niloufars Saharkhiz). On the third category, there are two plans (Taleb Abad and Hajibekandeh) and on the fourth category there are also two plans (Aminabad and Gisum).

### **Conclusion**

The literature on tourism shows that the overall satisfaction of the visitors and the tourist willing to return again to the destination is characterized by the assessment. Many studies have indicated that the performance of a destination is determined by the analysis of expressed satisfaction by tourist in various destination aspects. The coastal areas are still a major destination for tourists and tourism planners are trying to design and implement the requirements of visitors to the coast. This planning and management of coastal tourism can be done more precisely by taking into account social and environmental systems and their relationship. Therefore, one of the important and basic factors in increasing the number of tourists in the areas is presence of facilities and service quality requirements for tourists. The results show that coastal destinations located in the east Guilan do not develop much in relation to the central and western destinations of Guilan. From the east towards the center and west parts of the province, the level of development of tourism destinations is increasing.

**Keywords:** coast, coastal tourism, Guilan Province, Safe-Making project, satisfaction.

## **Knowledge Production and Development Discourse in Third Millennium: an Investigation of Urban Geography Journals in Iran**

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Received: 2015/10/16      Accepted: 2016/04/13

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The knowledge and its production as a key driver of civilization and economic prosperity have been crucial for development and competitiveness of any city and region. However, over the past several decades, the importance of scientific development in new theory of development discourse has raised and global village goes into the global information order. The cities that were always home of civilization have gained unprecedented importance and placed in the core of production, exchange, and knowledge. Nowadays, many cities around the world had been faced with massive transformations of urban areas due to dynamic processes of spatial and economic restructure where physical commodity is replaced by very delicate forms of production (knowledge). The purpose of this paper is to describe these transformations scrupulously and to identify the role of knowledge in the development as well as the interaction of knowledge and urban development. In addition, this paper sought to examine the most important characteristics of scientific papers in the knowledge production. Finally, according to these characteristics and criteria, we reviewed and analyzed scientific papers of urban geography.

#### **Methodology**

This paper is based on combined methods. Delphi technique and content analysis have been used as a qualitative method. Additionally, we have used quantitative methods including spectral questionnaires and one sample T-test and Friedman test. AHP method has been employed to calculate the weight of each factor and indicator according to the expert's opinions. Qualitative data have been collected by the snowball sampling method and quantitative data have been acquired through questionnaires that examined 50 scientific articles in urban

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geography journals from expert's perspectives. In this step, we have used the random sampling method to determine the sample size.

### Results and discussion

Based on literature review and expert's consensus, 7 criteria and 21 sub-criteria have been selected for the analysis. Criteria ranking via AHP have indicated that meaningful and creativity criteria gained the highest ranking and the lowest ranking for good statement and language. Investigation of 50 scientific research of urban geography indicated that those criteria that have key role in the production of knowledge from expert's perspectives have gained low ranking at scientific articles in the field of urban geography. Accordingly, it can be said that despite the importance of the main criteria including "Novelty, Creativity, and Meaningfulness", "Sound methodological basis" and "following appropriate ethical guidelines" in the production and development of science, unfortunately, urban geographers have paid a little attention to those criteria.

**Table 1: Comparing the ranking of criteria from experts' perspectives and the results of the articles investigation**

	<b>Expert's ranking</b>	<b>Results from papers investigation</b>
<b>1</b>	Novelty, Creativity and Meaningfulness	Meaningful Relevance
<b>2</b>	Sound methodological basis	Adequate presentation, style, and language
<b>3</b>	following appropriate ethical guidelines	Transparency and clarity
<b>4</b>	Meaningful Relevance	High standards of scholarship in argument and interpretation
<b>5</b>	High standards of scholarship in argument and interpretation	Sound methodological basis
<b>6</b>	Transparency and clarity	following appropriate ethical guidelines
<b>7</b>	Adequate presentation, style, and language	Novelty, Creativity and Meaningfulness

### Conclusion

Findings revealed that knowledge capitalism has emerged in the post-industrial world, and advanced communities struggle to achieve a knowledge-based economy. In this context, the cities play a central role in this process and in order to create a sustainable competitive advantage trying to adapt with it. These trends and transformations alert us to the great mission of researchers and scientists in the field of urban studies in order to produce and exchange basic knowledge in the urban issues. Moreover, they must create an urban environment in which development of science and technology motivated. The twenty-first century is the millennium in which inattention and negligence to knowledge lead to negative consequences and will bring very unpleasant problems. In other words, South global becomes home to a variety of issues and challenges, and citizens will be 'remote control workers via low wages'. Investigation of criteria and papers also indicate that in the expert's view, 'Novelty, Creativity, and Meaningfulness', 'Sound methodological basis' and 'following appropriate ethical guidelines' criteria obtain higher rankings than other criteria in the production of knowledge while the scientific research articles in urban geography have paid little attention to them.

**Keywords:** knowledge production, knowledge-based development, scientific research papers, urban geography

## **Assessment of the Realization of Good Urban Governance in Iran (Case Study: The City of Ilam)**

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Received: 2015/12/11      Accepted: 2016/04/23

### **Extended Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Rapid population growth accompanied by extensive urbanization has led to numerous problems in different countries across the world especially in the third-world nations. The speed and the rate of urban growth and urbanization in developing countries are now at higher levels. These problems usually arise from inconsistency between increasingly growing needs of urban population and the ability of national governments and urban management to meet them. Some of the problems are including inadequate housing and multiplication of shanty towns and unofficial settlements, development of unofficial sectors in the economy of cities accompanied by increased social inequality, low quality of urban services, limited access to urban infrastructure among the poor population, no hygiene and prevalence of deadly diseases, decreased safety and security in cities, as well as intensification of social deviations. At present, one of the most effective, low-cost, and stable approaches to implement urban management is “good urban management” which can be defined as the process and the manner of administration of urban affairs with the cooperation and constructive interaction of public sector, private sector, and civic community in order to achieve a healthy city with high levels of life quality and sustainable urban development.

#### **Methodology**

Given the components examined in this study and its applied nature, the research method was of descriptive cross-sectional type. The required data and information in this study were collected through library method and field notes. Data collection was in the form of surveys via developing and completing a questionnaire. The statistical population of the study included 2,613 households living in the city of Ilam and the sample size was comprised of 397 heads of

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household selected based on Cochran's sample size formula and simple random sampling method. Moreover, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to check the reliability of the questionnaire whose value was equal to 0.86. Data analysis was in a quantitative form using t-test. The geographical scope of the study was the city of Ilam whose population as the capital city of Ilam province was 172,213 people according to the General Population and Housing Census in 2011 and the number of households residing in this city was equal to 42,613. The descriptive findings showed that 297 individuals, i.e., 75% were men and 100 individuals were women out of the total number of 397 respondents to the study questionnaires. In terms of age distribution of the respondents, 31% of them were under 30 years old, 36% of these individuals aged between 30 and 45 years old, 22% of these respondents were from 45 to 60 years old, and 11% of them aged 60 years and above. With employment status, 16% of total respondents were unemployed, 27% of these individuals were public servants, 14% of them were workers, 5% of these people were involved in jobs associated with private sector, 30% of them were self-employed, and 8% of the respondents had other occupations. The criteria for the selection of the indicators in this study were the World Bank indicators as well as those in the United Nations Development Program. In this study, seven indicators including participation, responsiveness, accountability, lawfulness, justice, transparency, and efficiency were employed.

### **Results and discussion**

To evaluate the rate of responsiveness, the t-test was used. With the emphasis on the value of the t -8.340 ( $\alpha=0.05$ ), there is a significant difference between actual mean score (2.08) and the assumed one (3). Given that the actual mean score was lower than the assumed one, it was concluded that the indicator of responsiveness was at an undesirable level in the view of citizens and they had rated good urban governance with the component of responsiveness lower than the moderate level in the Likert-type scale. The t-test was also employed to evaluate the rate of accountability. Given the value of the t obtained (-9.845), there was a significant difference between actual mean score (2.14) and the assumed one (3) and with the fact that the actual mean score obtained was lower than the assumed one, the indicator of accountability was at a low level. To evaluate the rate of participation, the t-test was similarly used. Underlining the value of the t obtained (-8.061), a significant difference was observed between actual mean score (2.06) and the assumed one (3) and given that the actual mean score obtained was lower than the assumed one, it was supposed that the indicator of participation was not at a desirable level and it was placed lower than the moderate level in the Likert-type scale due to lower rate of consigning services and authority of urban organizations to people as well as no use of their opinions despite their interests in participating in improving life environment. The rate of transparency as another component was also evaluated via the t-test. Stressing on the value of the t obtained (-8.735), there was a significant difference between actual mean score (2.21) and the assumed one (3). Given that the actual mean score obtained was lower than the assumed one, the indicator of transparency was at an undesirable level in the views of citizens. Given the value of the t (-4.223), a significant difference was also found between actual mean score (2.54) and the assumed one (3) and with the fact that the actual mean score obtained was lower than the assumed one, the indicator of justice and equality was also at a low level. With the emphasis on the value of the t (8.565), a significant difference was found between actual mean score (3.11) and the assumed one (3). Despite their willing to perform administrative services using information technology, the indicator of efficiency and effectiveness was at a low and undesirable level in terms of the components of satisfaction with the performance of urban management organizations as well as provision of the backgrounds for fulfilling administrative services using current technologies.

**Conclusion**

In this study, good urban governance within 14 districts of the city of Ilam was analyzed and evaluated. According to the results of the one-sample t-test, the citizens evaluated the rate of good urban governance in the city of Ilam lower than the moderate level. It was concluded that urban management system in the city of Ilam has failed to meet citizens' satisfaction despite its efforts in a way that they had evaluated the levels of seven indicators in good urban governance, i.e., responsiveness, accountability, lawfulness, participation, transparency and information-giving, justice and equality, efficiency and effectiveness lower than the moderate level in the Likert-type scale.

**Keywords:** good urban governance, Ilam, urban areas, urban management,

## **Comparison between Fuzzy-AHP and ANP Decision-Making Techniques for Ranking Land Suitability for Ecotourism Use (Case Study: Khayiz, Behbahan Region)**

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Received: 2015/06/18      Accepted: 2016/04/26

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The world today is facing with the crisis of resource destruction. Optimal use of natural resources and land use planning based on their ecological capability plays an important role in management of the environment to prevent their destruction for sustainable development. Assessment of ecological potential as the core of environmental studies provides a good platform for environmental planning. Therefore, exploitation of tourism and ecotourism potentials in each region can provide a dynamic and active context for the development of the area. Hence, the evaluation of ecotourism potential and the analysis of these capabilities will be of special importance.

#### **Methodology**

This research was conducted by the ecological model and multicriteria decision making methods such as ANP, FAHP BUKLY by using ArcGIS 10, Super Decision 2.0.8, and Surfer11 application. The aim of this study is to select the suitable locations for agriculture land use in Behbahan north plain.

In this study, we have assessed the land suitability of the Khayiz region of Behbahan by identifying some parameters including physiographic (percent slope), precipitation (Cp), temperature (Ct), distance from water sources (Wc), soil depth (Pd), soil erosion (Es), soil structure (Ps), soil texture (Pte), soil drainage (Pdr) and vegetation types. The decision making

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models of FUZZY-AHP Buckley and ANP in the GIS environment are applied for ecotourism practice. In Fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Analysis (Fuzzy-AHP), we have used triangular fuzzy numbers and geometric averaging method for pairwise comparison of the criteria and gaining weight and preference, respectively. In order to combine these criteria, we have used Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) or Weighted linear combination method. The study area is located in Behbahan north plain. This area is limited in  $30^{\circ}, 36'$  to  $30^{\circ}, 37'$  north of latitude and  $50^{\circ}, 19'$  to  $50^{\circ}, 29'$  east longitude.

### **Results and discussion**

Digital Elevation Model (DEM) was generated from available 10 m interval contour map. After standardization of the layers, we have used the weighting stages of each parameter by ANP in Super Decision 2.0.8 software. After determining the standard stratified layers, the combination of the layers was performed using the WLC method. The results showed that in the ANP method, 23% of the surface area has first-degree power and in the FAHP method, about 19% of that has the first-degree power for ecotourism applications. With the final drawings obtained from both methods and their analysis in Google Earth, it indicated that the regions that are similar in all respects are in one floor in the ANP method and in two different classes in the FAHP method which is not compatible with the real position of the region.

### **Conclusion**

Using the Google Earth software and field surveys has indicated that the obtained results from the ANP method are more consistent with real position of the region and there is a wide scope for expanding ecotourism activities in the region. The study area has the ecological potential for tourism because of their use of the dissolution of Traditional and Asmary. This has a series of karstic features such as caves, canyon, hole is wet, and Dowlin that can also be used for educational and recreational purposes.

**Keywords:** ANP, Ecotourism, FAHP, multi-criteria decision making model, Land suitability evaluation.

## **Territorial Conflicts in the North Iraq: Territory, Ethnicity, and Politics**

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Received: 2014/08/13      Accepted: 2016/11/18

### **Extended Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The federal Republic of Iraq in Southwest Asia has many ethnicities and religions as well as resources of energy. Most of the conflicts in this country are concerned with the control, possession, or supervision of the “territory”, “resources”, or “people”. Thus, a complex relationship has been created among politics, ethnicity, and territory. Although Iraq has one of the widest oil fields in the world, the important point is the geographical distribution of energy resources, especially in the north part of the country. The competition between the Federal State and the Kurdistan Federal government to control these strategic resources, especially in Kirkuk, with the second largest oil field in Iraq after Basra, has the potential to convert into a main critical point of Iraq and even trigger a regional and international crisis. While the Kurds in the Kurdish province consider Kirkuk as part of their federal territory, other ethnic groups, like Arabs and Turkmens, make similar claims. The central government also opposes these claims. Hence, the question is raised; how territory, politics and ethnicity have shaped the territorial conflicts in the north Iraq.

#### **Methodology**

The present study is an applied research with positivist methodology. This study is conducted in a descriptive-analytical way about the territorial conflicts in the north Iraq. The required data is collected through library and internet resources. The content of the library resources have been examined for analysis of the research purpose.

#### **Results and discussion**

The study of territorial conflicts in Iraq expresses the complex interconnectedness of “territory”, “ethnicity”, and “politics” in this country. This complexity refers to “geographical and socio-cultural realities”, in the one hand, and “political realities” such as those contained in the

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“constitution” of Iraq that play an important role in shaping the fate of its “territorial conflicts”, on the other.

Some of the “geographical realities” of Iraq are geographical position and form, unequal geographical distribution of oil and gas resources, uneven geographical distribution of the population in terms of ethnicity and religion, as well as its heterogeneous social context. Such geographical realities have imposed their conditions on the behavior of domestic and foreign policy and have created numerous gaps in the areas of territory, politics, economy and culture. For example, the north Iraq with its special geographical situation has, in the one hand, vast resources and reserves of oil and gas, and on the other, the territory is landlocked and does not have access to the sea. This region has a human geography with a majority of Sunni Kurds who have always faced regionalism due to linguistic, religious, and cultural heterogeneity with other geographical areas. Thus, they have contributed to formation of territorial conflicts in Iraq.

“The social and cultural realities of Iraq”, based on the politics variables, ethnicity and territory, have their special effects on the country’s territorial conflicts. The most important historical fact of Iraq is its “artificiality”, and its current borders are politically, not geographically, constructed by Britain. The Arabs (Shiites and Sunnis) and the Kurds, who have less common traits to sit together, have formed a country called Iraq. Thus, the social context of Iraq is a diverse mosaic unit of ethnicities, religions and cultures that have imposed its own requirements on political behavior in its domestic environment and foreign policy. This has created numerous gaps in the areas of territory, politics and economics.

The largest “territorial conflicts” and “territoriality” in Iraq are observed between the Kurds in the north Iraq and the central government. There is no specific “border” between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Central Government in Baghdad and the current official Kurdish-controlled areas do not include all of the Kurdish territories. The study has indicated that the disagreement between the central government and the subsidiary areas is mainly resulted from the “disagreement between the central government and the regional government”, “the problem of coexistence between religious and racial groups”, “the disagreement over surface and sub-surface resources”, and finally, “the growth of political parties”. However, the disagreement over Kirkuk is more important than other disagreements. Given the geographical and demographic composition of Iraq, the Kurds have the most powerful and the most organized military force and administrative institutions in the country and benefit from the advantages and authorities of the federal system. Whereas, the Turkmens have a small, partially dispersed population, and lack the powerful and communal parties such as the Kurds. The role of “Sunni Arabs” in the state is less than the Kurds, and they lack the geographical unity and structural homogeneity of the Kurds. “Shia Arabs”, in spite of the superior geopolitical position of access to free seas, proximity to Iran, the large and homogeneous population of southern provinces and having the rich resources of oil in south, are struggling with many problems such as the growth of Salafism.

## **Conclusion**

The three factors, “territory” as a geographical reality, “ethnicity” as a social-cultural reality, and “politics” play a significant role in shaping and determining the fate of territorial conflicts and territoriality in north part of Iraq. For example, the Kurdish Autonomous Government in north part of Iraq has always faced a number of issues in the oil and gas sector with the Central Government, such as “the differences in the provisions of the Iraqi Oil and Gas Law”, “different interpretations of the Constitution”, “distribution of oil revenues”, “differences in the status of oil and gas fields”, and “border disputes in oil-rich regions, especially in Kirkuk”. The Kurdish Local Government has taken steps in line with “Kirkuk’s territoriality” jurisdiction. They

attempted to return the Kurds to Kirkuk and to make contracts for oil and gas participation in the fields located in Kirkuk and Mosul. However, the possible insertion of Kirkuk to Kurdistan is so bad for the Sunni Arabs enclosed in the region without oil. This will also be opposed by them. Even the Shiite Arabs in the south and the central government oppose joining Kirkuk to Kurdistan and they consider it as a detrimental to their national and local interests through increasing the power of the Regional Government of Kurdistan. Hence, the articles provisioned in the Iraqi constitution, such as the failure to implement article 140 of the Constitution, and failure to resolve the disputed Kurdish, Arab, and Turkmen areas by federal Supreme Court are of particular importance. Because the “Local Government of Kurdistan” is the only federal Iraqi unit, and this point is effective in the imbalance of power and unequal relations between Iraqi ethnic groups during territorial conflicts.

**Keywords:** Iraq, Kirkuk, regional government of Kurdistan, territorial conflicts.

## **Effects of Oil Industry on Urban Spatial Structure (Case Study: Abadan)**

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Received: 2016/07/24      Accepted: 2017/01/14

### **Extended Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Any phenomenon is forced to occur in time and space and, in itself, affects these two factors based on its extent. Industrial development as a basic economic activity is not an exception and has illustrated effective interaction with national policies at macro level. It can influence changes and strong structural reforms and also can shape special forms of spatial structures in city. Any industrial strategy leads to a space layout. It is not possible to have a true understanding of urban and regional planning practice without having an accurate recognition of industrial changes. The spatial structure of cities depends on different interrelationships of all forces and factors within the city. These factors can include market force, urban activities, infrastructures and various services. The cities have been formed by a variety of social, economic, and physical structures. However, mentioning the spatial structure of a city means its physical structure in which urban elements and their combination are taken into consideration. The spatial structure of every city depends on its historical background and the factors and events which have created environmental circumstances for its development. The formation of spatial structure of cities reflects the collision of views and ideas governing at different times and places. Cultural, social, and economic changes in the 19th and 20th centuries were influenced by modernism. The changes resulted in rapid growth of cities and the emergence of megacities with fundamental transformations in their spatial structure. These changes and consequently rapid urbanization has led to instability in spatial structure and polarization of city centers. The changes include city arrangement pattern, urban and population density and transportation networks. As a result, different urban growth patterns, spatial structures and related transportation systems are emerged.

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**Methodology**

In order to obtain data, we have used documentary and library methods. In order to obtain the average income indicator of the families in urban neighborhoods, a number of questionnaires have been distributed in neighborhoods of Abadan. Using Cochran's test formula and according to the number of families in each urban region, for region 1 to 11 sample volumes are determined as 361, 346, 370, 332, 345, 340, 340, 361, 334, 363, 365 and 228, respectively. Then, the volume of questionnaires is determined regarding the number of family members in proportion to all families in urban neighborhoods. The questionnaires are distributed to families in a simply random method. In order to measure and obtain the average of land value in square meter unit, the price was asked from the real estate agencies in each part of Abadan.

**Results and discussion**

The results have been obtained from spreading pattern, Friedman test, branch analysis model, and analytic tests of Levin and integrated indicators. These all lead us to the issues that the basic and problematic factor causing disorder in boroughs and spatial structure of Abadan was the oil company and its activities and side applications. The effects of this kind of development as well as unequal and inefficient distribution of the mentioned indicators have caused a type of paradox in the spatial structure of Abadan. The results show that some oil company districts like Bovard, Breym, and Cyclin are belonging to the oil company employees and supported by it. They have a higher standard in services. However, other suburbs lacked the necessary welfare infrastructural services. The effects of such form of development with undesirable and unequal distribution lead to some polarity in spatial structure of Abadan. This has led to disarrangement, incongruity, contrast, and injustice in the morphology of districts and the whole city regarding the indices of economic, social and physical structure.

**Keywords:** Abadan, analysis, effects of oil industry spatial structure.

## **The Effect of Spatial Minorities on National Power, by Emphasis on Ethnicity Minorities**

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Received: 2016/06/09      Accepted: 2017/05/24

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

The power and its presence in the realm of policy are so important that some resemble it to money in economic relations. It is believed that the power does the same function in international relations as the money in global economy. The power of nations as political units in international relations represents their weight in bargain. This can support the national security of the states. One of the challenging problems of the states is ethnic, lingual and race conflicts that weaken them in having integrated national unity. The states with uniform population use the common identity as a power-making instrument in national relations. In contrast, the states with a variety of minority groups can be endangered by dissatisfaction of the groups. Globalization in economy, information and policy threatens the national boundaries and identities. The process faced the states with bottom to up forces resulting in many issues for the national governments. Jasper Biro maintains that the events resulted from the wishes of the minorities are so widespread today that the minorities can change the national power of the nations in the twenty first century. We have posed some questions in this research. Which functions the spatial ethnicities can have in the increase or decrease of the national power? Which trends the ethnic minorities can follow to achieve their wishes? What is the role of foreign factors in passivity of the ethnics? What measures the governments can take to mitigate the pressure of the ethnic groups? What role the national government can play to organize the spatial ethnicities? Our hypothesis is that diversity of the ethnic and other minorities is effective on decrease of the national power.

#### **Methodology**

This is an analytical descriptive research based on political and social studies of library and internet. This present research is to examine threats the spatial ethnicities can make to national

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governments as a result of globalization and bottom top forces. Thus, independent variable of this research is national power and governance of the governments. The dependent variable is spatial ethnicities. This research has investigated the effects of the diversity of the ethnic and other minorities on the national power.

### **Results and discussion**

The main indicators of nation integrity, nation quantity, and political participation of the people can represent the homogeneity and heterogeneity of population and the political participation of the society in recognizing the government. The quantity and integration of population can influence the government decisions and authority. A heterogeneous population can benefit the ethnicities against the government. The challenge for the governing regime can be analyzed in two categories; the influence of quantity and population composition on the national power, the influence of political participation on the national power.

The political participation is one of the most important factors for survival of the regimes and indicative of recognition. Undoubtedly, the governments for their recognition and authority involve participation of most of the people in social, political, and military issues. As the governments following their establishment require national cooperation and coordination, they have to receive the allegiance of the people with a variety of thoughts. The allegiance can be accessed through ideologies and political thoughts of the nation to make a common identity. The governments with a variety of ethnic minorities are faced with difficulties in achieving adequate political participation. Therefore, the results have also indicated that diversity of the minorities in a country can decrease the national power of the governments.

### **Conclusion**

According to the results of this study, it can be argued that the attempts of the governments to make homogeneity in the population with ethnic-cultural diversity, particularly in modern world, indicate the great influence of the ethnicities on the national governments. The quantitative and qualitative homogeneity of population is one of the most important components of national power because it is able to influence political participation process and recognition of the governing regime. It can also play more fundamental role in survival and jurisdiction of the states than that the economic, military and geographical factors can do. In order to mitigate tensions and control ethnic conflicts, it seems necessary to neutralize the causes and circumstances that caused the tensions. The solutions are respect to the ethnic minorities and equal distribution of the political and economic resources. Given the effects of foreign support, weakness of central government, and the demands of the ethnics for autonomy, it is required to eliminate challenging initiatives.

**Keywords:** spatial minorities, nation composition, ethnicity quantity, political participation, national power

## **Rethinking Territory in Iran's Political Geography literature**

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Received: 2017/02/21      Accepted: 2017/06/12

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Political geography has some controversial concepts including location, space, scale, territory, and so on. The concept of territory is one of the most important and most controversial concepts in the field. Choosing the suitable equivalent for this term can help to unify using the term in the specialized writing of this field and help to eliminate confusion and misunderstandings among readers and audiences.

In this paper, the concept of territory in the period of ancient Greece as well as the medieval era is considered for analysis. Westphalian peace and its implications for new perceptions of the territory notion are another part of this article. But the focus of this article is on developments in the concept of territory in contemporary era.

The notions of scientists such as Jean Gottmann and the use of the concept of territory in the post-World War II period, which coincided with technological advances, were very effective in understanding the concept. These events also contribute to the perception and application of the term territory in political science, international relations, and law. In this study, we have investigated the difference in perception of the concept in political geography and other field of studies.

#### **Methodology**

The present study, as a theoretical kind, is a descriptive-analytical research. We have used Persian and Latin sources in seeking to answer the question of the nature of the concept as well as the appropriate equivalents in the political geography literature.

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### **Results and discussion**

According to the results of this research, the equivalence of the term "Territory" goes beyond the perception of natural geographers which means a framework for natural processes as well as the meaning of human geographers who use the term as a static arena for human events. From the political geography point of view, the territory is not just physical and spatial framework for human actions, but it is a clear reflection of the "power relations between political actors." There are numerous and important dimensions of social life and social power, such as the functional dimensions of "space control", "political actors", and "the delineation and enforcement of monopoly rule". Therefore, the territory is the range in which the person attempts to control actions such as "defense", "control", "exclusion" and "inclusion". Thus, the territory in the literature of political geography is limited to a space defined by the boundary that provides power for the government. The territory is in conjunction with the land because the land is a physical and human (non-political) territory.

This concept has the elements that each has a specific meaning and function, but they get different meaning and function related to the territory and the other related elements. In fact, territory determines the spatial extent of political units. When it comes to the country, we actually speak about territorial units. Territory creates space arrangements between the units which includes the geographic distance between two units. This is a dynamic distance because by changing the transportation and communication technologies, the time interval difference between the units will be changed. The territory includes land, people, state and politics. There is a direct relationship between people and the land and it is a bilateral one. In other words, the territory is the place where people live. In the same way, people are connected to their own habitat with a place and sense of perceived environmental status which forms a symbolic significance for their people over time. This depends on the earth which keeps the human being alive. As a result of the formation of a common identity, people who have already been divided into groups have become a "nation".

The relationship between the land and the state can be considered as the basis for governance. Territory as a result of the actions of a political entity (state) finds its existence in controlling geographic boundary. The organization of space facilitates the process of control and surveillance of the land for the state. It is also considered as the most important task of the state in relation to the land. For better governance and the realization of justice, the state now needs to conform to the principles that are referred to the policies. Setting up rules and ensuring their implementation is governed by interactions among people, and in this framework, it protects property rights both individually and in groups.

### **Conclusion**

In sum, the authors believe that using the equivalent of "gh<sup>^</sup>alamro قلمرو" for this concept in Farsi is more correct by examining the concept of territory and its various uses in various texts. The term of gh<sup>^</sup>alamro can be more appropriate for this concept in specialized political geography contexts. In the contexts of political geography, when talking about territory, there is a deeper idea that contains certain elements. Shaping borders and their protection will be the state duty. This is while the concept of the "land" covers only the human geographic dimension and does not include the political and legal dimensions.

**Keywords:** equivalent concept, land, political geography, space, territory.

## **A Comparative Study on Enhancement of Energy Security through Renewable Energy Resources; A Comparison between Iran and Japan by Strategic Management Pattern**

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Received: 2017/02/21      Accepted: 2017/06/28

### **Extended abstract**

#### **Introduction**

One of the most important concepts in national security of the nations and their sustainable development is energy security. Population growth in the world in the recent decades and the concerns about considerable increase in fossil fuel consumption make it necessary to consider sustainability and secure access to the energy resources. The three concepts of national interests, power, and security have already been used as military tools in the Cold War. The energy security is related to the national security of the nations. For example, Japan as one of the most developed countries of the world is greatly dependent upon this component for its security issues. The energy issues play an important role in security policies and requirements of the state. The Islamic Republic of Iran has considerable energy resources but the state did not pay attention to the national interests, power, and security requirements. Favorable situation of Iran in terms of energy resources made it convenient to achieve the sustainable development.

The purpose of this research is to examine the strategic policies of Japan, as great economic power, in improvement of energy situation for sustainable development. Thus, it would be possible to assess the current challenges and opportunities in promotion of energy security in the two states.

#### **Methodology**

This is a descriptive research in which we have analyzed the data. We have initially made hypotheses and, then, in a literature review we have analyzed the dimensions and indicators of

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the issues. We have gathered the required data from library and statistics and, then, we have analyzed renewable projects and the findings using RetScreen software. This research has attempted to compare the geopolitical conditions of the two states of Iran and Japan to evaluate the effects of renewable and non-renewable energy on mechanisms of energy security.

### **Results and discussion**

We have argued about renewable and non-renewable energy resources and policies in the many states of the world. A variety of renewable and non-renewable energy resources have been investigated in this study. The non-renewable resources examined in this research are solar energy by Photovoltaic technology and thermal systems, wind energy mainly according to Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (REN21), water energy and power generation technologies, geothermal energy, biomass technologies, and nuclear energy.

Many geopolitical crises are resulted from the energy security problems. The energy resources are greatly influencing relatively all aspects of life and development of the countries. There are differences in energy geopolitics of Japan.

### **Conclusion**

The results of our analyses have indicated that some geopolitical powers including United States of America, European Union, Japan, China, and even India are absolutely dependent upon the resources of the Middle East. Their interests in the region that make them to present their rival powers to control the resources of Persian Gulf and the special position of Iran influencing the two regions of Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf resulted in new transformations in power relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Among these powers, Japan is to make some special policies to provide secure and inexpensive resources of energy.

It can be concluded that Japan has the least energy resources, particularly hydrocarbon resources, in the country and, thus, overwhelmingly need to import the resources from other countries. The dependency of the country to import the energy is 96%. Three components of crude oil, coal, and natural gas are the main energy supply, about 85%. Therefore, it can be argued that the state is fully dependent on other countries to provide its energy requirements. Iran has also two energy polices. The first is that the country attempts to keep Asian allied states dependent upon energy such as Japan, China, and Korea for long term security purposes. The second is the tendency of Iran towards promotion of renewable energy resources. One of the weaknesses of Iran is that the state has just one income resource and this made it a Rantier State. These income resources have nothing to do with economic production activities, but it is derived from underground resources. These kinds of governments have slow economic growth and low percent of employment.

The results of this research have also indicated that the stability of both the countries depends on supplying sustainable energy security. The results have also represented that the renewable and non-renewable energies have the most influential effects on mechanisms of security and that using renewable energy in energy basket of Iran and Japan can considerably improve energy security in the countries.

**Keywords:** energy geopolitics, energy security, Iran, Japan, national security, renewable energy.