

Housing Planning for Urban Low-Income Groups with an Emphasis on Their Financial Capabilities and Housing Line of Poverty in Urban Population of Kurdistan Province

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Received: 2013/05/06 Accepted: 2015/07/07

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Housing is one of the elements of the permanent development. Unlike everyday used goods, housing would become a kind of investment since it gets value continually. Other than its economical value, it increases in value and demand due to its social, cultural, physical, psychological, and health aspects (spiritually and physically). Low-income groups of different societies, generally, are not able to provide appropriate house because of economical (financial) problems and intense increase in the price of housing. Also, the ability of such groups to save money and making use of government facilities is limited. Such a condition in a defective cycle will, always, bring about a gap among offer and demand, effective demand, and potential housing demand amongst these weak groups. Kurdistan Province is considered as one of the critical regions of Iran according to the norms of housing inventory and housing investment. The rate of house-ownership is too low in its first five decades. All the above mentioned reasons have caused housing a serious question so that homelessness and home-badness is slipping towards higher Deciles.

Methodology

The study is a fundamental-applied research and has adopted a qualitative and quantitative method for analysis of its data. The required information and statistics for analysis and

investigations such as society's income Deciles, the area of a home to Decile, owners/tenants per cent, financial capabilities, and absolute-relative line of poverty are collected from the authentic source of Iran Census Center.

Quantitative analyses are performed through indirect method functions and Stone-Garry Function. At last, to estimate and calculate the absolute line of poverty EVIEWS software, and for the relative line of poverty SPSS and Excel software were used.

Results and Discussion

Investigation about the index of the area owned by urban families in the province demonstrates that in the studied period, we have witnessed a drastic decrease. This decrease in the lower deciles of the society is equal to 38% of the beginning of the period and 28% in the highest Decile.

Ownership rate has indicated a general decrease, too. The average rate of 82.63% in 1996 has lessened to 61.4% in 2006. The percentage of tenants' population in all Deciles has grown and, on the average, it moved from 13.68% in 1996 to 26.83% in 2006.

The proportion of tenants in high-income is 5 times more than low-income at the beginning of the period. However, at the end of the period, the proportion was 4.6 times.

Employment rate has been accelerated partially so that in the first Decile it reached from 21.05% in 1996 to 50% and totally it has grown to 78.5% from 74.74%.

The proportion of food cost to total costs among non-owner families is more than 32%. The cost of housing has formed the major portion of the cost of such families.

To investigate financial capability of different Deciles regarding house provision, indirect function has been applied. It suggests a large amount of difference among different income Deciles according to the function results so that the first six Deciles, literally, cannot afford house provision, at least 60 m². However, the tenth Decile has an unusual ability. At the end, the researcher has tried to identify absolute line of poverty through Stone-Garry Function Method and EVIEWS software and relative line of poverty- the basis was half and 2.3 of median rate which is 75 m². It is based on 2011 plan of urban families' cost and income. Accordingly, the absolute line of poverty of housing is 50 m² and the relative line of poverty with half of median rate is 37.5 m², and with 2.3 of median rate is 50 m². Therefore, 13.7% of urban families are living under absolute line of poverty, 6.5% are under relative line of poverty (half of the median rate), and 17% are under relative line of poverty (2.3 of the median rate).

Conclusion

The results of the study suggest that there are numerous principal problems in the realms of housing economy and market. Furthermore, one can witness the impacts of several factors in housing sector such as major economic condition, inflation rate, the growth in the price of land, the growth in the price of construction material, growth in the gap between effective demand and potential demand, the low amount of government bestowed facilities for either purchasing or building house, and applying rigid rules and regulations regarding house construction.

All the above-mentioned factors have caused a harsh situation for low-income groups of people to obtain appropriate house. In addition, as time passes, it has been becoming worse. Hence, during the period of the study, the inability of people with suitable house has slipped to the middle Deciles of the society which was only 3.

Based on what has been discussed, applying some proper strategies, policies, and decisions seems necessary in order to provide the required (economical, legal, cultural, and urban civilization) factors for low-income groups. Some steps like reforming urban civilization rules and regulations, facilitating construction license, increase in the facilities related to

purchasing/building house, collecting suitable rules and regulations is concerned to gradual house construction, adoption of applied steps to decrease brokerage in land and housing market, and to decrease the taxes related to housing sector.

Keywords: financial capabilities, housing line of poverty, income deciles, low-income groups housing, Stone-Garry function.

The Influence of Space Administrative Division on Regional Development (Case Study: Southern Coastal Provinces of Iran)

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Received: 2015/08/26 Accepted: 2015/01/16

Extended abstract

Introduction

Political partitioning of space is referred to science and art to organize country space. The most common kind of this process is country divisions. Decentralization, balanced political-economic development and balance distribution of sources and facilities are the main purposes for country division. Iran is one of countries with long time civilization during history. Also, Iran has many coasts and some of administrative divisions are related to coasts. Base of country divisional rule in Iran is returned to month of November, 1937-8. This rule was revised and approved in January, same year. In this rule, army-security factors were concerned, but lack of balance in political division in map of Iran divisions was outstanding in south coast. Some provinces such as Bushehr and Hurmozgan were formed as strip along Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in length of 707 and 900 km. Hurmozgan and Bushehr provinces are formed by military-security approach in south coast of Iran in time of geostrategic discussion. Present research study of country divisions system on regional development in south coast of Iran is based on enormous indicators of local development. They have planned for making suggestions and model of country division system in proportion to regional development.

Methodology

Research approach is descriptive - analytical method, and information was gathered by library approach. Also, statistical methods are applied for analysis of information and data.

Results and Discussion

In this present research, dividing approach of these provinces was determined. Formation of Hurmozgan and Bushehr is based on military and security matters.

Iran is one of countries that are suffering from draught condition. The rate of annual rainfall in Iran is 250 mm, while this figure in worldwide is 750 mm during one year. Rate of annual

rain in Iran is one third of the world rate. Important point is that most of water sources including rivers are originated from inside the country to neighbor countries. The rate of underground water is reducing during past decades. Thus, average values of country water during future years indicate drought in Iran.

Thus, one of liable region of the country for investigation and elimination of water sources crisis in Iran is border of Persian Gulf and Oman sea, where water refining instrument is used. Method for country division in Iran in southern coasts is not perfectly performed in relation to balanced distribution of water sources in political units and the potentials of water sources in this region. Also in geographical plan for Iran population, matter for lack of spatial balance of population in national land is obvious. In Iran territory, if we divide north to south by an imaginary line, we can see 27.34% of population living in east part and 72.65% living in western part. Also, 57.3% of Iranian population is dispersed in the country.

With investment, there is great potential in various regions to attract population. One of the approaches to develop investment in these regions is change in division system and balanced distribution of coastal spaces in political units. On the other hand, system of country in Iran in this region is related to natural sources such as oil, gas and ... in 3 provinces such as Khozestan, Bushehr, and Hurmozgan.

Conclusion

In the present research, with emphasis on the reasons and factors for dividing Hurmozgan and Bushehr provinces, it is clear that their constitution is related to military and security issues. According to the mentioned approaches in the fields of investment in south coasts by relying on lack and water source crisis, unsuitable distribution of population in National Territory, optimal exploitation from coastal region chances in various fields, it is essential that country division system of Iran can be changed and be adaptable with the factors for regional development and new divisional system in this region. Finally, in south coasts of Iran, adaptable with coastal region of Persian Gulf and Oman sea, seven provinces such as Sistan and Balochestan, Kerman, Hurmozgan, Fars, Bushehr, Kohgieluyeh and Boyerahmad and Khuzestan had the role for exploiting coastal regions and investment. They make new opportunities for development of coastal regions in relation to method and pattern of organizing political land spaces.

Keywords: administrative division, coastal zones, geostrategic, Iran, regional development.

Spatial Analysis of the Relationship between Quality of Urban Environment and Social Capital (Case Study: Quarters of Yazd City)

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Received: 2013/10/20 Accepted: 2014/08/16

Extended abstract

Introduction

Looking anatomical- functional planning to various aspects of life in the past has caused in the late 1960s. It was influenced by the needs and knowledge of new modern social concepts such as social welfare, quality of life and social justice in the realm of planning and public outreach programs. It is essential to apply development of these concepts in order to achieve quality standards in the utility of urban environmental quality, involving environmental, cultural, social and psychological aspects. Quality of the urban environment, as aspects of quality of life, includes a sense of luxury, comfort and the satisfaction of physical factors in spatial and social economic, environmental and symbolic of their living environment.

On the other hand, today beside the human capital, physical and financial capital, another capital with the name of social capital has used. Links to this concept refers to communication between members of a network as a valuable of source that they can create norms and reciprocal trust to member's goal realization. The social capital is a great option for optimization of human and physical capital and it's a way for success. At the most general level of social capital, community or social group features increase the capacity of community and voluntary organization to solve mutual problems or general issues.

Following the increase in urbanization and high-speed changes in the context of urban studies in Iran, environmental quality in urban areas has declined sharply. Another part of social capital as the relations influenced by factor is focused as a lost chain of urban planning and designs. Given the conceptual definition of social capital, fortification of its urban spaces is possible only with changes to improve urban space quality. Urban spaces are a tool for urban designers to improve and organize the environment and they have the ability to provide the necessary substrates for the formation and promotion of the social capital. In other words, points with higher degree of environmental quality have suitable substrates for the formation of social interactions and will have a higher social capital.

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This research is a case study in Yazd city located in Yazd province. Therefore, this study sought to identify factors, elements and indicators of the quality of urban environment and social capital and finally assess the relationship between these two concepts in Yazd. What the relationship is there between the proportion of urban environmental quality and social capital?

Methodology

This research has a descriptive– analytic method and in order to analyze data collected from questionnaire and field survey we used two methods of descriptive and inferential statistics (correlation Test, Analysis Of Variance and multiple regressions) in SPSS software.

Results and Discussion

Quality of the urban environment is an aspect of quality of life that includes a sense of luxury, comfort and the satisfaction of physical factors-spatial and social- economic- environmental and symbolic of their living environment. In other words, the quality of environment not only is related to field of the material needs of man but also provide social and community development that affect the social behavior patterns. Urban environment quality indicators used in this study are consisted of environmental, social, and physical function and anatomically is taken into consideration. Based on the average amount of social capital in the community studies, the highest average of social capital in neighborhood is pleasure and the lowest average neighborhood of Safaei indicates that there is inverse relationship between all areas of urban environmental quality and social capital. Because there are firm relationships between social capital and urban environment quality with the planning in the sectors that social capital and environment quality is low, increase the quality of these cases in sectors.

Conclusions

In sum, social capital is the set of relationships between individual characteristics such as partnership, trust, social cohesion, and safety study that examines the relationship between social capital and environmental quality in the city of Yazd. It has the results and observations in the areas under study. It was indicated that there is an inverse relationship between social capital and environmental quality. This means social capital increases in the level of environmental quality is diminished that this field studies and surveys in the neighborhood was confirmed. The rugged interpersonal relationships, communication and trust rates are significantly higher that are redolent linked to social capital. In other words, environment quality is impressible from state organizations more than people that live in garter. That means despite high social capital in the bottom areas, there is not good attention of government and environmental quality are low. These areas are suffering from unlikelihood. Meanwhile uptown neighborhoods with low social capital due to the special attention of organizations had relatively good quality of the environment.

Keywords: social capital, urban quality environment, Yazd City.

Comparative Analysis of Quality of Life in Old and New Quarters, Zafarieh and Qatarchian Quarters, Sanandaj

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Received: 2013/11/10 Accepted: 2014/08/16

Extended abstract

Introduction

In Iran, after cities expansion and urban population growth, the issue of *Quality of Life* (QOF) has been concerned in our cities. There is great difference between urban neighborhoods regarding to QOF level. In the recent decades, the old area of the city with peripheral growth around it as new quarters has concentrated population and many of services and facilities with infrastructures and utilities deficiency. This rapid physical growth has changed and destructed the old quarters. Meanwhile, lack of some novel facilities and population demand exist in these areas. On the other hand, it is essential to evaluate urban plans and implementations success in new quarters for the future planning. It must promote existing challenges. Nowadays, disregarding the QOF in urban areas has led to ecological segregation, marginal settlement, poor and social inequality, environmental, moral and human issues, gap and dispersion between different neighborhoods and segregation from each other. This paper with assessment of QOF in two old and new quarters of Sanandaj attempts to find the factors that can be used to promote QOF in each quarter. For this, one quarter selected from old ones (Qatarchian quarter) and another is new (Zafarieh).

Methodology

This research has an analytical-descriptive method based on survey and questionnaire distribution among the residents. Other data collected by field surveys of researchers. Regarding the aims of this research, main parameters are derived from literatures, practices and field survey in the quarters and structured by a hierarchy from top to down (analytical). The obtained

model is based on the tree diagram that has four levels including criteria, parameters and items. For assessment of QOF, a questionnaire with 45 questions has been designed which reflects experiences and mentalities of the residents about QOF. The questions are based on Likert spectrum (the minimum score is 1, maximum is 5 and mean is 3). For validity of the tool, we used the Cronbach's Alpha method. Based on the result of this method, Alpha value is 0.916 that confirms their validity well. For analysis of data, we have used SPSS software based on the multiple Regression, t-test and Pearson correlation coefficient.

Results and Discussion

In this paper, satisfaction of residents has been evaluated in term of assessment of QOF regarding to economic, social and physical aspects of urban life. These aspects are specialized on two quarters as old and new ones. To do this, the mentioned criteria have been derived from various theoretical and practical studies around the world. Also, the manuscript is tailored to the study area conditions. Each of the above criteria including social, economic and physical have been divided into some parameters. These parameters have been used for QOF assessment in the quarters. The results of the studies related to each aspect (Physical, Economic and Social) are mentioned in following section.

Physical dimension

In physical criterion, five factors including the housing, the quarter, the transportation, the green space and solid waste collection have been selected as the parameters. Regarding to the residents score dedicated to these parameters for the two quarters, the average scores of Zafarieh quarter in the five parameters are above theoretical average and more than mean limit. But about Qatarchian these are lower than theoretical average.

Social dimension

For evaluating this, we select four parameters including individual security, health situation, sense of place and relationship with neighbors. Investigation of average scores shows that satisfaction of Zafarieh residents about four factors are more than theoretical average. Resident scores of Qatarchian quarter shows level of satisfaction for individual security parameter is lower than moderate level which is because of lack of good lighting in the quarter, crimes and lack of security and safety for women and children.

Economic dimension

This criterion has been evaluated based on five parameters including economic situation, health facilities, recreational facilities, educational centers, and commercial centers in the two quarters. Average of the scores related to the resident of the quarters indicated that satisfaction level of Zafarieh quarter for some factors such as economic situation, recreational facilities, educational and commercial centers is more than moderate. About Qatarchian quarter, the maximum average of the resident satisfaction is related to commercial centers. This may be because of vicinity of this quarter to the city center and good access to commercial centers.

Conclusion

The study of QOF in the two old and new quarters of Sanandaj indicates that QOF in new fabrics of the city is better than old ones. Examination of average of the scores confirmed that while in Zafarieh quarter maximum satisfaction is related to the physical dimension, in Qatarchian it is related to the social dimension. This can mainly occur because of great social capital phenomenon in the Qatarchian where the oldest structures, social relationships and sense

of cooperation affect this factor. Results of T test in Zafarieh shows that three factors including the quarter, sense of place and the transportation have the highest rate of resident satisfaction and three parameters including commercial cores, sanitary facilities and neighbor relationships have the lowest level of satisfaction. The highest level of resident satisfaction in Qatarchian is based on the results of T test and related to health situation, commercial centers and neighbor relationships and the lowest rate because of low permeability for cars to crossing in the quarter is related to the transport, housing and solid waste collection parameters.

Keywords: quality of life, Qatarchian quarter, regression analysis, urban quality of life, Zafarieh Quarter.

Spatial Planning of Tourism Services (Case Study: Fars Province)

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Received: 2013/08/11 Accepted: 2015/06/17

Extended abstract

Introduction

Tourism industry, according to figures and statistics published by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in the new millennium, has turned into the largest source of world revenue. The economists know this industry as the third dynamic economic activity after oil and automotive industries. Travel and Tourism is a dynamic industry which boosts economies by generating income, employment, investment and exports. Iran as one of the developing countries in the world, which its oil supplies are the main source of income and in near future these oil supplies will be finished, needs to use its whole potentials to provide a sustainable and comprehensive development and also substituting new income sources instead of oil resources. Iran is including one of the top ten countries which according to terms of UNESCO have outstanding archaeological and historic attractions. It is also one of the most noble of human civilization in the realm of political geography, but it accounts for a tiny proportion of the major tourism market in the world. One of the main reasons for this failure is the inappropriate presentation and unavailability of optimum services and facilities in Iran. In the highly competitive tourism industry, service becomes one of the most important elements to gain a sustainable competitive advantage in the marketplace. Consequently, the efforts of service managers and academic researchers are directed towards understanding how customers perceive the quality of services. Satisfaction of visitors is very decisive in success of a destination. Therefore, the tourists' satisfaction requires a detailed analysis of the services and its proper handling. One way to satisfy tourists is the tourism spatial planning program, because tourism

development planning approach can be an effective factor in achieving the goals of sustainable and balanced development of our country. In opinion of most scientists and planners the required goals in this activity is much more than the economic and social benefits and needs of a general plan. On the other hand, spatial planning to develop the tourism attempts to reach the best spatial pattern of regional development.

Since the great history of civilization and cultural identity of Iran is peered by monuments in different towns of Fars Province, this province is one of the most important tourism centers of Iran. Thousands of visitors annually visit its historical, cultural and natural attractions. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the planning of tourism services because these centers have an essential role in the comfort and satisfaction of tourists and also economic development of tourism destinations. It is obvious that optimum access to tourism services requires the establishment of services in appropriate places so that the tourists can have access to them by the least time and expenses. As it was mentioned, the most important goal of this research is to make a zoning of optimal supply centers of the tourism services throughout the Fars Province. Thus, proportional to each destination capacity, we will initially manage the tourists and their demands better and then recognize destinations with limitations and try to solve these problems.

Methodology

This research is an analytical, descriptive and practical research. The data have been collected by library and field studies. First, the criteria of spatial planning of tourism services were defined by Delphi method, then for analysis of the data, the hierarchical weighting method of Fuller has been used. After weighting the criteria, the optimization and ranking models were used to choose the appropriate zone of tourism services. The MAPPAC, as a mental-based method according to the experts' opinions, and Artificial Neural Network method, as a data-based method, have been used to make a zonation for appropriate tourism services. It is necessary to indicate that this research has no statistical sample and the statistical society is all of the tourism attractions and services of Fars Province.

Results and Discussion

Definition of the criteria is one of the most important and fundamental steps of any research. Criteria of this research were obtained by Delphi method including: 1. Specific or transportation services (petrol stations, gas stations ...), 2. Business services (supermarkets, fast food markets ...), 3. Natural factors (slope, elevation and natural hazards), 4. roads, 5. tourism attractions (natural, historical, religious) and 6. infrastructures (leisure centers, police centers ...). Then, by Fuller model, the criteria were weighted. According to the opinions of experts, the most important one was the historical attractions and the least weight was allocated to the natural hazards. After weighting the data layers, the criteria were connected to the base unit of political zones of Fars Province. After the required layers were connected to the base unit, according to the research goal of ranking the appropriate tourism zones, the optimization and ranking models were applied because the distribution of services in proportion of tourism attractions were not spatially balanced. In other words, there are tourism attractions which despite of owning high potential of attracting tourists have no or not enough services. The MAPPAC method based on the opinion of experts was used for ranking and prioritization of the appropriate zones. Then, by applying the ANN model the best zone of tourism services were distinguished.

Conclusion

Results of MAPPAC technique of Artificial Neural Network model indicate that a great part of Fars Province, despite its tourism attractions, has less or no tourism services. Political parts of Eghlid, Sepidan, Bavanat, Mamasani, Ghir and Kazeroon, Firooz Abad, Farashband, Jahrom, Khonj, Zarin Dasht, Garash, Lamerd and Mohr towns have the least services. It is essential that tourism planners and managers prioritize these zones. Also, parts of Shiraz, Marvdasht, Zarghan, Abadeh, Darab, Sarvestan, Kazeroon and Seydan towns have better and more appropriate services.

Keywords: Artificial Neural Network model, Delphi model, Fars Province, fuller triangular, MAPPAC technique, spatial planning, tourism services.

**Potential of Urban Parks in Occurrence of Crime, based on Feature
Coefficient Model, Standardization of Data and AHP
(Case Study: Khoy City)**

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Received: 2013/07/22 Accepted: 2015/08/29

Extended Abstract

Introduction

One of the most important concerns of modern human population is presence in public spaces such as parks and increased happiness in life. Perhaps the most important problem to realize is the crime that threatens the future of a park. In the definition of the crime, it is explained as an act or the commission of an act that is forbidden or the omission of a duty that is commanded by a public law and that makes the offender liable to punishment by that law (Britannica) and park is an area of land, usually in a largely natural state, for the enjoyment of the public, facilities for rest and recreation, often owned, set apart, and managed by a city, state, or nation or an enclosed area or a stadium used for sports (dictionary.com). Also, a public space is a social space such as a town square that is generally open and accessible. Public space has also become something of a touchstone for critical theory in relation to philosophy, (urban) geography, visual art, cultural studies, social studies and urban design. The term 'public space' is also often misconstrued to mean other things such as 'gathering place', which is an element of the larger concept of social space (Sensagent). Therefore, the most important goal of urban planner is to recognize these parks as places of recreation and leisure in summer

Methodology

In this research, we identify and classify the nature of crime in the Khoy city. Khoy city is located in a vast plain surrounded by mountains .It is the first city in Qarbi Azarbaijan Province in extent and the second largest city in terms of population. It has nearly 22 parks and gardens that require to be studied to measure crimes in these parks. The names of these parks are Mellat, Laleh, Golestan, Touba (Baharan), Sheikh Navaei, Shahre Shadi, 22 Bahman and Niloufar. Ranking of crime in city parks was undertaken by a factor of three models feature coefficient, standardization of data and the AHP method. The research method was descriptive– analytical

and has been used to collect data from documents, interview, direct observation and correlation. At first, according to legal books, in a simple and clear classification of the crimes based on the Criterion and sub Criterion the precise location of each park were determined along with the surrounding neighborhoods. After identifying the main 8 parks, crimes was examined to frequency and percentage and then specified ranking.

Results and Discussion

In the next stage, the model of feature coefficient was based on standardization of data and the AHP method. In the this study, a new way, in terms of the number, the most important crimes within 8 parks city has been identified and specified the coefficients and points of this parks. These were selected based on the most attracting population and traffic volume. Total 75,000 cases as statistical population were achieved. The estimated population through direct observation in the parks and by Cochran Methodology was published in 382 forms of the scoring table. It was asked of respondents to submit score of 1 to 5. Number 1 is superficial crime and number 5 is serious crime. Points were calculated by sum of the coefficients of 1 to 5 to number of respondents to determine percentage to total crime in a park. The results indicated that murder with 1910 events, baby kidnapping with 1786 are the maximum and harassing to women with 765 and vandalism with 708 are the minimum score. After this, model of feature coefficient was performed based on Criterion and Standardization of data based on sub-Criterion. In order, Touba (Baharan) park with 42.2, Shahre Shadi with 36.1 and Laleh with 26.63 gained the highest scores. At the end, for calculation of AHP based on Expert Choice Software, we conducted pairwise comparison in the all criteria and sub-criteria. The results were adjusted similar by classified table. Also, it should be noted that Touba (Baharan) park with 0.184, Shahre Shadi with 0.156, and Laleh with 0.144 gained the highest scores. Thus, ranking of all the crimes were classified based on the frequency and severity and also based on three models feature coefficients, standardization of data and the AHP.

Conclusion

The results of all the studies indicated that Touba (Baharan) park based on all crimes is the first place and Mellat Park in final place. Since the Mellat Park is the newest park, except crimes against property, in all crimes is on low rank. In total, Mellat Park is secure in terms of frequency and severity of crimes. The main reasons for good condition in this park are continuous monitoring by police (Nirouye Entezami), having numerous guards and trained and public participation to keep the park healthy. It is important that Shahre Shadi Park on such circumstances has been built several years ago but now it is the second park in the crime. Therefore, the most important guidelines and recommendations is revival of values in Shahre Shadi park and seriousness of on keeping the Mellat park until be avoided become a backyard. Shahre Shadi and Laleh parks are on the bad condition. Addicts and general crimes are high, alarming and worrying. In the Laleh Park has increased harassing to women. Touba (Baharan) Park is one of the most important places for drugs crimes at the midday and afternoon hours. The most important reasons are inadequate lighting, low patrolling and no program by police. WC is Very dirty places for addicts. Also, on the classification of crimes, buy and sell of drugs in Touba (Baharan) Park and Shahre Shadi have the highest frequency but low severity than murder and baby kidnapping. Finally, essential key for the survival of all parks is public participation on the education and making healthy parks.

Keywords: AHP, crime, feature coefficient, public green space, standardization of data.

Analysis of Sustainable Development Effects of Local Communities on Natural Tourism Development, Naghadeh County

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Received: 2013/07/24 Accepted: 2015/09/01

Extended abstract

Introduction

Nowadays, natural tourism plays a main role in tourism activities in the world. In this activity, tourists travel to natural areas including mountains, mountain ranges, foothills, jungles, plains, valleys, deserts, beaches, lakes and wetlands to take advantage from natural beauties. This, as called ecotourism, is created by special willing to use nature in sustainable development and the value of natural heritage in tourism. Ecotourism by following life philosophy and emphasis on internal and inherent values make cultural heritage and sustainability possible by protecting the natural areas, taking advantages of local communities, reinforcing sub cultures, preparing educational and training opportunities, improving job creation and obtaining migration, obligation to less consume of nonrenewable resources, preparing local contribution opportunities, environmental educations and natural environment protection. There are very suitable tourism attractions in Iran that an appropriate management and planning in good manner, can create a development process to obtain sustainable development in rural areas. In this regard, Naghadeh county has been situated in west Azerbaijan, according to its special strategic location (in boundary of Iraq and Turkey countries), because of appropriate weather, being closeness to Urmia lake and Gadar river, Wetlands, Hot water springs, wetlands and natural reasons. It could be one of the more attracting areas for development of natural tourism. It can also attract lots of tourists in regional and also national level.

Methodology

This research has an analytical- descriptive method and is practical research in aspect of aim. Statistical sample of this research is 10 villages in Naghadeh County with natural attractions and 384 people were chosen from these villages as sample size. Sampling method to evaluate the indicators of sustainable development dimensions is optimum allocation sampling according to population of each village. Data gathering has been carried out using direct observation,

interviews with experts and questionnaires. The reliability of the questionnaire is measured by Cronbach's alpha and Validity of the content. In order to analyze data, we have used hierarchical cluster analysis, two-way ANOVA and Tukey post hoc test.

Results and Discussion

In this research, we used hierarchical cluster analysis based on indicators grades in triple dimensions of sustainable development. There were 4 clusters for each dimension, then they were named according to theoretical contents. After getting number of clusters and naming them, their sustainability and unsustainability were calculated using simple average method. After clustering factors of rural communities, they were leveled up and Hasanlu hill came in first as a more sustainable place to have tourism capabilities and Saxsi-Tape came in ten as an unsustainable place. Then, we tried to discover the most important and effective factor in development of natural tourism in that area. We interviewed local communities using variance analysis to find differences between triple dimensions and we used Tukey test to test their level of effectiveness. Results show that from people point of view in the rural areas, all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic- organizational, socio- cultural and ecological- environmental dimensions) affect the natural tourism. Its significant level was 0.05 percent. The highest average belonged to advertisement cluster in socio-cultural level and socio-cultural dimension had the most influence on tourism development (by mean of 4.5229).

Conclusion

Today natural tourism has an important role in tourism activities in the world that was created by acceptance of sustainable development concept and natural heritage value. Sustainable development is defined as a stable flow in economic, socio- cultural and environmental changes to increase welfare of the society, which is seeking unity of economic, social, cultural and environmental goals in sustainable way. Thus, natural tourism has most compatibility with sustainable development and can work as a form of sustainable tourism and can also bring benefits for current and future generations. This research aimed to analyze the effects of sustainable development dimensions of rural communities in the development of natural tourism with poll of residents of rural areas in Naghadeh County. In identifying villages with strong tourist attractions, results show that Hasanlu, Baliqchi, Gerdagit and Dorgesangi are in the top and first places and Talegan and Saxsi Tape are in the attractive down because of their natural resources poverty. In grouping of the studied indicators, four clusters for each dimension are revealed as: economic dimension (work and income, governmental planning, increase in quality of life and agriculture), social dimension (knowledge, participation, satisfying from imitation, security, and advertising), ecological and environmental dimension (protecting natural resources, environmental sensitive, land use change, and infrastructural services). Results of Two-way ANOVA and tukey test results of rural communities from the perspective indicated that social-cultural dimension with an average of 4.5339 has the most importance in natural tourism development among three dimensions of sustainable development.

Finally, according to this study, it can be concluded that development of triple dimensions of sustainable development (economic, with indicators such as employment, income, governmental agencies and non-governmental cooperation, investment, governmental planning and ...; socio-cultural, with indicators such as public participation, education, security, advertising and ...; and ecological- environmental, with indicators such as protection of natural resources, pollution reduction, improving tourism infrastructure and ...) are requirements and foundations of natural tourism development. The availability of environmental and institutional conditions can also encourage residents of rural communities to participate in developing natural tourism. Based on

the mentioned points for natural tourism development with an emphasis on dimensions of sustainable development, following suggestions are offered:

- To support local communities contributions
- To improve private sector to invest in this industry
- To create economic advantages in local communities
- To advertise for the related organizations
- To protect natural tourism resources against irresponsible behaviors.

Keywords: cluster analysis, local communities, Naghadeh, natural tourism, sustainable development.

Investigation about the Pattern of the Sustainable Form of Kermanshah City Using Quantitative Methods

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Received: 2013/07/17 Accepted: 2015/10/14

Extended Abstract

Introduction

In the recent decades, rapid horizontal expansion of cities in all countries around the world has been faced with serious challenges. This phenomenon is not only the issues largely affected by urban policy, but the consequences of the intensification of economic, social, political, and environmental management of the communities involved. This was due to the concerns of the developing countries, particularly after World War II, to take measures to resolve the crisis or to inhibit. The main areas of policy measures are tall building, mass, changes in tax laws, rules and regulations for the use of land, improvement and renovation of old texture. There are two competing models of sustainable urban development. On the one side, there are those who support compact cities. The idea here is that large, dense and concentrated cities will support the principles of sustainable development. However, on the other side, there are those who support the green city, i.e., a more open type of urban structure, where buildings, agricultural fields and other green areas form kind of mosaic-like pattern. The rapid development and spread of the urban and adopting policies and strategies to increase density dispersed urban growth and led to the entry of such amendments, compact city. There is a problem that the term urban sprawl is widely used in many disciplines dealing with urban development and urban form. The smart growth has been implemented in the literature. Compared with the pattern or distribution of horizontal growth, more and better benefits of smart growth pattern can help improve the quality of life in cities. Smart growth will try to accommodate urban development within the existing framework, developed to prevent uncontrolled urban expansion. In addition, it can also contribute to improvement of the community, while the horizontal growth pattern is not consistent with sustainable urban development, the negative consequences of such a model, including the loss of agricultural land around the city, and soil degradation and water pollution, air pollution, increase in the cost of municipal services, increase in travel time to the city, and the subsequent increase in fossil fuel consumption, social segregation, lack of land use or irregular use of resources. The extension of the distance between the place of residence, place of business, commercial centers, and recreation centers makes it more dependent on private cars

and people are forced to travel long distances to use private cars. Use of personal vehicles due to environmental factors such as pollution (air, noise and radio ...) leads to higher energy consumption. This also leads to wasting time, money and mental and neurological disorders. Accordingly, this study sought to examine Kermanshah urban growth pattern in the last few decades in terms of sustainability.

Methodology

The methodology of this article is based on descriptive method. With this approach to urban sustainability, it explains the differences between two types of sprawl and compact urban development. This study has used Gini coefficient, entropy relative Shannon for detection of unbalanced distribution. On the other hand, other indicators like Gary and Moran coefficients have been used to determine the degree of concentration or density and distribution of population and employment based on the spatial correlation. Finally, the model is used to measure urban growth model Holdren.

Results and Discussion

The results of this research show that the population density of Kermanshah has dropped during the past decades. Between 1956 and 2011 the population density of this city decreased from 414 persons per hectare to 81. Other results show growth pattern of the city of Kermanshah somewhat scattered, according to the calculations made by the coefficients of Genie and entropy relative Shannon and inequality and imbalance in the distribution of population in urban areas. The data obtained from Moran and Geary coefficients indicate that the growth pattern of the city is closer to the random pattern. The calculations made by Holdren model also show that physical growth of Kermanshah from 1956 to 2011 is only 55 percent of population growth and 45 percent of the growth is horizontal (sprawl). These results indicate that during this period, the city is faced with reduction of net density population and increase in per capita gross of land.

Conclusion

This paper addresses the issue of urban growth pattern of Kermanshah in recent decades in the direction of sustainability. The questions based on the research conducted, is whether it is possible to achieve a sustainable urban form? What is the relationship between sustainability and urban form? The study has shown that the calculations were based on the growth pattern of the city of Kermanshah. Gini coefficient and the relative Shannon entropy is somewhat sparse and with inequalities and imbalances in the distribution of population in urban areas. It is evident that the figures obtained from Moran and Geary coefficients indicate that the growth pattern of the city and closer to a random pattern of distribution tends to be Holdren model. The calculations have revealed that 45% of the city horizontal physical growth (sprawl) has been as the horizontal distribution pattern of urban growth in developing countries as well as developed countries. It is becoming more common. The main features of this model include: relief and fled and dispersed development, commercial strip development, low density, and single-user development.

The results also indicate that the growth pattern of the city of Kermanshah has tendency toward fragmentation and inequality and imbalance in the distribution of population in urban areas. This is a major cause of instability in the city given the importance of direct development towards sustainability; the need to change the scattered pattern is emphasized on compact city.

Keywords: compact city, distribution, Kermanshah, sustainable urban development, urban form.

**Investigation on the Relationship between Social Capital and Satisfaction
with Quality of Life in Urban Spaces
(Case Study: Region Number 9, Tehran Municipality)**

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Received: 2013/09/19 Accepted: 2015/11/03

Extended Abstract

Introduction

With development of urbanization, some problems gradually emerged in the field. In the past few decades, the city crises have been widened. With the development of the urban life crisis is appeared in various aspects including environmental, social, physical, and economic. Special awareness shows environmental problems and declining environmental quality in cities and residential neighborhoods. In recent years, social capital has become very common issue that has attracted the attention of many scholars and even politicians. The quality of life reflects the level of welfare of the people, over the past decade as one of the main goals of community development and guiding policy in many countries.

Social capital is basically a product or a public asset that everyone can benefit from. Many researchers believe that social capital is an important resource for people and can have a huge impact on the performance and the quality of people life. Some researchers argue that social capital is not only interesting in important business issues, but also there are interesting and important reasons for learning how to develop and use for the social capital. The studies published in the fields of medicine and psychology show that there is a direct relation between social capital and quality, purpose and meaning of life. Another issue that in recent years has concerned the planners is the quality of life of citizens. Quality of life encompasses both quantitative and qualitative aspects, such as distribution of material and the distribution of goods and services, and mental aspects of quality of life, such as social relationships, life satisfaction, participation and sense of social solidarity, and spiritual needs of all people.

In this study, the role of social capital is investigated as one of the most important factors on citizen quality of life. District number 9 as one of the 22 districts of Tehran municipality, has unique conditions both in terms of quality of life and social capital; because both physical and environmental quality of the area is not in a good condition and also in terms of social capital is not in a desirable situation. This is because this region is the host of immigrants. Hence, this region due to high immigrant has different ethnic groups that have imbalanced the conditions in terms of quality of life and social capital.

Methodology

The population of the study area is the residents in the 9th region of Tehran and two quarters of this region, Dastgheib and Hooshyar. Total population of these two districts is 35,851 people at the 2006 Census. Thus, according to Cochran formula, 380 questionnaires were considered for the study field. But, in order to increase accuracy and reduce error, 400 questionnaires were distributed in the neighborhood.

Quality of life indicators in this research includes quality of residential units, quality of traffic and transportation, quality of leisure facilities, mental aspects of quality of life, quality of access to the business facilities, quality of satisfaction with health care facilities, satisfaction with quality of administrative facilities, quality of education facilities, quality of social and cultural facilities, quality of municipal facilities, quality of health status, quality of safety and security, and quality of the neighborhood relations. The social capital indicators are personal trust, impersonal trust, social cohesion and social participation.

The questionnaires were distributed in the neighborhood; the obtained data were analyzed by SPSS software. According to the assessment questions and items, Pearson correlation is used for statistical analysis. Also, the multiple regression analysis is used to determine the role of each of the indicators of social capital (independent variable) on changes in quality of life indicators (dependent variables).

Results and Discussion

The highest quality of life is related to the quality of access to commercial facilities. After the quality of commercial facilities, quality of social and cultural facilities is more appropriate. The lowest mean is related to health-related quality due to high levels of deteriorated fabrics.

Four indices are used to measure the social capital. Among the four investigated indices, personal trust has the highest mean and social cohesion has the lowest mean. A high level of self trust indicates that the trust is very highly among the family members. The range of trust to other members of community is too low. Also, low level of social cohesion is a sign of a non-homogeneous of population in terms of respondents. Analytical results of the study show that there is a significant correlation between four indices of social capital and satisfaction of quality of life. It means that with increase in levels of social capital the people satisfaction with quality of life will be increased. Also, after the combination of the four indices of social capital, in the general case the relationship between social capital and satisfaction is assessed with quality of life. In a general case, there is a positive correlation between social capital and satisfaction with quality of life. The multivariate regression analysis shows that the regression model consisting of 4 independent variables and a dependent variable in the study is a good model. The set of independent variables are able to explain the change of the dependent variable (satisfaction with quality of life).

Conclusion

The results indicate that there is a direct and significant correlation between social capital and satisfaction of people with their quality of life in this study. In other words, with increase in levels of social capital the quality of life will also be increased. According to the research results, we can say that the social capital can be used as an important element to analyze citizen satisfaction with quality of life in urban regions. Hence, it is essential to make efforts to increase the level of citizen social capital. In this way, we can increase the satisfaction of quality of life as the main goal of most urban development programs.

Keywords: participation, quality of life, region number 9 of Tehran municipality, social capital, social cohesion, trust.

Situation of Jameh Mosques and Their Relationship with Other Important Spaces in Historical Cities

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Received: 2015/03/04 Accepted: 2015/11/17

Extended Abstract

Introduction

The Jameh mosque in the past was the most important religious place in the Islamic cities, because it was the place of holding Friday prayer, as one of the most important sacrament in social and religious aspect. Other daily prayers were held in the same mosques, and some other social and religious ceremonies were held in the Jameh mosque such as some educational and judgement activity in a limited conditions. In these situations, the jameh mosque was the most important building in Islamic cities.

The first Jameh mosque in the new Islamic cities were built near the governmental building (Daralemareh), but in the later centuries in some big cities, they were built in bazaars and the governmental building were built in the citadels. The situation of the Jameh mosque in the city and the other important buildings and spaces are the main question of this research.

Methodology

The main objective of this research is to identify the situation of Jameh mosque in Islamic historical cities. The main data, at first are based upon the plans that were drawn by architects or historians and at the second level the data are based upon the historical reports written by historians. Methodology of this research has been based upon descriptive and analytical methods. At the same time, the historical- interpretation method is used, because the research is about the historical buildings in the past periods.

The samples are selected from some cities in the Islamic world. Many of documents are gathered in documentary method and simultaneously some data were gathered by field study on the situation of Jameh mosques in cities such as Naeen, Tehran, Qazvin and Isfahan, and Dephi. Independent variable is the culture and the characteristics of the mosques and the dependent variable is the situation of the Jameh mosque and its relation with other buildings and important urban spaces.

Results and Discussion

It is obvious that some relations between Jameh mosque and other important spaces such as bazaar (Market) are seen in many historical cities that we can see them at present. On the other hand, there are some exceptions that the location of the mosques in these cities are shaped accidentally, but it is difficult to imagine that one of the most important space in Islamic cities- Jame mosque-, could be located accidentally in urban fabric. However, the results of this research shows that there are several patterns and relations between Friday mosque and the other important urban elements that were dependent on some factors such as the political situation of a city, the historical period that Friday mosque was built, and the characteristic pattern and elements of a city.

Therefore, there were not only one pattern for location of a Jameh mosque in historical cities, and there were also several patterns in the relations between the physical environment of a mosque and the buildings adjacent to the mosque.

The survey shows that there was a relative clear pattern about the shape and location of Jameh mosque in relation with the other important elements and buildings in a city, particularly in the new primary cities where most of them had a military function, i.e., Kofe, Basreh, and Cairo. In these cities, the Jameh mosque was built near the governmental buildings that it was called, Daralemareh, because there was a strong relation between governmental affairs and religious activity. The rulers wanted to show this relation very much in the first decades and centuries, but for a few reasons at the later centuries, some governmental centers were built in a citadel that were sometimes far from the city centre and Friday mosque

Conclusion

The situation and level of the Friday mosque in relation to its surrounding areas were different. Most of the mosques were at the same level that the other buildings were in the urban texture, while in some periods and in a few countries, the important mosques were built in a higher platform. For example, the Jame Mosque of Delhi was built by Shah Jahan, in a level higher than the adjacent areas. It seems this pattern was used in India because there were some separated and distinct buildings in the middle of a vast and large site. These kinds of buildings were seen from surrounding areas, on the other hand, somebody can say that people from these buildings can see the surrounding areas, as every body in the Jame mosque of Delhi can see the site and buildings located surrounding the mosque. The Jame mosque of Delhi has three entrances in the middle of each side and they are seen from adjacent sites and the plan of these mosques were regular and the outer surface had no pretty outer facades. However, some of the mosques as Jame mosque or Friday mosque in the Isfahan were located in the middle of an urban fabric. This is because it is located in the middle of an urban texture, and their facades can not be seen from distance, and they have only a pretty portal gate and some other important elements.

We can say that the situation of a mosque in relation with the adjacent buildings and site can influence the general form and style of the mosques. Many of the mosques were adhered to the surrounding buildings, while in some others; there were a distance between mosque and the other buildings.

Keywords: Ark (Citadel), Bazaar (Market), Daralemare, Jame Mosques.

Explanation of the Geographical Challenges of Democracy in the Middle East

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Received: 2015/02/06 Accepted: 2015/12/22

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Establishment of liberal state democratic structure in the Middle East had been faced with up and down in this area during recent decades. This issue had been come up consistently with serious discussion about probability of democratic system accomplishment in this region. Hence, some of political experts believe that democratic thoughts could be spread in the entire world and states of Middle East should consistently joint to this ruling system. This is because democratic ideas have efficiency and global performance in all of the world and in all of the societies. Another group of political scientists believe that democratic system accomplishment could not be installed in Middle East. The reason for this is that the ruling thoughts and dominant doctrines in this region are obstacle for establishment of the democratic system. In other words, human situations of this region do not prepare that for democratic state. On other side, in political geography this issue could be checked by view of political geography? Other groups of political sciences believe that democratic system accomplishment in Middle East could not be installed.

Methodology

This paper seeks to answer the question: “what human and physical geographical factors impede establishment of the progressive democratic states in the middle east?” To answer this question, we have used descriptive- analytical methods and with valid bibliography. It was struggled that geographical factors are extracted as basic source of this issues. In other words, in this paper it has been attempted to answer this problem that why centralization structure of state were developed in this region. Thus, with acceptance of the contradiction between Middle East political cultures and democratic thoughts as hypothesis in this article, it was also struggled that this topic checked geographical approach. For description of these issues, they have been studied by the human and natural geographical conditions of Middle East. The issues have posed new outlooks for causing this issue. In this paper, the main question is that” is there any relation between geographical situations in the Middle East with progress democracy?”

Results and Discussion

In an overview, the main constraints of democracy making and important factors of centralization and totalities in the Middle East are:

1. Ethnic diversity in the state of this region is very high. Thus, there has been much potential for conflict and confrontation in the region's countries over the past decade. Obviously, totalitarian regimes are better able for overcoming to ethnic divisions. Therefore, this ensures that the desire of concentration of power is increased in these areas. On other side, biological foundations of scattering in this region are not fair. Therefore, centralized state can only provide equitable access for all people fairly. In other words, natural resources and fossil fuels are not equal in across the country.
2. In this region, one of the crucial elements influencing the political features of the state and society are religion. Obviously, the advent of Islam in the Middle East has been profound impact on the objective features of the government, and society in this region. Obviously, Islam is less adapted with the principles of democracy and liberalism. Thus, this issue is another human obstacle of democratic state emergence in this region. Obviously, since the advent of Islam in the Middle East, profound impact of religion on the objective features of the government and society was observed in this region. Obviously, Islam is less adapted with the principles of democracy and liberalism. Thus, this issue is another obstacle for emergence of democratic state in this region. Therefore, it is clear that Islamic thought does not really match with democracy. In a democracy, all citizens should have equal rights together, while in Islam there are not equal rights between men and women, scholars and imitators, and between Muslims and non-Muslims.
3. In most developed countries, the bulk of tax revenue comes from the state budget. In some countries, even in the top 80% revenue is earned from taxes. But in most states in the Middle East, more than 50% of government revenue is earned directly from the sale of oil and oil-related derivatives and other sources of oil product and single-product. However, in most state in the Middle East, more than 50% of government revenue is earned directly from the sale of oil and oil-related derivatives and other sources of oil product and single-products. Therefore, the states with relatively large revenues from the sale of fossil fuels and single-products, determine its own national strategic objective

Conclusion

As mentioned, human and physical geographical structures and infrastructure play very effective role in political ideas of any state in this region. This is because democratic ideas have efficient global performance in entire the world and in all the societies. Another group of political scientists believe that democratic system accomplishment in Middle East could not be installed. Finding research reveal that determinate human and natural geographical condition in this region is the biggest obstacle to establish democratic system.

Thus, in the Middle East, there are much historical evidence that indicate a large influence of geographical environment on the structure and functions of states and the government, particularly in this region. The bulk of tax revenue comes from the state budget. In some countries, even in the top 80 percent revenue earnings are from taxes. But in most state in the Middle East, more than 50 percent of government revenue is earned directly from the sale of oil and oil-related derivatives and other sources of oil product and single-product. Therefore, the states with relatively large revenues from the sale of fossil fuels and single-products determine their own national strategic objective in development and implementation.

Keywords: concentration, democracy, geographical area, governance system, Middle East.

Political Geography as an Experimental Science

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Received: 2015/04/04 Accepted: 2016/01/16

Extended Abstract

Introduction

In a general division, "knowledge" can be considered in the broadest sense. Knowledge in general means consisting of a set of data and information, regardless of the subject, content and methodology, and it is comprised of all information. In English language, it is called knowledge. In a particular sense, the knowledge is said to the area that has experimentally testable characteristics, and can be called by the word "science". Based on the principles of openness, many sciences such as philosophy, mathematics, literature, poetry, theology, logic, and so will be out of the realm of scientific knowledge. According to the positivists and philosophers of science and based on criteria of "meaning", experimental science is based on observation and testing. It has also the ability of proven and experience. Therefore, any testable knowledge is included in and proven scientific knowledge are in experiment knowledge and the knowledge without these characteristics of the test, can not be considered scientific knowledge. According to the philosophy of science, empirical knowledge is contained the following characteristics:

1. Empirical knowledge is based on observation and tests (test of knowledge and experience)
2. Empirical research has provided the assumptions.
3. Scientific explanations are always based on scientific theories and law.
4. Theories and scientific law are generally indicative of a stable order of objects.
5. Empirical knowledge is both proved and falsifiable.
6. The method of experimental science is selective.

Knowledge of geography and geopolitics as its branch described the systematic relations between human (policy) and geographical environment. Therefore, its history is related to the long life of the old man on the earth. The main question that arises here is: "Can we consider the political geography as an empirical knowledge among the experimental sciences?"

According to the hypothesis of this paper, geopolitical science because of having the characteristics of the six empirical knowledges is regarded among empirical knowledge.

Methodology

The "hypothetical judgment" is based on the method of "induction" and "deduction" both. We used textbooks and library resources and development of basic research.

Results and Discussion

In this regard, we see that all empirical sciences are evident in political geography. We can consider geopolitics as an experimental science, since any research in the field of political geography contained objective and previous experiences and can provide a legal framework to predict the future.

It does not mean that all the time we talk about past but to study and achieve a predictable outcome of the general law and practice should have a root in the past. However, there may be some reason in the present. But, we should use the past experience for analysis; reach a result and general law. Generally, we cannot ignore the past and everything has roots in the past. However, the causes will be variable during the times. Geopolitical events are based on this theory, too. The destiny of today and tomorrow people of every country are combined with their past. To achieve success, we must learn from the past experiences and mistakes.

Conclusion

The nature of geopolitics is examined in this paper. This study found that geopolitics is the current politic. The only difference with political science emphasize on the consequences of geography and the techniques of spatial analysis. Political geography as an academic discipline, keep up alongside other disciplines in science. In every debate about the politic of countries, political geography presented itself generally and specifically. To provide any definition of geopolitics and utter anything about it, whether domestic or foreign, it should analyze a series of the concepts and elements related to this notion, and perceive that without them there would be no political geography. In fact, we can use these concepts as elements of geopolitical component. According to the material presented in this study, we can emphasize on the fact that the political geography has evolved over times and is regarded as an experimental science in scientific circles. They called geopolitical science as knowledge and an empirical science with ancient roots. We concluded that geopolitics is an empirical science. Its dominated method is inductive method. However, in some cases, we also used a deductive method and it has a supporting role. The explanations are performed causal with a specific purpose.

Keywords: change of thought in the political geography, experimental science, inductive, science, scientific criteria.