

**Assessment of tourism entrepreneurship development in rural areas
(Case study: Villages of Larijan)**

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Received: 2014/2/10

Accepted: 2014/8/15

Extended Abstract

Introduction

An important aspect of the sustainable development theory is rural economic development with social and ecological perspectives. In the meantime, tourism plays a very important role in economic development of rural communities. The main causes of rural tourism development are tourism entrepreneurship. The entrepreneurship through tourism can create jobs, improve quality of life, and make better distribution of income and productivity. The optimum utilization of resources plays an important role in economic growth, rural development and empowerment of rural villages. Diversification of the rural economy cannot be achieved only by induction from the outside, unless entrepreneurs in rural areas utilize resources and make diversity of employment in rural areas economy. The aim of this study is to evaluate the development of entrepreneurship in rural tourism. The study area of this research is villages of Larijan in Mazandaran. This is a descriptive- analytical research. The participants in the area of tourism activities are a sample of 80 people randomly selected. The results show that indicators of access to physical infrastructure, social climate, the level of confidence in the villages is highly desirable. But indicators of access to education, advice and expertise, skill, knowledge, access to capital, innovation and creativity, foresight, production, sale and marketing of the products are appropriate for the situation.

Tourism is one of the most important factors in the development of learning communities. Achieving the 20 million tourism visitors and generating employment for about 6.5 million people are expected in Iranian 20 year development plan till 1404. Rural tourism as a form of tourism has the characteristics, needs, and issues of social, cultural and economic development of local communities. This is properly planned and organized, as a major part of economic problems such as

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unemployment and poverty. This can reduce rural areas of the country. Now tourism has a special place in the economy and an active and effective role in the promotion of economic, social and cultural development, especially in developing countries. Today, people have become commuter to villages to escape the autonomous life and the life of the car to take a trip to the countryside. Accordingly, entrepreneurship in tourism can increase income and employment in rural areas to prevent migration and rural development. The obvious positive effects of tourism in rural areas can be seen in an increase in business and entrepreneurship. In recent years, tourism in rural areas has spread to many parts of Amol city, in Mazandaran. In this section, the city is located in the proximity to population centers such as Tehran, Mazandaran, and Alborz.

Methodology

One of the key areas of research papers is research approach. This is a descriptive- analytic survey. This research is a two part documentary through a library literature. In the field survey a questionnaire was used to collect data. Based on the variables described for measuring the breakdown of rural entrepreneurship concepts, we defined the scale and source of data collection. Accordingly, the number of 80 villagers was randomly selected to implement the questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

The indicators of entrepreneurship are climate index of low access to education, advice and expertise, skill, knowledge, access to capital, innovation and creativity, foresight, production, sale and marketing of products and high indicators of access to physical infrastructure, social climate, and the confidence level of compliance. According to t-test, one-sample and the amplitude range from 1 to 5 is based on Likert scale. The rate for the six indicators is evaluated below average condition (3) and 3 index higher than the average. The total space of entrepreneurship in rural areas is studied in an acceptable condition. The difference in the alpha level 0.01 and the difference are significant in the form of numerical evaluation and assessment. The results show a significant difference. However, the highest average rank is on the availability of physical infrastructure and the lowest available index on education, advice and experiences.

Conclusion

Tourism growth entrepreneurs depend on new demands of different types of tourism. Rural tourism activities are primarily of small businesses. Study area has become important due to its geographical location and proximity to large population centers, and natural properties as rural tourism destinations in the country. Hence, this study was to review the status of entrepreneurship. The results show that the index shows low access to education and counseling. However, this index is especially important in entrepreneurship, particularly in the tourism sector. The standards of knowledge and skills, access to capital, innovation and creativity in villages are due to lower levels of education, income and capital. In this context, support entrepreneurs should be considered by providing motivational factors such as financial incentives or support, education and training. These factors can create entrepreneurs in the early stages of their activities as well as a unique tourism and sustainable tourism. We can see the most favorable situation for rural areas of Larijan. These measures can be put in a position of strategic relevance to the north of the capital, rural exchanges with surrounding cities, and expanded second home tourism.

Keywords: entrepreneurship development, Larijan, rural development, rural tourism.

Assessment of housing in Bonab district by cluster analysis

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Received: 2014/7/23

Accepted: 2014/9/28

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Housing is more than a mere physical shelter and can include all public facilities and services necessary to live better human being and be sure to provide a relatively long tenure. In Persian, Housing means place of peace and quiet. Residential space is underlying a safe and healthy family environment. Today, despite the development of technology and communication, environmental and climatic conditions are effective to create the proper environment and affordable housing. Housing is considered as the most basic human needs of the smallest settlements and leading constituent element of geographic phenomena. The Rapid process of urbanization in developing countries and the housing crisis in cities cause the spreading of slums and informal settlements in most of these cities. Currently providing adequate shelter, services and municipal facilities are the major problems of the urban population. The subject is addressed by different perspectives including architecture, construction techniques, residential facilities, buildings, land and building costs, housing credits, and etc.

Iran policy is planned based on two factors: demand and supply of housing. Countries that are faced with housing shortages are very important in terms of quantity and quality. But the housing problem is gradually reduced. Private ownership of manufactured housing by the private sector is flourishing. Therefore, the main residential use of space to provide the most basic needs of the people is varying in the urban spaces. A sense of public space transfers the social and economic dimensions. Thus, the main problem that Bonab is facing with is underdevelopment of quality and quantity of housing. The purpose of present study is to analyze the indicators and factors. Thus, the development of Bonab and grading of each of the districts has been done in the study.

Methodology

This is an applied research in which the researcher observed the analysis of the districts in different ways along with the identification of capacity development of constraints or obstacles.

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To achieve the necessary information for housing needs it is necessary to have a study and review of documents and information in relevant organizations such as municipality, the roads and urbanization organization and statistical centers. In this paper, cluster analysis is used to evaluate studies. Cluster analysis is a statistical method to identify homogeneous groups or clusters and includes an extensive set of techniques to find a group of similar items in the data set. Cluster analysis or clustering is the task of grouping a set of objects in such a way that the objects in the same group (called a cluster) are more similar (in some sense or another) to each other than to those in other groups (clusters). It is a main task of exploratory data mining and a common technique for statistical data analysis. It is used in many fields including machine learning, pattern recognition, image analysis, information retrieval, and bioinformatics. Cluster analysis itself is not one specific algorithm, but the general task to be solved. It can be achieved by various algorithms that differ significantly in their notions of what constitutes a cluster and how to efficiently find them. Popular notions of clusters include the groups with small distances among the cluster members, dense areas of the data space, intervals or particular statistical distributions.

Results and Discussion

It can be seen that the land allocations was hasty in recent decades in Bonab. Not competent management in land allocations has caused vast dimensions of urban land in the marginal zone to convert into various spaces. Based on this inconsistency today we can see the development of city with surrounding villages which results in many problems in the housing sector in new towns and neighborhoods. The housing sector in Bonab has numerous weaknesses and shortcomings, both related to the quantity and the quality. This is certain in the housing situation in our country due to urban development in the last century. The major causes and difficulties in this section are wrong policies in planning, liquidation shortages, unwillingness of the private sector to financing for housing, low-income residents, lack of policies and limiting transactions of land and housing, high percentage of low-quality housing and standard. Therefore, planning should be done in such a way that these threats can be turned into opportunities.

Conclusion

The results based on cluster analysis revealed that several significant points are very impressive in assessing housing conditions in Bonab:

The first is the necessity to maintain the social context and the features of rural and urban prospects in terms of ethnic proximity and family ties in the neighborhood, where most houses have been constructed as a single unit.

The second fact is that the growth and development by increasing the number of residential units is connected in the same situation. The third point states that the environmental factors, natural and unnatural elements in BONAB, are, particularly, dependent on communication status as a focal point at the junction of North West Tabriz as the entrance of capital to the province. With great interest in the field of housing for residents in low slope and plain to the East and North, it has been effective. The area of each residential neighborhood are calculated and prioritized based on cluster analysis. The analysis results indicate that most neighborhoods in the first cluster have the highest status utility (developed), quarters of 2, 14 and 15 in the rankings have the second rank in the relatively favorable and relatively poor in the third and fourth quarters, quarters 8 in the fourth are relatively poor. Also the quarter 4 and 8 are not in good condition, this can cause the development of Bonab from the north to Tabriz, due to uneven expansion and sprawl of Bonab neighborhoods.

Keywords: Bonab, cluster analysis, districts, housing, land use.

Socio- economic impact of Rojin-Tak food processing company in Kermanshah township

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Received: 2014/3/11

Accepted: 2014/8/18

Extended Abstract

Introduction

One of the major strategies in rural development is agro-processing and agri-industrial plantations. The purpose of these agro-industrial establishments is to utilize indigenous resources and to bring equilibrium in rural life. Moreover, meeting rural population needs, enhancement of rural welfare, and creating employment opportunities are the focus of such interventions. It is also believed that without such interventions, human resource capabilities and employment opportunities is not recognized and thus migration among rural population is inevitable. Although these agri-industrial factories are established to improve the quality of life among rural residents, their socio-economic impacts should not be overlooked. Literature review reveals that the majority of studies have focused on economic impacts of agro-industrial factories with less attention to social impact of these interventions. Moreover, methodological aspect of previous studies is not rigorous enough. In other words, the complexities of socio-economic impacts require that researchers use appropriate methodology to understand the direct and indirect impacts of the agro-industrial factories. The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the socio-economic impacts of Rojeentak tomato processing plant in Kermanshah Township.

Methodology

This study used qualitative research paradigm to assess socio-economic impacts of Roujeen-tak food processing plant. The participants included are the farmers who lived in the nearby area for the past 30 years. This provided us with the opportunity to interview those who have lived there before Roojeentak establishment. This allowed farmers to have a clear picture about the area

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before Roujeen-tak was brought in the area. Farmers were interviewed from the villages of Tapeafshar, Ahmanvand, Tazeabad, Tavalali, Sarable, and Nezamabad. Using purposeful sampling, 120 farmers from the villages participated in the study. Snowball sampling continued until sampling saturation. Deep interview and focus group discussion was used to collect data. Content analysis was used to interpret collected data.

Results and Discussion

The results revealed that Rojeentak tomato processing company has brought economic changes and impacts. For example, extensive tomato cultivation in the area coupled with agricultural and non-agricultural businesses in turn created job opportunities. Some of the advantages are extension of tomato cultivars among farmers, development of agri-business and non-agricultural businesses, employment opportunities, reduction of cost for transporting agricultural goods. Increased income and economic improvement of farmers are examples of Roujeen-tak factory benefits. More economic changes such as reduced harvest handling and increased farm and residential property prices are evident. Higher income, economic wellbeing, a change in crop pattern, and adoption of new cultivation practices were among the economic impacts. Furthermore, employment opportunities have created reverse migration across study area. One of the major changes caused as Roujeen-tak factory increased traffic load. This in turn, has created sound pollution and accidents in villages. This is known as a major impact as it is related to social satisfaction among rural population. Car accidents in the region had increased cost for residents and thus reduced income. Tomato planting is encouraged in the region and thus affected farmer income. Furthermore, results show that increase in income had an influence in rural population in perusing education. A major social change caused by Rojeentak tomato processing factory was heavy traffic and audio pollution. Finally, social impacts included significant car accidents, increased reversed migration, higher collective action, enhanced socio-economic wellbeing, and more interested in education. In order to cross check the findings, a non-formal meeting was arranged with the factory supervisors. All findings were validated through cross examination.

Conclusion

Results show that Rojeen-tak factory had an influence on rural employment. Since agriculture has a major role in the region and tomato planting requires extensive labor work, rural farmers are main source of labor. This, in turn, increased the rate of employment. The factory has been helpful in marketing tomatoes and, therefore, there is a guarantee that tomato growers sell their products on time. This guarantee is provided by Roujeen-tak Company. In other words, farmers deliver their products to the company and receive a fair price for their goods. Employment opportunities in one hand and increased income have helped rural villagers to make better living standards. Other social impacts increased welfare and intention to continue education among young population. With the increase in farmers income, young individuals are finding themselves in better position to continue their education. A negative impact of Rojeen-tak factory increased traffic load which created accidents in the villages. Perhaps, this traffic load is caused by incoming trucks carrying tomatoes from other provinces. Results revealed that Rojeentak tomato processing company has brought economic changes and impacts. For example, extensive tomato cultivation in the area is coupled with agricultural and non-agricultural businesses which in turn created job opportunities. More economic changes such as reduced harvest handling and increased farm and residential property prices are evident. Higher income, economic wellbeing, a change in crop pattern, and adoption of new cultivation practices were among the economic impacts. A major social change caused by Rojeentak tomato

processing factory was heavy traffic and audio pollution. Finally, social impacts included significant car accidents, increased reversed migration, higher collective action, enhanced socio-economic wellbeing, and more interest in education. In order to cross check the findings, a non-formal meeting was arranged with the factory supervisors. All findings were validated through cross examination. Rural development practitioners can use the result of this study as a risk assessment tool to plan for future agro-industrial plants in the region. The result of this study has implications for rural development practitioners in that they can use it as a risk assessment tool for future rural interventions. Rural development practitioners can use the result of this study as a risk assessment tool to plan for future agro-industrial plants in the region.

Keywords: agro-industrial plants, impact assessment, risk assessment, socio-economic change, socio-economic impact.

Emigration and its effects on agricultural structure (Case study: The central sector of Sardasht township)

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Received: 2014/8/25

Accepted: 2015/1/10

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Economic status of each country depends on the performance of economic sectors such as agriculture, industry, and services. Appropriate performance is archived in light of the optimal combination of productive resources and increased productivity. One of the main causes of population change is migration. It can create the rapid and short-term effects in the number and structure of population in addition to long term changes. It can make balance and imbalance in community population structure.

Agriculture is considered as one of the important sectors of economic structure. The production of food and industrial crops may play an important role in economic development. Hence, human resource is very important. Thus, quantitative and qualitative changes in human resources can lead to major changes in agricultural production and influence completely agricultural productivity.

Human resource development is closely related to population changes. In other words, migration is like double-edged sword and can improve the micro and macro levels of society if moves in the proper way otherwise it has adverse impacts on society. Population changes is measured by indexes of population growth, pure rate of migration and mortality rates whilst itself plays an important role in sustainable development. It can also affect process of human capital accumulation and sustainable development of agriculture by factors such as changes in family income and possibility of migration and education caused by surplus income or other factors. Among these factors, migration plays an important role and is very tangible. According to above material, the current study is looking for this answer: What effects the changes in the rural population, especially immigrants, will have on the agricultural sector?

Methodology

This research is development study using descriptive analytic method. The review of field

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studies has been conducted through a survey research method in sample villages. The data population of the research consists of 169 villages in central division. In the sample volume of this research, 32 villages were selected randomly and by cluster sampling method. The data collected were analyzed by SPSS software. Descriptive and inferential statistics and regression coefficient were used for data analysis. The main variables in this study are demographic changes in immigration as independent variable and agricultural components as dependent variable. In this research, we have also used different models to migration and employment estimates.

Results and Discussion

According to the results, the migration rate is changing from -5.68 for KhreAghalan village to 5.07 for Niskave village. According to the results, these villages had the most emigration and the most immigrant receiver, respectively. Thus, KhreAghalan village during the study period has constantly enjoyed reduction and descending process. The average total immigrants arrived in the village in the beginning of the period is 59.58 people that this amount has reached to 61.5 people in the years of ending period. The coefficient of variability of the villages at the beginning of the period is 0.87% and in the end of the period the number of entered immigrants is 0.98. The average total outmigrants in each village until the beginning of the study period is 37.37 people. This value has reached to 61.87 in the final years of the period. In the begging years of the period coefficient of variation is 0.87% and in the end of the period the number of migrants is 0.98%. It can also be concluded from data analysis about agriculture that firstly increased employment in the agricultural sector in rural areas is low at the end of the period and due to expansion of services the agriculture section is lower. Second, the share of agricultural employment in the study area has been declining.

Conclusion

Migration as one of the variables of changes in agricultural structures has a significant relation with the component of agricultural structure. The results indicate that migration has a significant positive effect on ownership change and 1% increase in migration can cause 59% increase in ownership change. The relationship between mortality and employment in rural areas under study has a significant and reverse relationship with -0.57. According to the linear regression equation, 1% increase in mortality can cause 0.57% reduction in regional employment structure. The T-test used for both variable immigration and employment structure showed that regression coefficient is significant and its expected sign is negative. As a result, there is a significant inverse relationship between these two variables. Therefore, among the agriculture structures, migration has the most effect on employment structure.

The regression coefficient was calculated for it -0.78 that is indicative of the fact that 1% increase in migration can cause 0.78 reduction in employment of the region.

The review relationship between migration and agricultural employment showed that capital increase, manpower and literacy cause reduction in migration and increase in cultivation and machines cause increase in migration. Therefore, it is suggested to prevent rural migration to urban areas with accelerated rural development process.

Keywords: agricultural structure, central part, emigration, population, Sardasht township.

Generalization of altimetry features for production of small-scale map by base map using the existing algorithms

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Received: 2014/9/13

Accepted: 2015/1/19

Extended Abstract

Introduction

A map is a drawing of ground features on one side of the paper. The cartographic maps are representations of the Earth upon a flat surface in the smaller scale than it's true. Large scale maps cover relatively small regions in great detail and small scale maps cover large regions such as nations, continents and the whole globe. Logical connection between the features and scale map must be maintained by changing the scale and it is important to recognize that even the most accurate maps sacrifice a certain amount of accuracy in scale to deliver a greater visual usefulness to its user. Cartographic generalization, or map generalization, is the method whereby information is selected and represented on a map in a way that adapts to the scale of the display medium of the map, not necessarily preserving all intricate geographical or other cartographic details. Cartographer is given license to adjust the content within their maps to create a suitable and useful map that conveys geospatial information, while striking the right balance between the map purpose and actuality of the subject being mapped. Scaling hierarchy or far more small things than large ones is found to be a universal rule for cartographic generalization. Well generalized maps are those that emphasize the most important map elements while still representing the world in the most faithful and recognizable way. The level of detail and importance in what is remaining on the map must outweigh the insignificance of items that were generalized, as to preserve the distinguishing characteristics of what makes the map useful and important. Due to the problems facing small-scale map production process and the need to spend time and money for surveying, today's generalization is used as executive approach. Selection, simplification, combination, smoothing and enhancement are some generalization methods that can be applied by cartographers. Automatic generalization methods have been considered in recent years. Accordingly, several conceptual and theoretical and operations have been obtained. One of the biggest obstacles is the lack of standards on spatial data and the lack of a comprehensive approach to automate the process. There wasn't also full understanding of the generalized maps and cartographic rules which cartographers traditionally have used them for years and never found a good solution for computer automation. So far, there is no comprehensive answer for this problem until now and different organizations that produce maps are doing based on their needs and ability in this area. Generalization is generally performed in two main parts for planimetric and altimetry features.

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Methodology

This paper is to investigate altimetry features that include points and contours. In most generalization projects in the past, contours were processed as independent features and their relation to other side features were not considered. This causes confusion and mistake in generalized maps. In this study, we try to maintain topological relations between different features as roads, rivers, contours and so on.

Direct methods of base map and DEM (Digital Elevation Model) are used for contour production in generalization process. In direct method, contours are extracted from base map and then they smoothed according to the hydrological structures as rivers. The second method is mostly used in the contours that there isn't on base maps and they should be extracted by interpolation. For example, 50 meter contours extraction is done from 1:50,000 map with 20 meter contours. After production of the contours both ways, their topology and accuracy is checked that include the following: 1) Control the contours at the junction points, 2) Softness of contours, 3) control elevation points by contours and 4) remove small contours.

The number of elevation points is transferred from base map to final maps several times higher than the number of points. Selection of appropriate points by computer process requires analysis of each one of them by contours and other features and the observed density in different situations Map. Finally, the best point is selected and will be remained in generalized map. In this article, a circle with a certain radius used to examine the elevation points and the best points are selected on this circle. The following points should be considered in the selection: Higher elevations are considered on military plans and it's better to have more elevation points at mountainous and flat area. Elevation points on roads, near villages and strategic location are more important. The selected points should be as representative of a certain height of the peaks, hills, pits and trenches.

Results and Discussion

At implementation stage, contours at final product and then summarizing the elevation points, again in terms of topological relationships is controlled and monitored by the cartographer. Then, they are corrected automatically or conversational.

By applying the algorithm presented in this paper, the altimetry features on 1:50000 base map, contours and elevation points generalized and the maps with various scales as 1:100,000, 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 are produced automatically. By applying this method, automatically, the maps by different scales are produced and time and money are saved.

Conclusion

Update Land Cover maps at the various small scales are regional foundation of planning, natural resource management, and land use planning and defensive project and so on. For years, the absence of these information resources was a tangible and necessary requisite. Altimetry features are one of the most important features in cartographic maps that are studied for their generalization in this paper. With the maps using automatic generalization, small-scale maps are produced with remarkable speed and the ability to review and update them is as easily as possible. Some advantages of automatic generalization plan are geometric and graphic communication between the maps, new production, improvement of product quality, saving money and time in order to produce maps of inland and overseas with high accuracy and at various scales, and updating of the maps rapidly.

Keywords: base map, contours, elevation points, generalization, hydrologic features.

Assessment of the capacity of Babolsar municipality from the view point of the implementation and development of local spatial data infrastructures

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Received: 2014/9/25

Accepted: 2015/1/30

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Today is the world of information and its optimal uses (Davies, 2003). Information, as the most important tool for managers and executive decision-makers can play a significant role in solving the problems and meeting the needs (Warnest, 2005). Spatial data are discussed as one of the most sensitive and important factors in decision-making and planning in many organizations, particularly municipalities (Aghanejhad, 2009). Despite the importance of management information systems, using in decision-making processes, it is neglected in urban management of small and middle size cities in our country. Currently, the information management system in the municipalities of the mentioned cities is following from traditional system and increasingly large amounts of data are collected and stored. Applying this method not only takes many times and costs, but it is always difficult to make analysis of the data accurate and achieve the desired results (Ghadami et al., 2013). Hence, in recent decade's development of SDI has been emerged as a central driving force in spatial data management. More than half the world's countries claim that they are involved in some form of SDI development (Mansourian et al., 2008b: 377). SDI comprises the people, policies and technologies necessary to enable the use of spatially referenced data through all levels of government, the private sector, non-profit organizations and academia (Vandenbroucke et al., 2009; Mohammadi, 2008). Spatial data infrastructure is trying to establish an environment in which all spatial data producers are able to produce the information layers through partnership and cooperation with each other and optimum use of existing technology. The information are needed in governmental and non-governmental sectors. Through sharing the data, the producers can provide the accessibility of them to a wide range of users. It is obvious that if such a mechanism is developed and implemented in cities,

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organizations that are responsible for producing the data, act coordinated with each other, and with preventing parallel in producing the same data, cost, time and effort to develop and maintain a lot of data will be preserved (Heydary, 2009). Thus, the aim of this paper is to make an assessment and capacity study of the Babolsar's municipality from the view point of the implementation and development of local spatial data infrastructures from the technical, social and information aspects. In other words, this study seeks to answer the following questions: How is the conditions for the implementation of the local Spatial Data Infrastructure in Babolsar municipality? Or what (strengths and weaknesses) does the municipality of Babolsar have to realize spatial data infrastructure?

Methodology

This paper was conducted by descriptive- analytic research method based on staffs interview and expert checklist. Babolsar's municipality is the population of this research, and the samples were selected from important units playing an effective role in the implementation and development of SDI. In this regard, library study and investigation on the existing documents has been used. In order to study Babolsar's municipality and make conceptual model of national SDI, we developed Rajabifard and Williamson model (2001). In the process of data collection through interview with staffs and experts, the items investigated were included the following parameters: Investigation on the tasks and functions of the units, existing situation of spatial and non- spatial data in municipalities, surveying the information flow, investigation on the standards used for spatial and non-spatial data, survey the condition of producing and using metadata, investigation of the condition of sharing the information between different units and other urban organizations, assessment of the information quality control mechanisms, network facilities, personnel capabilities, investigation on the cultural issues of producing, sharing and using the information, and surveying the technology level. Finally, the collected information have been analyzed based on two components including data and organization.

Results and Discussion

The results show that the municipality in order to implement and develop the SDI is faced with very important challenges that suffer from serious weaknesses. Some of the weaknesses are inflexibility, security, data processing and analysis, data management system, structure of database as well as outputs. These are lack of awareness, culture and perception of the main custodians of production and use of spatial data in the municipality and the lack of specified policies and instructions of data production and related metadata and metadata standardization. Updating data and related metadata, storage and backup, displaying, sharing and analysis of data are the capabilities of the SDI. Instructions for data quality control, lack of finance resource and defined budget in mid and longtime plans of municipality are the key challenges of the Babolsar municipality in order to implement and develop of local spatial data infrastructure.

However, high motivation in organizational level and some experts in a few units to provide SDI is to take advantage of GIS in the municipal units. The existing required technical conditions and communication infrastructures and computer equipment for cooperation and sharing among all units has a critical function in the SDI. These are the main strengths for SDI initiation and development.

Conclusion

Literature findings show that before initiation of the GIS, defining and designing the SDI should be implemented, because continuing this process will lead to following outcomes: lack of organization efficiency, arbitrary decision makings, and lack of reliance on the present situation

in decision makings, accumulation of large amounts of raw data without any processing operations, need for the more physical space to store paper based documents, the lack of information sharing among other urban organizations and municipality, shelving the municipal revenue resource. Urban management is always facing with increasing diverse information from the city and citizenship. Except facing with serious challenges in decision-making and planning in future, a promising situation cannot be imagined by ignoring the ineffectiveness of conventional and paper-based systems of information technology in confronting with rapid global and national revolutions.

Keywords: Babolsar, information management, GIS, municipality, Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

Rethinking the periodic categorization of geopolitical thoughts and practices and proposing a new classification

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Received: 2014/10/1

Accepted: 2015/2/8

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Geopolitics is a word that makes changes in the images. In one sense, the word provokes ideas of war, empire, and diplomacy. Geopolitics is the practice of states controlling and competing for territory. Geopolitics had a history before the term itself came in to use in 1899 by Swede Rudolf Kjellen. It is apparent that many of great figures in the history of political thought, from the ancient Greeks Aristotle and Thucydides to the early modern Florentine Machiavelli and later writer such as Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Turgot, Madison, Rousseau, Hegel and Marx, had ideas about political territoriality and the effects of Geographical location and access to resources on conflict and war. These can be regarded as basic elements of geopolitics and political geography.

Many of geopolitics scholars believe that thought and practice of geopolitics have a long history. However, the science is relatively new, and its history from 115 years ago until now (2014) has been full of ups and downs. There is no consensus among scholars about the definition of this science, although different definitions have been proposed so far. Based on these definitions, the thought and practice of geopolitics have different eras.

Methodology

This research, as a fundamental study, was done by using descriptive-analytic method. Different resources and papers related to geopolitics were studied and different periodic categorization of thought and practice of geopolitics were extracted and investigated. The investigation of these periodic categorization indicated that the emergence of the word geopolitics was a turning point that differentiated different periodic categorization of geopolitics: (1) historical periodic categorization of thought and practice and (2) the periodic categorizations related to the formal history of geopolitics science.

Result and Discussion

The term of geopolitics was first coined by the Swede Rudolf Kjellen in 1899, and the term of Political Geography was initially used by the French Turgot though these older roots. This is despite the best efforts of international relations theorists to find it in the Greece of Thucydides

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or the Italy of Machiavelli. In other words, the roots of thought and practice of geopolitics was articulated by the philosopher Aristotle in ancient Greece in the third century BC. The Greek philosopher Aristotle developed his theory of the city state in about 350 BC in his book, *Politics*.

Different Periodic categorization have been offered from thought and practice of geopolitics. for example Agnew shown that how three specific epochs or eras of geopolitics were developed over the period from the early nineteenth century to the 1980s: The first period was in the early nineteenth century (1815–75); the second was (1875- 1945) and the in third, (1945- 1990). the three discourses or modes of representation discusses are referred to as *Civilizational* geopolitics, *naturalized* geopolitics and *ideological* geopolitics. Other examples are Modelski's model. Modelski's model of world leadership is dynamic. The strength of the world leader has rises and falls. Over the course of centuries, the mantle of world leadership has passed from one country to another in a sequence of cycles of world leadership. Each cycle of world leadership lasts approximately 100 years. Modelski's Cycles of world leadership consists of Portugal 1500s; Netherlands 1600s; Great Britain 1700s; Great Britain 1800s; and United States 1900s. Power, in the model, is about strength and dominance. It is about the ability to exercise military force across the globe. For people such as Martin Jones and others the history of geopolitics and Political Geography as academic sub-discipline can be roughly divided into three eras and era of ascendancy from the late nineteenth century to the World War II; an era of marginalization from the 1940s to the 1970s; and an era of revival from the late 1970s onwards.

The investigation of these periodic categorization indicated that the emergence of the word geopolitics was a turning point that differentiated different periodic categorization of geopolitics: (1) Historical periodic categorization of thought and practice of geopolitics and (2) Periodic categorizations related to the formal history of geopolitics sciences. Considering the negative and positive points of different periodic categorization, we offer a comprehensive periodic framework of the thought and practice of geopolitics. This framework is comprehensive and includes all previous areas and different aspects of the science. In the proposed framework, the thought and practice of the science have been divided into three eras: pre-modernism, modern geopolitics, and post-modern geopolitics.

Conclusion

Although the word geopolitics was only coined in the early years of the twentieth century, applied geopolitics has been practiced from time immemorial by those seeking to extend their political power and influence across the globe. In other words, in practical terms, Geopolitics must be as old as the quest for territory and security, as old as diplomacy, strategy, envy and fear. Alexander the great must have indulged in Geopolitical scheming so must Napoleon and many other commanders, conquerors and emperors.

Each of the two periodic categorizations (Historical Periodic categorization of thought and practice of geopolitics and periodic categorizations related to the formal history of geopolitics sciences), has negative and positive points. There are also many commonalities and differences among these periodic categorizations. Considering the negative and positive points of different periodic categorization, we offer a comprehensive periodic framework of the thought and practice of geopolitics. This framework is comprehensive and includes all previous areas and different aspects of geopolitics. In the proposed framework, the thought and practice of geopolitics have been divided into three eras: pre-modernism, modern geopolitics, and post-modern geopolitics.

Today geopolitics is no longer exclusively the preserve of privileged male elite who used the authority of their academic position to frame policy for a particular country. Though these

publications still exist (for example see the discussions of Samuel Huntington and Robert Kaplan), most academics who say they study geopolitics are describing the situation of those who are marginalized, and advocating a change in their situation. Study of the states is often critical, but it is just one component of a complicated world- rather than a political unit with the freedom of act as the theory suggests it should in a simplified and understandable world.

Keywords: geopolitical periodic, geopolitics, new categorization, science of geopolitics, thought and practice of geopolitics.

Checking and analysis of spatial organization and structure of urban habitations of Guilan province

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Received: 2013/12/26 Accepted: 2015/2/9

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Population data is easily accessible and shows the relationship between city size and indirectly other socio-economic factors in the city. Many geographers use these types of data to gain an understanding of the structure of the cities network and distribution of the people in the different levels of urban hierarchy. In fact, urban hierarchy is the best way of space organization in respect to population distribution and function in the area. But the most important part of urban hierarchy is the relationship between neighbor habitats. The dynamics of urban systems could be seen from the traffic of goods, services, thoughts and population among city centers and rural areas. A structured urban hierarchy results in equal distribution of goods and services and facilities in the region. In the third world countries, there is an unbalance in population distribution in the urban hierarchy. Iran as a third world country is under pressure from recent rapid urbanization and subjected to changes in the urban hierarchy resulted in an inequality in its urban network structure.

Methodology

Cities could be known as a reflection of many social and economic processes over time that their formations, relations and interactions create a complicated system. The urban systems are known as main parts of spatial structure (Rostaii, 1998: 1). Distribution of cities in urban network is called urban hierarchy (Farid, 2000: 396). There are two main interests in the study of urban hierarchy; one based on population size, economic structure and relation between cities and one based on the flow of data and information. In fact, urban hierarchy is the spatial vision of all the small and big habitats in the national economy. In developed countries, due to existence of many functions and activities in every city and equality in distribution of economic opportunities, the urban network is like a galaxy.

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Results and Discussion

The economic and political concentration processes in Iran in recent decades led to the phenomenon of prime city in the country and the dominance of Tehran over other cities in urban network. On the other hand in provinces, central cities acted as a prime city in the area and the second city usually is far from it in respect to population and function. These show the concentration of investment and function in large cities that absorbs resources from peripheral cities to large cities and metropolises. Guilan province like other provinces in the country experienced this situation. In this province, Rasht due to its political and economic situation, its location in the region and due to existence of required economic infrastructures for production especially in industry and service sectors, is considered as the main pole in the region. This caused the population migration to the city, even from other provinces and led many other parts of the region remain undeveloped. Thus, the main goal of this study is to analyze the urban hierarchy in Guilan province between 1966 and 2011. The method of the study is analytic and descriptive based on some of the urban and regional planning models.

Conclusion

The results show that the urban hierarchy in the province is unequal in the situation as getting worse. In this study, using different models like differential levels, entropy coefficient, rank size rule, prime city factor, the Jefferson factor, the Kingsburge factor, Mahta factor and Momow factor, it is shown that the urban hierarchy in the province is unequal and in the recent 50 years, the urban network has faced with prime city phenomenon. The results of the entropy model show that the urban hierarchy is facing inequality. According to differential model, more than 94% of the cities in the province are in the first group with a low population and only 43% of people live in these cities. On the other hand, Rasht with a population about 43% of the province is the pole in the seventh group. Also based on rank size rule, it is concluded that the urban hierarchy in the province is very different from the rule. The result showed the dominance of the prime city and the increase of the small sized cities and absence of middle sized cities. The results of the analysis with the Jefferson factor showed the spatial inequality and the huge difference between prime city (Rasht) and second city (Bandar-e-Anzali). Also the results of the analysis with the Kingsburge factor, shows inequality in population distribution in Guilan province. Based on the results of four city of Mahta, it can be inferred that the Guilan province faces prime city phenomenon and in the last decade faced with super prime city. Analysis of the prime city phenomenon is based on Momow factor and similar to other results and showed the existence of the prime city phenomenon in the Guilan province.

Suggestions

1. Improving the biological aspect in village habitations of Guilan province.
2. Supporting village working such as agricultural part.
3. Alimentation of small cities and specially the cities which is the center of village collections in Guilan province.
4. Encouraging capital in small cities and rural parts of Guilan Province.
5. Decentralization of population and services from Rasht city.

Keywords: entropy model, first city, Guilan province, size grade model, urban hierarchy.

Analysis of sustainability index among Asian countries

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Accepted: 2015/5/1

Extended Abstract

Introduction

In today's world, comprehensive development is quickly growing and has greatly affected all the political, social, economic and other aspects of the world. It is development, fundamental to the belief in modern world in which all modern development in science, technology, values, morality and social institute are mixed with philanthropic plans to create a better world. Generally speaking, the best development concept is the development conducted simultaneously with social justice. This has always occupied the minds of politicians and planners. Different countries are willing to achieve balanced and stable development which will lead to improvement in all people lives.

Methodology

With the approach of the current study, type of the research is applied-development and with descriptive-analytical method. The required data have been gathered using library research method from various statistical resources and with 32 indices. Statistical population of this research is all Asian countries, except two Asian countries which have been removed because of the shortage of their information. Thus, in total, 42 Asian countries have been studied. To evaluate the level of indexes in each country, TOPSIS model has been used and eventually for drawing maps and categorizing each of the countries, we have used GIS software.

Results

The results of using TOPSIS in 2006 show that among Asian countries Cambodia with a score equal to 0.65722 is the first, Nepal with 0.6535 score is the second and Bhutan with 0.5857 score is the third. On the other hand, Syria, Turkmenistan and Iraq with scores equal to 0.2078, 0.1986 and 0.1834, respectively, are among the lowest ranked countries based on the development indexes.

Moreover, in 2008 the countries including Nepal, Cambodia and Bhutan have been the first

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with the scores equal to 0.69035, 0.682257 and 0.613848, respectively. The countries which are ranked the lowest in development indices are Jordan, Iraq and Turkmenistan as unstable countries.

According to TOPSIS techniques among Asian countries in 2010, Nepal with score of 0.7044 was the first and Cambodia and Bhutan with scores 0.6769 and 0.6228 were second and third, respectively. In the year, the countries including Jordan, Iraq and Turkey with scores, respectively, equal to 0.2079, 0.1970 and 0.1742 are the last among Asian countries.

In 2012, the results of TOPSIS analyses show that Cambodia, Nepal and Bhutan are ranked from first to third, respectively. The stability index is considered as balanced and stable in these countries of Asia. In addition, unstable countries are the countries such as Jordan, Iraq and Turkmenistan. Based on our investigations and using TOPSIS technique, the countries including Cambodia, Nepal and Bhutan in 2006 have been ranked as the first among 42 studied countries. In this year, Syria, Turkmenistan and Iraq with the scores, respectively, of 0.2078, 0.1986 and 0.1834 have been ranked in the last category. In 2008, Nepal has ranked the first with score 0.6903, Cambodia with score equal to 0.6822 and Bhutan with score equal to 0.6138 have both ranked the first and consequently could preserve their position among these countries.

Discussion

In this paper, the stable development of Asian countries has been studied by 32 indices.. The countries like Jordan, Iraq and Turkmenistan have been recognized as deprived countries. Therefore, with regard to the evaluations, it can be conceived that 17% of the studied countries in 2010 are in unstable situation and the situations of 38% of the countries (16 countries) are rather stable. In this period, 33% (14 countries) have also a rather unstable situation (deprived); while in 2006, the situation of 26% of the countries was unstable. Important issue is prevalence of deprived countries in 2010 compared with 2006 in which 14 countries have been considered deprived. This number in 2006 was 11 countries and so 3 countries have been added. Thus, it can be stated that there have been somehow improvements in these countries' situations compared to 2006. Situation of the countries in terms of having stable development indexes in 2010 shows that Nepal, Cambodia and Bhutan have been able to be ranked as the first again. Consequently, they had a suitable situation. Jordan and Iraq have also been ranked as extremely deprived countries and have been ranked 40 and 41, respectively. In general, in 2010 there have been no changes compared to 2010. Finally, investigating these countries in 2012 shows that Nepal, Cambodia and Bhutan preserved the first place and Jordan, Turkey and Iraq like previous years (2006, 2008 and 2010) have been in an extremely deprived situation.

Keywords: Asia, development, index, stable development.

Assessment of sustainability in Urban Green Space in 15 districts of Isfahan

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Accepted: 2015/5/2

Extend Abstract

Introduction

Urban green spaces play an important role in improving quality of life and sustainability in cities. This requires a careful empirical assessment. Several factors such as social, economic, ecological or planning aspects and several functions such as utilization, production, employment, education, regulation and preservation of urban green spaces are the basis to determine the criteria and indicators relevant to the assessment of urban green spaces. The city is identified as altered natural environment by excessive changes in nature and increasing presence of manmade structures. Urban green spaces are remnants of nature in this environment and play an important role in ascending the level of life quality in the city. In this study, the sustainability of urban green spaces in Isfahan city were studied. The studies indicate a considerable balance and sustainability in urban green spaces with a more intensity in the Isfahan.

Methodology

The methodology of this paper is analytical and descriptive and applied biased on goal. The results of this paper can be used in programs and politics in Isfahan municipality. The scale of the research is urban green space in Isfahan city. The data and information have been collected from Isfahan municipality. For data analysis, we have used land measurement model, urban green spaces modal and DV model for urban land diffusion.

Results and Discussion

In land use planning, urban open space is open space areas for "parks", "green spaces", and other open areas. The landscape of urban open spaces can be ranged from playing fields to highly maintained environments to relatively natural landscapes. They are commonly open to public access. However, urban open spaces may be privately owned. Among urban land use,

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green spaces are part of the frameworks of the cities, which we refer to as the animate of the framework structure of the city, and in correlation with inanimate of the city; they create the texture and appearance of it. According to importance of expansion of green space in cities, instead of the development and expansion of these spaces in Isfahan which was someday regarded as the model of Islamic garden- city with appropriate green space, the focus in the recent years have been more on the development of framework- residential, commercial, structures and roads, parking lots and etc.

Conclusion

Urban green space provides recreational areas for residents and helps to enhance the beauty and environmental quality of neighborhoods. But with this broad range of recreational sites, it comes to an equally broad range of environmental issues. Just as in any other land uses, the way parks are managed can have good or bad environmental impacts, from pesticide runoff, siltation from overused hiking and logging trails, and destruction of habitat. Lack of community and public access to safe open and green space is a critical concern for urban residents in Isfahan city. By allocating mainly open and undeveloped lands to green and open space development, it is planned to improve average per capita green space. With considering land availability and differences in population concentration, all the 15 urban districts have different limitations. Therefore, they need to adapt different and appropriate strategies. In this paper, whole of the species of urban space such as parks, green belts, urban green space in street have been analyzed in 15 districts in Isfahan city. The results show that 4 districts of Isfahan have more urban green space and 11 districts has least urban green space.

Keywords: Isfahan city, sustainability assessment, urban green space.

Presentation of applied and scientific guidelines to make sustainable income sources for rural administrations, Guilan Province (Case study: Gilakejan)

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Received: 2014/5/27

Accepted: 2015/5/3

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Rural Administration as an executive arm of councils is of important institutions in Iran. The councils are constantly facing difficulties in providing finance for their commitments based on institutions. These difficulties challenge their abilities in providing rural societies with required services since the capacity of rural economy is limited in making income and the average income of rural families is in low level. On the other hand, to make new income sources based on environmental richness, there are necessarily prerequisites and socio-economic readiness. Materialization of these issues is in providing financial resources for implementing the potentials. Therefore, with reduction in the gap in income, the Rural Administration needs to adopt new policies to solve problems the rural societies. In addition to the knowledge of all dimensions of these problems, these policies should aim at recognizing new fund-raising sources regarding the hidden opportunities present in villages and presenting sustainable strategies for the establishment of an income system based on rural capabilities. It is quite clear that the more the income needed for executing the plans are based on internal capacities, the more opportunities the villages will have to success in reaching their goals. If we generalize this framework to lower levels in villages, we can state that local sovereignties like Rural Administration can have effective roles in the management system of the country and help the federal government in achieving its goal for national development. Thus, the budget for Rural Administration should be increased so that their financial potentials can be promoted. However, the search for the sources to fulfill this goal is not feasible without precise investigation for recognizing and operationalizing them.

Aiming at presenting scientific and practical strategies to make sustainable finance sources for Rural Administration in Guilan Province, here Gilakejan rural, the present study tries to answer the following questions:

1. Which strategies are available outside and inside Gilakejan for increasing income?
2. Regarding economic, social, environmental and legal indexes to what extent can the recognized sources be reliable and operationalized?

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Methodology

The present study is an applied research based on descriptive-analytic method. The introduction of a constant and reliable income basis requires different scales to measure the degree of validity and priority of suggested income sources. Accordingly, studying various standards in each ground of earning income and because of existing statistical limitations especially in incomes, Delphi method and the Analytical Hierarchy Process are used for compiling the package of priorities of earning income. Thus, modeling of research question has been done on the basis of recognizing new income sources that are based on economic, social, environmental, and existing potentials in Gilakejan village by the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP). The needed data for the study have been collected through questionnaire of couple comparison from a group of village experts related to the subject of the study. Then, the data were analyzed using Expert Choice software and new income sources are suggested on the basis of their ranks.

Results and Discussion

The present study has been conducted to find and introduce sustainable sources of income and to increase the income of Rural Administration in Gilakejan village. After the library research was done, we conducted field studies, interview with experts and local elites, a list of suggested sources of income and criteria for their evaluation. Using Delphi method, we have suggested the criterion scales in 11 issues including modification of support plan, establishment of camping, raising flowers and plants, establishment of a beach market, issuing formal exchange of documents from Rural Administration, getting money over water pipe, electricity, and telephone, establishment of fridge, receiving money for insuring lands and infertile lands, doing second plant and fish planting. These have been suggested to increase the income of Rural Administration. Among the criterion measurement scales and the income choices, 5 criteria were left. The group members of AHP conducted scales couple of five criteria extracted through Delphi method. The normalized matrix and the priority of criteria are presented in Table 7. After the estimation of the weight of the criteria and choices in comparison with goal and criteria, respectively, the final weights of each choice can be gained. Since the weight of criteria indicate their importance in determining the goal and the weight of each choice shows its share in related criterion, the ultimate weight of each choice is reached from the sum of multiplication of each criterion in the related choice. By estimating the average weight of each choice, we reached the weights by multiplication of numbers in numbers of choices, Table 8. The ultimate weight of income choices can be obtained.

Conclusion

After modeling the research problem and making questionnaire, coupled comparisons, decision-making group, the importance of each choice and criterion was designated in ration to each other. Finally, after the data were collected, the priority of suggested income choices was determined. Accordingly, the support plan (0.0716), establishment of camping (0.0491), raising flower and plant (0.0487) were ranked from first to third for income source, respectively. Fish planting (0.0351), second planting (0.0344), establishment of beach market (0.0317) and exchanging of documents in Rural Administration (0.0270) were also ranked from fourth to seventh. Receiving money from infertile land (0.0259) is in eighth priority, receiving money for water piping, electricity, and telephone (0.0230), in ninth priority, receiving money for insurance of social security, land and properties (0.0201) in tenth priority, making fringe (0.0126) in eleventh priority. Also, the criteria based on which the income choices are prioritized are ranked on the basis of their degree of significance: income being high (0.2361), income being internal and based on environmental potentials (0.2195), income being constant

(0.1954), income needing low investment (0.1771), income being legally supported (0.1719). As explained earlier, to achieve the ultimate priority of choices, comparative matrixes were gained by merging couple comparisons of individuals with each other to determine the priority of each criterion or choice of the normalized matrix of each group. Then, by determining the average of each matrix mentioned, the priority of each criterion in ratio to goal and of choices in ratio to criteria can be obtained.

Keywords: administration of Guilan Province, Gilakejan Administration, rural administration, strategies, sustainable source of income.

The analysis of livability in urban distressed areas (Case study: old textures)

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Received: 2015/1/10

Accepted: 2015/5/12

Extended Abstract

Introduction

The urbanization is increasingly developing in our blue planet. Today's citizens, in 21st century, experience the issues that have never been faced with them before. These are including environmental pollution, resource depletion, extinction of species, the gap between rich and poor, crime, poverty, bad housing, and etc. However, these serious challenges have destroyed a number of cities or worn out and made non-habitable a part of them. In such circumstances, the value of citizens has decreased and their basic needs are not met. Facing with urban issues, the new theories of urban development have got more importance. The Theories are including the solving urban problems, improvement of urban life quality, urban management, leading the city to more efficiency, and respect to local values. Meanwhile, the identification and understanding of needs of citizens (mental demand) and making these settlements livable areas (suitable objective conditions) may promote the quality of life (mental satisfaction) in urban areas and provide the condition to achieve sustainable development goals.

Methodology

This was an applied descriptive- analytic developmental research. The data were collected through detailed library studies (using documents) and survey techniques (direct observation, closed questionnaire, and interview). The samples were selected randomly using probability sampling method. The descriptive and inferential statistics including factor analysis, regression analysis, and path analysis were used to analyze the data. The SPSS software was used for data analysis and GIS was used for displaying data.

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Results and Discussion

The factor analysis was used to identify the factors and indicators affecting the livability of old textures in Zanjan. According to calculations, the highest factor loading was found in management sub-indices ($E_x = 0.982$). Therefore, the management indicators had greater proportion in explaining livability level of old textures in Zanjan. The social ($E_x = 0.974$), environment ($E_x = 0.972$), economic ($E_x = 0.971$), and physical ($E_x = 0.945$) indicators were in next orders. The regression analysis showed that the correlation between old texture viability and social indicators were above average. This factor showed that the old urban texture viability had high dependence on evolution and development of social relations. Also, the path analysis confirmed that the social indicator ($\beta = 0.622$), among other factors, had the greatest direct impact on livability.

Conclusion

According to research findings, the factor loading showed that the highest factor loadings was for management sub-indicators ($E_x = 0.982$). Based on the statements of citizens the controversial challenges in the management of city are urban management instability, no demand culture, untimely changes in urban management, no experts in decision-making, no participation of young people and citizens in the field of urban management, conducting repeated works in different parts, no services tailored to the needs of citizens, lack of easy and inexpensive financial facilities, existence of organizational bureaucracy, and no interaction between citizens and civil administration. The social dimension has impacted old textures viability in Zanjan. Following the decline of urban and civic values, the participation level of residents, the residents tend to live in this texture, and the residents' sense of belonging to this texture have been severely weakened in recent years. Such a situation has exacerbated the deterioration of texture. The results of multivariate regression analysis and path analysis showed that the livability of old texture in Zanjan had the highest correlation with social indicator ($R^2 = 0.645$). In other words, the texture viability had the highest dependence on evolution and development of social relations. According to conducted survey, some old textures in city had been reconstructed regardless of cultural and social context and based on economic-oriented approach. The findings of Daviran et al, 2012 and Habibi et al., 2008 also confirmed this point. The residents were not satisfied, because the texture identity and cultural elements were at risk, regardless of residents' participation in the process of renovation, facilitation of modernization, satisfaction of requirements, and etc. However, the builders were satisfied due to economic benefit of raising land values followed by construction and transfer density. According to economic-oriented approach, the body of city is important, not the citizens.

Keywords: livability, livability indices, old textures, quality of life, Zanjan City.

Typology of stakeholders of coastal areas in support of sustainable tourism development paradigm (Case study: Babolsar City)

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Received: 2015/1/23

Accepted: 2015/5/17

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Tourism is an important development tool for many countries. In the past, the development of tourism insisted on maximizing the profit of business owners and little attention was paid to the natural resources and community residents. But today the new paradigm of sustainable tourism development has emerged in the tourism literature. This paradigm is trying to improve the quality of life of local residents, improving the experiences of tourists and protecting environment in the destination. Sustainable tourism development depends on the goodwill of the host community and their support is essential in the development and successful operation of sustainable tourism. For the success and sustainability of tourism in the region, positive interaction between local residents and tourists is necessary. To facilitate such positive interaction, identifying the attitudes, perceptions and satisfaction levels of residents from the tourism is very important. Community participation means that all members of society should participate in the process of tourism planning. While the public participation process is very time consuming and if not managed properly, it would be pointless. Number of stakeholders that should be involved in the tourism planning process is high and it is difficult and sometimes impossible to identify all of them. In addition, community member interests, beliefs, values and attitudes about tourism development are different and sometimes conflicting. This study intends to use the stakeholder approach as a conceptual framework to help tourism planners identify the most important interest groups in the region and share them in homogeneous subtypes based on their attitudes to sustainable tourism development in the community and specify the demographic characteristics of each subgroup. Hence, this research seeks to answer two basic questions: are there interest groups with different attitudes in sustainable tourism development activities in the region? What are the demographic characteristics of each subgroup?

Methodology

The population of this research is consisted of all 13486 families in the Babolsar city. Among

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them, 380 samples were selected by the use of Morgan table. Due to the lack of a sampling frame in this study, judgment sampling is used. To measure the attitudes of the residents to sustainable activities in tourism development, the SUS-TAS questionnaire is used. This scale is consisted of 7 indicators. These indicators include environmental sustainability (9 items), perceived social costs (8 items), perceived economic benefits (7 items), long-term planning (7 items), community-based economy (5 items), visitor satisfaction (4 items) and community involvement (4 items). To assess the validity of the research tool, factor analysis was used. To assess the reliability of the questionnaire, Cronbach's alpha was used. Data analysis was performed in three steps. In the first step, Factor analysis using Lisrel software was used to confirm the validity of the questionnaire. In the second step, the cluster analysis using SPSS software was used to determine whether similar groups based on their attitudes are in the sample or not. In the third step, using the ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests, the demographic variables were compared between the clusters.

Results and Discussion

Lisrel software calculated a t-value for each free parameter (estimated) in the model. The ideal is that these values must be higher than 1.96 to be considered significant. T value for each of the indicators of the study was higher than 1.96. Therefore, they are considered to be significant at the one percent level. In factor analysis, there are several characteristics of fitness. If the amount is at an acceptable level, the implementation of the proposed model is considered appropriate. All fitness indicators in this study demonstrated a good fit and are approved. Due to verification of all the indicators of the SUS-TAS questionnaire, they have been used for clustering residents. After the number of clusters was determined, they were named based on the average privileges. Pessimistic: Cluster 1 members had the lowest mean and it shows they had the least support from the sustainable development of the tourism and were named Cynics. Ardent supporters: Cluster 3 members, had the highest mean and it indicates that they support sustainable activities in tourism development more than other clusters. Medium Supporters: Cluster 2 members that have the greater average from the cluster 1 and lower average from the cluster 3 in all the indicators, they were named Medium Supporters. After identifying clusters and naming them, ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used for each demographic variable to determine if there are significant differences between the clusters on the basis of sex, age, education, and marital status, occupation related to tourism, income and duration of stay at the destination. The clusters were homogeneous at %95 level of confidence in the variables marital status and length of residence in the area. But they are different in the variables of sex, education, age, income and occupation related to tourism.

Conclusion

According to the results of this research, residents have different ideas about sustainable tourism development and cannot be considered as a homogeneous group. Since not satisfied attitudes of the third group (pessimists) can affect the success of tourism programs, they should be considered and the planners should attempt to obtain their support of sustainable tourism development at the first step. The number of this group in the sample is lower than the other two groups. Hence, their identification and participation in the tourism development planning will be easier. Tourism planners can identify them according to specific demographic characteristics of this group, and take the necessary steps to change their attitude. Since most of the people in this group, care about the environment and believed that its degradation is caused by tourists, it is necessary to incorporate environmental protection programs in tourism development plans. Touris visitors should also be aware of the importance of environmental protection to reduce the

activities incompatible with their environment. The group also complained about reduced quality of life and bustle over the area in some seasons. It is necessary to increase the facilities and conveniences in the area.

Keywords: attitude, development, sustainable tourism, SUS-TAS scale, tourism stakeholders.

Spatial pattern of participation in presidential election (Case study: Tenth and Eleventh presidential election in South Khorasan Province)

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Received: 2015/7/2

Accepted: 2016/7/6

Extended Abstract

Introduction

One way to influence the affairs of the country is "political participation". Political participation is including voluntary activities by people to influence public policy. This can be selected directly with a person who takes a policy vote. These are, for example, contributing to a political campaign, a donation to a candidate, contact or officials, protests and etc. The presence of people in general elections to elect one or several persons in order to give their own destiny to them for a certain period of time indicates the sensitivity of people to their future. The geography of elections deals with the geographic aspects of elections, referenda, their organization, and especially its results; and investigate the economic and cultural conditions in various levels locally, regionally and nationally. The elections are geographically affected by different parameters, which these elements in turn, have an influence on the extent of political participation of people and their voting behavior. In the IRI, 33 elections have been held including the constitutional referendum, the Assembly of Experts, Presidency, Islamic Consultative Assembly, and the election of town and village councils. Iran is considered as one of the most democratic political regimes in the world system. South Khorasan province has had a high level of participation in the elections since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution. Although this level of participation was not very significant prior to the separation of the three provinces, the massive presence at the ballot boxes since 2004 is clear. In this study, the level of participation by the people of Southern Khorasan Province in eleventh presidential election periods will be discussed in comparison to the whole country.

Methodology

This study is documentarily conducted with a descriptive – analytical method, based on data and statistics obtained from the Ministry of Interior and the governor's office that deals with the comparative study of participation level in South Khorasan province. The data have a national

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average in the eleven presidential election periods. Thus, the level of participation by the people of the province in the 11 periods is initially discussed and then, the provincial and national participation levels are displayed in the form of combined charts and tables. At the end, specifically the participation level in the tenth and eleventh period of the presidential elections, considering each city of the province, has been discussed and analyzed by drawing the GIS tables.

Results and Discussion

Governments insist on the maximum number of people in the elections. A government that can attract maximum participation in the elections not only in domestic but also in the international arena can also have a strong position. With the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the people involved in the political arena the government appeared well through the numerous fields. In our country, up to 33 presidential elections is held in 11 elections. In each period, commensurate with the increase in population and the population of legal age to vote, the vote is generally increased compared with the previous period. Turnout in the presidential election is more than three other elections. The problem with this analysis can be further noted that the role of the President of Parliament, the Council and the current fate of their village and experts. As a result of their participation in this type of election, Ferdows City has largest participation in the tenth presidential election than any other city with 98.3 %. This suggests paying special attention to the fate of the people of this city and their country. On the other hand, Nehbandan city with 81.3 percent of participation is the city with the lowest participation. It can show the lowest degree of development than any other city in the province with lower contributions. The rate of participation in the eleventh presidential election in South Khorasan province has been very high. Among the cities, Sarbishe and Khoosf had the maximum participation and Birjand lowest participation in the province.

Conclusion

The percentage of participation in the presidential elections in South Khorasan province is high. This indicates the confidence of the Iranian people, in general, to the existing governance system and hope for creating better situations in the country from different dimensions. In this study, the geography of the presidential election took place in South Khorasan province. It was found that most of the studies are always political geography of the land as undeveloped, isolated and divergent with in elections of recent partnerships. Although the average percentage of the country participation level in the eleventh period compared with the tenth period of presidential elections is decreased by 12 percent, the political participation of people in three presidential election periods shows a clear upward trend. Therefore, the participation of 75.5% of the people in the elections of the year 2005 has increased 93% of participation in the elections of 2013. In addition, the results of votes examination collected in the tenth and eleventh period of the presidential elections in South Khorasan province it is indicated that Mr. Ahmadinejad with 77% of the total votes in the tenth period and Mr. Rouhani with 44.5% of the total votes in the province were elected. Finally, it can be acknowledged that the pattern of electoral behavior in the people of the province is due to the traditional views of the past including ideological values, sense of place and region and ethnicity.

Keywords: comparative analysis, geography of elections, spatial pattern of participation, South Khorasan province, tenth and eleventh presidential election.