International Academic Institute for Science and Technology

International Academic Journal of Humanities
Vol. 3, No. 1, 2016, pp. 143-149.

ISSN 2454-2245

International Academic Journal of Humanities

www.iaiest.com

A survey on recreation management approach for central settings of Mashhad, before and after Islamic Revolution (Case study: Samen Region)

Mohammad Rahim Rahnama[a], Omid Ali Kharazmi[b], Marziyhe Amini[c]

Associate professor of Urban Geography, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran
Assistant Professor, Geography Department, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran
MA Urban Management, Geography Department, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran

Abstract

Iran's population has risen sharply in the past few decades, so that a 49 million in 1986 population reached to a population of 70 million in 2005. The increasing population led to uncontrolled expansion of cities as well as the establishment of an unbalanced population structure and activities in the cities. As a result of such developments as well as the neglect of urban management, inner-city areas became to the damaged Areas. Mashhad can be introduced as the second largest metropolis in Iran. Each year millions of visitors enter to the city and are a large number of them tried to have settled around the shrine. The present paper studied the overall process of renewal and rehabilitation of urban centers before and after the Islamic revolution.

Keywords: modernization, urban centers, damaged Areas, Islamic Revolution

Introduction

On the one hand the ongoing process of development of civilization facilities as well as experts excessive west-oriented interest for developing these phenomena و could damage the native heritage as well as national capital in destination countries including Iran. On the other hand need to intellectual and practical experiences of other countries and cultures is undeniable for any country that wants to progress. Hence, the need for research and papers that are able to analyze the experiences and to discuss well-known ways and to provide the possibility of devising new approaches appropriate in cultural context is irrefutable (Falamaki, 2006).

One of the aspects of western technology is urban planning for damaged areas. In recent years the experts and managers to embark on modernization and rehabilitation of deprived areas in the country, which is done with more intensity in metropolitan cities for different reasons. Older areas in most cities and in the majority of new developments have gradually declined and lost the last performance over time. Today these damaged areas are raised as the biggest problem in the cities. They failed even to do well business performances and unlike the past to attract wealthy businessmen who are engaged in the center of commercial activities. (Pourahmad et al, 2000: 93).

There are more than 40 thousand hectares of urban damaged areas in Iran that cause multiple difficulties in major cities. The only solution to get out of the some of these problems is optimal rehabilitation and reconstruction of old urban damaged areas. This can be considered a valuable opportunity so that using correct policies could cause a major change in the direction of sustainable development (Abbasi et al, 2006).

Buildings within these settings due to structural problems could only provide the minimum quality for living. Also for body and access problems; there are a few chances for individual reform and reconstruction (Habibi et al. 2004: 181). Management oriented designs based on ecological theory for reconstructions of damaged neighborhoods were considered before 1970. In Iran also the fourth development program (1988-1992) paid attention to these projects (Rahnema et al, 2004).

Among the initiatives outlined two main projects is conducted for the cities: rehabilitation of historical and cultural heritage to improve the status quo settings and modernization of damaged areas considering elements with historical value, to create role as the beating heart of the city's economy, cultural significance, the population and to meet their needs, plenty of problems of traffic, monuments and destructed buildings. Mashhad has 2,300 hectares of damaged areas along with problems such as heavy traffic, increasing population, unsafe structures as well as historical elements.

international standing of Mashhad as one of the cultural centers of the world of Islam and Shi'ism alongside its position make it necessary to highlight the context of the shrine and its periphery as the first substrate encompasses the domain of the sacred, as well as to intervene in urban areas to improve and organize within the central context of the city.

Theoretical Foundations of Research

Modernization of urban centers before Islamic revolution in Iran

The most important policies and programs conducted before the year 1921 return to Safavid era which was the most significant period in the history of citizenship and urban development. In that era, Isfahan as the capital reconstructed on the basis of new architecture findings but there was not any developing program yet. A new phase of large-scale intervention in damaged areas in the cities started in the years 1921-1941 taken place in the form of urban rehabilitation and modernization activities (Azizi, 2000).

The most important policies and programs to revive damaged areas in this period can be determined as follows:

Although the first serious act of the intervention in the damaged areas return to the municipality act of 1907; But it was the municipality act of 1930 providing heavy interventions in these settings. The latter had more executive power than the first act. For example, we could refer to the construction of 15 Khordad (former Bouzarjomehri) and Khayyam streets in Tehran that the city's neighborhoods had suffered serious changes. About the policies of Pahlavi era to the Islamic Revolution (1941-1977) it can be shortly said that the policies of reform and modernization policies in order to restoration of old settings were along with the government development program of 1948. In this program, funding was largely considered for urban development as well as social and economic reforms, especially in relation to the damaged areas, hygiene measures and the electricity. Unfortunately, because of insufficient budget, the program was not fully implemented. In the period that covers the final of World War II until the early sixties, due to the ravages of post-war, there was less direct action in the field of urban development laws and programs, so the process of aging and stagnant of these settings intensified.

In the second development program besides of providing water and electricity for streets, the municipal utilities developed too. Due to lack of municipal funding in this program, a law was passed to enable municipalities to provide themselves fifty percent of the cost of operating for urban development projects, the remaining 50% was paid through credit programs by the government. The law would deepen the development gap between rich and poor cities. In other words, rich municipalities, obtained more state development budget, and poor towns were more disadvantaged, while most of these cities were old and had historic context. To solve these problems "National Organization for the protection of antiquities" was formed in 1962 (Falamaki, 1996). In the third program of development, grants to municipalities increased municipalities rely more and more on help of the central government for urban development (Management and Planning Organization, 1995). Because of this policy many damaged areas of the old cities were neglected and damages were intensified. In the fourth program of development urban designing consistent with the geographical environment didn't go beyond some measures in historical context as well as failed efforts at reconstruction and renovation of ancient old cities such as Isfahan (Beski, 1997:10-15). In the sixth program of development (1974-1978) with respect to increased expansion of cities due to rural migration the importance as well as the need to preserve the historical settings widely considered for the first time and to this end a row of funding dedicated to urban development.

The process of modernization of urban centers after the Islamic Republic in Iran

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979, the country suffered from political and economic pressures of war. Legislative and planning systems in various sectors including urban development experienced disorders. As a result of the lack of appropriate programs to control and

regulate the growth and urban expansion, the process of the recession and the destruction of damaged areas intensified.

After establishment of offices for urban development in 1987, preparation of urban development and renewal plans began. From 1988 onwards, several plans for development and construction of the old areas were prepared, developed and implemented (Izadi, 1998).

In 1991 the office for urban development established "in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development" mainly aimed at the development of housing construction in urban areas and the development of internal policies. The office formulated 25 urban renewal and development plans that only 20 percent of them were complemented and the remainder spent in the study stage (urban development and revitalization organization, 1998).

A new approach to damaged areas was formed in 1990s. The phenomenon of physical ravages caused the emergence of social abnormality within the range of urban centers.

In 1994 and in line with the objectives of the program, a plan to determine appropriate locations for housing was prepared in forty cities. The most important objectives of the plan were as the following:

1. To provide the guidance and support of the private sector for investment in the urban damaged areas
2. To construct organizational houses with use of private sector credit
3. To provide a model of economic housing in the city
4. To maintain historical buildings in old settings consisted to Cultural Heritage organization
5. To construct house in additional land to pay for cleanup and restoration of these settings and to encourage the citizens to live in them. (Izadi, 1998.18-19) urban development and revitalization organization

The most important and most effective provisions of the second five-year plan for damaged areas was the establishment of "urban development and revitalization organization " in the late 1996 and thus a new phase in renovation and construction of urban settings began. UDRO until October 1998 guided and controlled up to 142 projects in 26 provinces and 36 cities, (urban development and revitalization organization, 1998).

Literature Review:

Abdul Samad Saidi khah (2004) examined the equipment and facilities in the old and new settings of Mashhad. His research has been conducted in two stages. The first stage is related to the amount and value of facilities and equipment based on a variety of proposed factors. He ultimately has made a comparison between the present and favorable status. His research findings indicate the difference between the amount and value of facilities and equipment and site selection services in the present and the ideal situation.

Shoaei and Pourahmad (2004) in an article analyzed urban rehabilitation and development policies in development programs pointed out the history of urban interventions.

Gholami in a master's thesis analyzed the physical effects of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) expansion on the surrounding space. the results suggest that contrary to the objectives i.e. to improve residents conditions and to attract people participation, residents were discontent with the situation created by the plan because of the lack of speed in implementation. M. Falamaki in his book:"The

modernization and urban development" referred to the theoretical foundations of the city and as well as the emphasis on modernization and improvement of buildings and historical context with special attention to the preservation of these settings. He proposed that damaged areas must be improve and modernize in accordance with the needs of the beneficiaries. Hossein Kalantari Ahmed Pourahmad in their book "the techniques and experiences on historic settings restoration" released by SID studied the evolution and history of urban restoration as well as social, economic planning. They surveyed the restoration experiences of cities around the world and Iran.

Maryam Khastu and Navid Saeedi Rezvani (2010) in an article entitled:" factors effective on the urban spaces aliveness, to create a lively urban space based on the concept of the shopping center", tried to identify factors affecting the vitality of urban spaces and create alive urban space.

Shah Bakhsh (2002) in his Master Thesis studied the effects of Chabahar free zone on social and spatial structure of the city. Based on the assumptions outlined in the research, Chabahar free zone develops an unbalanced social and spatial gross that cause the rising cost of living, housing as well as social irregularities. On The other hand, of Chabahar free zone in addition to upgrade social services, increased employment opportunities in the city of Chabahar. The following table shows modernization of urban centers in Iran after the Islamic Revolution (1981-2006) states:

Considerations	Goals	The selected template	period
Issued circular dated 24 February 1984 ends the project due to lack of structural relationship between the project and the overall urban development plan	The first projects started after the revolution in order to repair the historic settings of cities with a rehabilitation approach Rehabilitation is the act of returning of the culture of life to a community or a section of it	rehabilitation approach	-1982 1985
The program was unsuccessful due to the lack structural relationship among these projects and urban development plans	the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development accepted the responsibility of Urban damaged areas reconstruction; establishment of urban development and revitalization organization providing revitalization plans by setting-up of trust research groups for 12 cities including: Dezful, Ardebil, Bushehr etc.	Urban damaged areas reconstruction plans	-1985 1989
The project was failed because of ambiguity of the position and the production of the plan	Strengthen policy - based approach on the link of the ancient settings and city structure Replace local planning and comprehensive planning	Projects for rebuilding of cultural – historical dimensions	-1989 1991

	considering urban settings of cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, Hamadan and Kerman as cultural - historic cities focus on the structural pattern of the old settings and provide a model for grafting old structure to new foundation of the city, was the most important axis		
Insufficient overall scale of the project for intervention on the one hand and the lack of separation of structural characteristics of each part of the urban setting as well as covering elements of the plan would be inconsistent with the urban space, and the lack of consideration lead to failure of enforcement expertise for planning on this scale.	Open the measures of housing construction in urban within the city by transferring urban development and revitalization organization to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in 1991 Planning for land acquisition and integrate them in a way that allows reconstruction projects in this area	Modernization and reconstruction (cumulative) or delegated Urban Development	1991-1993
large-scale Planning in determining intervention scope, problems arising from acquisition policy in practice, the lack of attention to people's role in the planning, design, implementation etc. led to failure in implementation of the plans	To start second economic - social development plan in Islamic Republic of Iran (1994-1998) brought to the fore a new direction in the context of urban experiences concerns. focusing on internal development in housing and urban development led to attention in the context of ancient local areas Determine appropriate locations for housing in 40 cities	problematic urban areas	-1993 1996

Conclusions

Urban damaged areas as an expression of identity and history of cities have an important status for them. It may be that in some cities still these settings are proposed as the linchpin of the urban economy. Central regions of Mashhad are considered as damaged areas act still as the linchpin of the urban economy of the city due to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) and the enormous influx of pilgrims and travelers from all over the country and the world. The region has faced many problems because of its old structure that couldn't meet the needs of residents and travelers. The streets are narrow, buildings are damaged. also environmental and security problems, lack of parking spaces, traffic, especially during

holidays are part of the problems in this region. Faced with many problems such as shortage of funds, authorities neglect to consider the importance of these areas.

Accordingly to identify high-priority and more critical locations for renovation and upgrading can be a solution to many problems.

References:

Abbaszadegan, M. (2002), Space Syntax method in the process of urban planning, urban management magazine.

Azizpour Malakeh (1996), physical development of cities, pamphlets curriculum of undergraduate, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tabriz.

Bahraini, Seyed Hussein, (2003), the process of Urban Design, Second Edition, published by Tehran University, Tehran.

Bertaud, Alain, Metropolis: A Measure of the Spatial Organization of 7 Large Cities. 2001.

Birkeland, peterw(1984), Soils and Geomorphology, Oxford university Press.

Bosraie, Mohammad Hossein (2004), the horizontal expansion of cities and capacities of the land needed the city of Yazd, Geographical Research Quarterly, Vol. XIX, No. 2, Institute of Technology.

Christopher- Alexander and B.V.D.ochi. Main Structure Coneept. (New York: landscape, 1963. City-Parish Planning Commission, (2004), "Information Bulletin Number 43", April.

Comparison With Implications for Future Research,Land use Policy,vol.9,pp.1-12.

Dawkins,C.Jand A.C.Nelson(2002).Urban Containment and Housing Prices:an International

Foly. John & Mickey Lauria (2000) Plans, Planning and Tragic Choices, planning Toheory & Practice, Vol 1, No 2.

Habibi SeyedMohsen and Reyhaneh Maghsudi (2002), urban restoration, Tehran University Press.

Hanachi, Parvaz (2008), urban restoration in the ancient cities of Iran, phd thesis, Faculty of beauty Arts, Tehran University.

Shah Bakhsh, AR. the effects of Chabahar free zone on social and spatial structure of the city, MA Thesis, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, 2002.

Stempleski, S. (1994). Earth watch. [Video cassette]. America: Prentice Hall Regents