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Converting the Village to City and Sustainable Urban Development (A Case of Fars Province - Iran)

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ABSTRACT: In the recent years, increase in urban centers by promoting the big and susceptive villages is considered as one of the main policies to improve the rural life style in Iran .In this way, many rural areas have been converted to cities. The aim of this research is prioritization of the effects of villages' conversion to cities by analyzing the residents' viewpoints. The research area is Hassanabad rurban in Fars province. The city has improved in 2009. The research method is descriptive - analytical and the required data was collected by questionnaire. The results show that the viewpoint of the residents of Hassanabad has the greatest impacts on the social dimension indicators such as: improvement of: health services, communication services and the accommodations' safety facilities. Also greatest impacts on the positive economic Hassanabad to city conversion are respective in indicators: increased shopping around villages of Hassanabad, reduce dependence on county center and access to required goods in place and greatest impacts on the negative economic are respective in indicators: increased tax costs, reduction in pasture land and difficulty of keeping livestock in the city limits.

Keywords: City, Conversion, Policy, Rurban, Village.

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INTRODUCTION

International experience indicates the fact that solving the problems of rural deprived areas; achieve the policy objectives of equilibrium in the spatial distribution of population and depends to strong support from the rurbans and small towns. This group of cities are favorable areas in terms of decentralization of administrative, economic, and welfare of the regions and also stimulating balanced settlements and providing backgrounds to achieve sustainable development (Taghvaei and Rezaei, 2008). Also some studies support actual and potential functions of rural areas in urban development. The results of this study indicate that rural-small towns with the creation of non-farm employment opportunities, play a larger role in reducing rural–to-urban migration and provide background for a balanced distribution of population, facilities and capital (Jomepoor and Rashnoodi, 2011).

Quoted by Taheri, and Misra one of the popular theories of rural development, social and economic gaps between rural and urban areas can be reduced with emergence of the rurbans. This small rural-based towns, in terms of social issues represent villages, but in terms of economic and organizational perspectives are more like cities. Also Dennis Rondinelli and Ruddle, have insisted that agricultural development with the mechanization of small-scale farming and investments in infrastructure of rurbans can be strengthened in the developing countries, Taheri et al. (2011).

Rurban as a Pattern for Sustainable Development has presented a dynamic idea to build urban settlements that means environmental urbanism approach to provide the needs of local community. This idea is founded on environmental sustainability and its aims are to create a balance between society, economy and environment (Mofidi and Yamani, 2008).

In other definitions, "The rurban is a place that intends to change in the quality and quantity of lifestyle from rural to the urbanization and yet is loyal to some of the rural traditions" (Stohr and Taylor, 1981).

This study is seeking to survey the rural-urban conversion policy, and to answer to this question that "What is the most important effect of promoting rural-urban from perspective of local residents?"

Literature

By tracing the historical development of the rurbans, we can say that Anglo-Saxon countries before World War II achieved to the first outcomes of rurbans. The rurban flow in France slightly delayed and its effects revealed from the early 1960s. Also, rurbans in less developed countries, gaining significant credibility, among these countries, could cited to China, South Korea, Mexico and Brazil. Other Western European countries shortly after the French are behind similar revolution that pressure more has been in the Benelux countries (Belgum, The Netherlands and luxembourg), Germany (especially near the Rhine), Switzerland, Italy (area with dense population where cities are closer together and traditions of industrialization of the villages and countryside) has been made in full and there are not gaps in population (Sahami, 1994).

In some developing countries such as China, Kenya, Egypt, Malaysia and some others, in order to avoid sharp focus of urban, creating new jobs, reducing rural-urban migration and services to rural areas, development and creation small towns has been attention

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through reinforcement of large centers and promoting in the settlement hierarchy (Ezadi Kharameh and Roknaldin Eftekhari, 2001). Long et al. (2011) in a study titled "Analysis of rural transformation development China" states that rural transformation development in China, basically by accelerated of rural industrialization and urbanization process with the loss of arable land to build factories and workshops and rural workers into urban workers has changed many rural areas. Tacoli in a study of Asian, African and Latin American states that many families in rural and urban areas needs combined agricultural and non-agricultural sources of income for their livelihood. These sources of income can be provided with appearing the interaction of urban and rural in populations and activities as rurban (Tacoli, 1998). Epestein and Jezeph (2001) in a study titled "pattern of rurban participatory development" in India, citied on cost effectiveness, creating attraction, economic conditions and infrastructure thereby preventing migration to cities and increasing urbanization of rural life. Also emphasized on increasing agricultural productivity, agricultural-related industries and follow policies of established of rurban centers and believed that this centers generate income for rural and urban populations and can be prevent to prediction from the terrible increasing of urbanization in 2025 for Asian and African countries. Jome Poor and Rashnoodi in his article entitled "The role of small towns in rural development with emphasis on life quality" concluded that the development of a small town of Firoozabad has caused improve services, income and wealth, personal well-being, participation and housing in surrounding villages, but did not affect in creating conditions for stabilizing population and reducing migration and occupation. Also the life satisfaction of surrounding residents has increased after becoming a city Firoozabad (Jome Poor and Rashnoodi, 2011).

Sharifinia and Noora in a study is titled "The role of small towns in rural development using network analysis "conclude that the converting Neginshahr to city has a desired effect of providing services to rural areas of Nezaamabad district and has created reduce dependence of villagers to the county city (Sharifinia and Noora, 2010).

MATHERIALS AND METHODS

This study is a descriptive – analytical of the feasibility study. This research is conducted through a survey and the data collection has been by means of questionnaire and interviewing. Indexes and indicators of research have been classified in the social and economic dimensions that economic indicators are divided into two categories: positive and negative. The indexes and indicators were extracted through an extensive review of theoretical research within and outside the Iran, field observations and interviews with local people. For measurements each dimension, was used scoring five degree Likert scale. In order to assess the reliability of the research instrument, 30 questionnaires were completed in study population.

Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was calculated from a Likert-type scale and the reliability of the questionnaire was determined using the Chronbach Alpha test. The range for Alpha was 0 to 1 and the internal reliability of the items was found using this coefficient. When the coefficient was zero, it indicated complete unreliability of the item; when the value was 1, it indicated full reliability of the item. When the Alpha value was more than 0.7, the questions or item was deemed suitable for testing the concept or the related variable. Table 1 shows that the Alpha values for questions and items in the questionnaire were higher than 0.7, making it scientifically valid to describe and test the relationship of the variables.

Table1. Reliability analysis (Alpha)

Scale name	No. of items in the scale	Alpha value
Economic factor	20	0.866
Social factor	22	0.832

The Hassanabad rurban is situated in the geographic north of Fars province in south Iran. Statistical population is all residents of the Hassanabad rurban. Hassanabad is one of the villages that because part central become to city in 2009. According to the census conducted in 2011 Hassanabad has 2072 inhabitants and 483 households and most of them are farmers (Demographic and geographic characteristics of Hassanabad district, 2011). The Cochran's formula was used to determine the sample size. Sample size was of 192 patients that for greater accuracy, increased to 200. Then required data **using** a simple random sampling in early 2013 and was analyzed using the variation coefficient.

Figure 1. Geographical location Fars province and Hassanabd rurban

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research findings show that in the sample 61% of respondents are male and 39% female. The age mean of the sample was 38.22 years, A minimum age was16 years and maximum was 65 years. Also 24.5% of respondents are without agricultural land and 75.5% have agricultural land. As Table 2 shows in age group (15-24 years) 12.5%, (25-44 years) 54.5%, (45-64 years) 32.5% and (65 years and above) 0.5% have formed of respondents (Table 2). According to mean and standard deviation obtained, variation coefficient was calculated for each index and was identified priorities the impact of rural-urban transformation. These priorities have been

arranged in order from highest to lowest coefficient of variation.

The values of Table 3 indicate that from viewpoint of residents, greatest impacts on the positive economic village - city conversion are respective in indicators: increased shopping around villages of Hassanabad, reducing dependence on county center and access to required goods in place. Also result showed that least impacts on the positive economic village - city conversion are respective in indicators: increasing income and purchasing power of residents and women's interest to handicrafts activities (Table 3).

In Table 4, variation coefficient was calculated for each negative economic indices of rurban pattern. From viewpoint residents, greatest impacts on the negative economic village - city conversion are respectively the indicators: increased tax costs, reduction in pasture land and difficulty of keeping livestock in city limits (Table 4). The values of Table 5 indicate that from resident's viewpoint, greatest impacts on the social village - city conversion are respectively the indicators: improving health services, improving communication services and building welfare facilities. As well as village - city conversion have been least impacts on the social dimension respective in indicators: poll of people for village – city conversion, satisfaction of city officials note to problems and satisfaction of the municipal authorities performance (Table 5).

Table 2. The age frequency distribution of the sample

Age (years)	Frequency (patients)	Frequency percent	Cumulative percent	Other statistical properties
(15-24)	25	12.5	12.5	Mean: 38.22
(25-44)	109	54.5	67.0	St. deviation:12.30
(45-64)	65	32.5	99.5	Max:65
(65 and above)	1	0.5	100.0	Min:16
				Mode: (25-44)

Table 3. Variation coefficient for the positive economic effects of village - city transformation

Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variation Coefficient	Priority
Increased shopping around villages of Hassanabad	3.03	1.017	0.335	1
Reduce dependence on county center	3.04	1.074	0.353	2
Access to required goods in place	2.72	1.018	0.374	3
Be prepared required facilities in place	2.71	1.106	0.408	4
Reduce commute to city center	2.77	1.137	0.410	5
Note the government and authorities to city	2.57	1.154	0.449	6
Diversity job of residents	2.16	..986	0.456	7
Improvement of farmers and ranchers	2.18	1.013	0.464	8
Hopefully of graduate to future job	2.45	1.142	0.466	9
Attracting tourists	1.86	..880	0.473	10
Changes in agricultural employment	1.98	..948	0.478	11
Women's interest in handicrafts activities	2.12	1.035	0.488	12
Increasing purchasing power of residents	2.15	1.061	0.493	13
Increased income of residents	1.98	1.061	0.535	14

Table 4. Variation coefficient for the negative economic effects of village - city transformation

Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variation Coefficient	Priority
Increased tax costs	3.35	1.215	0.362	1
Reduction in pasture land	3.01	1.180	0.392	2
Difficulty of keeping livestock in city limits	3.00	1.190	0.396	3
Reduction in agriculture land	1.92	0.937	0.488	4
Reduction in ownership of agricultural land	1.75	0.962	0.549	5
Difficulty of farming activities	2.11	1.175	0.556	6

Table 5. Variation coefficient for the social effects of village - city transformation

Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variation Coefficient	Priority
Improving health services	3.05	0.876	0.287	1
Improving communication services	3.08	0.987	0.320	2
Building welfare facilities	3.01	0.972	0.322	3
Supply needs of the local	2.85	0.969	0.340	4
Local-Religious participation	3.00	1.139	0.379	5
Improving security services	2.83	1.076	0.380	6
Tend to remain in place	2.80	1.066	0.380	7
Belonging and attachment to place	2.79	1.067	0.382	8
Increased students interested to studying in Place	2.82	1.093	0.387	9
Improving education and cultural	2.75	1.065	0.387	10
Access to agricultural services	2.61	1.017	0.389	11
Cooperation between local authorities and public	2.51	1.089	0.433	12
Satisfaction of the responsible municipal	2.34	1.020	0.435	13
Economic participation of residents	3.09	1.366	0.442	14
Beautiful roads and streets	2.55	1.129	0.442	15
Participation in local development	2.45	1.088	0.444	16
Advisory participation	2.34	1.062	0.453	17
Satisfaction of life in place	2.41	1.104	0.458	18
Satisfaction of service	2.32	1.121	0.483	19
Satisfaction of the municipal authorities performance	2.14	1.080	0.504	20

Satisfaction of city officials note to problems	2.10	1.094	0.520	21
Poll of people for rural-urban conversion	2.24	1.180	0.526	22

CONCLUSION

Since consequences of village - city transformation from views of local residents is one important way to measure the success of rurban projects; it was analyzed in this study. The following results were obtained from the research data:

From viewpoint of Hassanabd residents, greatest impacts on the positive economic village - city conversion are respective in indicators: increased shopping around villages of Hassanabad, reduceing dependence on county center and access to required goods in place. The result is matched with Sharifinia and Noora (2010).

The results showed that establishment of rurban pattern have had least impacts on the positive economic domain in indicators: increasing income and purchasing power of residents and women's interest to handicrafts' making activities. The result is not matched with Tacoli (1998), Epestein and Jezeph (2001), Jome- poor and Rashnood (2011). The reasons can be cited to lack of investment in productive, lack of attraction for periphery, lack of create new jobs, increased tax costs or geographical location of the study population.

Greatest impacts on the negative economic village - city conversion are respective in indicators: increased tax costs, reduction in pasture land and difficulty of keeping livestock in city limits. The result is matched with Sharifinia and Noora (2010), Epestein and Jezeph (2001) and Long and et al (2011). The reasons can be cited to difficulty of keeping livestock in location limits due to the city's rules, land use changes due to city expansion and creation of infrastructures.

From residents viewpoint, greatest impacts on the social village - city conversion are respective in indicators: improving health services, improving communication services and building welfare facilities that is matched with Epestein and Jezeph (2001), Sharifinia and Noora (2010) and Jome poor and Rashnood (2011). The reasons are improvement in the areas of health, communication and welfare in compared with before becoming city. Also village - city conversion have been least impacts on the social dimension respective in indicators: poll of people for village - city conversion, satisfaction of city officials note to problems and satisfaction of the municipal authorities that is not matched with Jome poor and Rashnood (2011).

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