

Research Paper

Representation of Countryside Villages Place Identity in Rural Development Projects; Case Study: Dareh Moradbeyg Village in Hamedan City

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ABSTRACT

Identity expression from local residents' view is related to social representation theory taken from local discourse. Dareh Moradbeig is a village 3 km far from Hamedan city center which has evolved through urban outward flows using urban facilities. This village was recreational place for urban residents. Regarding the development plan of village, how is the village identity formed under the recent transformations? How do the residents consider the place identity? Based on Henry Lufor's theory, space is a political and social factor the place identity of which is influenced by internal and external forces. Halfkari regards the village identity originating from village situation, formal representations and villagers' every day life. The results show that to respond residents' needs, the civil development and urban amenities must be combined to provide identity in rural housing pattern, public spaces of neighborhood center and cultural natural potentials of Alousjerd river and increase of social capital with organization.

Keywords:

Place identity,
Countryside vil-
lages, Hamedan,
Dareh Moradbeyg,
Hamedan Province

Extended Abstract**1. Introduction**

The most important concern for development projects is to change lifestyle and removing the belonging sense of residents to the place. The rapid pace of development in most cities and town in Iran shows that they have improved the technological level of space while there are found many features

which have been lost. Study regarding place and its experienced circumstance has gained the focus of many research subjects in the past 20 years in which researchers had an attempt to investigate the effect of place on individuals and their quality of life. In recent decades, the notion of sense of place has been the focus of investigation in different fields such as geography, architecture and urban design. The term of sense of place are attributed different meanings in fields such as sociological, cultural, and psychological sciences. Relationship between the notion of sense of place and perception issues, identity, and

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social attachments makes research in this field difficult. Places play an effective role in promotion of social ties in urban communities. In this regard, Low and Altman state that places are imagined as a container for cultural, social and individual relationship. Villages are criteria (e.g. physical, social behaviors and activities) which can help determining their identity. Today by the advent industrial age, the reconstruction and development of villages without taking patterns into the account, principles of vernacular architecture and physical characteristics are reduced gradually and are leading to creation of villages that are not fit with local culture. An identity crisis or to be more accurate, Place identity due to lack of place in its Real meaning. Place puts human connection with the other layers which help to cognition of the Surrounding environment .In conjunction with the factors shaping architecture and urbanism throughout history,many variety models are presented. One component models in Renaissance era find promotion to two component models in industrial era and the modern movement.

Dareh Moradbeig village located 3km from Hamedan city with a long history of traditional life and old system of relationship both among people and space .It has confronted different economic, social and cultural changes which have made different structures in housing and livelihood of people and have interrupted the village face.The village identity has become faded and people do not feel any place belonging. As the place identity affects the quality of human-place relationship and formation of individual identity and meaning , this paper seeks to answer the question how is the village identity formed under the recent transformations? How do the residents consider the place identity?

2. Methodology

In the current paper, the research documents on place identity are studied reviewing the theories and definitions. In the next stages, the village Dareh Moradbeig is considered in terms of the criteria stated.The research method is descriptive with content analysis and data collection was carried out in library and field observation form.The tools to collect the data are precise observation based on field notes and informal in-depth interviews regarding the research objectives.The statistical population is the residents of village Dareh Moradbeig and tourists in any age range while the sample volume is 30 villagers and passengers chosen by random sampling and were interviewed using questionnaire (open question) .The data analysis was carried out with quality approach on content analysis in certain organized themes.The reliability of data was evaluated through description of members in that respondents were asked on the confirmation of findings and descriptions.

The spatial and place changes in villages based on three fold model of Henry Lufor with social and political space concept taken from the internal environment and global currents which establish the relationship between physical, mental and social space.The theory of space generation helps to introduce the concept of social space and tries to make a connection between concrete space and physical space.The three elements considered in this theory are:

1. Representative spaces are the spaces of every day life linked to production and regulation.
2. Spatial actions where space is produced from the vacuum of ordinary life actions dialectically.
3. Representation spaces are related to the governing ideology and power the example of which can be seen in streets,urban passages ,squares ,statues and buildings.

3. Results

Regarding the three-side model of Henry lufor, the indicators of place identity in the village Dareh Moradbeig are presented in [Table 2](#). (physical, spatial action), (mental,representation spaces), (social,representation of spaces). Having collected data, we analyzed them qualitatively in three physical, mental and social groups. Physical:from most interviewees' view, interventions in the architecture of the village , passage organization .square and acceible routes have provided irregularities thereby reducing spatial quality and quantity. Most people believe that spatial hierarchy induces comfort and peace ,movement and rhythm in natural context of village and open and semi-open spaces which are neglected under the influence of new disturbances. Mental:the majority of residents expressed that there have been some interventions in village context and there are some ununiformities in architecture.Located in the prestine and natural context brings about a sense of spiritual bond and silence.In fact,while the village is approaching the urban layers , keeping the natural context in the village seems to be necessary to maintain the vitality and peace.

Social:government planning and implementation of development projects in the villages have influenced the physical and social structure of the villages such as farming land use ,housing accommodation and passages which has led to the change of place identity.People are another side of power triangle reacting against external forces.

4. Discussion

The results show that village context can not represent place identity regarding the restoration and introduction

of technology and the changes in physical pattern of village can not be in line with the culture integrity of the village. The new structures and materials and change of natural environments, ignorance of organizing Alousjerd river and its historical ecological path along with undue construction all show this trend. The results of research on restoration project of Zarandiej village show that this village has more favorable landscape than other villages and there is found more sense of belonging influenced by economic variables. In cultural and social aspect, the integrity of cultural and social facilities show higher percentage of sense of belonging. The comprehensive plan of restoration in Dareh Moradbeig has deteriorated the physical structure of the village and reduced the public participation in social and cultural events in the village.

5. Conclusion

The results show that to respond residents' needs, the civil development and urban amenities must be combined to provide identity in rural housing pattern, public spaces in neighborhood center, and cultural natural potentials of Alousjerd river and more social capital with organization.