

## Measuring the Feasibility of Gathering Plain Village Types in order to Reach Sustainable Development in Guilan Province

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### Extended Abstract

#### Introduction

Attending to the country's rural areas and providing services and facilities to activate rural units whether for the necessity of expanding activities especially in activates of the first part or for the correct arrangement of population stability in different areas and for the optimal arrangement of rural spaces and finally for rural sustainable environment are inevitable. Gathering village types in Guilan plain area intends to change the villagers' way of living from a dispersed condition to a semi dispersed one. It can be known as planning physical development of rural habitats and as a part of the process of rural development, it aims at directing the framework of village in a desirable way and allocating optimal spaces to various activities. In other words, Gathering village types is a type of planning to guide villagers and gain their participation in building settlements and the way they are built in the plain villages of Guilan Province. In fact, the strategy in question is not going to destroy or rebuild rural settlements.

It, however, is going to plan for the future buildings in the villages leaving the present settlements intact and is going to reduce numerous problems and difficulties of villages in this area for gaining rural sustainable development.

The present article is extracted from a PhD dissertation titled "Feasibility of Gathering Plain Village Types in order to Reach Sustainable Development in Guilan Province" that was defended in Jan.2009 under the supervision of Professor Nasrollah Molaie Hashjin.

#### Research Methodology

The present research is functionally descriptive-analytic. The population sample includes all plain villages of Guilan Province. Regarding numerous villages, 10 percent of villages having Supporting Plan and 10 to 15 percent of families in each region were investigated using classified random sampling.

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In order to recognize the quality and dimensions of the research, the required information was obtained through documentary methods and field studies. In documentary studies, the background and theoretical framework of the research were dealt with. Studying the information related to geographical characteristics of Guilan's plain, facilities and potentials of this area were first investigated. In the field study, information was reached from interviews and rural families' questionnaires filled from three districts of Eastern, Central and Western plains of Guilan.

After the needed data were collected, extracting and classification of information related to rural families' questionnaires were done by the use of tables, diagrams, and maps. At the end, to analyze data and testing hypotheses, t and  $\chi^2$  statistics, to operate them statistically, SPSS software, to draw diagrams and table, Excel software, and finally, to prepare maps, Arc GIS were used.

## Results

The strategy of gathering village types is seeking for a change in the villagers' way of living from a dispersed condition to a semi-dispersed one in Guilan's plain villages. It is considered as a new approach in physical planning and reasonable development of rural habitats in order for plain villages to achieve sustainable development.

The variables in this research indicate that due to level of knowledge, tendency, degree of admission at one hand, and the natural, ecological, social, economic, physical-spatial, cultural, and political facilities and potentials of Guilan's plain at another hand, gathering village types in Guilan's plain is feasible in villagers' view. However, the presence of cultural and social obstacles and the lack of definite rules of regulations in this ground, implementing this plan is not feasible in short or medium terms. It requires a long-term strategy. Gathering village types with a change in the villagers' way of living from a dispersed condition to a semi-dispersed one is going to decrease the problems of villages in Guilan's plain in the fields of service providing, reduction of planting lands because of Supporting Plan, excessive allocation of land to housing, lack of optimal exploitation of village space, environmental pollution of villages, and so on. In other words, gathering village types in Guilan's plain can accelerate the grounds of providing services to villagers by reducing problems in service-providing and cutting the related expenses.

Similarly, gathering village types can provide the villages with the grounds of rural sustainable development in the long term regarding its effects and roles in preventing the destruction of fertilized plating lands, reducing housing rate, by considering desirable rate in plan part (80 CM), exploiting village space optimally, and preserving the natural environment through management of rural areas. Thus, regarding the role of gathering village types in rural sustainable development, its role in changing the shape of settlement, and making a new pattern of settlement in economic, social, cultural, and physical development in Guilan's plain villages it is feasible in the long term.

## Conclusion

Studies conducted on Guilan's plain villages reveal that the system of settlement of rural habitats of Guilan's plain villages does not correspond to necessities of development in the present condition. Therefore, there should be a desirably spatial

arrangement of settlement in rural environments so that a condition for optimal utilization of villages' space can be provided, and the socio-economic development can be accelerated. Gathering village types aiming at a change in the villagers' way of living from a dispersed condition to a semi-dispersed one is going to decrease the numerous problems of villages in Guilan's plain and provide a suitable bed for deploying a new pattern in planning physical development in rural habitats. Results found in this research display that due to level of knowledge, tendency, degree of admission at one hand, and the natural, ecological, social, economic, physical-spatial, cultural, and political facilities and potentials of Guilan's plain at another hand, gathering village types in Guilan's plain is feasible in villagers' view. However, due to the presence of cultural and social obstacles and the lack of definite rules of regulations in this ground, implementing this plan is not feasible in short or medium terms. It requires a long-term strategy.

**Key Words:** Measuring the feasibility, Gathering, Village types, Sustainable development, Guilan's plain.

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