

Investigating the effective factors on the quality of place in rural areas (Case study: The Central Part of Nikshahr Township)

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Received: 2015/10/14

Accepted: 2017/05/20

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Iran in the distant past especially after the land reform (after 1962) has been facing with the rural spaces challenging in many aspects and its rural areas in spite of natural and geographical limitations (topography, dispersion, water resources, climate problems and hazards) constantly has changed caused by human action including the increasing dependence of rural areas on cities. Hence, inefficient management of land, low productivity, factors of production in agriculture, knowledge and skills of low, weak infrastructure, migration, inequality between urban and rural areas, etc. are including the features prominently in most rural areas of Iran that affect their quality of place.

Rural areas of Sistan and Baluchestan Province (which a province is underdeveloped and based on evidence and research available in terms of most development indicators often the most disadvantaged provinces is) relative to many villages in Iran in terms of challenges posed have situation more unstable they are. When we consider that villages of Nikshahr Township are considered as the most disadvantaged areas of the province, the importance of this issue will double.

Hence this study was aimed to investigate the factors affecting on the quality of place in the rural areas in one of the most deprived areas of the country (city Nikshahr). The factors which were examined in the present study include spatial, economic and social factors.

Methodology

This research is applied as well as descriptive and analytical. Data has been achieved through literature review, documentary and field studies (questionnaire). The population is all rural areas in central part of Nikshahr Township, which according to the 2011 census includes 143 rural areas and 45,228 people (10,762 households). The sample size included 20 rural settlements and 305 heads of households living in this villages - which is randomly selected and calculated by Cochran method respectively. After explaining the problem, and review the antecedents in compliance with the conditions of rural areas of the region research variables was extracted. Data was processed and analyzed using SPSS, through a one-sample t test, an ANOVA and a Friedman test.

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Results and discussion

The results showed that the locational quality of rural areas in most indexes is lower than comment criteria (number 3). Because the upper and lower bounds are positive, the rural locational quality regarding the security index was assessed the higher than the theoretical criteria. The quality of the place represents the natural and human weakness and shortcomings outstanding in welfare and living conditions in the rural residents. In addition, some natural and geographical constraints such as the dispersion settlements, rugged, climate and water hazards have affected the quality of place degree in villages. The measures and programs that have been done and the humanitarian operations in order to reduce vulnerability and improving the living conditions and social welfare in rural areas have not been successful. The results showed that the establishment, communicative situation, type of road and the distance from the centers of incisive service of villages all with the quality of place in rural areas have a significant negative relationship. These results is aligned with most of the results, the study Bullock (2007) which emphasizes on the direct relationship between the quality of place and factors such as quality of place the natural environment, distance from service centers, and quality of access and also with the findings of Fazenía et al (2013), which have emphasized on the significant differences in the quality of place, in terms of the establishment of rural areas to a large extent.

Other findings showed that there is a significant positive correlation between quality of place assessed and quality of place with an average employment rate between rural and agricultural land there. Increased employment rates and higher average agricultural land ownership results in improving the quality of place in rural areas and its opposite is also true.

But the average animal ownership with quality of place in rural areas did not show a significant relationship. These results are in line with the results of Florida (2006) that emphasizes the direct relationship between the quality of place and economic growth and some of the results Bullock (2007) emphasizes on the direct relationship between quality of place and access to Agriculture jobs. Also according to the findings, there is a relationship between population size, literacy rate and the ratio of public facilities and a significant positive correlation with the quality of place in rural areas. But the quality of rural housing shows a significant inverse correlation with the quality of place. Meanwhile, no logical and meaningful relationship was found between the migration of rural-urban and rural areas quality of place. The results is in line with the results of Halen et al's (2008) study that have emphasized the direct and significant relationship between demographic changes and quality of place and also with the results of Arva et al.'s (2000) study that have emphasized the direct and significant relationship between quality of place (in terms of quality of human capital) and regional development (reduction of production costs and the emergence of new ideas) as well as with some results of Fraser et al's (2009) study which emphasized the increasing quality of place in reduction risk factors and migration.

Conclusion

The results indicated the existence of significant deficiencies and inefficiencies cross-linked natural systems and human functions as well as failure of spatial relationships in the study area that often originated from the lack of attention to the role of geographical factors (such as topography, distance, position, establishment of between population

size population and population aversion geographical locations, capital flows, access to physical and financial assets raise funds). This clearly returns lack of appropriate mechanism systematically within the framework of spatial planning which itself requires a comprehensive and systematic study.

Keywords: quality of place, spatial, economic and social factors, rural areas, Nikshahr Township.

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