

Analysis of the Role of Mahirud Border Markets in the Physical-Spatial Development of the Border Region with an Emphasis on Immigration and Decrease in Deprivation

Seyed Hadi Zarghani¹

Associate Professor of Political geography & Geopolitics, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran

Hadi Azami

Associate Professor of Political geography & Geopolitics,, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad ,Mashhad, Iran

Esmail Alamdar

MA. in Political geography & Geopolitics, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran

Received 6 January 2015

Accepted 18 April 2015

Extended Abstract:

1- INTRODUCTION

Isolated and non-fertile nature of border regions, resulting from severe restrictions on development, employment, and welfare services on the one hand, and lack of motivation for life on the other hand, has brought about political, economical, and security problems for governments. In this regard, the political inability in production, lack of employment, low income, and lack of access to basic needs are considered as the most social and economical characteristics of these regions which provide an environment suitable for illegal activities that are detrimental to security, such as illegal border crossing, drugs and goods trafficking, felony, kidnapping, etc. Border Market establishment is one of the necessary schemes for having a dynamic economy in border regions that provides an environment for development of legal cross-border transactions and uses the existing capacities of border regions in an efficient way by establishing healthy and continuous business communication with other neighboring countries. That is why experts believe that establishing and activating Border Markets can increase the safety of the borders of a country by providing jobs, boosting economic growth, reducing poverty, and vitalizing local capacities. One of the active Border Markets in Southern Khorasan is Mahirud Market which has a special and prominent situation among other three Border Markets of the province. The present study aims at analyzing the physical-spatial effects of Mahiroud border market in Sarbisheh County.

1- corresponding author : Email: h-zarghani@um.ac.ir

2- METHODOLOGY

This study is regarded as an analytical-descriptive study. The information required for the study has been gathered by library and field research (questionnaire, interview, field visits). In the field study, the information has been gathered by referring to the region and local observations, interviewing officials and political and security experts and distributing the questionnaires among two groups of participants. The first group included exhibitors, merchants, workers, public and private sector employees, and local people and the second group included authorities and officials. The main research question is as follows: What are the physical-spatial effects of Mahiroud border market of Sarbisheh County in border regions? According to the abovementioned main research question, three secondary questions are posed:

1. What are the physical-spatial effects of Mahiroud border market in Sarbishehcounty?
2. What are the effects of the creation and activation of Mahirud border market on reducing migration and increasing the incentives of those who live in border regions to settle in those regions?
3. To what extent is Mahirud border market involved in reducing poverty in Sarbisheh border reigion?

Finally, the collected data were analyzed using SPSS software in the form of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques such as classification, drawing tables, graphs, binominal test, etc.

3- DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Spatial analysis of political phenomena, in other words, investigating the spatial feedbacks of political decisions and actions, are among the most critical functions of geopolitics. Experience of many countries and some parts of Iran, shows that enabling border markets has had positive effects and feedbacks on border regions. Also, this study investigated and analyzed the consequences and the physical-spatial effects of Mahirud border market of Sarbishesh in local level and border region. The results of the study showed that the establishment and activities of Mahirud border market has had positive effects in spatial, economical, political, and security dimensions, both in lower levels related to rural habitances of the market and in border region level and some parts of Southern Khorasan. Making asphalt roads to the market and improving transportation lines, building business centers and stocks and developing urban services such as water, electricity, and telephone, etc. are among the effects of establishing and activations of this market in spatial level. The results of the study showed that prior to establishing this market, Darh county has been among the poorest and most migratory areas of the province; but by establishing this market and the resulted improvement in employment, the poverty and the extent of migration has reduced in border regions. On the other hand, the activities of this market has brought about an

acceptable and suitable security for Sarbisheh border region. Overall, it can be said that improving employment, reducing unemployment rate, poverty, and privatisation, reducing crimes such as illegal border transactions, drugs and tools trafficking, reducing migration to outer regions and border population fixation and increasing people's interest in government are among the most social, political, and security consequences of market establishment, and these results confirm the hypotheses of the study.

Key words: Border market, Physical-spatial development, Mahirud Sarbisheh, Immigration, Privation

References

1. Alamdar, S. (2014). *Analysis of the political repercussions - Space border markets, (Case study: Border market of Mahirud, Sarbisheh, South Khorasan province)*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. (in Persian)
2. Amini Nezhad, K., & Boochani, M. H. (2012). Opportunity for the city and surrounding sustainability bane of border market. *Journal of Educational Research Informatics Planning and Urban Management New Courses*, 6(63), 60-63. (in Persian)
3. Andalib, A. R. (2001). *Basic theory and principles of the border areas Islamic Republic of Iran*. Tehran: IRGC command college press. (in Persian)
4. Barzgaran, H., & Reyasi, M. (2012). *Geography of South Khorasan province*. Tehran: Ministry of Education, Research and Educational Planning. (in Persian)
5. Chandoevrit, W., Yongyuth, C., & Sravooth, P. (2004). *Thailand cross border economy*. Thailand: Thailand Development Resource Institute.
6. Directorate General Import and Export Regulations of Ministry of Industries and Business. Department of Iran Commerce. (2000). *Import and export regulations*. Tehran: Commercial Publishing. (in Persian)
7. Eftekhari, R., Papoli, M., Abdi, E. (2008). Economic impacts of border markets (Case study: sheykh Saleh in Kermanshah province). *International Journal of Geopolitics*, 4(2), 83-108. (in Persian)
8. Elahi, M. (2013, August 28). Interview by E. Alamdar. The space reflections of Mahirud border market, Sarbisheh, South Khorasan province. Sarbisheh, Iran. (in Persian)
9. Glassner, M., & Fahrer, C. (2004). *Political geography*. USA: John Wiley and Sons.
10. Gommepour, M., & Talebi, M. A. (2011). Survey of border cooperatives in the development of border regions in Khorasan. *Quarterly Social Development & Welfare Planning*, 3(10), 67-69. (in Persian)

11. Hafeznia, M.R.(2000).*The principles of political studies – social* (1th ed.).Qom: The Organization of Howza and Islamic Schools. (in Persian)
12. Hosseinpour, G. (2012, October 27). Interview by E. Alamdar. The impact on Mahirud border market on reducing migration and deprivation. Sarbishe, Iran. (in Persian)
13. Iran Statistics Center.(2005). *General census of population and housing*. Sarbishe city.amar.org.ir/census/85. (in Persian)
14. IranStatistics Center.(2010).*General census of population and housing*: Sarbishe city.amar.org.ir/census/90. (in Persian)
15. Kamran, H.,& Mohammadpoor, A.(2009). Functional analysis of border market. *Journal of Geography Society of Iran*, 6(18 &19), 9-11. (in Persian)
16. Leebouapao, L., Phonesaly, S., Phetsamone, S., Souphith, D., &Vanthana, N. (2004). *Lao PDR cross border economy, case study in Dansavanh, Savannakhet, and Houaysai/ Tonpheung, Lao PDR*. Retrieved from <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/007262125>..
17. Mahdizad, S. (2010). *Survey of space - political consequences of border market ,case study Bashmagh*(Unpublished master's thesis). Ferdowsi University of Mashhad,Mashhad, Iran. (in Persian)
18. Mahmoodi, A.(1999).*Boundary barriers and problems in the development of regional markets*.Tehran: Publications of the Institute of Business Studies. (in Persian)
19. Ministry of Economy and Finance.(1998) .*Technical committee staff regulate the economy series of economic reports*. Tehran: Pardis Publications. (in Persian)
20. Mohammadi, R.,& fakhrfatemi, A. (2004).Border markets of role in region development of border areas. *Geopolitical Journal*, 1(1), 54-58. (in Persian)
21. Mohammadpoor Philshoor,A.(2002).*The opening of borders and its impact on border areas* (Unpublished master's thesis). TarbiatModarres University, Tehran,Iran. (in Persian)
22. Mohammadpour, A., &Ahmadipoor, Z. (2002).Change the function of the border and geogtaphic space, Iran-turkmanistan border, Bagghyran.*Humanities Teacher Jounnal*,10(48),145-147. (in Persian)
23. Preskat, G.(1978).*New trends in political geography*(D. Mirheydar, Trans.). Tehran: University of Tehran Publications. (in Persian)
24. Rafiee, A. (2012, October, 24). Interview by E. Alamdar. The impact on Mahirud border market on the security of border areas. Birjand, Iran. (in Persian)
25. South Khorasan Province Border Market Organization .(2013).*Performance of border markets*.Birjand: South Khorasan Governor-General Office. (in Persian)
26. Taylor, P.,& Flit, C.(2000).*Political geography*. England: Prentice Hall.

27. Zarghani, S. H. (2007a). Geopolitical factors affecting the role and function of the borders with the emphasis on Iran's borders. *Geopolitical Journal*, 3(2), 117-119. (in Persian)
28. Zarghani, S.H.(2007b). *Introduction to recognizing international borders, with emphasis on security functions - police and borders*. Tehran: Deputy Police Disciplinary University Research. (in Persian)

How to cite this article:

Zarghani, S.H., Azami , H., & Alamdar, E. (2015). Analysis of the role of Mahirud border markets in the physical-spatial development of the border region with an emphasis on immigration and decrease in deprivation. *Journal of Geography and Regional Development*, 12(23), 175-195.

URL <http://jgrd.um.ac.ir/index.php/geography/article/view/29739>