

Rostak, the third kind of settlement, an approach to achieve suitable settlement in accordance with sustainable development

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1. INTRODUCTION

The main idea of this paper is that the present rural and urban settlements could not provide proper settlement for living. It is necessary to seek for a new pattern of settlement that is compatible with the needs and demands of modern societies and also could provide for sustainable development and redress the imbalance in the current rural and urban settlements.

2. METHODOLOGY

This article is based on conceptual analysis of the theoretical and experimental data with the help of theoretical and statistical evidences and qualitative analysis of the current situation and realistically ideal and suitable settlements for the situation in Iran. The theoretical basis in this research has made use of empirical studies of researchers and 20 years of experience in the field of rural-urban planning. However, the social and ecological views have been taken into account and sustainable development approach has had an effective role in development of the idea.

What is appropriate settlement pattern that could be responsive to the needs of present and future societies? It's the main question of the study. Based on these discussions, our hypotheses are:

- The current forms of urban and rural life cannot provide for an adequate model of high quality life.
- The current patterns of urban and rural settlement cannot be responsive to present and future needs.
- The current patterns of urban and rural settlement cannot provide for sustainable development of the society.

In this article, the suitable settlement is defined as the settlement whose habitants are satisfied with living conditions and aware of individual conditions, have the power to choose and give form to their life. Such settlements could be called a suitable settlement for sustainable living and quality life. In such settlements, livelihood is sustainable, based on income and employment. Peoples participate in all social, cultural and administrative

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aspects of the society. There is a stable appropriate organizational structure to institutionalize the involvement and participation of people in determining their own destiny. The settlement is self-reliant in all necessary matters. Therefore, the present rural and urban settlements does not provide for a quality living environment for its habitants. Besides, some new models have also failed to overcome the inefficiency of the present urban and rural settlements. There is a new pattern for settlement, as a viable and sustainable high quality development called Rostak that comes with the following features: a new settlement pattern, the population size can be between 500 to 35000, with various functions; diversity and self-reliance, homogeneous but various structures; localization and natural places, participatory, autonomous and people based management systems; Rostak is ecologically acknowledge based settlement free from time and space limitations. .

3. DISCUSSION

The rural and urban settlements issue analysis shows that transition from traditional to modern society led to settlement patterns that could not be adapted to new life patterns and socio-economic needs of people.

4. CONCLUSION

The current state of rural-urban settlements and one-sided and center-oriented flows of population to the highest level of hierarchical settlement are all indicative of issues of our national society. They imply the imbalance in settlement systems and ineffectiveness of the efforts of planners and decision makers in the development of rural and urban settlements. It seems that our society is facing a serious crisis. A critical social problem that would bring about more inefficiency, inequality and instability that leads to regional inequity and slow national development. Many villages and small town are becoming empty of population due to rural-urban migration, and the few remaining villages and towns are facing the identity crisis. The persistence of the situation forced urban and regional planers to look for new plans and ways leading them out of the settlement crisis. The main finding of this study was that to solve the rural and urban problems, we should turn to alternative solutions. The alternative solution is a third kind of settlement that we call it "Rostak". The third type of settlement strategy emphasizes that:

- Planning in urban and rural settlements requires that conventional methods should be revised.
- We should avoid dualistic perception of urban and rural areas, and give special attention to organic and systematic relationships between urban and rural areas.
- We should encourage the value of rural life and accredit it so that the villagers could achieve sustainable development and recognition in the country.
- Diversification of rural roles, to build self-reliant, entrepreneurs societies which enjoy sustainable livelihoods required for the formation of viable and quality settlements.

- To establish viable and quality settlements requires institutional background and providing the organizational, legal, social, economic, and cultural context.

- The third type of settlement requires a conscious plan to create a smart and efficient basis regardless of the form of settlements or villages.

- The third type of settlement is viable, high-quality, human-scale, self-reliant, equitable, entrepreneurial, ecologically efficient, smart, enjoying sustainable livelihoods, and high social capital, culture and spiritualities.

- The third type of settlement is only a hypothesis and needs more research and discussion. This paper has tried to begin a new discussion in this context.

Keywords: Settlement pattern, City, Village, Rostak, Third kind of settlement

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