

***An analysis of urban neighborhoods in Ardebil  
from resident's perspective with emphasis on the  
Iranian - Islamic city***

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**Abstract**

In the new urban and community management system, the neighborhoods' residents did not have much influence on the affairs of the neighborhoods, and this quickly created a sense of lack of identity, indifference, disinclination, finally, unwillingness in them. The present study attempts to study the urban managers' productions by modeling the Islamic and religious society and based on the final consumers' (residents) viewpoints. In addition, the study is to develop appropriate strategies for reaching the desired neighborhood in the Iranian-Islamic city. The research method is "applied" based on the purpose of the study, "descriptive" based on the research method, and "survey and field research" based on how the data are collected. The sample size is calculated using the Cochran formula and with regard to the maximum heterogeneity hypothesis as 380 participants. The present study was done in the primary and traditional six districts of Ardabil City. The data collection instrument was a researcher-made questionnaire prepared (Research dimensions include i.e. physical, cultural and social, economic and environmental dimensions with more than 100 questions) by basing the theoretical foundation and library studies. The SPSS software program was employed for statistical analyzes and to compare the desired urban neighborhoods of fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making was used. Based on field studies and surveys, the neighborhoods of Ardabil (especially in the studied areas) are distant from their ideal situation in an Iranian-Islamic city, and in different dimensions there are some deficiencies that can be observed and enforced. Some strategies and principles are achievable.

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## INTRODUCTION

The structure of urban neighborhoods has evolved since the early 20th century, and has changed dramatically over the last few decades. The traditional neighborhood system has collapsed without replacing the new system completely. The establishment of public administration institutions, top-down management and centralized management has spontaneously replaced the traditional and social community management system (Rahnamei, Farhadi, Ghalibaf, and Hadipour, 2007, p. 21). In the new urban and community management system, the neighborhoods' residents did not have much influence on the affairs of the neighborhoods, and this quickly created a sense of lack of identity, indifference, disinclination, finally, unwillingness in them. The incomplete application of the new principles and principles of urban management on the one hand, and the transfer of responsibility for neighborhood affairs to non-residents on the other hand, caused many problems in neighborhoods. However, in the management system of Islamic cities, there have been successful examples of urban neighborhoods. The present study attempts to study the urban managers' productions by modeling the Islamic and religious society and based on the final consumers' (residents) viewpoints. In addition, the study is to develop appropriate strategies for reaching the desired neighborhood in the Iranian-Islamic city.

The neighborhood as a long-standing urban construction unit was one of the most important and effective components of urban social life (Rafieian, Dadashpour and Forouzandeh, 2013, p. 89). In the process of preparing and implementing a variety of urban projects, in order to properly distribute the services at the city level and to provide the citizens with the best possible access, the urban physical divisions are divided into smaller administrative units such as districts, areas, alleys, neighborhoods, neighborhood units, and residential units (Ziari, 1386, p. 43).

The neighborhood-oriented approach makes bottom-up policies by referring to objective facts and at the local micro scales. Following the knowledge of the abilities and characteristics of the urban neighborhoods, and by empowering the inhabitants of the neighborhoods to solve their problems, they are quickly adopted by all as they form the desired urban neighborhoods as a part a puzzle (the whole city elements) eventually emerges as a desirable urban set. Over the course of time, urban planners and managers neglected planning based on urban neighborhoods, but nowadays the neighborhood-oriented model is supported again.

## Materials and Methods

The research method is "applied" based on the purpose of the study, "descriptive" based on the research method, and "survey and field research" based on how the data are collected. The sample size is calculated using the Cochran formula and with regard to the maximum heterogeneity hypothesis as 380 participants. The present study was done in the primary and traditional six districts of Ardabil City. The data collection instrument was a researcher-made questionnaire prepared (Research dimensions include i.e. physical, cultural and social, economic and environmental dimensions with more than 100 questions) by basing the theoretical

foundation and library studies. In order to assess the validity of the questionnaire, the planning, completion and finalization of urban planning was carried out in three stages. The reliability of the questionnaire was also investigated via the pre-test and Cronbach's alpha coefficient techniques. The alpha coefficient of the final questionnaire was obtained for 50 primary-sample questionnaires for about a month as 0.70. The SPSS software program was employed for statistical analyzes, To compare the desired urban neighborhoods with fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making techniques and also SWOT method was used to develop appropriate strategies for reaching the desired neighborhood. To compare the desired urban neighborhoods with fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making techniques as well

### **Rezalts and Discussion**

Based on field studies and surveys, the neighborhoods of Ardabil (especially in the studied areas) are distant from their ideal situation in an Iranian-Islamic city, and in different dimensions there are some deficiencies that can be observed and enforced. Some strategies and principles are achievable. Regarding the physical dimension, problems and features such as the lack of maintenance of the traditional neighborhood, transfer of urban traffic nodes into the neighborhood, prevalence of Western architecture in construction, turbulence of the visual space, and the low level of access of inhabitants to the spaces for their everyday affairs. The social and cultural dimension includes issues such as low social security especially for women and children at night, inappropriate lighting of the spaces, low residents' attachment to the destruction of memorable spaces, and the limitation of social and cultural institutions and popular organizations.

### **Conclusion**

The potentials of proper social participation and social and cultural supports of the residents from each other are also a positive aspect of this dimension. In the economic dimension, there are issues such as the lack of prosperity of urban centers, the inability of neighborhoods to estimate the economic needs of residents, the unemployment of residents, the growing incidence of false occupations and the lack of employment of young manpower at the local level. Significant reduction of private gardens by promoting apartment buildings, the lack of attention to ecological potential in the development of green spaces, inadequate access to existing green spaces, and the lack of an efficient system for urban waste recycling have produced areas for emerging problems in the environmental dimension.

Strategies have been presented in four research dimensions focusing on the neighborhood structure and the functional range of service centers, development of the level of social participation, attraction of investment, organization of physical spaces and economic activities, consideration of the ecological opportunities of neighborhoods for the development of green spaces, spaces needed by residents, strengthening of neighborhood centers in meeting the needs of residents, adhering to the hierarchy of access, and restoring memorabilia spaces are among the most

**KeyWords:** Neighborhood, FMCDM, Iranian-Islamic City, Ardabil City.

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