

## ***Investigating Factors Affecting Lack of Futurology Approach research in the Process of Regional Planning System (Case Study: North Coast Provinces of Iran)***

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### **Abstract**

Looking at the process of development and economic growth of developed and developing countries, it is observed that despite the fact that our country is rich in terms of resources, geographical location and economic development it has always been one of the middle countries. But so far regional studies have not mentioned the status of future approach in regional planning system and have merely addressed everyday issues of minor importance in order to aiming for Planning system. This research is a practical-developmental in purpose and descriptive-analytical in method. Combining documentary and survey data using Delphi techniques we tried to identify effective factors in lack of attention to the future approach research in the process of regional planning system, with a case study of Northern provinces and using MICMAC Analytical Techniques and Software. Key Factors influencing the future approach research in the process of regional planning system with emphasis on the Northern provinces were identify and explained. The results of the analysis show that factors such as the sovereignty of economic planning, the way of choosing the goals and tools of developing programs, lack of attention to possible future scenarios and centralization of the planning system is one of the main reasons for not paying attention to the future approach researches in the planning system process. Finally, appropriate solutions were presented to improve the process of logical planning system.

### **Introduction**

It appears that in the field of urban and regional planning as one of the branches of humanities and social sciences in which future prediction has the most application, the need to change the approach from prediction to imperative futures is inevitable and now the process of urban and regional studies requires reengineering in order to use this new approach. Principally Future management is a bridge through future approach research and effective management. From this point of view, all systems, processes, and methods for understanding early changes and evolutions and their relation to strategies have been under consideration. Given the future analysis plays a role in determining the strategy, the purpose of futures approach research is creation and testing

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possible and desirable futures to improve decision making. Now, to understand the reasons for disregarding the status of future approach research in the country, the present study attempts to investigate a case study of the provinces of northern Iran in which the regional planning system without paying attention to the future unlike other parts of the country, has led to regional imbalances, exacerbation of some areas, loss of resources and potentials of the region.

### **Materials and Methods**

Questionnaires and Delphi technique were used to obtain information. Questionnaires were administered just by the experts in development and programming field who have surrounding knowledge of development issues. To collect information in each of the provinces, using effective content analysis in the form of a closed questionnaire, factor harming regional planning system due to disregard for the future approach research of Northern provinces were executed by asking experts in development and programming field who have surrounding knowledge of development issues. In the second round of Delphi, prioritizing the effective components of the first stage of Delphi was done. In the final step, the results were extracted using Ray's various cross-analysis methods including structural analysis and Mac software.

### **Results and Discussion**

According to the reviews, although targeting and executive policies of the Northern Provincial Planning studies, have taken implementation potentials into consideration, in the recent development programs of the country (with emphasis on the Fifth and Sixth development plans) there have not even been a slightest mention to macro targeting of the potentials of Caspian Sea coastal region. So it has to be said goals appropriate to future approach research in Northern coastal region cannot be achieved without paying attention to the objectives set out in the Upstream Documents (Development Plans). Finally 34 variables harming regional planning system in the Northern provinces of the country were extracted, based on the discussions in theoretical foundations and Delphi methodology, which interactions for MIC MAC software input and second round Delphi were completed by experts in the area. According to the outputs of Mick Mc software the most effective factors in lack of attention to future approach research in regional planning system were orderly such as bellows: sovereignty of economic planning, lack of attention to possible future scenarios, Sectional, Island and point approaches, goals and tools of program implementation and the centralization of the development planning system.

### **Conclusions**

Investigate the results of long experience in preparing regional programs in the past and the results of data analysis in this research shows that due to the existence of central planning system and the dominance of macroeconomic planning, sectional planning, regional planning has always been influenced and directed by macro and sectorial programs cousin sectorial approach in programming and aim-orientation rather than process-orientation. On the other hand, regional development goals cannot be achieved without taking development planning goals into consideration. In this regard, financing, the use of both public and private sectors, increasing collaboration between institutions in the region and the use of these institutions will be useful for the development of community activities. On the one hand, the major challenge for the contemporary planners in dealing with the future is its unpredictability. Consequently, according to necessity of overview of the planning process, the position of the pillars of the country planning system at three national, regional

and provincial levels and in the four stages of planning, including coordination, planning, implementation, and monitoring are also required. Also, according to planning system pathology and the necessity of formulating possible future scenarios in formulating the goals and prospects of the country's development plans, transforming the Duties of the Development and Futurology approach research of Country Budget and Planning Organization will be an effective step in this new approach.

**Keywords:** Futurology Approach research, Planning System, Regional Planning, Coastal Regions of Northern Iran

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