

Application of Plan - Process - Results (PPR) Method in Evaluation of Urban Plans

Manouchehr Tabibiyan¹, Ali Asoudeh^{2*}

1. Professor, Department of Urban Planning, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran Prof., College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran (matabibian@yahoo.com.au)
2. M.Sc, Graduate of Urban Management, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

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Expanded Abstract

Introduction

So far, many evaluation methodologies for assessing urban plans have been introduced, but comprehensive and systematic evaluation methodologies up to now have received little attention. In the recent years, the Plan - Process - Results (PPR) approach as a comprehensive and systematic evaluation methodology based on the Policy- Plan/Programme-Implementation-Process (PIIP) method has been used in the assessment of urban plans. The PIIP model criteria - conformity, rational process, optimality ex-ante, optimality ex-post and utilisation – in planning the subsequent questions of policy, plan or programme, or the planning process under study and its results are considered. Despite the importance of PIIP model in the planning literature, from the early 1990s to the best of our knowledge, PIIP has not been used in real case studies, or not reported but PPR methodology are applied in Lisbon and Porto.

In this study, we outline the key elements of Plan - Process - Results (PPR) methodology, including criteria, sub-criteria and evaluation techniques/data sources introduced and its application in evaluation of urban plans using this methodology in ex-ante evaluation of Abshar (2) land development plan in Mashhad.

Materials and Methods

Plan - Process - Results (PPR) methodology was developed in 2009 by Oliveira and Pinho for comprehensive evaluation of urban plans. It will take into consideration all dimensions of urban plans with greater emphasis on the physical dimension and it used in ex-ante, ongoing, and ex-post evaluation of urban development plan. This methodology exploits the positive aspects and fixes some weaknesses in the ex-ante evaluation methods to scrutinize criteria of the Policy- Plan/Programme-Implementation-Process (PIIP) methodology.

In this study, PPR methodology is used in the ex-ante evaluation of Abshar (2) land development plan in Mashhad through a number of criteria related to the ex-ante dimension of the Plan.

Results and Discussion

The specific criteria on which the Abshar (2) land development plan attains the highest scores are the internal coherence and interpretation of planning system (Table 1). The specific criteria on which the plan attains the lowest scores are the participation in plan making.

* Corresponding Author: Tel: +989155572346

E-mail: a.asoudeh.s@gmail.com

Table 1. Abshar (2) land development plan: Evaluation results

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Score	Evaluation techniques / data sources
Internal coherence	Relationships between the objectives and the land uses of the plan	● ●	A Reading of the plan Impact matrices
	Relationships between the objectives and the urban systems of the plan	● ●	
	Relationships between the objectives and the plan implementation mechanisms	●	
Interpretation of planning system	Interpretation in terms of form	● ●	A Reading of the different versions of the plan and its regulation
	Interpretation in terms of substance	● ●	
Relevance	Relationships between the needs of the city and the objectives of the plan	●	B Reading of the plan SWOT analysis Impact matrices Reading of the newspapers
	Relationships between the needs of the city and the land uses and urban systems	●	
	Relationships between the needs of the city and the plan implementation mechanisms	●	
External coherence	Relationships in terms of objectives	●	B Reading of the plan and of other plans for that territory
	Relationships in terms of territorial	○	
	Relationships in terms of implementation	●	
Participation in plan making	Quantity of participants	○	C Reading of the plan Interviews
	Quality of participants	●	
	Promotion of public participation by the local authority	○	
Plan utilisation	Influence of the political power in the plan, as well as in other planning products, processes and structures	●	B Reading of the different versions of the plan (during the period of its preparation) Interviews
	Influence of the plan and of the planning practice in the political power	●	
Commitment of resources	Evolution of the availability of resources	●	B Reading of the plan Interviews
	Type of resources available	●	
	Relationships between planning performance and utilization of resources	● ●	

Conclusion

This study aims to demonstrate that despite the difficulties and the complexity in the evaluation of planning action, it is possible to evaluate urban planning practice in a comprehensive and systematic way. In this paper, Plan - Process - Results (PPR) methodology and its application in the ex-ante evaluation of Abshar (2) land development plan was applied in Mashhad. Overall, the results indicate that with a greater emphasis on the physical dimension and giving more criteria and data sources, this methodology differs from others. It also helps managers and urban planners provide a more favourable evaluation of the planning and implementation of urban plans. Moreover, the comprehensive character of PPR is identified by selection of general and specific criteria, the corresponding evaluation questions, the assessment techniques, and data sources.

Application of the PPR provided not only a sound and substantiated judgment in the case study under

evaluation but also provided the basis for identifying a number of singular and important features in planning practice of Abshar (2) land development plan.

According to the characteristics and framework of urban planning system in Iran, greater emphasis is on physical dimension rather than other dimensions of economic, social, environmental dimensions. The country's urbanism system can be applied as a comprehensive and systematic evaluation method in assessment of planning and implementation of urban plans in Iran. Finally, the main challenge of evaluation can be described as a dilemma that planning is faced with uncertainty and evaluator must at the same time be able to judge the plan, process and their results.

Keywords: evaluation methodologies, Plan-Process-Results (PPR), Policy- Plan/Programme-Implementation-Process (PPIP), urban plans.

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