

Pathology of urban management in the ethnic city (Case study: Nourabad city, Lorestan province)

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Extended Abstract

Objective: The proportion of urbanization in contemporary Iran increased from 31% in 1956 to more than 74% in 2016. In addition to rural-urban migration, promotion village to city is considered as an effective factor in increasing the proportion of contemporary urban population in Iran. The number of cities in Iran from 199 cities in 1956 reached about 1245 cities in 2016. Most of these new cities are formed in tribal, nomadic and rural cores and these cities have been the destination for a large part of the rural-urban migration. The final result of this process is the formation of small cities in Iran's terrestrial space, which they can call the ethnic cities. In these cities, the identity of the neighborhoods is generally based on tribal prejudices. The rapid growth of the population, the weakness of political culture, the domination of Tribalism culture and spatial segregation are the most important features of the ethnic city. The characteristics of the ethnic city have showed themselves into individual and collective decisions of the city's residents, such as city council elections, and have caught the cities in a loop of inefficiencies in urban governance. Accordingly, the purpose of the present paper is to pathology of urban management in Nourabad city as an example of the ethnic city.

Methods: Current paper is analytical–descriptive according to nature. Requirement data and information were gathered by documentary and field methods. The main tool for collecting required data is a researcher-made questionnaire that is based on the literature of the subject. The population of the study consisted of citizens of Nourabad city and urban planners and specialists including municipality staffs, mayors and counselors of Nourabad municipality. According to Cochran's formula and financial and time constraints of the research, the sample size of the study consisted of 200 citizens and 60 urban management experts in the city of Nourabad. In order to analyze the collected data, descriptive and inferential statistical techniques including mean, standard deviation and one-sample t-test were used in IBM SPSS Statistics 22 software.

Results:

The results of evaluating the effective criteria for choosing members of the city council of Nuorabad city show that according to the respondents' views, the factors of tribalism with mean value of 4.74, religious affiliation with mean value of 4.60, and financial power of the candidates and their cost for the city council elections with average of 3.17 were the most important factor affecting the choice of citizens. The views of citizens on the criteria for choosing a mayor by members of the Nourabad city council in past periods show that the factor of lobbying with a mean value of 4.10 and the factor of tribalism with a mean value of 3.63 was the most important factors influencing the way of selecting mayors by members of the city council. Assessing the overall satisfaction of citizens from the performance of the Islamic councils in the Nourabad city shows that only 6.5% of the respondents are satisfied with the performance of the council of Nourabad city in the four recent periods. In contrast, about 70% of the respondents were dissatisfied with the

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performance of the Islamic councils of Nourabad city. The results of t-test also show that the average score of satisfaction from the council performance in a range of 1 to 5 is 1,992. Therefore, the average score for satisfaction with the performance of the councils is significantly lower than the assumed average (3).

Conclusion:

The transition of contemporary Iran from a predominantly rural and nomadic community to an urban community has shaped a particular type of cities in territorial space of Iran. These cities, called "The Ethnic City", were the result of village-to-city promotion at the center of the settlement of tribes, nomads and villagers, and over time have become a new destination for the attraction of rural and nomadic immigrants. With the formation of massive rural-urban migration, social ties, which in the past have created regional homogeneity in the terrestrial landscape, today have found their base within cities and turned cities into centers of ethnic and cultural identities. The domination of ethnicity culture leads to social and spatial segregation in cities, and each neighborhood is a place for special tribal settlement. In such cities, rational and collective-minded behaviors become behavior based on individual and tribal feelings and interests. This issue will provide the ground for the inefficiency of urban management and development of these cities.

Keywords: Ethnic city, Voting behavior, Urban management, City council, Municipality, Nourabad city.

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