

Optimal Strategies Allocating Future Environmental Consequences in Coastal Architecture (Coastal Tourism in Kish Island)

Abstract

Today, the environment and its threatening problems is one of the most vital challenges facing diverse societies. Therefore, this issue overshadows various dimensions of new plans and ideas promoting within the society. Architecture, as one of the structures that is closely related to the earth and the face of nature, can play a chief role in environmental issues. The Kish Island, considered by the tourism and cultural sector, is one of the most central and strategic areas in the current geography of Iran; therefore, the study of coastal architecture and the environmental challenges is an essential and evaluable issue. The present research is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytical research in terms of method and nature. In this study, while introducing coastal tourism, the role of tourists and the environmental effects of related projects in the destruction of the environment and coastal architecture of Kish Island have been studied. Moreover, the collected data have been processed and analyzed using the SWOT analytical model. Findings confirm that based on the internal factors evaluation matrix, internal factors have not reacted well in tourism and coastal architecture and strengths and weaknesses have not been applied appropriately. Also, the study of external factors evaluation matrix shows that organizations and tourists in coastal architecture and tourism have reacted relatively well to external factor; and despite internal weakness, with the use of matrix-based interactive strategies based on the optimal strategy, the existing opportunities can be applied to remove obstacles.

Research aims:

1. Examining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats affecting coastal architecture
2. Finding optimal strategies to improve the quality of coastal architecture in Kish

Research questions:

1. What effect will the environmental factors of tourism-related projects have on the coastal architecture of Kish?
2. What are the strategies to deal with the destructive effects on the coastal architecture of Kish Island?

Keywords: Kish Island, Applicable changes, Coastal Architecture (Coastal Tourism), Environment.

Introduction

Tourism is one of the most dynamic economic activities of the present age, which plays a significant role in sustainable local development. This industry pursues many social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits through the combination and simultaneous use of internal and external resources. Therefore, if tourism is accompanied by planning, all indicators of sustainable development, including employment, elements of economic development, promotion of cultural level through cultural exchanges, protection of historical, cultural, natural heritage and environmental protection of communities will enhance without the need for heavy investment; however, it is central to note that the boom in tourism in any geographical location, along with the positive and negative economic and social consequences, partakes environmental effects that, if continued, possibly will lead to damage. Tourism is often used as a tool to stimulate critical economies and boost development activities by creating jobs and income. Nonetheless, the experiences gained from tourism are dissimilar; on the one hand, tourism can be used in altered ways and on the other hand the capabilities of each place to attract tourists and meet their needs are not the same. Coastal areas are also one of the most productive and dynamic ecological resources and the basis of economic and social science activities in the world. Valuable ecological resources, biodiversity and rich oil and gas reserves and scientific activities have made these regions one of the most sensitive and valuable regions in the world. Kish Island due to its natural and ecological position and located in the waters of the Persian Gulf as the only coral island in Iran, having areas full of unique natural phenomena and having environmental and marine conditions is a decent platform for development. The tourism industry and the creation of tourism projects in competition with diverse countries and can play a significant role in the transfer of science and economic prosperity of the country, but then again disregarding this sensitive region can eventually lead to its destruction and reduction of investment in this island, consequently, this category necessitates determined and sustainable forecasting.

If environmental sustainability is one of the objective goals of this era of the tourism industry, then measuring its performance and effects on tourist destinations is also a necessity. Sustainable development in the effort to meet the needs of present and future generations acts as a short-term profit balancer while protecting the environment in the long run. So far, various studies, researches and reports on environmental issues have been presented on the island. Omidvar (2000) in his dissertation has evaluated the environmental consequences of tourism in Kish Island and presented a solution for the management of coastal areas. Also, structural engineer consulting engineers of Iran (2007) under the management of Fara Darya Arsheh Company and with the support of Kish Free Zone Organization have carried out a project under the title of Kish Island Coastal and Environmental Management Plan (ICZM); they have presented 15 volumes of books. Also, GNU Consulting Engineers (1373) have studied the comprehensive plan of Kish Island. Borujeni and Nikobin (2011) in an article entitled "Measuring the sustainability of tourism development in Kish Island" points to indicators in this regard. Nikobin and Karami (2012) in an article entitled "Study of socio-cultural sustainability of tourism development in Kish Island" have made suggestions to make the socio-cultural benefits of tourism development for this island as sustainable as possible. Hosseinzadeh and Erfanian (2015) In an article entitled "Determining the range of coastal tourism range of Kish Island", the range capacity is estimated based on common international standards and specific political and ideological criteria of Iranian society. Baghipour et al. (2013) in an article entitled "Coastal tourism in Kish Island and environmental artifacts to express" environmental effects on coastal tourism in Kish has been mentioned.

The present study is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytical research in terms of method and nature. To collect the required information and data, library studies as well as field surveys such as

interviews and questionnaires have been used, and according to the information obtained and the combination of the findings, classification information has been used. In addition, they have been processed and analyzed using the SWOT analytical model. For this purpose, a list of strengths and weaknesses and opportunities and threats were identified. According to the four factors mentioned, strategic models to deal with the future environmental consequences of projects related to coastal tourism in Kish Island were presented.

The study area of this research is Kish Island. Kish Island, which is part of Bandar Lengeh city in Hormozgan province in terms of country divisions. With an area of 90.457 square kilometers, it is located 18 kilometers from the southern coast of Iran (Figure 2). The study area is the coast of Kish Island, which is located a short distance from the mainland of Iran in the waters of the Persian Gulf and 18 km from the southern coast of Iran. The island, with a circumference of 43 km, is almost oval in shape and its highest point is 45 meters above sea level. Proximity to the orbit of Cancer, the impact of monsoon currents and high humidity in the combination have played a decisive role in building the performance and ecological appearance of Kish Island (Omidvar, 2000). In general, Kish has a very warm to temperate climate with high relative humidity, low and scattered rainfall and the presence of tropical air masses most of the year. The wind in Kish Island has an annual order and its average speed for all directions is 3.9 meters per second (Hossein-Zadeh and Erfanian, 1394: 183).

Conclusion

Kish Island, due to its natural and ecological location and being located in the waters of the Persian Gulf as the only coral island in Iran, having areas full of unique natural phenomena and partaking environmental and marine conditions attract many tourists annually; nonetheless, environmental studies in recent years, as well as a comparison of existing aerial photographs, demonstrate that the increasing number of tourists and the creation of vacation industry and welfare facilities for them have triggered the destruction and deformation of the natural appearance of the coastlines. Doubt of this category necessitates the prerequisite for planning in the field of sustainable development of coasts. Based on the results of the internal factor evaluation matrix, it can be seen that the total weighted strengths and weaknesses (2.78) of the average value of 3 is lower, which indicates that the agencies and individuals responsible for coastal tourism (coastal architecture) did not respond well to internal factors and could not make good use of strengths and weaknesses. One of the most chief strengths is the historical and cultural attractions and social security on the island with points. Social security can also be effective in drawing more tourists and generating more social stability. Weaknesses are also caused by the destruction of coastal habitats and structural activities that affect the physical change of the coastline. They are one of the most significant weaknesses on the island that greatly affect the quality of coastal architecture. Also, the factor of non-observance of the principles of proximity of land uses and the lack of presence of criteria regarding the priority of land uses at the time of land allocation, is also considered as a chief factor from the standpoint of experts. Likewise, from the study of the evaluation matrix of external or environmental factors, it can be seen that the total weighted score of opportunities and threats (3.11) is slightly higher than the average value of 3, which displays the ratio of agencies and tourists. They have reacted well to external factors and are demanding to remove obstacles and weaknesses through the opportunities ahead. Among the most important opportunities the following can be mentioned: the possibility of establishing a variety of new activities and procedures due to the significant vegetation on the island, the prominence of domestic and foreign tourism in the country's political and decision-making circles, the existence of a wide coast and the potential for recreational and tourism activities is the proximity of Kish to the coast of Iran and the likelihood of transferring a number of the maritime transport activities related to Kish on the coasts.

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