

Factors of Identity Persistence in the City of Khorramabad with Emphasis on Falak Al-Aflak Castle

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Abstract

A city is a comprehensive concept comprised of various cultural, social, economic, historical and environmental aspects. These interconnected dimensions give specific attributes and identities to cities, which is the key to identifying urban areas. The city of Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province, has a unique distinctiveness bestowing a rich historical and cultural background and a host of favorable environmental factors and conditions. Located in the North-South funnel-shaped valleys at the heart of the Zagros Mountains (inscribed between the highlands) and among the rich water resources (rivers and springs), this city has distinct features, specifically its central range. A look at the natural geography of the city of Khorramabad indicates that security plays an important role in its formation and that the core of the city is organically formed in the vicinity of the Falak-al-Aflak castle. These features, along with the communication status of the city (located on the north-south route), have had a significant impact on the direction of its physical expansion. Thus, the genesis and development of the city was largely influenced by its natural, historical, and strategic features.

Research objectives:

1. To examine the different aspects of the identity of the city of Khorramabad for sustainable development.
2. To provide solutions for conservation of Falak-al Aflak castle for justifiable development of Khorramabad city.

Research questions:

1. Which characteristics of the city's identity are needed in order to withstand the development of Khorramabad?

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2. What are the strategies for preserving and exploiting the cultural monument of Falak al-Aflak?

Keywords: Khorramabad City, Identity, Sustainable Development, Falak Al-Aflak Fortress.

Introduction

As a human, natural, economic, social, cultural and physical phenomenon, the city is born in its historical context in certain conditions and continues to live, grow, and change in certain circumstances (Mojtahedzadeh, 2003). Many cities have historical backgrounds that form an essential part of the city's identity. In fact, each city has its own characteristics in its organizational components and forms, including its social structure, behaviors, and activities (Kamili, 2008). Historical, cultural and tourism potentials, especially in the historical and central areas of cities as attractive centers, have the potential and potential for the dynamism and vitality of urban contexts and can underlie the dynamics of urban centers.

Khorramabad is one of the important centers of Iranian civilization, with a special geographical location in the strait, and after passing through long and steep slopes now from a confined urban core, it has become today's modern day Khorramabad; furthermore, approximately 4,000 hectares of urban land has been re-developed.

The Falak al-Aflak castle lies within the gorge above and above the hills of the same name and is considered to be the primary core of the city, along with other elements of the city's identity as well as environmental assistance, emphasizing the value and prominence of the center. The city has added great potential for the development of its cultural and historical tourism.

Conclusion

As discussed in the preceding discussion, a major change in the spatial structure of the city was made in the early 1930s as a road construction project was carried that caused the demolition of parts of the "Falak al-Aflak castle". This alternation caused a break between the main part of the city (bazaar) (bazaar) and the fortress Falak-al Aflak. From then onwards, with the expansion of activity into the body of the street, a variety of uses have been established around the fortress area. By establishing a military university

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within the main section of the castle and the irrelevance it had with an artistic and cultural monument, many disambiguates were created in terms of appearance and use.

On the other hand, the old bazaar of Khorramabad, located on the western side of the castle, is characterized by physical disruption and a distinct activity that has further disparaged this monument with cultural identity.

In summary, the central area of the city of Khorramabad, and particularly around the fort, faces major disruptions as follows:

- 1- Physical and activity mismatch
2. Heavy and increasing traffic
3. Severe noise, visual and air pollution
- 4- Replacement of residential function by commercial-related land uses, especially in the old market area and context.
5. Social displacements
6. The existence of incompatible urban land uses
7. Weaknesses in the quantity and quality of leisure and tourism facilities.
8. Disturbing day and night population balances in downtown, jeopardizing social security and space vitality in the context.

On the other hand, the central area of the city of Khorramabad, in addition to its main function (as the focus of the city's activity and movement), serves as the main symbol of the emergence of social interactions and the repository of social memories as well as the crystallization of civil life and identity. The historical value of the range and the zones of collecting memories and identities within the central and primal core of the city (the old context), the existence of major multifunctional axes (often urban scale and beyond), and the main market of the city, along with its richness and the presence of elements of the natural environment - vegetation and green walls and clear water in the atmospheres can all enhance the leisure function of the city center.

In this regard, it is necessary to consider the following:

- The mere physical importance of remnants of the past and the one-sided emphasis on their preservation without communicating with the city and citizens is somehow resisting

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the current trend of society and its development; hence, physical protection should be combined with social support and public interest.

-Alongside ancient and historic monuments and memorials, there are other values such as environmental attractions as well as traditional rituals that contribute to the enhancement of the tourism potential of the urban community.

- The creation of new urban symbols derived from cultural identity as well as the needs of today's society through the transfer of historical identity to new spaces that enriches the urban environment and its body; hence, they can be valuable for the future.

Strategies and policies for sustainable preservation and exploitation of existing historical and cultural monuments:

The historical and cultural artifacts in the central context of Khorramabad have many historical-cultural principles and play an exceptional role in the process of urban planning and sustainable development, as well as being appreciated at the local, regional and beyond functional scale, alongside their capability. The surrounding areas are considered as a worthy base for promoting tourism in the city of Khormabad (with emphasis on its central texture).

The strategies presented in this regard are based on two main issues:

First, the sustainable development of any land would be incomplete and inadequate without the sustainability of historical and cultural standards. Second, cultural heritage planning and management should be considered part of socio-economic development and considered as an integral part of the physical-spatial growth and civil improvement plans at national, regional and local scales. (Mehdizadeh, 2005).

Strategies

- Active protection

In general, considering the principles of land use planning and sustainable development, the main strategy in spatial development plans is to preserve and use historical and cultural artifacts to enhance the quality of life environment and to enhance spatial identity and vitality (Lorestan Provincial Plan, 1391).

But this protection or use must be done in such a way as not only to minimize the sustained existence of these works, but also to prevent their destruction and gradual erosion and improve their activity, But also to prevent their destruction and gradual

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erosion and improve their activity. An appropriate solution in this regard is the application of an "active conservation" policy that, in line with international experience and the recommendation of international institutions, in the field of cultural heritage protection, means to prevent the isolation and abandonment of historical and cultural artifacts and to use them in their activities. And compatible applications such as educational, scientific, cultural and tourism activities. If used correctly and with conscious management, it will not only harm the protection of the works, but can also help to refurbish them.

In today's world, preserving cultural-historical monuments does not only relate to legal registration and confinement and imposition of penalties for violators, but also the process of preserving and properly utilizing cultural heritage as an important part of land-use planning and development plans. It is urban and regional. This requires, first and foremost, the provision of basic information in a complete, concise and accessible manner by the responsible institutions and the oversight and follow-up of the tasks of other institutions related to land development and development. Other strategies can be described as follows:

- Preservation and restoration of works against urban, industrial and infrastructure developments
- Use of works in the development and organization of identity and vibrant settlements.
- Sustainable exploitation of works in tourism development programs and sustainable employment creation
- Sustainable use of historical and cultural monuments in the development of public and open spaces
- Enhance historical and cultural monuments as territorial identity monuments

In view of the above considerations and in order to preserve and utilize the historical-cultural monuments in the city of Khorramabad, the policies are as follows:

The need for coordination between urban management and cultural heritage management to follow and enforce the rules on the protection of works:

One of the important legal tools for the sustainable preservation and exploitation of historical monuments is the provision of privacy for them. According to the law in Iran, cultural heritage is designated by the Cultural Heritage Organization. Due to the rapid

growth of urbanization and infrastructures in the country and the need for a variety of development and progress plans, sustainable development is necessary to determine the legal process involved. Policies and regulations for historical-cultural monuments as well as their executive guarantees should be taken seriously by officials with more urgency, speed and comprehensiveness.

Introducing the unique collection of Ferris wheel as a unique treasure in the world cultural heritage:

This work, in addition to its national value, is part of humanity's cultural heritage and can be used by all culturally friendly people around the world. From this point of view, this issue can be considered as a more historical-cultural strategy and possibly a place for it in the progress plans and programs of the region.

-Cultural and tourism use of monuments in the city of Khorramabad:

Khoram Abad city in the outreach plans as the center of one of the 12 zones of Zagros region in the national physical plan and as the center of one of the three zones in the province with the regional and provincial role that tourism as one of the proposed functions of the projects. Has been considered for the city (Zagros Area Physical Plan, 2002). Due to the requirements of the aforementioned projects, the central texture of the city has a special ability to enhance the tourism role of the city and the region due to its cultural and historical indicators (along with environmental capabilities).

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