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THE ROLE OF CAPITAL IN EMPOWERING THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS CASE STUDY: NORTH PART OF TABRIZ

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ABSTRACT

Iran's accelerated urbanization has created serious challenges in populous cities. The mushroom growth of informal settlement on the world's megacities is one of the consequences of urbanization that is common in most cities of Iran. If the situation continue as it is, their population will likely be more than several million in the near future. Tabriz possesses different economic, politician and social capacities. With increasing population of the city the society will be divided into rich and poor then the poor people will be driven to slums. This problem has led to development of participatory approaches to solve dilemma. Social capital is a new concept. Urban planning researches have used social capitals. In the present study the social capital approach is used in empowering settlement that plays more important role than physical and human capital. There are three components of social capital including trust, integrity and social participation. The main approach in this regard is based on empowerment of informal settlements. This study evaluates each of the components and their impact of the empowerment of those informal settlements located on the north side of Tabriz. Empowerment is an approach to informal settlement through which governments try to organize the slums in a disciplinary manner rather than confrontation approach or destroying them. This goal can be achieved by participatory planning and the cooperation of the residents using participatory method to empower the slums. Then the people will be practically involved in implementation and operation processes. The study regions included Khalil-Abad, Ahmad-Abad, Molla Zeinal and Ghooshkhne-Seilaab which all are located in north side of Tabriz. Data was analyzed using SPSS. Findings indicated that 75% of these informal settlements of Tabriz are located within northern segment of the city. Earth slop, poverty and low quality of life are the major problems the residents of these informal settlements faced.

Keywords: *Informal Settlement, Empowering; Social Capital; Social Indicators; Tabriz*

INTRODUCTION

Following the current hastily urbanism in developing countries, including Iran, casual residence are featured as urban poverty, inside or around cities (Kalhournia, municipal's monthly issue, 45, 40)

Generally these 4 characteristics have been mentioned for suburbanite societies:

1. Insecure right of ownership.
2. abnormal situation of house structure
3. unavailable drinkable & healthy water
4. Excessive population density (un.habitat.2005)

Based on historical and geographical situation and taking into account the dominant economical and political ideas, different views have been formed about these generally poor residences. Various procedures have been suggested to resolve the issue.

Very recently, sociological investment plays effective role in process of empowerment improvement of living situation in casual residence.

Empowerment is based on poverty eradication prospective and human – centered stable development and dependence of citizens' attendance and city itself (city management).

These residences often emerge hastily and automatically further than city and urbanism principals.

Most important issues of these casual residences include high population density, minimum quality of living facilities, low levels of education, unemployment and economical improper condition (Edris *et al.*,

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1389). These residences's increasing indicates incapability of solutions and current urban policies that require new acts and solutions (Mehrangiz 1389).

We presume that

1. Economical structure and immigration are the most important elements of casual residence formation inside the research limits.
2. There is a relation between increase of society attendance and empowerment of casual residence people.

The main goal of this study is investigating casual residences and society investment role in empowerment these residences located in north of Tabriz. Specific goal of this study is analyzing social investment (trust, consistency and social attendance) and analyzing role of each in empowerment casuals inside the research limits.

Research Backgrounds

Detailed study of casual residences phenomenon in Iran starts at late 1340s. The first organized research have been done after foundation of development and housing ministry in 1342 and under direct surveillance of it's social affairs manager that mostly is concerned with outskirts life description. In the 50s, social research association of Tehran university in corporation with Project and Budget organization have surveyed several capital cities including Hamedan, Kermanshah and Bandar Abbas (Hajjousefi, 1381).

In 70s, suburbia's research project of Iran was done. Causes, solutions and results of these researches called "suburbia's of Iran" was established.

Recent field research relates to empowerment and reformation plans for resolving casual residence, attention to social aspects and investment of different housing ministries such as Kermanshah (Irandoust and Sarrafi, 1389).

Shahab Abbaszadeh and Hamid Goudarzi, introduce social investment as an effective element in process of empowerment casual residence in their research of "empowerment casual residence with relying on social investment of Shahid Bahonar town located in Mashad".

Most important results of this research is residences attitude change (in the first stage trust and reliance) that can be counted as the most important element in getting attendance of Shahid Bahonar town (Abbas and Gohari, 1389). Casual residence term was used for the first time in Charles Ebra and John Torner's paper. It was especially commonly used after Vancouver, Canada conference on 1976. Potina also suggests social investment as a trust and vast social network that facilitate attendance for multi-dimensional profits (Potina, 1384). Francis Fokoyama, realizes social finance as a current norm's set in social system that results improving cooperation of society members and decreasing communication cost (Fokoyama, 1999).

Experiences about preparing and implementing reformation projects and local dispoverty of other developing countries, during two last decades, was based on empowerment approach and local social attendance as a main success situation. This approach was result of attitude change about poverty and dealing with solution (Shubert, 1996).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Present paper is descriptive-analytical research, based on field study. It means that, first, theoretical principals are searched and hypothesis was founded on social finance and effective on increase or decrease of attendance in accomplishing empowerment casual residence projects. Collecting information field operation was the first priority. Household questionnaire was the most important data and information tool. Field study was the suburbs of Tabriz (north of town suburban). Sampling method and filling questionnaire was done with SPSS software. Two tests were used for hypothesis establishing and also Esperman correlation factor utilized.

Research Situation Method

Tabriz, center of East Azerbaijan province is among important provinces for many years. Since it was located in relating path of north, east, west and south countries, it had economical and social importance.

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In the long run, this caused problems like immigration increase, unemployment, false jobs and suburban that is only extended towards west (Iviva, 1387).

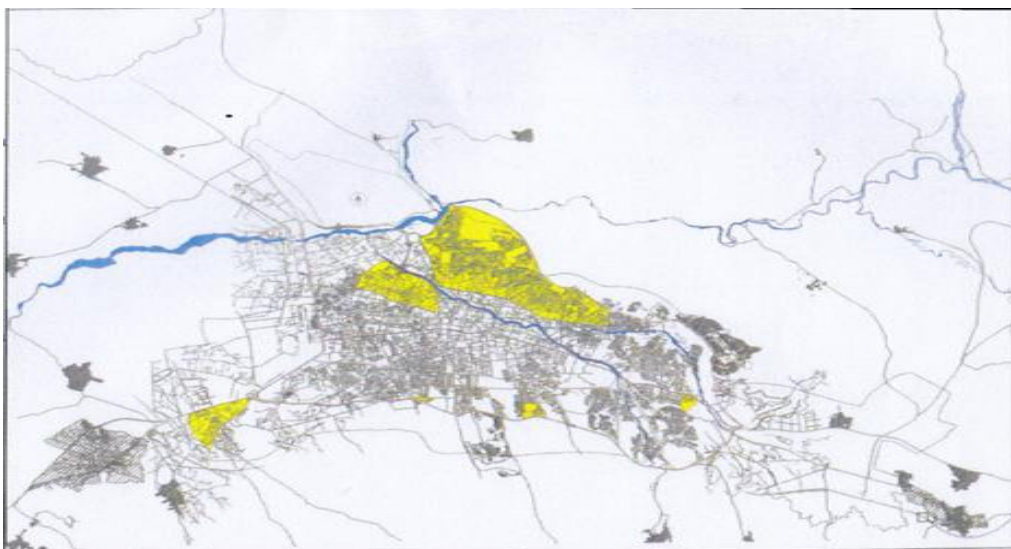


Figure 1: Marginal zone of Tabriz

North plate of Tabriz is widest plate of Tabriz suburban with almost 400 thousand population (consulting engineers, Zista, 1383). This plate ends to Pasdaran freeway from north, to Mofateh, Sarbaz Shahid and Abbasi from south, Shahid Fahmideh square from east. Major parts are: Khalil Abad, Ahmad Abad, Molazeinal and Selab Goshkhaneh.

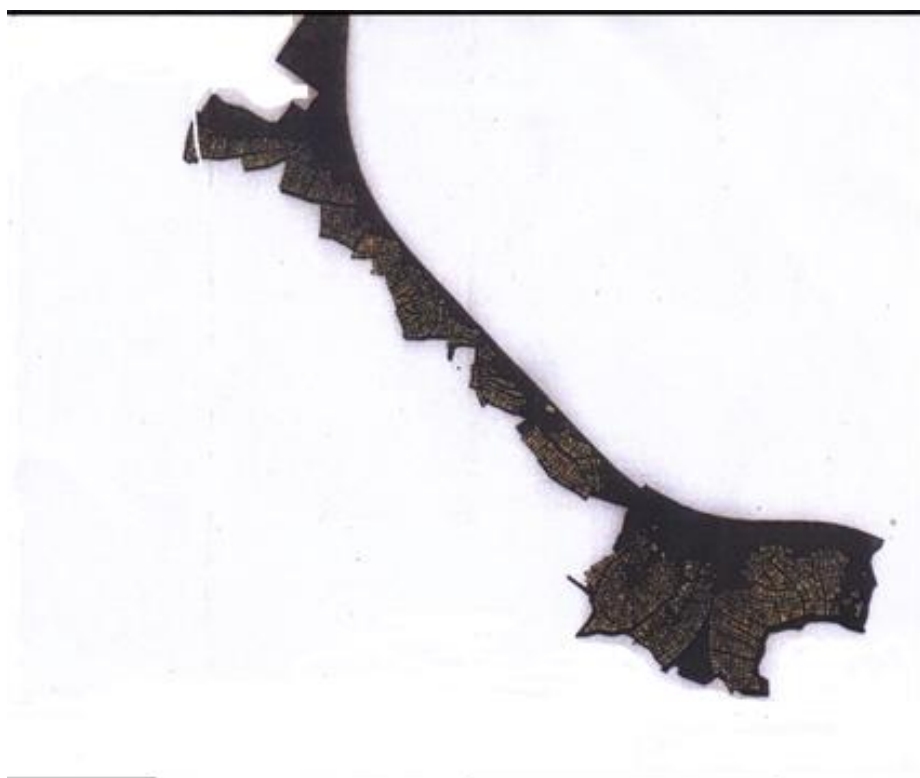


Figure 2: Marginal lands of pasdaran

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Analysis of Body Indices

Table 1: Economical and social indices

Education	Illiterate	Primary	Diploma	Diploma	License	Master's degree or higher
	Number (percentage) (14/9) 11	Number (percentage) (48/6) 36	Number (percentage) (28/4) 21	Number (percentage) (6/8) 5	Number (percentage) (1/4) 1	Number (percentage) 0
Income	Less than 150	150-200	250-350	350-450	450-600	More than 600
Tomans	Number (percentage) (8/1) 6	Number (percentage) (5/4) 4	Number (percentage) (18/9) 14	Number (percentage) (24/3) 18	Number (percentage) (25/7) 19	Number (percentage) (17/6) 13
Type of job	Paid workers	Employed	Government employee	Retired employee	Unemployed	
	Number (percentage) (14/9) 11	Number (percentage) (66/2) 49	Number (percentage) (6/8) 5	Number (percentage) (8/1) 6	Number (percentage) (4/1) 3	
Choosing a housing	Price land	Price housing	Low rental rates	Close to relatives and family	Access to Work	
	Number (percentage) (28/4) 21	Number (percentage) (31/1) 23	Number (percentage) (3/20) 15	Number (percentage) (13/5) 10	Number (percentage) (8/6) 5	
Length of stay	From birth	Less than 5 years	From 5 to 10 years	More than 10 years		
	Number (percentage) (21/6) 16	Number (percentage) (23) 17	Number (percentage) (16/2) 12	Number (percentage) (32/2) 29		
Ownership	formal		Informal			
	Number (percentage) (40/9) 31		Number (percentage) (58/1) 43			

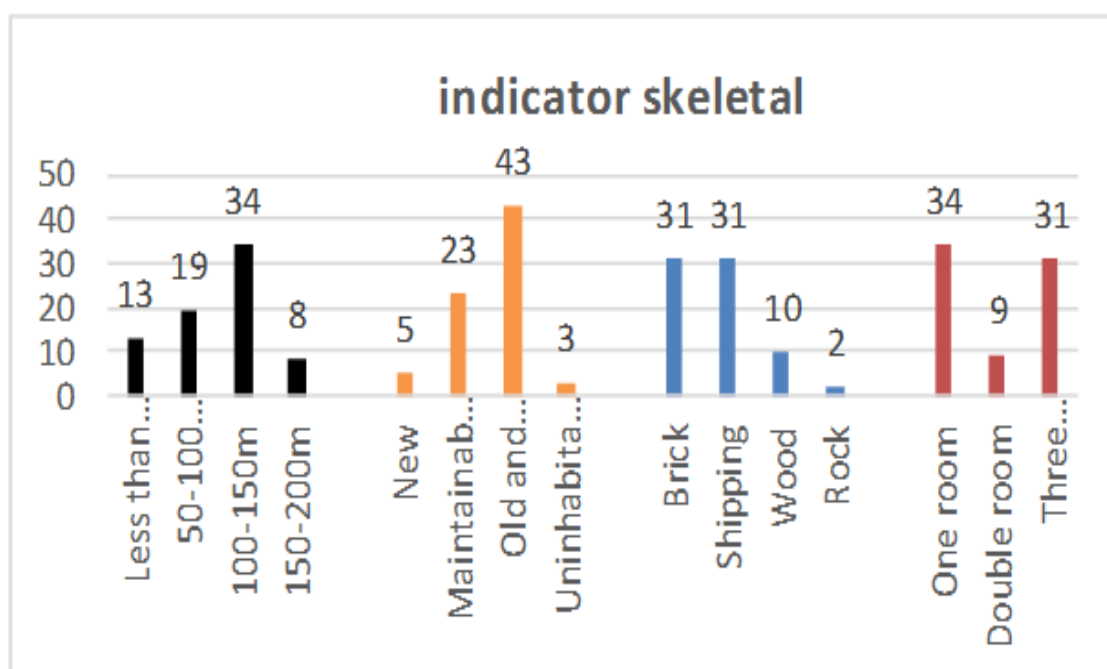


Figure 1: Indicator skeletal

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Least frequency about house size variance relates to measures above 50 meters. That is 8 cases. Most frequency relates to 34 case of 50-100 meters. About buildings age, uninhabitable options are 3 cases (the last frequency) and 43 old, broken options (the most frequency). Each person inside study limits, takes attention to building and construction, materials quality according to their income. Managers and people in charge of investigation of these areas take less responsibility. Least frequency of responses about dominant materials of stones was 2 cases, brick and iron, 31 cases. Number of rooms in each flat was at least 2 and 9 at most. Most responses had 1 room that includes 34 cases. About house situation, 46 were owners and 28 tenants.

Least frequency of education level is 1 case of bachelor and the most frequency is 36 cases of elementary. Elements like diseconomy and cultural poverty, incompetence of general education in finding job, decrease educating and increase dropout. In casual residences of Tabriz, women have low level of education comparing men. Valued beliefs, non institutionalized need for education in this group and non-existence of education facilities are the reasons of low level education and woman's studying.

So, financial inability and cultural weakness lead to common uneducated and semiliterate people of these areas. On the other hand, low level of education is the major element for not finding revenue job opportunities. About income level, least frequency is 1 case of less than 150 thousand tomans and the most frequency is 19 cases of 4500600 thousand tomans. In job type variable, less frequency is 3 unemployed case and the most frequency is 49 self employed. About choosing house options, least frequency is the access to workplace of 5 cases and the most frequency is 23 cases of suitable house price. In field studies, low price of house in these areas is the main cause of population's attraction. About the residency time variable, least frequency was more than 10 years stay of 29 cases. Possession variable, of 31 cases had official title deed and 43 cases unofficial title deed.

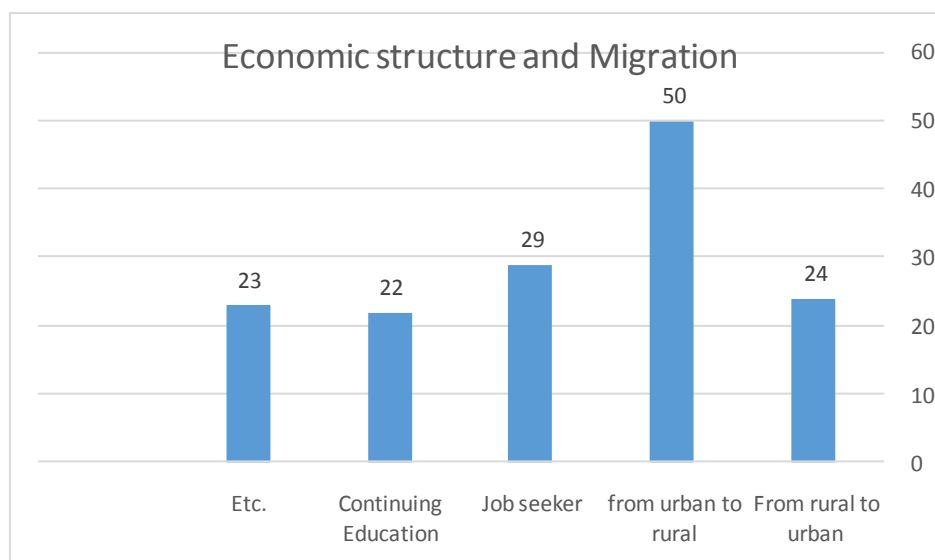


Figure 2: The immigrants and their causes

Concluded research indicates that the main cause of rural immigration and moving from big to small towns and metro cities and stay in casual residences, is achieving more jobs and income.

About a decade earlier although most immigrants share in casual residences were rural, but according to table information, it is city to city. About the immigration reason variable, most important reason for leaving hometown is lack of job in small towns and villages which consequently ends to Tabriz job opportunities. Residences of these areas have already intensified their unemployment according to no profession and low levels of education, which have turned to various damages and economical, social problems.

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Table 2: Environmental indices

Sewage method	exertion	Absorb well	Urban se wage	Other methods
		Number (percentage) 26(35/2)	Number (percentage) 44(59/5)	Number (percentage) 4(1/4)
Garbage method	gathering	Van	wheelbarrow	Other methods
		Number (percentage) 58(78/4)	Number (percentage) 10(13/5)	Number (percentage) 6(8/1)
Local problems		Neighbor water course	Near garden	earthquake
		Number (percentage) 52(70/3)	Number (percentage) 7(9/5)	Number (percentage) 15(20/3)
Place of living slope		0-10% 40	10-20% 34	
Local situation about environment pollution		Polluted Number (percentage) 66(82/9)	No pollution 8(10/8)	

In the case of living slope, construction in hard slopes and impossible urbanism, leads to quality and quantity decrease, especially in servicing of emergency situation. Flood and earthquake more than other natural elements have been studied in houses that are constructed out of standard in suburb areas. Flood, ruins every house which is built without urbanism and architecture principles and strong infrastructure in its path or causes lots of damage.

Kolmogorov - Smirnov Test for Studying Attendance Rate and Empowerment Variable Normality

According to study results, residence role in empowerment their neighborhood because of culture and economic is weak. Residences have mentioned that managers attention is also very weak. According to following table, as for both variables of attendance rate and empowerment, significance of 0.029 is 0.05 percent more; so we can't assume zero for variables normality.

Table 3: Normality survey for attendance and empowerment rate

Variable	Number	ST(standard deviation)	Mean	Number of Z scores	Significance rate
Participation rate	74	2/39	0/53	1/45	0.029
Empowerment	74	2/51	0/67	1/45	0.029

The correlation coefficient between the participation and empowerment

		Popular participation	Empowerment
Popular participation	Spearman correlation coefficients	1.000	.405**
	Significant (two-sided)	.	.000
	Number	74	74
Empowerment	Spearman correlation coefficients	.405**	1.000
	Significant (two-sided)	.000	.
	Number	74	74

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Conclusion

Casual residence is the most evident feature of poverty in Tabriz. Suburbs outlook in Tabriz are mixture of urban and rural views.

Suburb structure emergence and local poverty settlement is caused by villagers and neighboring small towns immigration (because of less facilities) to big cities.

As mentioned, casual residence people are economically, socially, culturally and hygienically poor.

In one hand, social finance means social reaction that helps economical performance improvement and in other hand plays an important role in empowerment of casual residences and improving economical situation. This is done with getting use of social, humanely investment and capacity building in forming and extending it in relation with economical situation development. Social investment gathers other four finances (human, natural, financial, physical) for poor and counted as local community basis development. In other words, community investment acts as a mechanism for development and lack of it acts as an obstacle for social development. Empowerment of low areas is impossible only with sources, ideas and their own power since people of society trust each other, economical communication is simpler and people's tendency for attending voluntary activities increase and consequently saving and expanding better quality environment is done. According to our findings, managers and residences of casual residences in our study limits, have no tendency for empowerment that is because it is not their hometown and feel no regard to this place and its reformation.

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