



**International Journal of Biology, Pharmacy
and Allied Sciences (IJBPAS)**

'A Bridge Between Laboratory and Reader'

www.ijbpas.com

**THE ROLE OF URBAN REVITALIZATION IN HISTORICAL AND URBAN LOSS OF
VALUED-CONTEXTS OF DARBANDAN AND SAREKOOCHHEYAKHCHAL DISTRICTS IN
ARANE BIDGOL**

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ABSTRACT

In the contemporary decades, review of the related literature and experiences on reconstruction, rehabilitation, renewal, redevelopment, and regeneration have shown that one of these experiences has been used in every historical city, depending on design background. To fulfil their general ideas, these experiences have been studied in subjects such as social, economical, cultural, and religious ones. However, in recent years, from among others, the fulfilment of social goals has enjoyed a special status. Since these goals are directed toward increasing security in environment, preserving identity of the historical context, considering architectural values and historical features, and preparing conditions for attracting tourists, they have improved public satisfaction of the residents. In the present study, the writer addresses the assumption that public participation approach seems has an effective role in urban revitalization of the historical contexts of Darb and and Sarekoocheyakhchal districts which suffer from urban loss of value. Collecting information through questionnaire and analyzing it based on Swot, it was concluded that in the historic districts which suffer from urban loss of value, urban revitalization can be achieved by people participation.

Keywords: Urban revitalization, Worn-out context

INTRODUCTION

In examining restoration plans of contexts, the attention is more given to returning life to the contexts which already do not have their

own dynamics and appropriate efficiency and as a result, they gradually become unusable areas or the least usable ones. A very

important subject on these contexts is paying attention to their revitalization. To meet this end, the attention should be given to residents' needs or the individuals' ones who have special and historical relationship with the district. Meanwhile, living in historic environments and ancient contexts requires involving in events and memories as well as believing in making new changes in them. The scope of addressing this subject accompanies with different and sometimes very opposite approaches. This range starts with very biased behaviors which believe in simply conserving single buildings and making no physical changes on them and ends at demolition and reconstruction steps. Currently, the results obtained by studies and experiences show that simply conserving single buildings and paying sanctified attention to ancient heritage cannot meet the needs of today's life. What is important is that life with its needs and specific characteristics happens in old bodies (8). Finally, we can say that the biggest problems which valuable historical urban contexts are suffering from are the lack of social mobility and going away from the current mainstream of urban social life. These issues have caused the opportunities to maintain these contexts spontaneously and dynamically are

eliminated and made them needing to governmental measures. However, these measures are slow and top-to-down modification structure-based; i.e. ignoring existing capacities, they are only performed to achieve a pre-determined totality. (12)

Definition of variables

Urban revitalization: urban revitalization can be interpreted and defined as development of countries. In most developed economies, the purpose is restoration of downtown. However, in less developed economies, qualitative plans are also considered and necessarily bound into quantitative requirements (13).

Environmentally and physically, urban revitalization has a comprehensive and integrative perspective (11) which has been subjected to change. Hence, it has tendency to be improved economically, socially, and environmentally.

Worn-out urban context: worn-out urban context refers to the areas of legal limits which because of physical fatigue and the lack of available suitable roadway, facilities, services, and urban infrastructure are vulnerable and have low spatial, economical, and environmental values (3).

Background

1- Urban regeneration means renewal and revitalization, i.e. urban rehabilitation. After facing different challenges, this approach has been proposed as an integrative and inclusive approach including social, economical, and physical dimensions to address fatigue in cities. The aim of using the techniques of public participation in the improvement of worn-out context project in the central part of London was increasing revitalization in the worn-out context(11).

2- Through improvement of worn-out context project in Davin district, the central part of Philadelphia, it was concluded that urban renewal, in the direction of approaching to social stability, is one of tools to achieve high quality of urban life. (9)

3- In last two decades of the twentieth century, studying in Sange Siyah district in Shiraz, it was concluded that urban restoration approach, as an option to eliminate urban loss in worn-out areas, was one of those which had attracted decision-makers and planners' attention,. (6)

4- To maintain historical contexts, living must flow in the munder different names, such as tourism, social, and welfare sections; In other words, establishing activities which can attract audience for the citizens living in that district. (14)

Aranand Bidgol

To late Qajar period, politically, Aranand Bidgol were adjacent to each other in the form of two major dorps which were surrounded by separate forts, sieges, and defense fences. After Qajar period, each one owned a separate municipality in accordance with the laws of divisions. Based on decision of the Council of Ministers on the 11th of Shahrivar in 1325, the villages of Aran, Bidgol, Noosh Abad, and Kavira at owned county seats and central county seat was established in Aran village. Municipality of Aran and Bidgol were established in 1332 and 1333, respectively (2). Next, in accordance with decision made on integration of Municipalities of Aran and Bidgol on the 14th of Tir in 1355, Municipality of Gol Ara was established. At first, these two cities were considered as a part of the province of Markazi. From 1355, they were annexed to Esfahan. Finally, according to the cabinet decision on the 26th of Shahrivarin 1375, Aran was isolated from Kashan and changed to Aran Bidgol city. (10)

The History of Aranand Bidgol

Aran Bidgol in the Islamic period: according to a research reported by Ali Mohammad Sultan Mohammad Arani, this city has been

developed in the Seljuk period. In this period, strong forts were constructed in the city (2). In addition, Shah Abbase Avvalhad been located in the path of Shahrah in Esfahan to Farah Abad – beside Sangfarsh road. The path of caravan traffic was ramified from this section _ in which the trail of many bridges is observed yet _ toward Maranjab inn. In addition, the construction of inn and palace at 1500 meters of it was other measure during this period. (7)

Old context

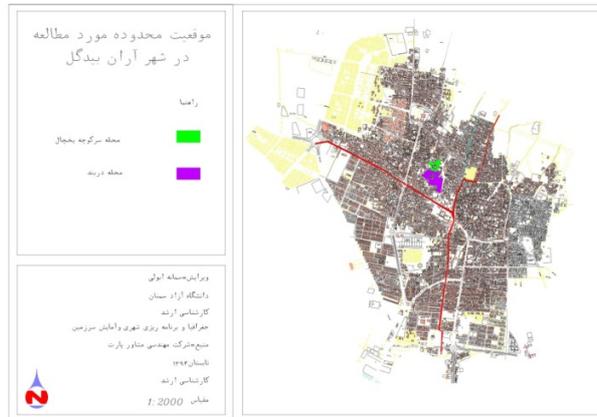
Mudand adobe monuments were constructed in dual historical contexts, according to the traditional architectural style of Iran's kavar. As it was mentioned, they have been constructed in Seljuk and Safavian periods. These two contexts have been divided into several districts in a systematic manner and their identity was so strong. Relations between districts were on the basis of meeting daily needs of residents so that markets or mosques were commonly used in some districts and sometimes one district offered services to two, three, or more districts. (2)

Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchal districts

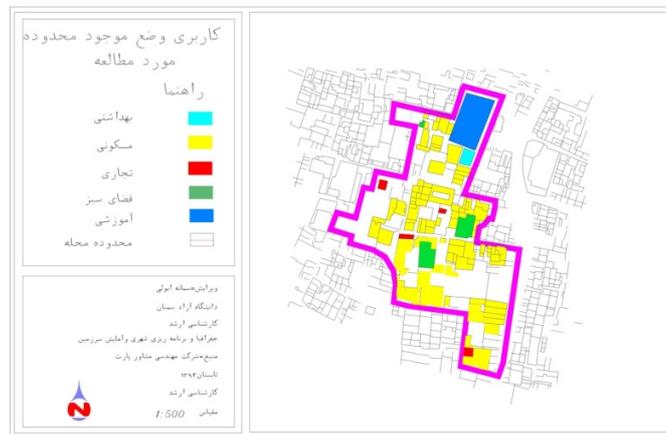
Darband district was residency of the rich and scientists. In addition,

Sarekoocheyakhchal was the residency of upper class and educated individuals. It was named yakhchal district because of the existence of refrigerators. (2)

Darb and was one of central districts of Aran. The presence of pathways made possible the connection between Darband and Chaharrsogh, Jangaliteh, Dahno, Sarekoocheyakhchal, and market. This district had so importance academically and culturally. If we add wealth and prevailing financial status of residents to this advantage, undoubtedly, we can observe beautiful monuments having unique architecture. Different great houses such as EftekharolIslam, ShaykholIslam, Haji Agha, Safaei, Nezamivafa, Hashemi, Izadi, Masudi, Sheibani, and Danesh's houses, demolished ancient bathroom, new bathroom, Darband's cistern, Haji Baba's mosque, the first public school in the city, Heday at school (ShaykholIslamhouse), Darband's springhouse which is located in the central square of the district, and pathways of the district are representatives of its glory. The most important case affecting Iran's architecture, especially hot and dry areas, is the presence of water. However, this needs to be considered carefully. (2)



Map no. 1: Darbandand Sarekoocheyakhchal districts in the city



Map no. 2: Darbandand Sarekoocheyakhchal districts in the city

Lifetime of the residential buildings

Lifetime of district depends largely on lifetime of buildings. One of the characteristics of old districts is old buildings. Examining lifetime of buildings showed that 9.4% of the buildings had a lifetime between 1 to 5 years, 11.3% had a lifetime between 6 to 10 years, and 18.5% had a lifetime between 11 to 15 years. Thus, more than 39% of the buildings had a lifetime less than 15 years. Also, 15.5% had a lifetime

between 16 to 20 years, and 13.9% and 31.4% had a lifetime between 21 to 25 years and more than 25 years, respectively. More than 45% of the buildings had a lifetime over 20 years. These residential buildings had a function more than their useful life. Again, 37% of the residential buildings had been constructed using weak material such as mud, adobe, and brick. Clearly, use of these material increases fatigue in the buildings and decreases resistance against natural

disasters such as earthquake and flood (the writer).

Quality of residential buildings

Renewed: The buildings which have been constructed during past 5 years, do not need repair, and are usable.

Restorative: the buildings which have had a lifetime more than 5 years, their strength has reduced over the time, and hence, they have been repaired partially or completely.

Maintainable: buildings which are usable and do not need restoration.

Demolished: buildings which have had a lifetime usually over 25 years and despite the loss of some parts of building, some people live in it. (The writer)

The results of a questionnaire survey shows that 40.5% (151 units) of buildings are maintainable and 15.8% of them are renewed. 23.9% are restorative and has been

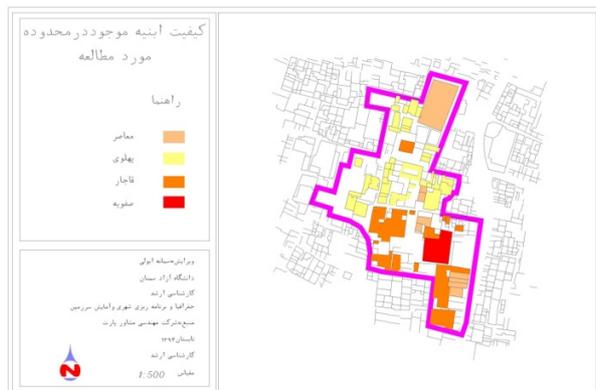
underwent minor and major repairs. And 19.8% are demolished. So, 43.7% of the buildings in the area under study need special attention and also development of a comprehensive plan for providing facilities and services to renew, improve and optimally utilize them. There is also a direct relationship between the quality of building and its lifetime. The more the buildings lifetime, the less the quality of building. This specifies need for improvement and conservation measures. If there are not fundamental measures for conserving and restoring buildings, leaving buildings occurs because of high relative percentage of demolished ones. This results in abandonment of upper classes and arrival of the lower classes and non-native immigrants to the context (the writer).

Table no. 1: Lifetime of the present buildings in the area under study

	1-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	21-25 years	More than 25 years	Total
Frequency	35	45	69	58	52	117	373
Frequency percentage	9.4	11.3	18.5	15.5	13.9	31.4	100
Cumulative percentage	9.4	20.7	39.2	54.7	68.6	100	-

Table no. 2: quality of residential buildings in the area under study

	Demolished	Restorative	Maintainable	Renewed	Total
Frequency	74	89	151	56	373
Frequency percentage	19.8	23.9	40.5	15.8	100
Cumulative percentage	19.8	43.7	84.2	100	-----



Map no. 3: quality of residential buildings in the area under study

Living period

One of criteria for social development in urban areas is the amount of displacement or non-displacement of residents of the districts. Residence period of families in the district is also another criterion which makes up social status of the district. The residence

periods more indicative of homogeneous social composition of residents and their interest in living in the district. Less residence period represents the transformation of social context, ethnic diversity, negligible interest, and less dependency to the district (the writer).

Table no. 3 residence period of residents in the area under study

	Less than 5 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30 years and more	Total
Frequency	53	59	55	97	31	8	70	373
Frequency percentage	14.2	14.7	14.7	26	8.3	2.1	18.8	100
Cumulative percentage	14.2	44.8	44.8	70.8	79.1	81.2	100	-

Data from the questionnaire shows that 14.2% of buildings have a residence period less than 5 years, 15.8%, 5 to 9 years, and 14.7%, less than 10 to 14 years, while only 21% of respondents have a residence period of 25 years and more (the writer).

30% of families have a residence period less than 10 years. If we increase the residence

period into 15 years, this statistics increases up to 45%, indicating migration and the lack of residence stability in the district (the writer).

Reasons for choosing the living area

The sense of belonging to old context is always the most important factor for its stability, both in physical and meaning

sense. The results from examining the selection of living area indicates that reasons for living in old contexts are as follow: 37%, birth in the area and sense of belonging, 19%, low cost of renting a house or buying

it, 16.1%, close relations with the local individuals, 12.6%, easy access to work, 4.6%, easy access to services, and 10.7%, other items. (the writer)

Table no. 4 reasons for selecting the living area by residents of the area under study

reasons for selecting the living area	Frequency	Frequency percentage	Cumulative percentage
Ease access to work	47	12.6	12.6
Low cost of renting a house or buying it	71	19	31.6
Birth in the area	138	37	68.6
Ease access to services	17	4.6	73.2
close relations with local individuals	60	16.1	60
Other	40	10.7	100
Total	373	100	

Investigating families' willingness to continue living in the area under study

The examinations show that despite many problems in old districts, nearly 50% of residents are willing to live in the district in status quo, more than 34% are willing to live

in the district in case of the improvement of situation, and only 16.1% are willing to leave the district. Reasons behind this can be attributed to birth in the area and sense of belonging to the living area.

Table no. 5: Examining families' willingness to continue living in the area under study

	Frequency	Frequency percentage	Cumulative percentage
Willingness of residents to leave	60	16.1	16.1
Willingness of residents to live in status quo	185	49.6	65.7
Willingness of residents to live in the district in case of the improvement of situation	128	34.3	100
Total	373	100	-----

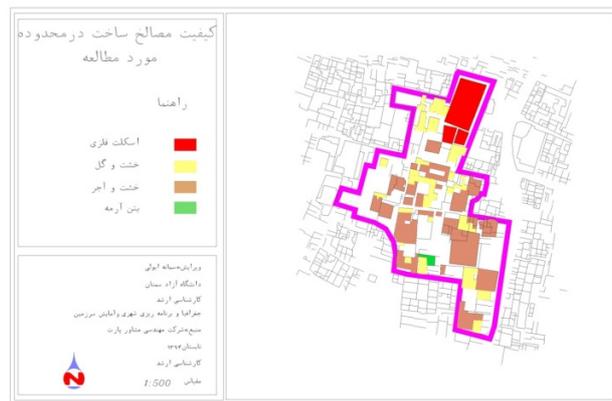
Type of material

One of indicators that can provide physical analysis is the material used in construction. Studies on material indicate that brick and iron (57.9%) are dominant elements used in the construction. Mud and adobe with a frequency of 128 units and 32.4%, ferroconcrete with a frequency of 5.1%, and brick and wood with a frequency of 2.7%

rank the next orders. Examining these figures reflects use of half strong and weak material (approximately 37%) in the buildings of districts. This issue increases the percentage of vulnerability against natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. Therefore, providing loan facilities and doing measures to improve and renew buildings is necessary (the writer).

Table no. 6: type of material used in the buildings of the area under study

	Mud and adobe	Brick and wood	Brick and iron	Ferroconcrete	Total
Frequency	128	10	216	19	373
Frequency percentage	34.3	2.7	57.9	5.1	100
Cumulative Percentage	34.3	37	94.9	100	-----



Map no. 4 lifetime of buildings in the area under study

The problems with worn-out context of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchaldistricts from the perspective of residents

Severe fatigue in buildings of the old contexts

Because of inadequacy in service and bus networks including the problem of transporting material, legal problems, etc., the residents of old contexts in Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchaldistricts prefer to leave their homes and live in the other parts of the city rather than restore them. In later stages, abandoned places become scary and bloodcurdling. This decreases the safety of districts within the context. This issue, by

itself, leads to leaving residential buildings and increasing fatigue in the context (ibid).

The problems of passage network

Since passage networks of historical contexts had been formed organically based on the structure of natural environment, especially topography, climate, and economic - social and technological levels, they were considered the best types of access network so that they were responsible for all needs of residents. However, due to changes in type and level of technology, including the entry of motor vehicles in urban life, the mentioned network cannot meet the needs of modern life. In addition, problems such as

low width, much tortuosity, and the risk of collapse of adjacent demolished buildings have doubled these problems. Difficulty in transportation of rescue vehicles, firefighting, etc. is another consequence of the mentioned technology (ibid).

Abandonment of some elements of old contexts

Most of old elements and applications within the context such as cisterns, refrigerators, bathrooms and etc. do not comply with today's needs. So, they have been abandoned and unused. The lack of proportion between old applications within the historical context and modern life which leads to the lack of appropriate services to the old context is the most important factor in leaving the historical contexts of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchal districts (Ibid).

Density and continuity of the context

The adjacency of abandoned and demolished buildings with valuable monuments results in physical damages to ancient and valuable monuments. Behaving historical contexts in a cellular manner or considering them as individual monuments may disorganize urban order and intensify disorder. This occurs as a result of ignoring the examination on the project and just considering economic aspect of it. (ibid)

Problems related to the type of residential buildings

In most old residential buildings, there are places such as kitchen, storage room, porch, etc. Today, due to changes in the types of livelihood, life patterns, and lifestyles, there is no need for them; hence, the traditional old houses are not responsible for immediate and future needs of residents within the context. (Ibid)

The lack of services and municipal and infrastructure facilities

The other reason for demolition of context and fatigue in it is the lack of facilities and necessary services required by the citizens. The development of cultural, educational, and entertainment centers, parkings, gas networks, information networks, and other urban infrastructures are strategies to rehabilitate the historical fatigue in the context of Aran Bidgol and to prevent more fatigue and demolition. (Ibid)

Analysis of findings

As mentioned in details, Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchal districts suffer from urban loss of value. Now, the point is that if urban revitalization can be established by restoring and renewing the worn-out context and considering the historical value of the area under study both socially and physically.

Again, the point is that if people participation is effective on restoring the context and establishing social life in urban regions of the area under study.

It should be mentioned that by studying the context, interviewing the residents, and analyzing the questionnaire filled by them, it was found that most of residents were native and were living in the district for a long time. It was also found that improving the context, establishing the social life, and restoring the urban values needs people participation in renewal stage.

The principle of public participation

Urban development is an infrastructure activity. In order to urban development occurs, the presence of different social and official institutes is needed. Some of developmental activities are administered by cooperation of organizations in the

framework of civic rules. However, some others should be performed using comprehensive participation of people. So far, participation in urban development and housing had been limited only to invite people to invest in the construction of buildings, while people should be involved in other stages of urban development. Hence, today, urbanism is more collaborative. The basis of collaboration is balancing between demands or needs of citizens and municipal organizations by dividing labor between them.

The following table shows participation of the individuals living in the context to improve the urban value and establish urban revitalization, in financial, mental, and executive dimensions, in three levels including speculating, making decision, and implementing.

Table no. 8 people's willingness to participate in the improvement of worn-out context

	Speculating	Making decision	Implementing	Total
Frequency	17	20	63	100
Frequency percentage	0.17	0.20	0.63	100
Cumulative percentage	0.17	0.37		

The pattern of residents participation in the renewal stage of district:

- If on the one hand, any supportive measure is not fulfilled by the government and municipality and on the other hand, people find their incentives unfulfilled, not only

participation will not be observed, but also people will show mutual behavior.

- If supportive measures are partially fulfilled by the government and municipality, but people's incentives, including economic incentives are not responded, people will indicate a type of government dependency

behavior. And as a result, participation will not be observed and renewal will not be achieved.

- If people's demands and motives are fulfilled in renewal stage, but government and municipality do not perform the necessary supportive measures, a kind of remonstrant behavior against the renewal will be formed. In addition, the resources of both parties will be wasted in conflict between them. And as a result, people participation will not be observed.

-The best state in interaction between people, on the one hand, and municipality and government, on the other hand, occurs when firstly, the necessary supportive measures are performed by the government and municipality. And secondly, demands and motives of people participation in renewal are achieved. If this happens, active participation of people in renewal will be treated as an enterprise (5).

Barriers to people participation in renewal stage of worn-out contexts:

The renewal of old urban contexts is a kind of complex measure which requires participation of individuals, interest groups, and responsible ones. However, there are some barriers to actual widespread

participation of people in the renewal stage as follow:

Economic barriers:

Human is an economic being and regulates his behavior mainly based on his economic interests. Hence, human participation in everything, especially in the renewal stage of worn-out contexts, follows the mentioned rule and is evaluated based on it. If people's economic interests are not satisfied by decision-makers, planners, and managers, people participation should not be expected. The only property of people is their small worn-out residential buildings or shops; hence, what concerns them is that they may not supply the cost of their worn-out property or they may lose all their properties by making a mistake. Thus, a renewal planning should be designed in a way that ensures the presence of profit and the lack of loss. An appropriate planning is one which provides more economic profits to people to make the cost of renewal stage more justifiable to them (ibid).

Social and cultural barriers:

In order to public participation occurs, individual training is necessary. Familiarizing individuals with subjects related to participation, practicing participation, learning principle of

participation, and the manner of participation ensures success of schemes are designed based on it. In our society, people are distrustful toward public and private sectors. Hence, eliminating this mentality and

establishing a new attitude needs performing durable software measures and interacting with people (ibid).

Analysis of findings based on Swot technique

Table no. 9: internal factors affecting the residents of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchal districts based on SWOT model

Dimensions	Strengths	Weaknesses
Cultural and social	Appropriate status of literacy	the lack of social security in the area
	Having a high percentage of active population	the arrival of strangers to the context and the increment of the crime
	Social unity	the arrival of immigrants from lower classes
	The willingness of residents to live in the area	
	Having a high percentage of primary residents in the context	The lack of willingness among the youth to live in the context
	living for a long period	The lack of public opinion toward social activities
Economic	high economic value of the context	Having a low population of working women
	the willingness of residents to invest in the context	Having a high population of working heads of households in lower occupational groups (such as simple and technical workers) or working in informal economy.
	having low distance to downtown	
	Capability to attract private sector because of low real estate value, in order to improve and renew the area under study	The presence of low-income people living in the context and the lack of technical and professional expertise
	The presence of old markets	Low-income immigrants
Physical	The ability to design and plan for applications needed in the area under study.	Increasing physical density, regardless the size of streets
	The presence of valuable elements and old historical monuments in the area and the presence of different architectural styles	The lack of civic services
		The lack of infrastructure facilities
	The presence of valuable memories	The presence of low percentage of durable houses
	Harmony of material with arid climate	low percentage of greenbelt utilities
	religious diversity	fatigue in the context
Ecologically	A high percentage of residents living in the context	The presence of inappropriate infrastructures in the environments such as sewage
		Polluted environment due to demolition of buildings
		Inappropriate and worn-out material
legal and ownership	Possessive case of the majority of residential buildings	the problem of inheritance of property
	Owners' interest in participating in projects	some of lands are dedicatory

Table no. 10: external factors affecting residents of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchaldistricts based on SWOT model

Dimensions	Opportunities	Threats
Social – cultural	The center of historical context of AranBidgol	attracting immigrants from surrounding towns and villages
	Appropriate capacity for increasing the density and preventing horizontal growth of the city	Immigration of the primary residents of the context
	The presence of valuable monuments	
Economic	Municipality's attention to this area	The lack of attention to people participation in the project
	Attracting investors from the outside of the city	high cost of reconstruction and renewal
	Increasing willingness of private investors to the area	
Physical	District-form structure	The lack of attention to the traditional architecture in new constructions
	The presence of initial fundamental and old structure of city in majority parts of context	
	Ability to develop and enhance the levels of service in dedicatory lands	The lack of appropriate passages
	Updating gas network within the context	New construction regardless the laws and schemes planned in the area
	Updating telecommunication network system within the context	
	Having relative facilities in the house (water, electricity, gas, etc.	
	The presence of twisty alleysin the district has resulted in confidentiality	
Ecology		demolition of buildings and the pollution caused by them
		Demolition of greenbelt
		The increment of slumming
		The pollution of air and environment
Legal and ownership	The change of ownership from micro ownership to macro ownership	Buying property by an individual and selling it in unreal price

Table no. 11: prioritizing the strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of residents and their ranking

Options	the perspective of residents		
	relative weight	ranking	Weight
Strengths			
S1: High percentage of active population	321	1	0.154
S2: Social unity	310	2	0.148
S3: Residents' willingness to live in the district	305	3	0.146
S4: high percentage of the primary residents in the context	303	4	0.145
S5: High residence period	289	5	0.139
S 6: The presence of old markets	278	6	0.133
S7: high economic value of the context	275	7	0.132
Weaknesses	320	1	0.118

W1: The lack of social security in the area			
W2: The arrival of strangers to the context and increment of the crime	312	2	0.117
W3: the arrival of immigrants from lower classes	308	3	0.115
W4: The reluctance of the youth to live in the context	302	4	0.113
W5: The lack of civic services	301	5	0.114
W6: The lack of infrastructure services	297	6	0.111
W7: low percentage of durable houses	287	7	0.109
W8: Environmental pollution caused by demolition of buildings	297	8	0.102
W9: Using inappropriate and worn-out material in building house	273	9	0.1

Table no. 12: prioritizing the opportunities and threats from the perspective of residents and their ranking

Options	the perspective of residents		
	relative weight	Rating	Weight
Opportunities			
O1: The center of historical context of AranBidgol	321	1	0.161
O2: Increasing willingness of private investors to the area	304	2	0.152
O3: Having relative facilities in the house (water, electricity, gas, etc.)	287	3	0.144
O4: The presence of twisty alleys in the district have resulted in confidentiality	381	4	0.141
O5: The presence of valuable monuments	273	5	0.137
O6: District-form structure	265	6	0.133
O7: Municipality's attention to the area	263	7	0.132
Threats			
T1: The arrival immigrants from surrounding towns and villages	313	1	0.18
T2: The lack of attention to people participation in the project	302	2	0.174
T3: migration of the primary residents of the context	293	3	0.169
T4: Demolition of buildings and pollution caused by them	292	4	0.168
T5: The increment of slumming	273	5	0.157
T6: high cost of reconstruction and renewal	265	6	0.152

According to the table, we will address strengths and weaknesses and opportunities and threats from the perspective of residents. SWOT analysis indicates that the most basic strength from the perspective of residents is high percentage of active population. After this factor, cases such as social unity, residents' willingness to live in the area, high percentage of primary residents, high residence period, the presence of old

markets, and high economic value of the context are other strengths of the area under study. In addition, from the perspective of residents, the lack of social security in the region is the most important weakness of this area. After this factor, cases such as the arrival of strangers and the increment of the crime, the arrival of immigrants from lower classes, reluctance of the youth to live in the context, the lack of civic services, and the

lack of infrastructure facilities are other weaknesses of the area under study.

By analyzing the external factors, it can be concluded that the center of historical context of AranBidgol is the most important opportunity in the context. After this factor, cases such as increasing the willingness of private investors to this area, having relative facilities in the house (water, electricity, gas, etc.), the presence of twisty alleys in the district which have resulted in confidentiality, the presence of valuable monuments, district-form structure, and municipality's attention to this area are other opportunities in the context.

About threats, we can point to the arrival of immigrants from surrounding towns and villages as the most important threat of the context. From the perspective of residents, other threats to the contexts are as follow: the lack of attention to people participation in the project, migration of primary residents of the context, demolition of buildings and pollution caused by them, the increment of slumming, and high cost of improvement and renewal.

It seems that the approach of public participation in urban revitalization of the historical contexts of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchaldistricts has an effective role.

As it is evident, people participation in the historical contexts of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchaldistricts has included a small portion. The major reason for this is the presence of worn-out and urban loss of valued context. Hence, encouraging people to participate in public activities related to the historical context can result in development of social status in the context and improvement of values in the city. By analyzing Swot table and answers from questionnaire filled by residents, we can say clearly that one of the factors which can revitalize the historical contexts of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchal districts is people participation in all matters from improvement and renewal of the context to public activities including religious doings, ceremonies, and rituals.

CONCLUSION

Improvement of worn-out urban areas _ which is performed through renewal and rehabilitation procedures _ is achieved by development of these areas (such as importing modern services to old residential areas or development of streets) and arrangement (demolition of all existing buildings and reconstructing them). In contrast, renewal is performed when city, collection, or building area is active

functionally but physical fatigue has reduced its efficiency. So, the reconstruction of districts is done based on the administration of coordinated and controlled schemas and the clearance of slums and disproportionate buildings. Also, urban improvement refers to restoring, maintaining, conserving, repairing, making the minimal change and manipulation, and having the maximum harmony with nature and historical identity.

Providing guideline

The following strategy can be suggested for better revitalization of the context:

The first and the most important dimension in planning is emphasizing on population. The population living in the area under study has appropriate features such as high willingness to live in the area and high level of literacy. So, planning for the purpose of people welfare should be administered. To meet this aim, the guideline proposed by people themselves is as follow:

- People participation

In urban revitalization, the attention must be given to all demands of residents. The lack of attention to people's demands in everything leads to injustice. Ali (hello to him) says in Sermon 216: doing justice is difficult for the person who hearing the right is difficult for him. So, do not refuse saying the right or

consulting the justice. According to the importance of participation in Islam, we can run participation in four dimensions as follow:

- A) participation in decision making and management

It means that individuals are involved in speculating level to determine how to deal with the project.

- B) Participation in financing cost of projects

- C) participation in supplying human resources

It means that the unemployed and individuals looking for work are used for revitalization of the worn-out context.

- D) Participation in profits

It means creating an appropriate environment for using it by all of stakeholders.

Therefore, to attract tourists, the following points and policies on revitalization of urban context can be emphasized:

- 1- Every geographical environment contains two natural environments including human-made environment (generally, it consists of human and cultural phenomena) and structure of society environment (it makes up the dominant ideology). It should be mentioned that these two

environments form the foundation and infrastructure of the city.

- 2- The historical urban contexts built by humans are, in fact, manifestations of these two environments. So, considering the systematic approach in geography according to which any change or intervention should be done regarding to these three environments, urban revitalization can be successful when it considers natural environment and socio-cultural structures.
- 3- Regarding their lifetime, the historical contexts of Darband and Sarekoocheyakhchal have been facing many problems. This has resulted in degradation and daily fatigue in the contexts and hence, has reduced youth's interest to live in these contexts. Consequently, the process of urban revitalization should be accelerated.
- 4- Unfortunately, some of valuable historical buildings which have not been registered in cultural heritage organization are in the way of contracts and should be demolished. Officials and organizations can avoid

demolition of these historical and artistic masterpieces.

- 5- Through increasing social security, appropriate infrastructure, and urban area in the context and creating an appropriate environment, investment and tourist attraction will be increased in the context. However, this needs a coherent planning.

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