



## Analysis of the state of good Urban governance (Case study: Ardebil city)

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### Abstract

**Background and Objective:** The movement towards good urban governance is inevitable and necessary. Good urban governance is one of the important and prominent topics in society today, in the sense that urban management, instead of assuming full responsibility for the administration of society alone, should be considered alongside citizens as one of the institutions or factors responsible for the administration of society. And with this change, urban management can play a facilitating and ground-breaking role in the development of urban and local society. Ardebil urban management can also be planned for good urban governance and its urban issues such as pollution reduction, public transportation, etc., in the direction of Ardebil city's good governance strategy to achieve sustainable development.

**Methodology:** This article attempts to review the concepts and good urban governance, and to examine and analyze its components and indicators for the city of Ardebil. It is done through semi-structured interviews with 22 experts and managers in the Ardebil municipality using random sampling method, and also through a questionnaire of Ardebil citizens using Cochran sampling method with 384 people, and the final extracted indicators were examined in the form of a SWOT model.

**Findings and Conclusion:** The result of the position of good urban governance in Ardebil city is in the worst possible position, namely defensive (the confrontation of weakness and threat), out of the four states of aggressive, conservative, defensive and competitive. It is also weak in terms of internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and has not shown suitable conditions against external factors (opportunities and threats).

**Keywords:** Good urban governance, urban management, Ardebil city, SWOT model.

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## **Extended Abstract**

### **Introduction**

The development of information and communication technology and the smartization of cities have been proposed as a practical solution to face the challenges related to today's cities. A smart city can be described as based on the development and growth of economic, social and cultural infrastructures and within the framework of good urban governance. In Iran, the concept of good governance has also been considered in recent years and some cities have been introduced under this title, but they are still far from the criteria of good governance and there is a need to improve technology and create the necessary infrastructure.

In this research, an attempt is made to examine the principles and solutions for good urban governance by examining the concepts of good urban governance and its definitions and foundations, and examining these concepts for the functions of the city of Ardabil.

### **Methodology**

This article attempts to review the concepts and good urban governance, and to examine and analyze its components and indicators for the city of Ardabil. It is done through semi-structured interviews with 22 experts and managers in the Ardabil municipality using random sampling method, and also through a questionnaire of Ardabil citizens using Cochran sampling method with 384 people, and the final extracted indicators were examined in the form of a SWOT model.

### **Results and Findings**

The result of the position of good urban governance in Ardabil city is in the worst possible position, namely defensive (the confrontation of weakness and threat), out of the four states of aggressive, conservative, defensive and competitive. It is also weak in terms of internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and has not shown suitable conditions against external factors (opportunities and threats).

### **Conclusion**

The study of urban management is one of the important issues in the direction of sustainable urban development. In this context, various models and approaches have been emphasized, and the good urban governance approach is one of the most important of these approaches. The aim of the present study is to study the status of good urban governance in the city of Ardabil. The results of the study show that the city of Ardabil is not in a better position in terms of good urban governance. According to the results of the internal and external matrix (IE), it was shown that the city of Ardabil is in a defensive position, meaning that on the one hand it is weak and on the other hand it is facing a threatening position. Another sign of the failure to implement the governance model is the failure to implement good urban management, which can play an important role in achieving good urban governance. It is important to remember that this model cannot be considered feasible without considering the approaches that govern the entire country.

The results obtained from the present study are in line with the following studies: Rahnama et al. (2010) in a study titled Analyzing the Position of Good Governance in Mashhad City with the SWOT Model, in this study, they consider the position of good governance in Mashhad City to be inappropriate and in terms of internal factors, it is at a weak point from the perspective of good governance. Movahed et al. (2014) in a study titled Investigating Good Urban Governance in Urban Neighborhoods (Case Study: District 19 of Tehran Municipality), the results of the study based on the TOPSIS model and statistical tests indicate that only 24 percent of the neighborhoods have a good governance status. The research findings also show that according to the T-TEST test, the value of the urban good governance

variable is -19.8645 lower than the average level of the averages, and this also shows that the level of good governance in the sample neighborhoods is not at an appropriate level. Hosseini (2016) on the subject of analyzing indicators of good urban governance with emphasis on the opinions of citizens and experts (case study: Torbat Heydariyeh city). In this study, the research findings indicate that the overall score of the governance index from the citizens' perspective is 1.98 and from the experts' perspective is 2.35, which indicates the unfavorable state of urban governance in terms of the main urban governance indicator under study in both groups. Also, the studies showed that out of a total of nine studies, in 80% of them, the average scores of citizens are lower than those of experts, and only in two indicators of consensus orientation and strategic insight, the situation is the opposite. Hekmatnia et al. (2017) in a study titled Survey and Analysis of Good Urban Governance in Iran (Case Study: Ilam City), the results obtained from the study based on the t-test indicate that the level of all good governance indicators in Ilam City is lower than the average level of the Likert scale, so it can be said that the fourteen districts of Ilam City are at an undesirable level in terms of these components. Kamandari et al. (2017) in a study titled Smart City Indicators in the Four Districts of Kerman City concluded that the urban governance index in Kerman City was inappropriate and weak according to the studies. Also, the results of the research by Khanian Brothers and colleagues (2019) in a study titled "Investigating the Current Status of Smart Transformation in the Metropolitan City of Tabriz" concluded that smart governance has received the lowest score. Finally, in a study conducted by Ameenbani Marori and colleagues (2014) for the city of Mashhad, according to this result, the role of citizen participation in urban governance has been placed at the lowest level.

Therefore, at the end of the research, suggestions are presented to achieve good governance in the city of Ardabil:

1. Accepting general inclusion of the people and providing opportunities for people to participate in their destiny
2. Supporting the capabilities of the private sector for urban management
3. Adhering to existing laws and their sustainability over time
4. Integrated urban management with the consensus of local managers and the need for inter-organizational coordination
5. Upgrading the position of the city council to increase citizen participation
6. Increasing the expertise of citizens in order to create more expertise and also in order to interact with the people and respond appropriately to them
7. Increasing more services for the outskirts of the city and empowering urban marginalized people
8. Creating a suitable platform for close communication between the people and the municipality as well as the local government.

## **Declarations**

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