



Evaluation of factors influencing on the political-administrative management of space in Kashan city

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Abstract

Background and Objective: Today, we see that in developed countries and most of the developing countries of the world, urban and metropolitan areas, like other residential centers, have formal and defined geographic and management systems. These types of management institutions are responsible for formulating the integrated development policy of urban and metropolitan areas and creating coordination between the programs, policies and actions of management institutions that are influential in urban development. Therefore, the management of cities has special sensitivity and complexities. These types of complications exist in most management systems. In fact, it can be said that urban management is an effort to manage the complex and systemic phenomenon of the city.

Methodology: Based on this, the present research has been conducted with the aim of investigating the influencing factors on the political-administrative management of space in Kashan city and by using of the Fuzzy Dematel method. To achieve this purpose, four political-security, geographic-communication, social-cultural and legal factors and 23 indicators influencing the political management of space in Kashan city were extracted.

Findings and Results: The findings of the research show that the legal factor that has the highest amount of D+R has the most interaction with other dimensions, and the socio-cultural factor that has the highest amount of D-R has the greatest impact (influence) on other dimensions. Also, in the field of interaction and relationship between the government and urban management in Kashan city, the index of existing laws and the index of spirit of cooperation-atmosphere, which respectively have the highest amount of D+R and D-R, have the greatest influence on other indicators.

Keywords: Urban Management, Space, City, Politics Kashan.

Extended Abstract

Introduction:

The city is considered one of the most important sources of development, and in the process of urban development and the improvement of urban settlements, urban management plays a crucial and decisive role. Today, urbanization is one of the fundamental challenges, particularly in Asian, African, and Latin American countries, where it is occurring at a high rate, with approximately 60 million people added to the urban population of these regions each year. Alongside the problems that rapid and uneven urban expansion poses in various regions, some thinkers, such as Glaeser, emphasize the importance of urban growth and its role in the economic development of nations. Over the past few decades, the economic, social,

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and political linkages within cities have undergone fundamental transformations. Today, we witness the dramatic growth of metropolitan areas, with their problems and issues increasing both in number and intensity. In the urban system, the political management of space can be understood as the outcome of the quality and quantity of conflicts and interactions among four key actors: the state, the economy, political institutions, and civil society organizations. Meanwhile, in Iran, centralized power has not allowed for the division, limitation, or accountability of authority. Political power, utilizing its strong economic and political tools, is a decisive factor in the political-spatial management of urban and regional areas, directing and regulating the actions of various private, public, and civil actors. In fact, it can be said that the institution of power defines the principles and criteria governing the structure of spatial organization management and control. Each of the governmental, private, and public actors, in the course of these interactions, seeks to maximize their own benefits from space, and this process of claiming shares can lead to the formation of unstable spaces and uneven growth in urban and metropolitan areas. A clear manifestation of such activities is the unequal accumulation of capital in urban systems, further exacerbating regional imbalances. Thus, in the political geography and political management of space, the interaction and relationship between political and social institutions and the spatial-administrative organization are considered crucial and fundamental issues. These issues take on greater quantitative and qualitative dimensions as the complexity of both sides of this relationship increases. Within this framework, urban areas can be seen as the most prominent example of simultaneous social and spatial complexity, as cities and metropolises—functioning as spatial-physical hubs—exhibit the highest levels of economic, social, and political interactions and forces, ranging from local to global scales. Accordingly, in recent years, urban planning and management theories and research have increasingly focused on the relationship between governance structures—as elements of social organization—and the political-spatial management processes of urban and metropolitan regions, making it one of the most critical questions in the field.

Methodology:

This research is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive in terms of data collection method. The statistical population of this study consisted of 20 experts and university professors in management, political science, and related fields who had specialized knowledge and experience in political-spatial management. Ultimately, non-probability sampling and snowball sampling methods were used to select the final study population. The criteria used for selecting experts included practical experience, theoretical mastery, willingness and ability to participate in the research, and accessibility. After reviewing the research literature and extracting the factors, a closed-ended questionnaire based on the identified factors was provided to the experts. They were asked to express their views on the degree of influence of each row factor on each column factor using a five-point scale ranging from no influence to very high influence, while considering the time horizon. After completing the content validity questionnaire, the CVR obtained for all factors was equal to one, meaning all experts considered the identified factors essential for examining the factors affecting political-spatial management in Kashan city. To assess the reliability of the DEMATEL questionnaire, the test-retest method was used. For this purpose, the questionnaire was sent twice at three-week intervals to five experts who were accessible for follow-up. The correlation between responses in the first and second stages was obtained as 0.919, 0.870, and 0.799. Given that the response correlations were higher than 0.7, it can be concluded that the questionnaire's reliability is acceptable.

Results and Discussion:

Today, the political-administrative management of urban spaces has emerged as one of the fundamental challenges in sustainable urban planning and development. In this context, Kashan, as one of Iran's historical and cultural cities, faces complex issues in political-administrative space management that require thorough and comprehensive examination. Studies indicate that successful urban management necessitates simultaneous attention to various dimensions, including political, social, cultural, and geographical factors. In reality, political space management in cities is not limited to physical and structural aspects alone, but also encompasses complex dimensions of human relations, power structures, and decision-making processes. Numerous studies emphasize that a precise understanding of factors influencing urban space management can lead to enhanced local governance quality and improved urban development policies. Kashan, with its unique historical, cultural, and geographical characteristics, requires a specific management model that can simultaneously preserve the city's historical identity while addressing its developmental needs. Some researchers argue that traditional urban management approaches in Iran have failed to effectively address urban issues due to insufficient attention to political-security and socio-cultural factors. Consequently, this research focuses on four main indicators - political-security, geographical-connectivity, socio-cultural, and legal aspects - to conduct a comprehensive analysis of factors influencing political-administrative space management in Kashan. The findings of this study can contribute to a better understanding of urban management challenges in Kashan and provide practical solutions for improvement.

Conclusion:

The results of data analysis using the Fuzzy DEMATEL method reveal that the political-security index, with an influence score of 0.0332 and a dependence score of 0.0324, has been identified as the most significant component in the political space management of Kashan. This finding indicates that security considerations and local power structures play a decisive role in organizing Kashan's urban space. The legal index demonstrates the highest influence level among all indicators (0.0352), highlighting the importance of legal frameworks in urban political management. The socio-cultural index, with a positive D-R value (0.0038), emerges as a causal factor, underscoring the active role of cultural components and civic participation in shaping the city's political space. Similarly, the geographical-connectivity index, with its positive D-R value (0.0002), is classified as causal, emphasizing the significance of spatial positioning and intra-urban connections in political space management. Analysis of political-security sub-indicators shows that "political faction competition in urban management selection" (PS4) with a negative D-R value (-0.024) functions as an effect factor, reflecting its dependence on other system components. Conversely, "existence of political institutions" (PS6) with a positive D-R value (0.016) operates as a causal factor. Within the socio-cultural index, "collaborative spirit between urban managers and government officials" (SC3) emerges as the most influential sub-indicator, boasting the highest D+R value (0.533) and positive D-R value (0.047). This finding suggests that inter-institutional cooperation serves as a key driver for improving political space management. In the legal index, "existing laws regarding territorial divisions" (LI2) with a negative D-R value (-0.002) is identified as an effect factor, indicating its dependence on other system components. The causality map derived from Fuzzy DEMATEL analysis positions the socio-cultural index in the causal quadrant, confirming its active role in influencing other system components. The political-security and legal indices reside in the effect quadrant, demonstrating their responsive nature to other system factors. The geographical-connectivity index straddles the causal-effect boundary, reflecting its dual role as both influencer and influenced component in the political space management system. The calculated threshold value (0.010) confirms that all inter-indicator relationships maintain

sufficient significance to be preserved in the final model. Collectively, these findings demonstrate that political space management in Kashan constitutes a complex, multi-layered system where the socio-cultural index functions as the driving force, while political-security and legal indices serve as regulatory factors.

Declarations

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