

Economic impact on the citizens of distribution utilities in urban areas of Iran (Case study: Babol city)

Fezeh Noupour holare ¹, Meysam Hasanzadeh ^{2*}, Atefeh Sarfi³

[1] Faculty Member of Sociology department, Payame Noor University, 19395-4697, I.R of IRAN

[2] MA in Urban Planning, Payame Noor University

[3] MA in Urban Planning, Payame Noor University

*Corresponding author's E-mail: hasanzadeh@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Technological development in the third millennium has created a wealth of resources that this breaks the balance of urban surfaces. The study examines the role of economic efficiency and the distribution of population in urban services in different areas of Babol. This study is analysis-applied; we used SPSS software and LIKERT scale measurement and meaningfulness test (Chi-Square).

The Cronbach's Alpha showing the number (0.533) is indicative of the dynamics of the measures. The results emphasize that the distribution utilities in urban areas were not based on social justice and affected by the economic status of the inhabitant and land value.

Study results of target locals of Babol that had been elected one of the wealthiest neighborhoods and other areas with lower economic prosperity suggest that between economic powers of residents in each region there is a relationship in interest and distribution of municipal services from managers and city officials that requires a review by city managers.

Keywords: Municipal services, social justice, economic base

1. Introduction

In recent years equitable allocation of sources and facilities among different areas of city is one of important subjects that social scientists concentrated on it. This results from realistic approach of all humanities disciplines to user processes in the world. If difference between poor and rich people become more, to the extent that they feel relative deprivation or distributive injustice and couldn't satisfy their steamy needs, in these cases ,socio-economic system and government will be destroyed soon or late (Rafie poor ,1997, P. 11). These imbalance and inequalities, except for the inherent injuries, could disturb the performances and expectation of national economic (Smith, 2005, P. 11). In recent century attention to cities high population and creation of new form of city revealed that urban geography and planning of urban spaces should concern new dimensions and this is one of new subjects in recent 20 years that caused scientists concentrate on social justice in urban issues which attaches the city to national and global policies (Shakooyi, 1994, P. 9). Domestic conditions results from socio-economic situation of countries and consequently these conditions define the urban spaces quality and planning strategies. So, the basic requirement is investigation of social, cultural, economic values, in particular, social justice and as a result of analysis of these criteria that effective steps taken concerning realization of social justice in society. In order to fulfill needs of all the residents in a same way ,social justice come to fore that lack of attention to it has very bad consequences such as marginalization, over density of a region, development of a comprehensive urban, depopulation of some urban areas, land speculation and other issues. It means in regional justice, how to demand different political areas in negotiation and communication with a central authority which are under control, are important issues (Harvey, 2000, P. 139). So, "social justice "both geographically and spatially, is distribution of public resources with social and geographical policies and risks (Smith, 1994, P. 173). As a result, both expenditure and state apparatus should have fair equality. In other words, geographical justice is defined as distribution of revenues and costs according to needs and socio-economic features of people (A. boyne 2002, P. 14).

- According to (Gure) division two types of inequality is important:

- 1) In the first type, the gap between rich and poor is one of the conditions of being better economic situation of the majority of the members of society. But the difference between the upper class and the lower class of society is not tolerated by lower classes and they are not satisfied with where they are and what they are not.
- 2) In second type inequality of gap between rich and poor is in conditions that society follow downward path. The status of all class becomes worsen. In this case not only there is inequality, but also extends poverty, even in the presence of the rich (Rafie poor, 1997, P. 37).

Babol is one of most populated cities of Mazandaran. This city is located on circuit between 33° and 5 and 36 degree and 33 north latitude from the equator and 55 degree 41 minutes east of the Greenwich meridian (Statistical Centre of Iran, 2011). This city's population in Iran's latest population and housing census was 201,335 people that concerning size, is among middle town cities (Statistical Centre of Iran, 2011).

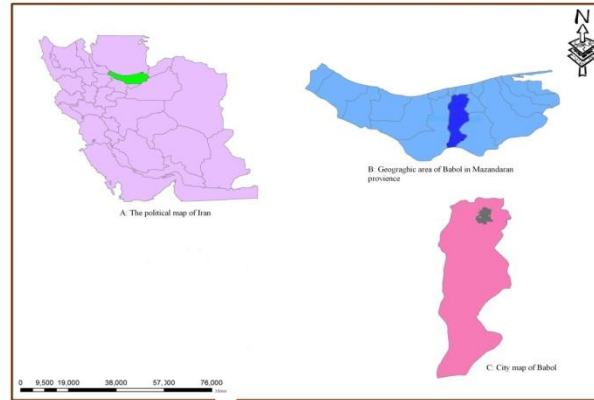


Figure 1- Map of the political status of the city of Babol (Traced: by the authors 2014).

Generally, urban development could locate in stable manner when provide specific strategies for fulfillers of residents need that because of segment attitude, weakness of urban management structure and lack of community participation ,civil service organizations couldn't distribute the space equitably (Mordie masihi varaz, 2005, P.151). It seems conflict between local official programs and political leaders cause problems on the failure of municipal services fairly (Dillinger, 2000, P. 28). Lack of understanding of this problem that environmental justice results from fair treatment of people of all groups and classes to accept apply and implementation of laws and policies of city managers is somehow a crisis (Governors, 2005, P. 4). Inequality of second order threatens the current condition of Iran and it should be considered that poverty alone couldn't cause harm on society and its social system, but it is disparity that leads society to fall (Rafie poor, 1997, P. 42). The purpose of this study was to prove the hypothesis that there is a significant difference between the economic power of Babol residents and distribution and establishment of municipal services of Babol.

2. Literature Review

If thought of social justice and support for disadvantaged areas has not been successful in Iran, the major reason for that lies in strategies. If capital investment in disadvantaged areas with welfare moved toward creation of employment, perhaps the employment situation in the country today was quite different from what is (Papoli yazdi, 1996, P. 133). A Balance spatial distribution utility is one of main symptoms of social justice in cities. Social justice in the city is reservation of interest of different social groups based on the optimal expansion of the cities resource, revenues and expenses (Glay, 2002, P.277). An important issue in equitable distribution and service capabilities between urban areas (Harvey, 2000, P. 97). System of land use became one of areas of justice in relation to the role played by the general rules on income redistribution in whole or in real and welfare quality and how they are being emphasized (Gharakhloo, 2004, P. 89). Unfortunately geographic research has social justice at global level is relatively low, particularly in Iran. However, the study in geo-spatial inequalities divided into two groups:

1) A group that investigates area inequalities with a number of equal indicators such as expenditure, rules, availabilities and ... the result of such investigations is in equal distribution determination provision of asymmetrical map. Major flaw in this study is to investigate the distribution of resource, while some areas based on the criterion of “need “is accepted principle of social justice theory, should receive more services. It means, the distribution of resources should be based on justice, instead of equality.

2) Other category is investigations that have done resource distribution based on “need” criteria. Davis is the first people that have done this kind of research. In his view “social justice “observed when there is a high degree of correlation between the index of essential service and economic and social condition. After that, Davis framework became basis of “spatial justice” research of Britain local experts (A. boyne, 2002, P. 13).

Miller (1999) said that none of the standard requirement , eligibility and entitlement,” which most theories have been put forward, has not enough value in the practical application. The most important factors in urban planning are use of spaces and proper distribution and to the full expression is spatial justice. In this regard applications and municipal services are effective and useful factors that meet the needs of population, public interest increasing and attention to eligibility and suitability of individuals can establish more equitable spatial, social and economic justice. So, disturbance of demographic balance that its root lies in suburban and intra immigration and crowding in certain areas can cause inconsistency of urban space with economic and social justice.

*In terms of creating an atmosphere of government local capital, there are two general conditions:

- 1) The required fees must be equal to the geographic shape.
- 2) The taxes to be paid should have same shape geographically.

In other division, justice is divided into two “horizontal and vertical equity”. Horizontal equity means dealing with people in unequal positions, for example, per capita food coupons and vertical equity means “unequal but proportional to deal with people in unequal positions. For example, imposing a progressive tax on income as income goes up, tax rate increases as well. Allocation of economic justice is vertical. But distributive justice can be vertical or horizontal (Masgeryoo 1994, P. 316). According to definitions of the justice, what is city spatial justice and how it will happen? According to David Harvey, social justice in city should be responsive to population needs. Regional allocation leads the resource so that people face with minimal gaps and protest toward their rights. So, social justice means” equal distribution through fair “(Harvey, 1996, P. 97). Justice in the city must respond to the following statements:

- A) Appropriate and proportional allocation of facilities and services.
- B) Use of actual and potential vigor.
- C) Eliminate the gap between poor and rich in the city.
- D) Prevent the rise of poverty in the urban slums.

3. Methodology

In this research metric research method has been used due to subject and researcher facilities. Data collection tool in this research has been questionnaire. This study is survey and applied-analysis that first exploratory studies as library and preliminary visits were made and field studies were conducted using research tools. To prove the evidence we have used SPSS software and Lickert measure of satisfaction, for reliability we development Cronbach's Alpha coefficient.

4. Finding

“There is a significant difference between distribution and we examine the status of inhabitants contrastively”

In this study we have been addressed income factors that shows socio-economic status of residents of these area that indicates that in all the items there is a big difference between target locations and this will have the same impact on the efficiency of services and amenities. Target locations include:

a) Prosperous economic base and b) lower economic status.

Thus the first hypothesis of the study i.e. significant difference between distribution and deployment of services and facilities in Babol a knowledge by economic power of residents and the null hypothesis assumed to be rejected (figure 2).

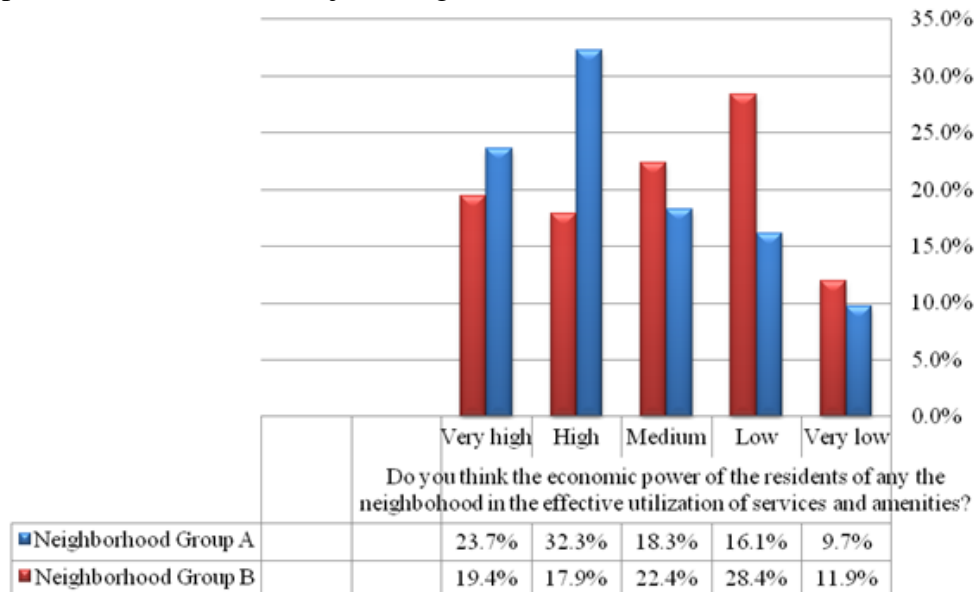


Figure 2- economic strength of Babol inhabitants

Source: Research findings in 2014.

Table 1- Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.633 ^a	4	.157
Likelihood Ratio	6.722	4	.151
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.573	1	.059

The Cronbach's Alpha table showing the number (0.533) is indicative of the dynamics of the measures we discussed.

Table 2- Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.533	.530	3

formation and development of unconventional and spontaneous settlements in and around the country characterized by undesirable physical and social features in recent decades are consequences of unbridled land reform urban growth .in recent decades under the influence of agricultural economics and urban economics and reduction of the possibility of employment in rural areas and in some cases extensive migration and forced the rural population to urban areas occurred. The migrations were performed more with the goal of better economic and social opportunities. Accumulation of mostly poor and low income people, living in low quality environments, social isolation exposed to non-standard social and environmental risks and damages. Rural population migration with traditional livelihood and its inclusion in urban areas with different structure that often it is not possible to integrate them into city structure or requires a large expenditure _at the end results in dichotomy of urban structure.

5. Discussion & Conclusion

According to investigations and field study results of target locals of Babol that had been elected one of the wealthiest neighborhoods and other areas with lower economic prosperity suggest that between economic power of residents in each region there is a relationship in interest and distribution of municipal services from managers and city officials that requires a review by city managers. Because it will leads to class divisions and more social inequality in the two cities that not only filling this gap in the long-run is impossible , but also will rise social ,economic and cultural issues in city and prevents this city from prosperity and development and will face the city with breathtaking challenges. On the other hand, Babol is among median cities of Iran and it is obvious that if it goes more toward metropolis, the significant difference for distribution and allocation of municipal resources between urban areas will create and he gap between them will increase. Consequently, methods and findings of this study take effective steps in better understanding of problems of median cities of Iran and could be generalize to other median cities of Iran. Accordingly, researchers have proposed suggestions to improve current situation that is as follows:

- 1) Basis for improving environmental conditions sustainable and inclusive way to increase the health, safety, hope, faith and human dignity in group (b) regions.
- 2) Plat for enjoyment of civil privileges and Deeping of urban culture for residents of these settlements along with its full participation in decision-making and local initiatives.
- 3) Need to provide services in areas of low-income and their access to basic services should be made clear and place under focus of urban management.

4) Keeping with national plans for empowering documents and organizing group (b) settlements can be an important step in generalizing and prompting the environment and settlement conditions.

5) Good urban management system is achievable through decision making and involvement of local people. It is recommended that urban management should be aware of demands, requirements, traditions, beliefs and uses inner resources and potentials to improve environmental conditions and it is necessary to build a proper institution before any action in the city of Babol.

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