Investigating the Role of Bandar Deylam in Equilibrium of Bushehr Province by using the Methods of Elasticiablity Index and Social Network Analysis

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Introduction

Nowadys the development of small towns is considered as an effective strategy for regional imbalances and reduces the problems such as the concentration of population, activities and services in large cities. **In Iran, most of the population, activities and services are concentrated in large cities and have created imbalance in the region or country.** Bushehr province, like other parts of the country, faces inequality and imbalances in the optimal distribution of services and facilities which causes extensive migrations to major cities of the province or metropolises of the country and collapses the hierarchical order of the settlement system of the region or country.

Accordingly, considering the population size of small towns (25000-50000 people), Bushehr province has three small towns that one of them is called Bandar Deylam with a population of 25730 people the center of Deylam County, 232 kilometers away from Bushehr city.

This research seeks to investigate the role of Bandar Deylam in equilibrium of Bushehr province by using the methods of Elasticiablity Index and Social Network Analysis.

In fact, this research seeks to answer the following question:
- Can Bandar Deylam as a small town in Bushehr province play an effective role in regional development and balance?

Materials & Methods

The present research is an applied research with a descriptive-analytic method. Data collection is conducted by using library studies and documentation.

In the section of analysis, the method of Elasticiablity Index has been used to study the demographic flexibility of Bandar Deylam in comparison with the population of the province.

Then, in order to investigate the role of Bandar Deylam in the **balance and development of** North of Bushehr province, the method of Social Network Analysis (SNA) was used. This method uses graph theory to study social structuresand determine functional flows between settlements.

Discussion of Results

The results of the method of Elasticiablity Index indicate that the elasticity and population absorption capacity of Bandar Deylam was increased from 1986 to 2006. While the statistic for the period from 2006 to 2016 shows a reduction in attracting population and the rate of elasticity of Bandar Deylam.

According to the **finding** of the Social Network Analysis (SNA) method, Bandar Deylam can provide services to the peripheral settlements only in the fields of industry and fishing and

it is not dependent on other settlements. But to receive superior services in other functional fields, it refers to Bandar Genaveh as a small intermediate city.

Conclusions

Bandar Deylam plays a small role in balancing and developing the province because of the lack of attention to its port capabilities, the proximity to the south of Behbahan in Khuzestan province and the fact that most of its services are provided from the small intermediate city of Bandar Genaveh.

In general, it can be said that Bandar Deylam due to its features and potentials can play an important role in regional equilibrium and development if it is paid sufficient attention and support. In the end, some suggestions were offered to strengthen and improve the role of Bandar Deylam as a small town.

Keywords: Small Town, Equilibrium, Bandar Deylam, Elasticiablity Index, Social Network Analysis.

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URL: https://www.shahrsaziiran.com-5-3-1399/article5/