

The Role of Urban Sustainable Development and Urban Sustainable Management in Architecture

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Abstract

Today, the process of urban development concerns the planners and urban designers. Urban development plan without considering the issue of sustainability is almost disappeared. In this article, the researcher has tried to review the importance of sustainability and provide the concept of sustainability, development and theoretical perspectives of the development as well as providing the necessity of urban management cooperation in the success of development plans, particularly urban sustainable development. The study has also tried to focus on the effectiveness of urban sustainable development aspects through investigating the key factors for sustainable development. The study has also wanted to show that the sustainable development is not just limited to environmental issues but political, economic, social and cultural aspects are also important. "Social justice" as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development plays a key role in fair distribution of wealth and income among individuals. The essence of urban management is the responsibility to respond to present and future needs of the society and the accomplishment of the intended goals which can only be accomplished through balance and coordination in community's structural changes. It is also worth mentioning that improving the quality of sustainable life is the main sustainable approach of the urban development.

Keywords: Sustainable development, urban development, urban management, sustainability

Introduction

Human population growth on the planet is ascending rapidly. Humans have caused various pollution as well as different threats to themselves and other living creatures due to their arbitrary and selfish activities. Various pollution caused by industrial processes, indiscriminate use of resources, the enormous growth of population and lack of resources for the present and future generations to continue their lives have made some changes in attitudes and the opinions of development. The theory of sustainable development in the last decade of the twentieth century have come to existence due to the failure of different planning thoughts including modernism and postmodernism because of the lack of ability to provide appropriate conditions of life and the destructive effects on universal, national, regional and the local environment. Urban sustainability is a concept which seeks "sustainable development" as a new pattern in the world.

The concept of sustainable development revolves around human-environment and focuses on development of economic opportunity through environmental considerations and social justice. Sustainable development was first referred to after the economic problems in World War. It was developed when uncontrolled development led to the class divisions as well as numerous environmental problems and the development path focused on economic aspects more than environmental and social ones.

Therefore, a new model of sustainable development is formed around environmental sensitivities. The cornerstone of urban sustainability is based on great input material which later on will flow out as wastes.

Urban Sustainability has also focused on socio-economic aspects as well as ecological one. Structural changes have gained great importance in social and economic systems in a way that redistribution of scarce resources combined with limited growth is equal to the acceptance of

capacity of the environment. This is the strategic policy of sustainable city based on social and economic aspects. In this case, the goals of social justice and economic balance are in relation with the objectives of ecological balance sustainability.

It should be noted that there is a need for comprehensive approach in socio-economic aspect of sustainability in order to mix social capital with social education and then local community's empowerment. It has to try to accept the interaction between regional and global sustainability as well as accomplishing the slogan "Think global and act local ". The sustainability of the environment is useful at local level, but it needs a lot of institutional arrangements and governance system in order for the urban sustainability arrangements to be provided.

One of the main approaches to the sustainable city is to improve urban communities' livelihood or to attract the sustainable development of the citizens in the management of local affairs, the use of management agreements between the public and private sectors, supporting non-governmental organizations as well as providing them more responsibilities , creating local volunteer groups to deal with natural disasters, providing social services and housing in the area of public capability, preserving historical heritage , cultural diversity , local identity and the initiatives of this kind (Sarrafı, 2000).

All of the above mentioned solutions and other approaches indicate great range of coordinated actions in different areas and optimal urban development is the achievement of relying on the principle of sustainability. Sustainable city is coming from the development process which provides the mind and the possibility of a permanent improvement in socio-economic aspect of the city.

This is the courageous planners and urban managers' agenda in order to achieve utopian city called "sustainable city". A sustainable city is built democratically and from the bottom.

The different definitions of sustainability

The most common definition of sustainable development is one which was expressed in a conference in Rio. "Sustainable development is a development which provides the current needs without compromising the ability of future generations in achieving their needs and demands."

International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives has also provided a definition for sustainable development according to local government objectives: "sustainable development is a development which provides initial environmental, social and economic services with no threat to the environment, building and social systems which these services depend on ".

Sustainable development is concerned with continuous depletion of resources, but it is not the only natural resource which is at risk. Other qualitative characteristics such as landscape, heritage, history, comfort and capability of urban areas to provide safety, health and enjoyment are also at risk. The aim has to be preserving the overall characteristics and quality of the environment. It is also important for the social and economic issues to be considered alongside with environmental categories (Barton, Williams, Jens, 2000).

The concept of development

Most of the development theories consider development as a main change in the structure of the society. The changes which increase production capacities, improves living conditions as well as distribution of these grades (Ardeshiri, 2000).

Theoretical perspectives of development

The new theory of economic development is in fact four-decade experience of different countries and "development" theorists. These experiences were the basis of the principles which constitute the main pillars of this theory.

- Development is multifaceted process and it has to be facilitated through appropriate and balanced structural reforms in various aspects of the society.
- The main and basic elements of society's structure is related to basic variables in three systems of production, distribution and consumption in society.
- Sustainable development requires an internal mechanism which needs the interaction of three above mentioned systems.
- Having access to the resources and technology level of the society determines the capacity of the production system.
- The level of demand and consumption patterns has to be appropriate with the production capacity. Proper distribution of population and activities across the country is a prerequisite for doing so.
- Market normal mechanism plays a key role in the production, distribution and consumption. This mechanism needs to be operating well.
- And finally, the most important point is that sustainable development requires a close partnership between the public, private sector and government. These partnerships is only obtained through the distribution of power in society and a clear definition of the responsibilities and legal status of these three mentioned pillars (production, distribution, consumption) (Ardeshiri, 2000; 11).

The structural model

In a general classification and according to the emphasis of development theories, society's structure can be defined in a mixture of three systems including production, distribution and consumption system. Each of the mentioned systems includes main variables which expresses the shape and structure of the system (Ardeshiri, 2000; 8).

The theory of sustainable development

The term "sustainability" with the term "sustainable development" is widely used in economic, environmental, or social development issues. According to the current views, "sustainable development" not only provides the present generation's need but also tries to preserve the needs of future generations as well. Obviously, this commitment and responsibility can be summarized in natural resources, human resources and man-made infrastructure (Ghomashchi, 2000; 6).

The term "sustainable development" was officially stated by "Brandt Land" in 1987 in his 'common future' report. The term in its wider sense means "the proper and efficient management and utilization of basic, natural, financial and human resources to achieve desired consumption patterns which is possible by using the technical facilities and appropriate structure to meet the needs of today's and future generation (Ziari, 1999; 16).

The principal components of sustainable development are as follows:

- Solidarity and coordination between development and environmental protection
- Providing primary needs of human beings
- Having access to social justice
- Permanent protection and maintenance of ecologic
- Support and conservation of cultural and social values

Sustainable development focuses on increasing the available funds. Funds which have a systematic relationship in balanced and dynamic system, they are summarized in three aspects as follows:

- Physical and material funds (natural resources)
- Human capacities
- Socio-economic achievements (Ghomashchi, 2000; 6)

World Commission of Environment states the requirements of sustainable development as follows:

- Citizen participation in decision-making in a political system context
- Finding solutions for the inconsistency of development in the context of an economic system
- Commitment to the restoration and preservation of the environment in the context of a production system
- Providing sustainable patterns of finance trade in the context of a technical knowledge system
- Creating patterns of finance and trade in the context of an international system
- Flexibility and self- improvements in the context of a management system

Urban sustainable development has taken an effective aspect in development of following concepts:

- A- Strengthening social and citizenship justice
- B- Strengthening citizen participation and social cohesion
- C- Strengthening foundation of social institutions and family foundations
- D- Strategic approach on the emergence of urban sustainable development
- E- The development of urban culture
- F- Assistance and organizing public and private organs
- G- Effective policies and policy making programs in the field of metropolitan
- G- Civil rights expansion and optimization of civil relations

The interactive system in sustainable development

In a basic planning, an important factor of development should be considered in an interactive system. The factors which affect the planning process can be categorized in four areas of environmental, economic, social and cultural axes which every component influences the other ones.

In a primary approach, for example, environmental factors influence the ways of securing livelihoods and the economy of people and the economic welfare of the community influences the society's growth in terms of quantity and quality. Society's growth leads to the emergence, development, and maintenance of a specific culture that carriers of the culture influence the treatment, preservation or destruction of the environment. In fact, this system is a wide circle which consists of several smaller circles. For example, environment-economics and a plan are a loop as well as the economy and the community. They are part of the overall development cycle.

In order to present a comprehensive and a realistic plan, the planner has to do his best for an accurate and realistic understanding of the current condition of factors and their mutual interactions on each other over time (Ghomashchi, 2000; 9).

Systematic approach and sustainable development

In an overall view and at the macro level, the systematic planning for sustainable development needs preliminary views in order to receive and understand people's social and cultural outlooks. In a general perspective, the systems of production activities have been made of a few subsets that each of them has its own separate system which is called sub system.

Subsystem of "human potential" consists of a system which includes cultural, social, political activities of human society. Knowledge and intelligence of the people, social and cultural values are the main components of this "sub-system". The important factors of natural resources sub-system are summarized in "resources use amount", "energy exchange", "potential and ecological correlations" as well as the environment capacity and talents in recycling materials. In sub-system of "economic and social achievements we can point to the factors of population, production,

employment and income which affect each other as well as other components of "sustainable development" in a system. An overall model of important and well-known component, based on local production is an attempt to show its relationship and interaction in a dynamic system.

The systematic comment on this model can identify the existing node and show the inter-relationship between effective factors and socio-economic consequences along with environmental impacts, thus the choice between preserving the environment and socio-economic benefits of a project can become clear for the authorities and decision makers (Ghomashchi, 2000; 10).

Sustainable development theory

The idea of "urban sustainable development" is coming from the discussions of environmentalists about environmental issues, especially the urban environment which was presented after the theory of "sustainable development" for the protection of natural resources. In this theory, the maintenance of current and future resources is presented through optimal use of land which has no damages to un-renewable resources.

The idea of urban sustainable development presents the issues of preventing urban and regional pollution, reducing production capacities of local, regional and national environment, supporting the recycling, lack of supporting the harmful developments as well as eliminating the gap between rich and poor. The idea of urban sustainable development also considers the way of achieving these goals through urban, regional and national planning which is in accordance with the law and control of land uses. This theory emphasizes on the role of government in these planning and it believes that governments should have a comprehensive support toward urban environment.

The theory also investigates the sustainability of the city, sustainable model of settlements, and effective transport model since it considers urban development for the joy of the urban settlers (Ziari, 1999; 17- 18).

Since the main objective of human communities is to move toward urbanization, it is clear that the residue deposits of internal cohesion of societies before urbanization has a proper role in urban governance as well as urban sustainability. The important thing in urban sustainable development is planning by local authorities which can provide the access to everyday needs in different aspects.

Social justice, fundamental pillar of sustainable development

Sustainable development is not just limited to the environmental problems but political, economic, social and cultural aspects have also a great importance. "Social justice", as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development is playing an important role in equitable distribution of wealth and income among individuals. Thus, it has been seen that the social aspect in urban sustainable development is very important and in the 21st century, "human-centered development" is replaced by previous issues.

One of the requirements of achieving sustainable development is to create beautiful and harmonious sceneries. Polluted sceneries show socio-economic inequalities among the residents of a city and environment pollutions are the product of inequality processes in society. The concentration of poverty in certain geographic areas not only leads to polluted sceneries but also provides crime rate increase. Increased crime and other social disorders in the city make it impossible for "urban sustainable development". Peter Hall, famous English geographer, refers to it as an urban nightmare instead of clean and sustainable city. Nightmare city is filled with insecurity, fear, depression, and anxiety of its citizens.

Socio-economic aspects of development have to be taken into account in order to create an ideal and healthy city with sustainable development as well as preventing the crises, tensions and challenges through provision of "social justice. Increasing awareness of urban managers in the

developing world about different aspects of the development and implementation of measures that lead to social interaction can provides the settlement of "sustainable development".

"David Harvey" in the book "Social Justice and the City" writes that society has to accept more costs based on the principle of social justice in order to reduce social risks (Hataminezhad, 2010; 78-80).

The theory of sustainable development and urban management

The essence of urban management is the responsibility to respond to present and future needs of the society as well as accomplishing the intended goals which can only be achieved through structural balance and harmony in the society. In fact, the idea of urban management is influenced by three factors:

- The need for making the policies, national macro-economic policies and urban economy closer.
- The use of the comparative advantages of cities and their role in the process of economic, social and cultural development
- Awareness of the correlation between the public and private sectors as two complementary elements in guidance of structural changes which should be done with the participation of non-governmental organizations and social institutions.

In the new view of urban management there is an emphasis on clear outlook change towards the role of the public and private sectors in development process of society. This new approach which is based on a new theory of economic growth considers promoting the private sector and NGOs capabilities as well as creating facilities for extensive activities in different sectors of society as the main role of government. In this regard, the government provides innovation and creativity through laws and regulations and the creation of institutional and financial framework to enable the private sector and NGOs which are the prerequisite for the development of urban economy. In other words, the main focus of urban management on appropriate policies in strategic sectors for capacity building and rehabilitation is at the local level rather than huge urban development projects.

In order to create new capacities and empower the community, four axes have been selected for urban management policies and intervention which are as follow:

- Improving the urban economy
- The provision of basic services
- Land Management
- Poverty Alleviation

In addition to these four axes and according to the environment which is one of the main pillars of sustainable development, there is a need for urban management which is selected as the fifth axe (Ardeshiri, 2000; 12).

Urban sustainable development

Promoting quality of sustainable environment is the major sustainable approach of urban development. The characteristic which includes different social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects has been emphasized in the world and research centers, and by academic authorities. World Bank's approach is among these institutions which focus on this aspect of urban life as well as including effective realms toward urban sustainable development. According to World Bank, improving the quality of life and urban sustainable development depends on the fulfillment of the following conditions:

A) Life capability: It requires providing all citizens with healthy environment, social security, welfare, public urban sustainable development in decision making processes as well as employment of opportunities which are the minimum standards for urban sustainable development

B) Having an effective local management: the dynamics of urban development, urban land market efficiency, housing, urban transportation, urban development programs, and ultimately urban sustainable development depend on the administrative system and local management.

C) The competitiveness: sustainable city is one which enjoys a strong economic foundation as well as relying on its competitive role. Relying on competitiveness and good local management, especially in rapid growth, provides viability and sustainability.

E) The enjoyment of the bank credit system: sustainable city requires sustainable and fair financial system for employment and income growth. Reliability of banking means financial health (Arjmandnia, 2000; 27- 28).

Sustainable cities are built when people consider the city they live in as their own as well as changing their lifestyle appropriately (Nejati Hosseini, 2001; 58).

Conclusion

Urban sustainability deals with a production or distribution model and incompatible consumption with the nature which put an end to resources as well as environmental destruction. It only approves a development process which improves the quality of human life and life capacity systems.

In socio-economic aspects, urban sustainability needs comprehensive approach in order to mix social capital with social education and then empower local communities. This is the agenda of courageous planners and urban managers to achieve utopian city called "sustainable city". A sustainable city is built democratically as well as being built from the bottom. Urban sustainable development can be done through participatory decision-making at the local level since it is in touch with life's daily needs. Sustainable development is not only limited to environmental problems, but its political, economic, social and cultural aspects are also of a great importance. "Social justice" as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development is playing a key role in fair distribution of wealth and income among individuals.

Thus, it has being seen that the social aspect in urban sustainable development is very important and "human-centered development" has to be replaced by the previous issues. Sustainable cities are built when people consider their city as their own as well as changing their lifestyle appropriately (Nejati Hosseini, 2001; 58).

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