Location of Public Places "Bazaar" as a Commercial Case and "Square" as a Social one (Case Study: Abpakhsh City)

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Abstract

In spite of the fact that the need to public places for social interactions and activities is expressly felt recently, the importance of their existence in cities (studied case: Abpakhsh) has reduced or they are just found in some parts of the cities in the last decades. Attempts for solving this problem have been either descriptive or lacked consideration of geographical factors. This research is carried out to locate the public places of the Abpakhsh city by combination of Iranian-Islamic urbanizing pattern with the western pattern in order to keep the Islamic-Iranian identity of the public places with respect to the current needs of citizens. Therefore, the descriptive-analytic approach and AHP method through GIS are used in two phases. At first the per capita and the demanded lands for responding the needs of Abpakhsh citizens is measured by the 2021. Then, for better evaluation, two public places ("bazaar" as a commercial case and "square" as a social one) are located in the city with a combined Iranian-Islamic approach. The results of this evaluation in the first step show the lack of land for public places by the 2021, while the second step revele the perfect conditions of eastern and western lands respectively for construction of a bazaar and a local square. Results generally represent the prosperous combination of the Iranian-Islamic norms with the western ones in order to maintain the Iranian-Islamic identity of Abpakhsh city without causing any obstacle for satisfying the citizen's needs.

Keywords: public places, locating, Iranian-Islamic identity, AHP, Abpakhsh city

Introduction

Cities belonging to the time after the arrival of Islam to Iran had intact elements and atmospheres before the introgression of the western culture. By the entrance of automobiles and the impressionability of the modern urbanizing from western samples, the old places were not only adapted with them, but also were wrecked suddenly due to the primitive street lining at the early times of Pahlavi era and they lost both their skeletal features and most of their cultural and social characteristics (Dehaghani, 1998). This issue has affected the cities and traditional urbanizing and caused the decadence of the old places. It has also led the potential spaces for the public places to be forgotten and faded them away. The major role of the public places in enforcing the social and cultural aspects of the city indicates the importance of considering them in urban plans and projects (Nasatran, 2013). These places have the dominant part in collective life of the citizens due to the functional scale and the large variable range of their contacts (Madanipour, 2003). Public place of the city is where the sociable interaction of people occurs (Rahnamaei, Asharafi, 2007). The sociable face to face interaction of people is an issue which today has been taken from these places after the changes of the last 50 years and there has been no reconsideration of the concept and functions of the public places in order to adapt this function with today's needs. Therefore, the non-native functions dare to destroy old functions because they lack efficiency. Hence, the comprehensive attention to the urban public places especially squares and bazaars represents the undeniable fact of our cities in the new century which can be updated in the form of the modern

urban structure without giving up the identical and traditional aspects. This study aims to return this values through locating the public places (bazaar" as a commercial case and "square" as a social one) with a combined approach of Iranian-Islamic and western urbanizing patterns in order to represent a method for the interaction between Iranian-Islamic identity and the existing modernism in contemporary public places. Therefore, Abpakhsh city which is on the transition phase from traditionalism with an Iranian-Islamic identity to a western modernism in public places has been chosen as an example.

Significance of the study

As it has been expressed by many urban researchers, public places are of the important elements of a city which is defined by many points (Pourmohammadi, Kooshaneh, 2013). Due to the entrance of automobiles and the impressionability of the modern urbanizing from western samples, the old places were not only adapted with them, but also were wrecked suddenly due to the primitive street lining at the early times of Pahlavi era and they lost both their skeletal features and most of their cultural and social characteristics (Dehaghani, 1998). This issue influenced the traditional urbanizing of the Abpakhsh city and caused the decadence of the old places of public places in this city especially squares and bazaar. The bazaar of the city has also lost its previous concept and has turned into commercial places. As a result, preventing the reduction of the values of such places which has important role in the social life of the cities is one of the necessities of evaluation in the present study.

Research Hypotheses

H1: Locating the social places ("bazaar" as a commercial case and "square" as a social one) with an Iranian-Islamic approach in the Abpakhsh city does not make any obstacle for responding to the daily needs of citizens (especially the vehicle traffic).

H2: Combination of the urbanizing patterns (Iranian-Islamic and western) for locating the public places in Abpakhsh city can prevent the westernization of its public places.

Theoretical foundations

Public places are one of the most important factors in determining the identity of the limits in urban areas (Jajromi, Torshizian). These places are for communicating the ideas and information and forming the social networks (Salarsardari, et al., 2003). The term of public place can't be defined by its own. Depending on the different ideas, it conveys different meanings (Nasatran, 2013). In the Oxford dictionary the term public place has been used generally and in most cases it is considered in contrast with private (Rafeeiyan, Seifaei, 2005). The public place is where all the citizens with different age and race are allowed to enter without any limitation (Rahnamaei, Asharafi, 2007). Such places are an experience rather than a place. The result of such sociality and experiences among people and different groups will lead to a sense of collective identity, self-respecting, enhancing collective skills and the social participation (Daneshpour, Charkhchian, 2007).

Categorization of public places

Different classifications of urban public places have been formed so far. We will describe them as follows.

Kinds of Categorization of public places

External public places: parts which locate among private buildings such as streets, squares, parks, highroads, parking lots, edges of rivers, lakes and coasts. Examples of Internal public places are public institutes such as libraries, museums, urban halls and buildings related to transportation

like train and bus stops and airports. In other classifications, the urban public places can be shown as soft and hard spaces, hard places are basically surrounded by walls around of buildings and while soft places such as parks and green lines do not have specific border lines and are dominated by the surrounding environment. As many urban researchers have expressed, public places are important elements of a city that are defined by interesting unique points (Pourmohammadi and Kooshaneh, 2013). The importance of this issue is because of the effective role of these places in society and it has been mentioned many times by theoretician of urban affairs such as: Owen, Cabet, Osman, Baumeister, Stubben, Soria-Y-Mata, Camillo Sitte, Howard, Tony Garnier, Henard, Wagner, Berlage and Perry from 1815 to 1914, Frank Lloyd Wright, Hannah Arendt, Paul Zucker, Le Corbusier, Mumford, Lynch, Gordon Cullen, Jane Jacobes from 1815 to 1961 and Cliff Moughtin, Ali Madanipour, Jahanshah Pakzad from 1999 to 2005. Other thinkers are Jacobs and White. Jacobs highlights the social function of places, vitality and security of districts especially features like density and variation, while White seeks for a documentary practical relation between form and function, in the first place for urban squares and then for other opens spaces (Zachary, 2010). Other thinkers such as Mohammad Reza Pourjafar and Ali Pourjafar have presented their ideas through a well-combined approach consisted of Iranian-Islamic and western urbanizing. They believe that main public place of a district should respond different social, cultural and religious functions in a multi-functional way (Pourjafar, Pourjafar, 2012). Norberg-Schulz, Norwegian architect, thinks that public places and buildings manifest the common values of citizens as a meeting place and they provide a place for satisfactory activities for all people (Pourmohammadi and Kooshaneh, 2013). Lynch also in his book "A Theory of Good City Form" presents 7 functional pivots including vitality, meaning, proportion, accessibility, supervising and commission, functionality and justice that improve the quality of urban spaces especially public places and says: "the quality of place is a function of joint impact of the place and the society which occupies it (Lynch, 2013). Therefore, Nejadrooshti in an article entitled "The Role of Main Pillars of the Iranian Islamic city in locating the residential centers (Case study: Zanjan city)" investigates the main pillars of the Iranian Islamic city in locating the residential centers of Zanjan city and states that 82% of the residential elements in the past had a distance with 5 main elements of the city but this figure in the last few years with gross changes only 68%. The public expenses and the price of the land have the most effects on locating the residential centers of Annan city (Ahadnejad Rooshti, 2013). Sitte, in the first chapter of his book entitled "the relationship between buildings, historic structures and squares" investigates the "square" as a social public place and "bazaar" as a commercial one and says that the main square of the city and Signoria square are separately located next to the bazaar. Here, everything is also faded away. Once the bazaar was crowded but it has been many years that it is covered in a glass cage" (Sitte, 1909). Evaluating the side effects of the open space in Baltimore, Maryland is another study related to the open public places which has been written as a thesis by GURUNG in 2012. He investigated the impacts of 6 kinds of open public places on the price of house in 2007 and after analysis of differences and similarities between the value of open public places by the urban residents and rural residents of Baltimore and Maryland concluded that the closeness to the lake in both urban and rural districts had no positive effect on the price of house (Gurung, 2012).

Study area

The city of Abpaksh is located in 19 kilometers north western of the city of Borazjan and on the main road of Boushehr Port to Genave Port and Khouzestan province. Its geographical coordinates are 92.21 of the northern latitude and 51.05 of the eastern latitude and an average height of 30 meters above the sea. The climate in this city in the fall and from the winter to early spring is moderate and is warm in the rest of the year. The average amount of rain is between 150 to 260

millimeters. The direction of the wind is from north western to the south eastern of the city and its annual maximum speed is 72 kilometers per hour and its minimum has been registered at 30 kilometers per hour (Parsoomash, 2009).
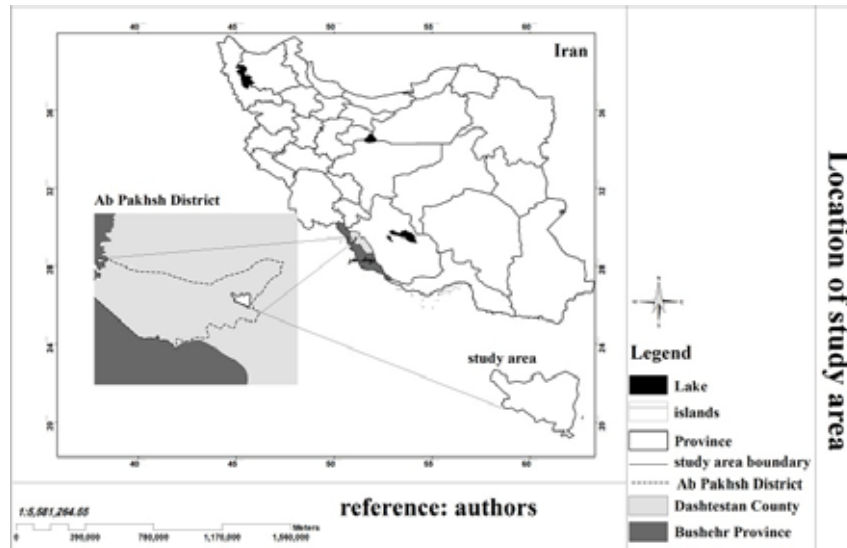

Figure 1. The study area

Research method

The research method in the present study is descriptive-analytic and practical. In this study, the field and bibliotheca information collecting methods are used to gather the needed data for the research and then, through the utilization of the soft wares Excel, AutoCAD, ArcGIS, Expert Choice 2000, Google earth and AHP method, the studied subjects are analyzed. In the first stage, we will calculate the capitation and the needed levels of public places to satisfy the needs of the people of the city of Abpakhsh until the 2021 and then the next stage is carried out through the utilization of the AHP method, the mixture of locating regulations for public places (bazaar and neighborhood squares) with the Islamic Iranian approach which in this study includes the Isfahan school and the views of contemporary Iranian theoreticians and also western theoreticians (Rudburn's plan).

The AHP method: The hierarchical analysis process is one of the decision making systems for the multiple standards that are based on expert knowledge and was designed by Thomas L. Saati (1980). This technique is based on pair comparisons. In fact, the hierarchical analysis process is a flexible yet powerful method that is useful in conditions where the decision making standards contradict and harden the task to choose among the options. These elements include goals, standards or factors and possible options that are used in prioritizing (Hekmatnia, Moosavi, 2003). The process of identification of elements and the connection between them leads to the formation of a hierarchical structure is called the creation of hierarchy. Therefore, the first step in the hierarchy process is to create a hierarchical structure of the subject in study in which the goals, standards, options and the connections among them are indicated (Zeberdast, 1990).

Stage 1: Formation of the hierarchical structure

Stage 2: Preparing the questionnaire and forming the pair comparisons matrix

In this stage, first the preparation of the basis for the questionnaire is done with regard to the formed hierarchical structure in the first stage. It should be pointed out that the formation of a pair comparisons matrix is done based on the hierarchical structure (diagrams 2 and 3). The elements in this structure are the goal in the highest level, the decision making factors (standards and sub

standards) in the middle level and the options in the last level, in turn from down to upward are first evaluated in comparison with all the related element in the higher levels and then the pair comparison matrix is formed and the significance rate of the factors is ranked from 1 to 9 .

Stage 3: Weight calculation

In order to calculate the weight, first the numbers related to each column of the matrix should be added, then each member of the matrix will be divided into the sum of the factors and the creation of normalized numbers will be the result. Finally, the average of each row will be calculated and the resulted number will be the indicator of each factor's weight (Azimi Hosseini, et al).

Stage 4: Calculation of coherence ratio

This stage, in its turn, includes three stages:

A) The special vector (max): This stage includes three parts a. This stage is resulted from the multiplication of the weight vector, b. In order to calculate this stage, the row total resulting from the above stage is divided into the weight of the related parameters, and c. This stage will be resulted from the average of the numbers in the second stage.

B) Calculating the amount of the incoherence factor (I.I): This stage is calculated according the formula below.

$$I.I. = \frac{\lambda max - N}{N - 1}$$

(1)

C) Calculating the incoherence ratio (RI): This stage of dividing the incoherence factor into the incoherence factor of the random matrix is calculated according to the formula below. It needs to be mentioned that if the incoherence rate to be below 0.1, the coherence of the comparisons is acceptable; otherwise the comparisons should be reexamined.

$$I.I. = \frac{I.I}{R.I}$$

(2)

Table 1. Randomness factor

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	n
1.49	1.45	1.41	1.32	24.1	1.12	0.9	3.58	0	RI

Stage 5: Blending the maps and creating the final map

This stage is resulted from the overlaps of the maps with weights. A hierarchical structure is formed by the mixture of substandard layers with regard to the resulted weights from the AHP method of standard layers and the mixture of the standard layers of the goal layer. It should be mentioned that in the present study, all the weights are calculated by the Expert Choice 2000 soft-ware.

Results

In this study, we are trying to use the descriptive-analytic methods (the descriptive AHP method and statistics calculations), evaluate and locate the public places (commercial "bazaar" and social "square") of the city of Abpakhsh through the utilization of the soft-wares Excel, AutoCAD, ArcGIS and Google Earth. Also, the studied group in this research is the range of the city of Abpakhsh. Thus, we will analyze the studied subject in two stages. Therefore, in the first stage we will calculate the capitation and the levels of need for public places to satisfy the requirements of the people of the Abpakhsh city until 2021 and then, in the second stage will be carried out through the utilization of the AHP method, the soft-ware Expert Choice 2000 and the regulations for locating public places (bazaar and neighborhood square) which are presented with a Islamic Iranian approach.

Stage 1: Calculating the capitation and the level of needs for public places in the city of Abpakhsh: In this stage of the study, first the possible population of the Abpakhsh city in the 2021 was calculated by using the exponential growth model and then, to calculate the capitation and the land needed for the public places of the Abpakhsh city, the basis for calculating the proposed area is designated as the product of the sum of standard capitation and the predicted population of the city in 2021 (meaning 19307).

Table 2. Surplus surface and capitation of the city's public places (Source: authors)

Needed area (square meters)	Surplus space (square meters)	Space shortage (square meters)	Standard capitation (square meters)	Existent capitation (square meters)	Existent area (square meters)	Public places
48267.5	18182.5	-	2.5	3.8	66450	Commercial
-	-	-	-	0.46	7941	Social (square)
- (Bahramabad 0) – (Qalaei 1) - (Abpakhsh 1) (City's new expansions: 0)				Average number of the city's neighborhoods		

Table 3. Regulations and standards

Regulations based on Islamic Iranian patterns	
- Minimum distance from the local square to the main avenues is 100 meters. - The distance between the local square to the neighborhood avenues is 100 meters. - Avoidance of noisy functions and those that attract the non-residents of the neighborhood (blacksmiths, government offices and organizations) - Maximum length and width of a newly constructed square should be with 50*50 dimensions (Zeberdast, 1990).	Social public place (square)
- The bazaar, if possible, should start from the city's main square and congregational mosque and end at the margins of the city. - The bazaar most have proper accessibility conditions in a way that the main passage way of the bazaar be next to the passages (scale 1, scale 2 and sideway) based on the priorities.	Commercial public place (bazaar)
The proper natural conditions for both public places (bazaar and square)	
- Inclination 8-15 percent - Inclination direction, first grade an even coordination, south to south west and second grade coordination of west and south east. - Height for coastal regions (first grade coordination 20-40 and second grade coordination - Be as far as possible from earth cracks.	
Regulations based on western patterns (Rudburn's plan): - Blending the artificial and natural products - Complete segregation of the passages of the passersby from the vehicles - Creating a spatial hierarchy in categorizing the passersby and vehicles passageways.	
Notes: The reasons why this plan is chosen for the Abpakhsh city refer to its linearity, the proper visual form for the execution of the plan, and the existence of sterile and free lands in this city.	

The results are shown in table 2. Also, the exponential growth model is calculated by using the method below (Hekmatnia, Moosavi, 2003).

The exponential growth model: In this method, the amount of population growth is in coordination with the amount of the existing population. The relation between population increase and the total population is fixed but the increase rises (Hekmatnia, Moosavi, 2003).

$$p_{(t+n)} = p_t(1+r)^n \qquad (3)$$

$p_{(t+n)}$: Population in the year t+n (end of the period)

N: The time period (based on month, year, half year, etc.)

p_t: Population in the year t (beginning of the period)

R: Annual population growth ratio

The ratio for annual population growth is resulted from the formula below:

$$R = \left(\frac{\sqrt[n]{p_t}}{p_0} - 1\right) \times 100 \qquad (4)$$

Calculating the population of the city of Abpakhsh for the year 2021:

$$R = \times 100 = 1.14 \qquad p_{1400} = 17238\left(1 + \frac{1/14}{100}\right)^{10} = 19307 \qquad \left(\frac{10\sqrt{17238}}{15421} - 1\right)$$

Stage 2: Locating public places (commercial and social function of the "square")

A: Locating social public place (square)

In the Pahlavi era, the urban planners because of the lack of function in accessing memorials of the ancient age of Iranian-Islamic urban planning and in order to facilitate the traffic of the passersby, changed the passageways and widened them through the traditional places of the city, especially squares and bazaars. On the one hand, this fact led to the eradication of these spaces' identities and on the other hand, caused a decrease in the social interactions in the cities. Therefore, it seems to be a matter of great necessity to provide circumstances in which the social activities and relations would carry on and also the traffic would become more fluid and facilitated. Thus, after analyzing the needs in coordination with table 2, the subject is analyzed in two stages.

A) locating social spaces (neighborhood square) with an Islamic-Iranian Approach: In this stage, and in accordance with the needs, regulations and standards (table 3), hierarchical structure (diagrams 2 and 3) and after passing through the stages from 1 to 5 mentioned under the topic of research method in this study, the proper location for the neighbor square in coordination with diagrams 5 and 8 is determined.

B) Determining the role of the passageways around the square in coordination with Rudburn's plan: In this stage, by using the GIs software, a column entitled passages scale in the layer of accessibilities in sterile lands in the Bahramabad neighborhood is created and after choosing the passages leading to the proposed square, human scales are stated for them in the table. Then, after going through the same process for two passages around the passages with human scale, the passing role for them is written in the table. In this method, residential units are surrounded by passages on the one side, and on the other side, there are passages with human scales for the passersby to reach the square.

Standards for locating social public places (square)

Distance from traditional function is A, distance from the park is B, distance from other urban green spaces is C, accessibility is D, distance from the functions of the district center is E, distance from industries and manufactures is F, height is G and distance from earth crack is H.

Reasons for choosing the standards of locating social public places (square):

1. A: Connecting the square in old times with all the other public places like the bazaar or the mosque.

2. B, C, E and F: Because of the fact that squares need safety and peace and also they attract the population and these functions are in need of the passersby, these standards are chosen and the distance of the proposed neighborhood square from these functions is considered in a desirable amount.

3. G and H: Because of the very important role of natural disasters in the safety of the people's gathering place, these layers are chosen.

4. D: Because of the need of each function to accessibility, this layer is utilized. With regard to the closeness of the main passage of the bazaar to the main passages of the city, the accessibility in this study is prioritized (first grade, second grade and at the end, sideway).

Table 4. Final weight of the sub standards for locating the square (Source: authors)

A: Congregational mosque (1), Other religious sites (0.111), D: Sideway (1), second grade (0.237) and first grade (0.94), G: Inclination (1), inclination directions (0.237) and height (0.94)

Table 5. Pair comparisons and final weight of locating the social public place (neighborhood square) (source: authors)

Standard	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Final weight
A	1	6	5	2	7	7	6	5	1
B	0.17	1	2	0.17	2	0.33	0.33	0.5	0.137
C	0.20	0.5	1	0.20	0.5	0.33	0.5	2	0.119
D	0.5	6	5	1	2	3	5	4	0.623
E	0.14	0.5	2	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	2	0.161
F	0.14	3	3	0.33	2	1	2	3	0.248
G	0.17	3	3	0.20	2	0.5	1	4	0.285
H	0.20	2	2	0.25	0.5	0.33	0.25	1	0.118
Inco-herence ratio	0.08								

B) Locating public commercial space (bazaar): In order to do the locating of the bazaar in coordination with the mentioned regulations and standards, first, in accordance with the related table, the amount of the need for the bazaar should be evaluated and in the next stage, base plans should be provided and after going through the stages of 1 to 5 under the research method subject of this study, a map of the degrees of coordination of the lands for the construction of the bazaar will be procured. It should be mentioned that, since there is not empty land around the proposed location for the bazaar, blending it with Rudburn's plan is not very economical.

Standards for locating the bazaar (G)

The distance from the center of the city is A, distance from traditional functions is B, distance from industries, manufactories and functions of the district center is C, accessibility is D and height is E.

Reasons for choosing the standards for locating the commercial public place of "the bazaar"

1. A: The cohesion of the bazaar in old times from the squares and the mosque to the gates of the city.

B: The invariability of the borders of the Abpakhsh city from two sides is because of the existence of two rivers and palm gardens on the two sides of the city.

C: The interest of the people of this city in the palms and these two rivers as two factors of the city's identity and economical function and also their visual beauty aspect.

2. C: Because of the need of neighborhood squares to safety, peace and also the fact that they attract the population and the need of these functions to the passersby, these standards are chosen and the distances in the proposed location for the bazaar are considered.

3. E: Because of the very important role of natural disasters in the safety of the people's gathering place, these layers are chosen.

4. D: This layer is used because of the need of each of the functions to the access. With regard to the closeness of the bazaar's main passage to the main passages of the city, the accessibility in this study is prioritized (first grade, second grade and in the end, sideway).

Table 6. Final weight of the substandard for locating commercial public place (bazaar) (source: authors)

B: The congregational mosque (1), distance from the existent squares (0.579), other religious places (0.096) - D: First grade (1), second grade (0.237) and sideway (0.94) - E: Inclination (1), inclination directions (0.237) and height (0.94) - The weight of the subcategory of the substandard of the distance of the urban square (1) and neighborhood square (0.111).

Table 7. Pair comparisons and final weight of the standards for locating commercial public place (bazaar) (source: authors)

Standard	A	B	C	D	E	Final normalized weight
A	1	4	8	6	7	1
B	0.25	1	5	2	6	0.397
C	0.125	0.20	1	0.17	0.33	0.65
D	0.17	0.5	3	1	3	0.248
E	0.14	0.17	6	0.33	1	0.111
Incoherence ratio	0.08					

Notes: Because of the fact that there are several tables of pair comparisons and their diagrams, only the main tables of pair comparisons of the standards (tables 5 and 7) are presented in this study as examples. Also, the options in this research are limited to the range of the city of Abpakhsh and its significance rate and levels grading is done by the GIS soft-ware through the blending of the standard layers (Figure 2).
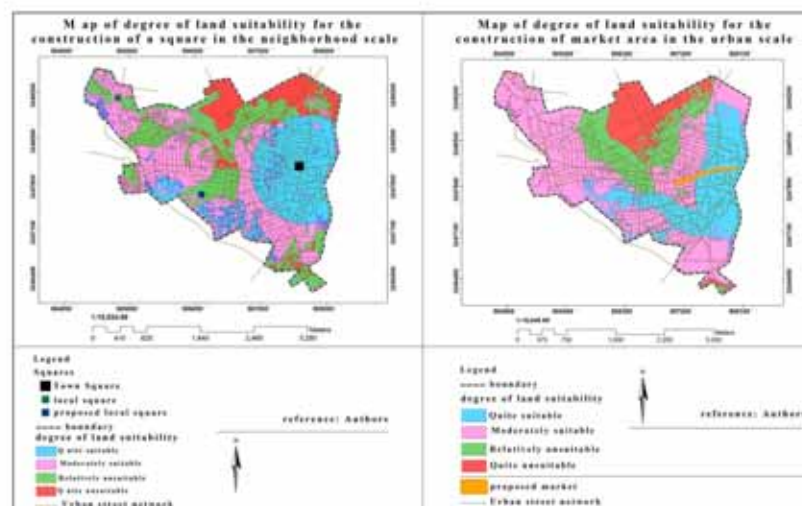

Figure 2. The map of coordination level of the lands for establishment of public places (Source: authors)

Conclusion

Responding the social needs of humans and providing the demanded opportunities for achieving their social experiences depend on existence of the space and skeletal station and public places are considered as huge capacities for responding these aspects of human life in urban

societies (Daneshpour, Charkhchian, 2007). However, today in most of cities of the country especially developing cities like Abpakhsh these kinds of urban spaces are encountered to three conditions including their identity has changed, they are just found partly in the city, they have faded away totally. These issues get more serious when in comprehensive plans there is not even any determined per capita for these places. The condition of these issues in the Abpakhsh city especially for public places ("bazaar" as a commercial case and "square" as a social one) is the way that the bazaar has changed its identity into a commercial place and square is just found partly in the city. Therefore, in order to achieve the goals of study, these issues are discussed in two phases and the assumptions are responded. In the first phase, the per capita is evaluated and the needed levels of people of the Abpakhsh city to public places (square and bazaar) are discussed. As it is shown in table 2, the commercial public place has 18182.5 m2 extra space and there is no need to establish another commercial place. However, it is better that the new-established commercial public places to be transferred to the anticipated place in the map because of the lack of well establishment of this public place with the Iranian-Islamic identity, the ultra-regional and strategic position of this city and as a result, the need of this city for a traditional commercial public place. Hence, there is no considered per capita for social public places as square and the scale for enriching the districts with social public places as square is the amount of requirement (table 2). Thereafter, locating this public places is done based on that. The results of this study show the perfect conditions of eastern and western lands respectively for construction of a bazaar and a local square. Also, results generally indicate the prosperous combination of the Iranian-Islamic norms with the western ones in order to maintain the Iranian-Islamic identity of Abpakhsh city without causing any obstacle for satisfying the citizens' needs.

Recommendations
- By making breakages in the passageways around the proposed square, the unlimited vision will be prevented.
- Portico can be used in the body of the proposed square and bazaar,.
- Besides from the passageways which are changed in the measurements for maintaining the Iranian-Islamic identity and simplifying the traffic in other parts of the city, the collective parking lots should be located with respect to the Iranian Islamic approach and then passageways in an alternately form get a humane and passable measure according to the Isfahan method.

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