

# **Analysis on Effects of Urban Centers on Peripheral Settlements in Iran**

## **The Case Study of Qazvin Province**

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### **Abstract**

The interactions and linkages between urban centers and peripheral settlements are increasingly recognized as key factors in the process of social, economic and environmental changes in peripheral settlements. Despite this, most practices are implicitly based on a dichotomous view of population and activities in urban and peripheral area.

This paper presents that how interactions between urban centers and peripheral settlements include spatial linkages (flows of goods, money, capital, people, information, production, technology and wastes) affect on peripheral changes. The interactions and linkages between the urban centers of Qazvin and 20 peripheral settlements there show that the effects of this interaction upon the peripheral settlements have included more inorganic effects. Urban and peripheral development need to be considered as complementary process rather than competing activities for the limited resources. The benefits of such an integrated approach will outweigh of the costs.

**Keywords:** Urban, Peripheral, Settlements, Spatial Linkages

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## **1. Introduction**

The interaction between urban and peripheral centers are known to be the most important and the most influential factors in bringing about social, economic and environmental changes in peripheral settlements. Theories of development have mainly focused on the dichotomous aspects of peripheral and urban centers. Therefore, over the year separation of peripheral and urban centers in development planning had been the predominant tradition among planners of developing countries. An idea was propagated during the 1970's according to which urban centers could affect the rural development. This idea had its origins in the fundamentals of central places, and was applied in India by Johnson.

In Iran, in the past few decades, although urban areas have been influenced by their peripheral settlements, they in turn used to exert much influence on adjacent areas. The examples show themselves in the form of organic or positive and inorganic or negative socio-economic and environmental urban and regional changes. In the process of dual relationship of urban and peripheral settlements, the later have more significant role in bearing changes due to their very natures; and as a result the peripheral settlements are usually under the domination of their urban centers. This may bring about a state of disorderliness in urban peripheries' different affairs.

This study, with emphasis on the points stated, tries to classify the types and level of relationships

of the urban centers and peripheral settlements of Qazvin Province, and identifies the most important social, economical, environmental and spatial results obtained from these relationships in changing of peripheral settlements.

## **2. Theoretical Framework**

### **1.2. Spatial interactions between urban centers and urban peripheries**

More than half of the population of the world is living in urban places and urban peripheries. In developing countries, the ratio is even more and increasing by time. Urban surroundings which are under the influence of urban areas are called urban peripheries or transfer zones. These places are located between the city centers and agricultural lands. Since, peripheral zones lack the value of both urban and agricultural lands, these lands are not suitable for urban development, urban services, and cultivation. Veenhuizen, (2002:4) believes that the peripheral zones are known by 4 attributes:

- Physical criteria, including streets and building density,
- Functional criteria, including communicational systems, transportation network , and occupational situation,
- Socio-economic and psychological criteria, including quality of life, and,
- Administrative criteria.

The peripheral zones have recently undergone a lot of changes with regard to land use, agricultural system, occupation pattern,

dimensions of social issues, and demand for basic services and infrastructures (Tacoli, 2002:2). Similar challenges regarding socio-economic and environmental issues particularly spatial planning for housing development, green belt, waste disposals, safe drinking water have also been under consideration in these zones, (Veenhuizen, 2002:3). Generalizing the issues of the urban peripheries will face the planners with complicated problems as each periphery has its specific geographical, socio-economic and infrastructural conditions and characteristics.

The differences between the type and quality of housing of high class residents and the low class people in urban peripheries is a good example of this sort (IIED, 2001:2).

Therefore, in urban peripheries, considering planning cost opportunity for land use is very important as land is seen with its spatial dimension, (Nuppenau, 2002:2). The dimensions of regional development in urban peripheries; as Satterwaite (2002:20) contends have increased the demand for the following uses:

- Land for non-agricultural uses,
- Land for play grounds, excursion and entertainment,
- Urban water supply,
- Food production for rapid increasing of urban communities,
- Land for urban disposals, and
- Construction materials for housing development.

The spatial relations between urban areas and their peripheries can change the occupational structure at the peripheries, increase the number of non-agricultural occupations, more meaningful and closer relations among industry, handicrafts, agriculture, commercial investment, sport facilities, and varieties of land uses at the urban peripheries. Socio-cultural problems like crimes and deviancies, along with physical development and the lack of the control and inspection of local authorities will bring about a number of obstacles such as soil erosion, unsanitary methods of waste disposals, and the incidence of infection diseases at the urban peripheries.

## **2.2. The urban centers and peripheral relationship in development theory**

At present, discussion of the nature of urban centers and peripheral relationship has merited an important place in the development planning, in particular "spatial planning". In the 1950's, the basis of the discussions was to see whether cities have generative or parasitic roles in their relations with peripheral settlements. A new view in the field of regional planning under the title "core- periphery and polarization models" was expressed in the early 1960's. According to this, a hypothesis was formed which believed in accumulation of resources in "core" and distribution of benefits from the core to periphery. Although it was proved in the long run that cities as locus of accumulation

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were obstacles rather than facilitators to developments.

Now, it can be claimed that the perspective of the daily life of urban peripheries is influenced by urban elements and characters to a large extent. Urban environment and its development cannot be independent from peripheral settlements. The process of urban growth is based on the surplus of goods, commodities and natural resources in rural places to satisfy urban dwellers' needs. While cities usually decrease natural resources such as forests, pastures and agricultural lands and bring about water and air pollution and other environmental problems at the cities' peripheries. What is called "Ecological footprint" (Tveitdal,2003:5). Therefore, the existing challenges between urban centers and their peripheral settlements is an inevitable fact in the temporary routine daily life. To put an end to such a relation, planners, policy makers and urban managers are trying to follow bilateral strategies which are useful for provision and enhancement of the linkages among urban places and their peripheries. These strategies will create a state of "mutual benefits" for the both sides.

Many believe that dividing urban and their peripheral settlements into two groups may generate a number of problems such as irrational rural to urban migration, increase in demand for urban land and imbalanced urban

development. Therefore, they emphasize on the necessity of the manipulation of integrated regional management in which urban places and their peripheral settlements are under even and unique consideration. They contend that to remedy the effects of the present imbalanced growth of urban centers and peripheral settlements, an integrated regional strategy has to be implied (Magel,2004:14). In the direction of spatial planning, emphasizing on integrated urban and peripheral management is a necessity as a mechanism to recognize and acknowledge the activities of the urban red points (urban compact zones) from green points (peripheral settlements) (Hidding & Teunissen, 2002:3). In this approach, urban centers and peripheral relationship without giving any consideration to the bilateral links between them is unattainable. This approach stresses on the spatial distribution of dwellings within a regional structure. T. Scarlett, Epstein & David Joseph have also stated urban and peripheral development as a complementary and integrated process which facilitates rapid regional development (Epstein & Joseph, 2001: 1444-1446).

Dennis A. Rondinelli & Hugh Evans (1983:31-35) with emphasis on the polarized settlement system, which were mainly appeared in the developing countries, believe that adoption of such a policy will lead to strengthening disparity among cities and other regions.

### 2.3. Effects of urban centers on Peripheral settlements

Hidding and Teunissen (2002: 297) believe that in the process of spatial planning, planners try to consider the relationship between urban centers and peripheral settlements in the form of networks. This model whilst attempts to separate performances of the red points (congested urban areas) and green lands (peripheral settlements) focuses on the interaction between peripheral and urban centers in the framework of organic relations.

In stating urban centers and peripheral interaction, both positive and negative effects of peripheral settlements on urban centers have been considered. Congestion often leads to urban sprawl, housing shortages, poor quality housing, huge urban waste, pile up and breakdown in urban infrastructure. They are the examples of negative effects of rural performance in urban centers. But despite the detrimental effects that often happen because of the lack of organic relations between urban centers and peripheral settlements, these could provide job opportunities for urban labor force, suitable and low price goods for low income urban people, land for housing low income urban groups, setting up large urban factories and reputable trade companies in urban suburbs, as well as providing urban residents with natural landscape and finally promoting economic prosperity. Table (1) shows organic

and non-organic effects of urban centers on peripheral settlements.

### 3. Research Objective and Methodology

#### *(a) Research site and urban population changes*

Geographical location of the province of Qazvin are 35° 38'' to 36° 56'' N Latitude and 48°18'' to 51° 01'' Longitude, with an area of 15,500 square kilometer. It has shared boundaries from the North with the province of Gilan and Mazandaran, from the west with the Province of Zanzan, from the South with the Provinces of Hamadan and Markazi and from the East with the Province of Tehran.

Less than half a century ago, more than half of Iranian population were living in rural areas. This proportion decreased gradually with the increasing urban population. In other words, urban population that made 54.9 % of the total population in 1986, increased gradually to 61.7% in 1996.

Qazvin Province has not been away from these changes, particularly due to its special geographic location. Formal population statistics of 1986–1996 indicate that the proportion of urban population sharply increased, compare to its rural population. As such, urban population changes from 51.47% at 1986 to 59.38% in 1996. At the same time, rural population of province decreased from 48.53% to 40.62%.

Table (2) demonstrates rural and urban population of the province between 1986 and 1996.

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**Table1** Organic and non-organic effects of urban centers on peripheral settlements

Non-Organic effects	Organic effects
Negative effects on arable lands : In process of urban physical development , arable lands or under crop lands in peripheral areas might be used for non-agricultural uses such as building sites, urban offices, roads, variety of shops, and industrial–service units. Bao et.al. (1999:19), Okali (2001:56). Satterhwaite's (2000:20)1, Lolloff (1998:2)	Agriculture as a common denominator of urban and peripheral spatial relations and as a agro ecosystem: Agricultural development would create good opportunities in urban and peripheral settlements toward ecosystem restoration and remediation environmental and therapeutic horticulture, agricultural entrepreneurship, recreation, tourism and planning healthy communities Butler, and al (2002:1-9 ).
Segmentation of lands, in particular, in the natural environment and reducing "biodiversity" Bell and Irwin (2001:217-219)	Development of tourism Murphy & Williams (1999: 433)
Encroachment into open spaces and "green belt" areas Bao et.al. (1999:19), Okali (2001:56) Libby and Dicks(2002:2)	Urban and peripheral interaction has the potential with appropriate economic links, to prepare ground in alleviating poverty and finally promoting economic prosperity. Satterhwaite(2000:4-6)2. , UNDP (1999:2) Kibadu & al(2001:1-22)
Environmental, social and economic problems: Peripheral places are experiencing environmental, social, economic problems, in particular finding locations for housing developments, green belts, disposing, waste, access to drinking water, and exhaustion of natural resources. Veenhusien (2002:3)	Increasing social capital and farmers' awareness Sharp & Smith(2003:927)
Destruction of forests and the exhaustion of natural resources. Bell & Ervin (2002:3)	
Fragmentation of habitat, increased congestion, destruction of wild life and change of hydraulic system (Bell & Ervin,2002:3)	
Increase in traffic between urban and peripheral settlements and appear environmental problems such as air and water pollution. IPPP (2002:11-17)	

**Table 2** The trend of population changes in Iran and in Qazvin Province (1986-1996)

	Total 1986	Urban population (%)1986	Rural population (%)1986	Total 1996	Urban population (%)1996	Rural population (%)1996
<b>Iran</b>	49445010	54.9	45.1	60055488	61.7	38.3
<b>Qazvin</b>	805612	51.47	48.53	968257	59.38	40.62

One of the important factors in increasing urban population to rural population has been an increase in the number of immigrants on one hand and rural out migration on the other hand. In other words, number of immigrants to the province were 117288 persons between 1966 and 1976; in which 73.3% (86006 persons) settled in urban and 26.7% (31282 persons) resided in rural areas.

Number of immigrants of the province during 1986-1996 had been 68587. This figure

indicates the reduction of immigrants, compare to figure of previous decade. However, the proportions who resided in urban and rural areas are rather close to the previous decade; (73.9% and 26.1% respectively).

Table (3) indicates the number of immigrants of the province, with regard to rural-urban location and sex during 1986-1996.

Moreover, high range of rural to urban migration in the province resulted in increasing the proportion of urban population.

**Table 3** The number of immigrants of the province by rural-urban location and sex in the decade of 1986-1996

Year	Total		Settled in urban areas		Settled in rural areas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1986	58864	58422	42408	43398	16256	15026
1996	39624	28963	27822	22844	11802	6119

**(b) Sample size and sampling method**

To select the samples based on the three urban centers of Qazvin, Takestan, and Boinzahra and considering the distances of the periphery centers with more than 50 households to the urban centers, 20 peripheries were selected by using Cochran Formula, and stratified random method based on proportional allocation for each urban centre. The needed information and data for recognizing the type and nature of the relations between the urban areas and their peripheries have been collected through analyzing the Flow Matrix. Also, to recognize socio-economic and cultural criteria and

variables interviews have been performed by using questionnaires. The members of the rural council and Dehyaran of the region were asked to participate in both data collection and interpretation of research results.

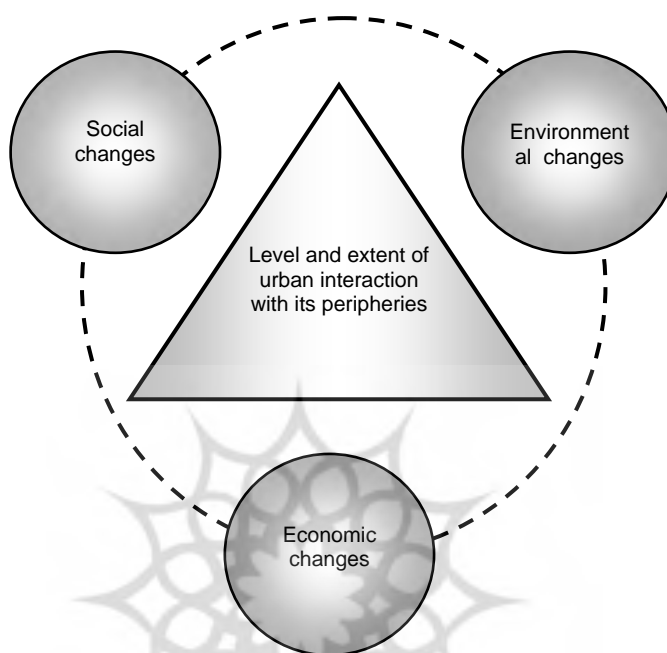
**(c) Conceptual model, data classification and analysis**

The research methodology is based on descriptive analysis and rational relations among dependent and independent variables. The extent of the interaction between the urban and its peripheries is assigned as the independent and levels of socio-economic and

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environmental changes of the peripheral places as the dependent variables. On this basis, the general presupposition determines that the

extent of urban-periphery relations affect the socio-cultural and environmental condition as the continuum from low to high (Figure 1).



**Figure 1** The effects of reciprocal relations of urban areas on their peripheries

To measure the level and extent of urban places on their peripheries, the issue has been implemented as a case study in urban contiguous rural areas in the Qazvin province. In this process, Flow Matrix has been applied. The flow of population, production, money, information, goods and services have been examined and assessed as the common flows between urban places and their peripheries. The evaluation scales or criteria in Flow Matrix have been as follows:

- Number of public transportation facilities in the rural areas,
- Number of trips per day taken to the urban areas,

- Number of people who take trips to the urban areas (per capital trip per day),
- Number of private vehicles,
- Number of rural inhabitants whose work place are in urban areas,
  - The extent of the villagers' savings and investment in the urban banks,
  - The extent of the villagers' investment to buy land, houses or stores and shops in urban areas,
  - The extent of general necessities that the villagers' purchase from the urban areas,
  - The extent of agricultural and horticultural products which supplied from rural to the urban areas,



- The extent of production from animal husbandry which supplied for the urban areas,
- The rate of the villagers' access to information,
- The extent of the villagers' access to the local and national newspapers and magazines,
- The extent of the villagers' access to their general needs such as: food, clothing, hospital, school, bank, socio-cultural services and other basic necessities,
- The distance of the rural communities from the urban areas,

- The extent and the speed of the villagers' access to the urban areas, (How fast the villagers can get to the urban areas).

Therefore, as it is illustrated in Figure (2), points second for each peripheral settlement is a function of the degree of its relationship with the urban centers in terms of each indicator in the flow matrix. The highest point indicates the highest level of interaction, and the lowest point indicates the lowest level of interaction.

Variables Peripheral Settlements	X1			X2			.....	Xn			Total point	Cluster Analysis
	High	Mid	Low	High	Mid	Low		High	Mid	Low		
Y1												
Y2												
.												
.												
.												
Y20												

Figure 2 Flow matrix for assessment of effects of urban centers on peripheral settlements

The level of changes and disparities of the criteria have been tested on the basis of the intensity of relations between the urban peripheries and the urban centers for the following components:

- Criteria for the centrality of services,
- Average price of housing,

- Number of industrial poultries and cattle herds,
- Occupational varieties,
- The extent of tendency to build urban style houses,
- Number of inhabitants at the urban peripheries,

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- The extent of the tendency towards selling or purchasing of gardens at the urban peripheral areas by the urban dwellers,

- The extent of housing transactions by the urban dwellers at the urban peripheries,

- The extent of cultivated land transactions by the urban dwellers,

- The extent of urban dwellers' investment to establish industrial work places at the urban peripheries,

- Purchasing of agricultural products of the urban peripheries by the urban dwellers,

- Area of farmlands belonging to non-urban residents,

- Possibility of excursion at the urban peripheries,

- Ownership exchange or switching of agricultural lands of rural places which are located at the urban peripheries,

- The average price of agricultural land at the urban peripheries,

- Type and extent of ownership of gardens which are located at the rural areas close to the urban places,

The proposed peripheral centers were tested by Flow Matrix and the results were analyzed through cluster analysis. There were three groups of urban peripheries with respect to their level of interactions:

1. Urban peripheries with low interactions with urban centers,

2. Urban peripheries with moderate interactions with urban centers,

3. Urban peripheries with high interactions with urban centers

#### **4. Results**

Peripheral settlements of the country have undergone major changes and transformations in recent years. Undoubtedly, the role of the cities as influential factors in bringing about these changes should not be underestimated. Cities with the extent and the scope of their activities could pave the way for the most important socio-economic, and environmental in peripheral settlements, and establish social, economic and positional morphology in peripheral settlements. Rapid development in urban and peripheral settlements relations together with the development of road links, and new technological development are influential in these changes. Flows of people, goods, services, productions, information, technology and capital between urban and peripheral settlements have exacerbated these changes. In the present study, the statistical analyses on 20 peripheral settlements indicates that 8 peripheral settlements or 40.0 percent have high level of relationship with urban centers, 7 pre-urban settlements or 35.0 percent with moderate level of relationship and only 5 peripheral settlements or 25.0 percent have low level of relationship with the urban centers.

The analysis of urban and peripheral interactions and its effects in peripheral settlements, carried out in the case study on Qazvin lead us to the following statements:

**1) Statistical significance of positive correlation between dependent and independent variables.**

A number of variables in urban and peripheral relationship were highly correlated, and significant in changes (economic, social, and environmental). The range of the correlation coefficients for this group of variables were from 0.35 to 0.71. The most important changes were found to be in the increase of:

centrality of services, average housing price, number of industrial poultries and cattle herds, occupational varieties, the extent of the tendency to build urban style houses, the extent of the tendency towards selling or purchasing of gardens at the urban peripheral places by the urban dwellers, number of inhabitants at the urban peripheries.

**2) Statistical significance of negative correlation between dependent and independent variables.**

A number of variables under study demonstrated significant negative correlations. This means that, with increase in urban and peripheral interactions, the correlation between the variables reduces, hence; this reduction was found to be statistically significant. The correlation coefficients for this group of variables were -0.37 to -0.65. The most important changes were found to be increasing:

change in the type and extent of ownership of gardens which are located at the rural areas but close to urban area, the average price of agricultural land at the urban peripheries, ownership exchange or switching of agricultural lands of rural areas which are located at the urban peripheries.

**3) Non-significance statistical positive correlations between dependent and independent variables.**

A number of variables under the study demonstrate positive correlation but these correlations were not statistically significant. The range of correlation coefficients for this group of variables were 0.06 to 0.24. The most important changes were found to be:

The extent of housing transactions by the urban dwellers at the urban peripheries, the extent of cultivated lands transactions by the urban dwellers, the extent of urban dwellers' investment to establish industrial work places at the urban peripheries and purchasing of the agricultural products of the urban peripheries by the urban dwellers.

**4) Non-significance statistical negative correlations between dependent and independent variables.**

A number of variables under the study demonstrate negative correlations which dependent and independent statistically not significant. This meant that with an increase in urban and peripheral interaction, the correlation between independent and dependent variables

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reduces, but these reductions were not statistically significant. The correlation coefficients for this group of variables were in the range of -0.04 to -0.22. The most important changes were found to be an increase in: area of farmlands belonging to non-urban residents and Possibility of excursion at the urban peripheries.

With respect to the stated hypothesis and result of this study in relation to the geographic

region under investigation, it was found that, the geographic area has not benefited from the organic urban and peripheral relations. These relations have resulted in undesirable findings. Figure (3) and Table (4) show the direction and significance levels of the urban and peripheral relationships with the socio-economic and environmental indicators.

**Table 4** Direction and significance levels of effects of urban centers on peripheral settlements

Variables	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
Increase of:	**level of 0.01, * level of 0.05	
1. Centrality of services	0.71	0.000**
2. Average price of housing	0.67	0.000**
3. Number of industrial poultries and cattle herds	0.60	0.000**
4. Occupational varieties	0.53	0.001**
5. The extent of the tendency to build urban style houses	0.51	0.002**
6. Number of inhabitants at the urban peripheries	0.39	0.04*
7. The extent of the tendency towards selling or purchasing of gardens at the urban peripheral places by the urban dwellers	0.35	0.05*
8. The extent of housing transactions by the urban dwellers at the urban peripheries	0.23	0.07
9. The extent of cultivated land transactions by the urban dwellers	0.19	0.13
10. The extent of urban dwellers' investment to establish industrial work places at the urban peripheries	0.10	0.51
11. Purchasing of the agricultural products of the urban peripheries by the urban dwellers	0.02	0.86
12. Area of farmlands belonging to non-urban residents	-0.04	0.74
13. Possibility of excursion at the urban peripheries	-0.22	0.08
14. Ownership exchange or switching of agricultural lands of rural places which are located at the urban peripheries	-0.37	0.04*
15. The average price of agricultural land at the urban peripheries	-0.42	0.02*
16. Type and extent of ownership of gardens which are located at the rural areas close to the urban places	-0.65	0.001**

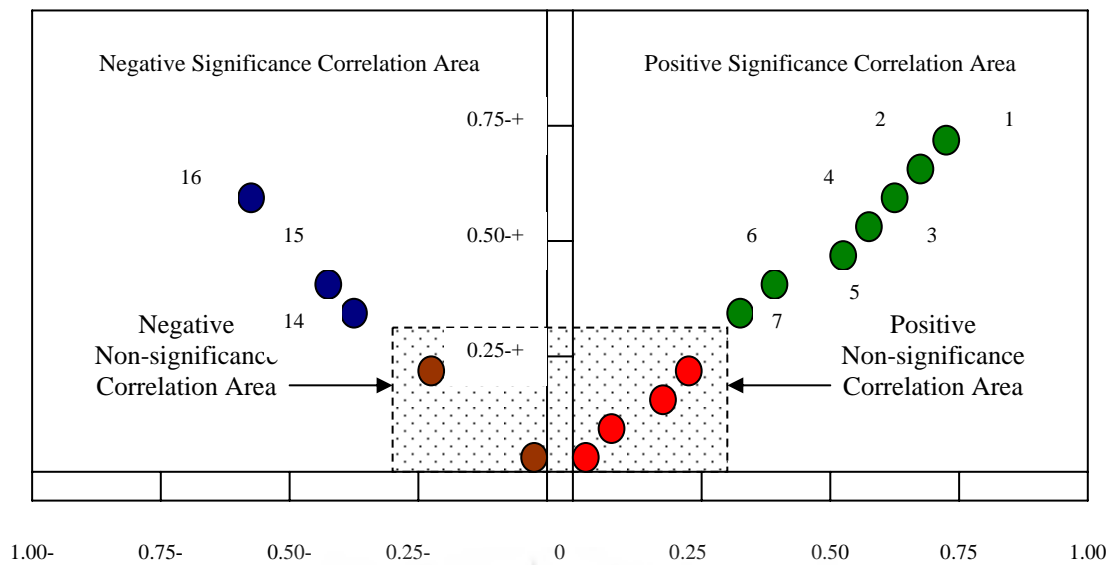


Figure 3 Direction and significance levels of effects of urban centers on peripheral settlements

### 5. Conclusions and Discussion

Many related researches on the proposed subject shows that in Iran, urban population explosion and increasing physical development at peripheries have augmented land and property contractions. Here, spatial development during the past two decades has also been taken place in three forms: urban growth towards their peripheries, urban growth in height (developing high-rise buildings), developing new towns and cities. These forms of growth and development led to the emergence of a new sort of phenomenon of peripheral urbanism or development of urban settlements and urban life in fringes and pre-urban settlements. In this form, industrial activities at the peripheral settlements increase rapidly with the price of diminishing of agricultural ones. This in turn has increased the

price of land both in urban and peripheral settlements.

With urbanization, any type of spatial development in urban centers will affect the peripheral settlements in various forms of socio-cultural, economic and environmental changes. The type and extent of these changes vary in different communities. In Iran, these changes may be able to change urban texture, increase social heterogeneity and decrease social homogeneity due to the settlements' socio-cultural segregations. Such a condition is more serious in places where settlement and work places are at two different locations with different characteristics. Good examples of these places are the ones used by the workers and employees to stay overnight i.e. dormitories. The residents leave these places in the morning for the city centers and go back

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there at night to take rest. This pendulum core-periphery movement has put a significant effect on peripheral settlements.

In Iran, urban spaces based on their vastness and significance are treated as the only development pole for the area under their influence. Therefore, city acts as the motivator for changes in the peripheral settlements. This will bring about socio-cultural and economic changes. The phenomenon of urbanization in Iran will gradually swallow the peripheral forests and agricultural lands. This happens due to the lower price of land for physical development at the peripheries from one hand and population increase from the other hand. Urban settlement at the peripheries took place in two shapes, each with its special socio-cultural and economic feature:

1. Development of pre-determined planned settlements on very high quality parcels of land with very expensive prices,
2. Development of non-organized settlements that have been built on very low quality lands by the people who had been forced due to their poor economic condition.

Therefore, based on the related researches and the findings from the case study of Qazvin seems that the growth of urban centers into the peripheral has brought the following effects:

- Many farmlands and agricultural lands in peripheral settlements were used for non-agricultural activities.

- The prices of dwellings have risen, and it has exacerbated land speculation for dwelling construction.

- The number of industrial poultries and cattle herds has risen and it has caused more pollution in peripheral settlements.

- It has helped the segmentation of arable lands, and it has reduced the productivity of agricultural land.

- Traditional model of housing has declined, gaiving pace to the urban model has.

- It has absorbed migrants from villages and hence; exacerbated the problem of population growth,

- The business of buying and selling farms and orchards by urban residents has increased, and ultimately has changed the nature, and the method of productions farming use, and farming ownership.

- The ownership of arable lands has been reduced, resulting in decline in agricultural produce.

### **6. Suggested Policies**

To organize, the relations as well as the provision of the organic effects of urban centers on the peripheral settlements, the policy of urban-peripheries' sustainable settlement development with environmental, social and economic dimensions are emphasized. In such an approach of development, structural changes in the peripheral settlements with urban

functions link and interact with the urban centers' activities and bring about reciprocal urban-periphery integrated relations. This organic relation will enhance and strengthen regional environmental as well as socio-cultural mechanisms and make a suitable ground for

integrated urban-peripheries' management and communication in three dimensions of: environmental (environmental responsibility), social (social integrated) and economic (economic efficiency) affairs, as it is indicated in Figure 4.

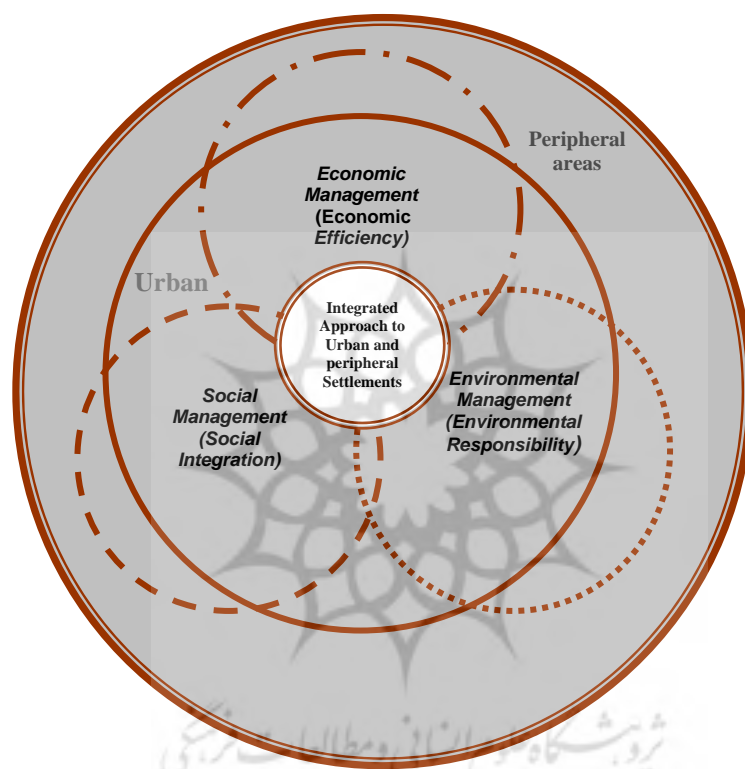


Figure 4 Integrated policy to urban centers and peripheral settlements

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# تحلیل اثرات مراکز شهری بر سکونتگاه‌های پیرامون شهری در ایران

مطالعه موردی: استان قزوین

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روابط متقابل و پیوند میان مراکز شهری و سکونتگاه‌های پیرامون شهری به‌طور فزاینده‌ای به‌عنوان عامل اصلی فرایند تغییرات اجتماعی، اقتصادی و فرهنگی شناخته شده است. علی‌رغم این واقعیت، بیشتر نظریه‌های توسعه و رویه‌های اجرایی، تلویحاً به دوگانگی، جمعیت و فعالیتهای نواحی شهری و پیرامون شهری تاکید دارند.

این مقاله نشان می‌دهد که چگونه روابط متقابل مراکز شهری و پیرامون آن شامل پیوندهای فضایی (جریان کالاها، پول، سرمایه، مردم، اطلاعات، پسماندها، تولید و فناوری) بر تغییرات نواحی پیرامون شهری اثر می‌گذارند. عملکرد متقابل و پیوند بین مراکز شهری و ۲۰ سکونتگاه پیرامون شهری در استان قزوین نشان می‌دهند که روابط متقابل روستا و شهر بیشتر در بروز تغییرات غیر ارگانیک در نواحی پیرامون شهری استان قزوین مؤثر بوده‌اند.

توسعه شهری و پیرامون آن نیازمند آند تا به‌عنوان فرایندهای مکمل برای کسب منابع کمیاب مورد توجه قرار گیرند. منافع چنین رویکرد یکپارچه‌ای مطمئناً از هزینه‌های آن بیشتر است.

واژگان کلیدی: شهری، پیرامون شهری، سکونتگاه‌ها، پیوندهای فضایی

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