

Global Journal of Advanced Engineering Technologies and Sciences

ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE COUNTY OF KOUHDASHT

Fardin Kooshki^{*1}, Fatemeh Adeli Sardoo², Mohammad Javad Amiri³

^{*1}P.H.D Dept of Geography and Urban planing, University of Isfahan.

²Graduate of M.A. planning, Management and Environmental Education, Tehran University.

³Assistant Professor of Planning Department, Faculty of Environment, Tehran University.

Abstract

Kouhdasht county in the lorestan province is plain land among Zagros mountains And is located between two rivers Seymare and Kashkan. Considering to this excellent position has varied climate, watery rivers, forests and green pastures; Also with transhistorical civilization have been species of ancient and historical monuments And has great potential for tourists attract. But despite plenty of natural and historical attractions, Has not gained much success in tourists attracting. The research Methodology is descriptive-analytic. Data collection mehtod is in the form of document studies. The purpose of this study is evaluate the potentials of the historical, cultural and natural Kouhdasht couny That is facilitator for achieve to sustainable tourism. Due to the breadth and diversity of the natural attractions of county Kouhdasht just is discussed about shirez valley. In reviewing the potential of historic city to be introduced some rock-image of caves (Mir Malas, Homian and Doushe) Sorkh dom of Laki and Lorry archaeological sites, Kalmakareh cave (as one of the world's treasures greatest that discovered), and bronze in the county Kouhdasht. In the study of cultural potentials mentioned to Ashura ceremony and Holy Muhammad; That each of these factors can help to county tourism development. Then is discussed about the weak points of couny for achieve to sustainable development of tourism.

Keywords: Tourism, Sustainable Development, Kouhdasht county.

Introduction

Tourism in the aftermath of World War has been one of the most dynamic developing sectors of the world economy(Coccosis, 2006: 2). Tourism is a complex and contradictory phenomenon. Tourism is an exchange technology industry, balanced economic development in the regions, making the fair distribution of income and possessed of major role in creating the jobs and sources of supplementary of direct and secondary of income(lomsden, 2001: 37). Tourism is expanding and rapid growth and this despite the fact that the contemporary world more goes to the compression of space and time for various reasons such as technological innovations in the field of communication and information and this matter facilitated the movement of millions of tourists from all over the globe(papoli yazdi, 2007: 8). The tourism industry is often considered to be as industry largest of world and is a tool for achieve to sustainable development that provide economic, environmental and social - cultural opportunities for many local communities (Aref, 2011: 20). Unsustainable development of human societies in the last two centuries (since the Industrial Revolution) and the harmful consequences of its that is follow from functions of population, per capita and consumption pattern. Attention to the principle of sustainability is further emphasized (Saraei and Zarei, 2009: 16).

Iran of in terms of having buildings and historical monuments located among 9 countries of the world and in terms of ecotourism attractions the among the 10 top countries(Armaghan, 2007: 236). Certainly the development of the tourism sector can be used as an alternative of dependent economy on the oil industry have contributed at the national and regional development of Iran (Rahnamaee, 2000: 57). In this regard according to Ghirshman the Lorestan has transhistorical precedent(Ghirshman, 1995: 2). Lorestan province and particularly Kouhdasht county has the high potential of natural and historic that tourism development can lead to the development of the county and compensate many of the economic shortcomings Kouhdasht county.

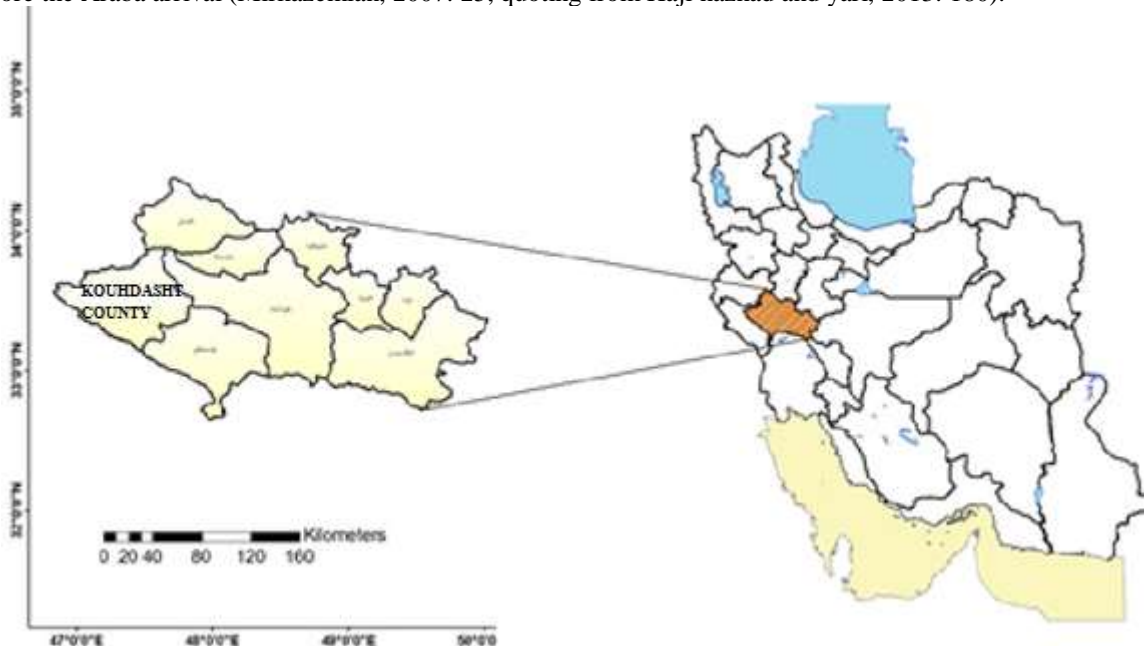
Various researches have been in connection with the matter that referred on a part of them. Haji nezhad and yari (2013) uses a hybrid model SWOT - TOPSIS to discuss ecotourism in Forest Park of boloran in Kouhdasht. Pir mohammadi and et al (1389) with ecotourism approach evaluated in Zagros forests environmental capability of kaka reza forest in Lorestan. Kahkeshan and Torabi (2005) as well were used respectively in the study of ecological potential of

Amirkolaye wetland and protected area of Oshtorankooh for Tourism of RS and GIS techniques and the Makhdoom. Kazemi and et al (2013) based on SWOT analysis of tourism development strategy was draw in Lorestan province. and movahedi(2012) climate index of TCI have studied on assess the tourism climate in Lorestan province.

Presentation to studied area

Lorestan province in West Iran is located between 46 degrees and 51 minutes east of the Greenwich meridian 50 degrees and 3 minutes and 32 degrees 37 minutes north latitude from the equator to 34 degrees and 22 minutes. It covers an area of about twenty-eight thousand five hundred and fifty-nine square kilometers. This province is limited from north to provinces of Markazi and Hamadan, in the south by Khuzestan province, the East by Isfahan province and the West to the provinces of Kermanshah and Ilam. Oshtorankooh with four thousand and fifty meters is the highest point of the province. Lorestan Province county nine including: Khorramabad, Borujerd, Aligudarz, Dorud, Azna, Kouhdasht, Alashtar, Nourabad and Poldokhtar. Kouhdasht county located in the West of Lorestan Province. (See Map 1). The county has a mild climate and semi-dry. The height of above sea level in the county is 1195 meters.

Archaeological studies at the centers of "Sorkhdom Laki and lori" and "Sartarhan" show that Kouhdasht is from old centers of civilization. Discover the Assyrian temple indicate that before the first millennium BC people lived in these areas. Hamdallah Mostowfi on selection history mentions to Kuhdasht and Tarhan that were destroyed Centuries before the Araba arrival (Mirkazemian, 2007: 25, quoting from Haji nazhad and yari, 2013: 180).

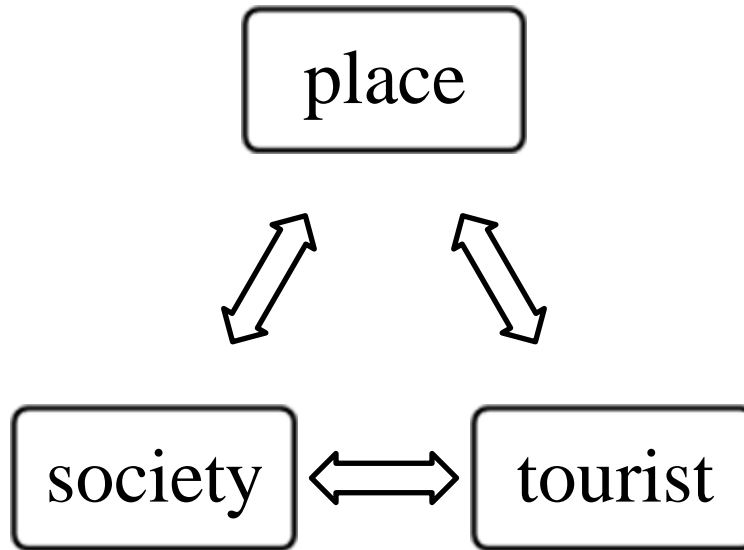


Map 1- The position of Lorestan province and Kouhdasht county

Sustainable tourism

Sustainable tourism is to expand the industry and attract tourists to country use of existing resources So that while respond to the needs of economic, social and cultural, legal norms of community as well as tourists expectations can be supply unity and solidarity, cultural identity and environmental health, economic growth and welfare of its guests as the balanced and continuous (Cohen, 2001: 77). In other words, the sustainable development of the tourism industry is economical and viable and at the same time sensitive to cultural resources, environment and ecosystems (Eftekhari, 2010: 5).

Sustainable tourism attempts to regulate the relations between the host society, tourism place and tourists (See Figure 1); because it can be dynamic and constructive relationship and seek to moderate tensions between the elements that minimized environmental and cultural damage, provided visitor satisfaction and help to economic growth of area (Mohseni, 2009: 152).



*Fig 1- Elements of Sustainable Tourism
From the potentials for sustainable tourism in the county Kouhdasht:*

In this section mentioned to part From potentials of natural, historical and cultural of Kouhdasht county.

Natural potentials:

Except for the northern strip of province that constitute more spread it the agricultural and pastures lands Other areas of the province is often covered forest. Composition and appearance of the forests is different than altitude, latitude, rainfall amount, compression the mountains, the uneven and during the summer and winter. In some slopes is seen lush rainforests and in other cases semi-dense and sparse forests. Because of the breadth and diversity of natural attractions of county Kouhdasht just will be discussed one example of it Namely the Strait of Shirez.

Strait of Shirez:

This lush and scenic area located in 50 kilometers from the Kouhdasht city and at the crossroads of Kermanshah, Ilam and Lorestan provinces and is near the raged river of Seimareh. This natural attraction is in the area called Oladqhabad in Zardalan section and has a beautiful nature and current springs with abundant water, sharp cliffs and wild fruits. The topography of the area is from the high mountains and deep valleys and climate is relatively cold in the autumn and winter and in summer moderate. Forest vegetation is well in This region and also have good animals coverage, Strait of Shirez can be in terms of morphology from the Legacy of climate Kouhdasht.

Specific shape, clear water and pristine natural vegetation and forests, nature of aesthetically pleasing while surprisingly it has been rocky ravine. Erosion of rocks and mountains to the valley given specific figures that in total made it is amazing and fascinating environment and has attracted the attention of tourists to the area. During this Strait is several kilometers and a small river passes through it. A river with clear springs that created beautiful waterfalls in its path To join in the entrance of Shirez to rafting river of Seimare. Wild grape trees, fig and pear in the strait is created scenery. Mountains, unique cliffs, numerous waterfalls that comes out of the heart of the gorge Valuable features is to attract visitors and tourists to the mountainous regions. Unfortunately the beauty of this beautiful valley less is introduced in the national and international scope that It will be useful in this regard efforts of authorities.



Picture 1- sharp cliffs in the Strait of Shirez



Picture 2 - pristine nature and probe river of Shirez gorge



Picture 3- morphology of the Strait of Ploughshares



Picture 4 - The unique nature of the Strait of Shirez

Historical potentials:

Lorestan has been from centers of ancient civilization. Evolution of time and different events of natural has provided possible evolution of civilization and its residents have progress in order to this Evolution and gradually have created a fuller life with invent new tools that this gradual evolution took place over thousands of years. The following referred some the monuments of Kouhdasht county.

– **ancient site of Sorkhdome lori:**

This great ancient site due to its red soil known as the Sorkhdom and was discovered for the first time in 1938 in the search of an archaeological mission led by Dr. Erich Schmidt, explorer Persepolis region. In this excavation was discovered works of the monument known as the Temple that many examples of historical bronze artifacts of Lorestan are such.

In the dating of artifacts, objects and tombs commented that the tombs belong to the Middle Bronze Age and the different layers of the remains of settlements from before 1200 BC. the beginning and have continued the seventh century BC. Generally the number and location of objects obtained from the archaeologists activity Holmes in Sorkhdom include:

Ancient Iran Museum 1130 object, Eastern Institute of Chicago 391 object, New York Institute of Art and Archaeology of Iran 381 object, probably the University of Pennsylvania Museum 174 object, 142 unknown, Metropolitan Museum 33 object, lost 3 object, Thompson 2, Oriental Institute of Chicago 1 object, result a total of 2260 object (Schmidt, 1376).

– **Archaeological site of Sorkhdome laki:**

Sorkhdome laki area located in the northwest of the Kouhdasht county and right in front of Sorkhdome lori area and its name due to its small village on the slopes. area collection is in the form of natural terraces that with human manipulation is provided in the form of a huge staircase structure. in the the northwest of the complex are terraces with 300 meters from the central area. also is seen traces of a large stone fence or wall collapse that apex is extended to the summit of Mount Changeri. Of these historic district that is a hectare numerous historical works and objects are obtained from the history of the first millennium BC.

– **Bronzes of county:**

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin which with it are provided various tools and sculptures. bronze artifacts obtained from Lorestan that their life comes to third millennium before Christ With interesting and diverse forms that have the boast art and high-tech industry in the region and show rich history of Kouhdasht.

Objects from the mountains, temples and archaeological sites Kuhdasht obtained decorated museums in the world. As far as in the Louvre Museum of France is a hall dedicated to Lorestan bronze and museums in Chicago, Philadelphia and Metropolitan are also host of the works. This high art that in terms of knowledge peoples of the world ancient is known as «Art of Lorestan» , Is the result of simple acts that for centuries summarizes the revolution farmer and warrior nation and slow and quiet without foreign help moved from rock industry to metal industry as far as in the fourth millennium BC reaches its apogee. This advance consider it the result of a local revolution.

This art is an expression of power and capability of artist unknown but dignity that with the utmost precision and elegance used advanced technique and with the outstanding artistic are provided beautiful visuals and an eye-catching and dazzling forms that combines a variety of animals and plants.

– **Cave of Kalmakarreh:**

This cave is one of the six great treasures discovered in the world. Since the discovery this cave has been repeatedly attacked and looted. First things recorded including the golden mask of a human face, small ears of animal 3 silver and 3 large animal ears of silver, 2 metal rod bent in the shape of a sickle, 3 pieces of silver bar and etc has been that many of these works illegally sold and overseas were transferred as the Louvre in Paris, Museum of Britain and Metropolitan Museum. A significant number of these objects were collected by a trader antique And in the a book titled "Treasures of the mountains and Arts of Median " was published in the London. Some objects discovered also have been possession the Cultural Heritage Organization and in the Museum of Ancient Iran in Tehran and kept in Museum of Falakol aflak Castle of Khorramabad.



Picture 5- golden mask was found in the cave of Kalmakarreh

The other unique objects in this collection is Ritton of sitting goat with height 132 mm and diameter 95 mm. This Raytheon made of two separate pieces that include a seated goat that has been attached to part funnel. Golden ornaments seen in 7 rows. This object is of electrum gold ornaments the Means combination gold and silver.



Picture 6- Ritton was found in the cave of Kalmakareh

This Treasury said that has been one of the most important treasures of the ancient states such as Achaemenian and Sassanian. These objects may be kept in the state treasury at Susa Achaemenid Until Cyrus to seize Babylon and Mesopotamia and all the treasures from the temple of Babylon has moved to this cave. At the time of Alexander's

invasion to Iran treasures were transferred to cave of Kalmakareh and secretly four guards were preserve from treasures. So that by the time all four died of natural causes. After the discovery of the cave in 1989 there were still traces of four soldiers guard. On the other hand, according to the evidence available This is likely that the history of the cave is much more than This; As Elamite pottery is credible evidence to support This point. On the other hand the Samaty Kings that known from inscriptions on the great treasures of silver in Kalmakareh probably at the end of the Elamite period began to transfer part of the royal treasury to This place. Thus when the gradual deterioration of the governments of Elam and the Achaemenid Empire (585 to 539 BC) part of the royal treasures and national wealth has been kept in the cave of Kalmakareh.



Picture 7 - Golden Cup find of cave Kalmakareh

– **paintings of Mir Malas, Homian and Doosheh:**

Most of the residential caves scattering be seen in Lorestan Province and on the slopes and valleys overlooking the rivers Seimare and Kashkan. Caves such as Douchet, Homian, Pasangar, lunar and Mir Malas. Works and paintings of This caves for decades that have attracted attention archaeologists and anthropologists and has published many reports about them. Reports that very rarely translated into Persian and published in Iran.

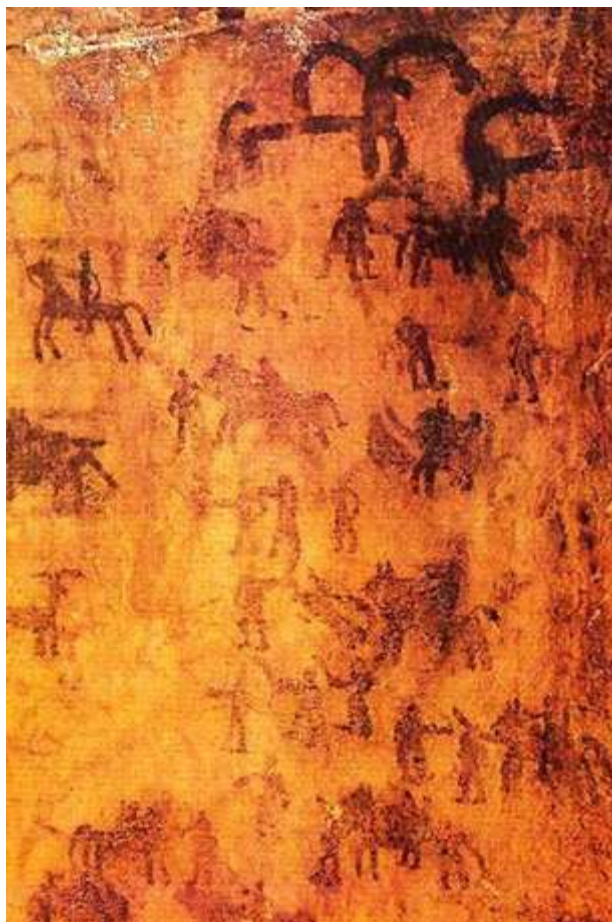
Mir Malas cave is located about 18 km northeast of Kouhdasht. Paintings and the images on the southern and northern walls this cave remains that more shows scenes of war, hunting, human and animal. According to experts of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts past This stone images of the tenth millennium BC means more than 12 thousand years. Rock painting of Mir Malas Mount the county Kouhdasht is in row paintings Vulture and the Lascaux caves in France. Mir Malas Cave is the first cave that found color paintings on the its walls and today it is 12 thousand years old heritage of mankind in the path of destruction.

from other mountains in the city Kuhdasht is Homian mountain that be found such petroglyphs. Homian cave is formed of the two cave (Homian one and Homian two) that are adjacent to each other and located in a place called Chalgah shala in a mountain valley of north the Kouhdasht that called Sarsoren.



Picture 8 - from cave paintings of Homian in Kouhdasht

Doosheh cave is one of the rare examples in terms of numbers and diversity of ancient paintings and more paintings belonged the Mesolithic period to the Iron Age. Means time interval between 15,000 years to 3000 years ago. One hundred and ten different painting was painted in black color on wall of cave the Doosheh. The battlefield is the most beautiful scene as much as 55 to 80 cm that to be seen on it the 18 people aboard and 19 people on foot with bows and arrows and quiver, and club and war equipment.



Picture 9 - from cave paintings of Doosheh

Cultural potentials:

– Gelmali ceremony in day of Ashura:

mourning ceremonies with mud is ritual that people Lor do in bereavements including the death of family members or religious Ashura mourning ceremonies. Gelmali ritual of Ashura held in the month of Moharram in Kouhdasht county . First soil from the place provide are free from contamination and then make up the puddles and his people imbued by mud and dry in beside the fire their.



Picture 10. Gelmali by the security forces in Moharram month



Picture 11- Gelmali ritual in the month of Moharram

– **Imamzade Mohammad:**

At the northern end of Tarhan is located Imamzade Mohammed tomb that pilgrimage to people of Lorestan and Kermanshah. Originally building is square that above has become octagonal. Wall each side is given with adorning. Minarets are cylindrical that at the end of each of them created with brick decorations as Zick Zack. Both doors at the entrance to the tomb coating of silver. Verses and poems with nastaliq line is engraved on it. On the margin its written a few Bayt of famous elegy of Mohtasham Kashani. Building materials of dome is of brick, mortar and tiles. At a distance of 5.5 meters from the walls of the shrine made four rooms for Residence of pilgrims.



Picture 12- Dome of Mohammed Imamzade in the county Kouhdasht

Weaknesses county of Kouhdasht for sustainable tourism:

– **Weakness of advertising**

One major problem is the weakness of the authorities on the introduction of features and attractions of the Kuhdasht county. In other words it is still unable to introduce Kouhdasht and what it has done little advertising that not sufficient at introduction and recognition of the potential of this county. Weakness in the introduction of these attractions is just large enough many citizens interested in the monuments are unaware of existence the lot of spectacular ancient sites of county.

– **damage to historic buildings and monuments:**

lot of historical monuments of county serious damage seen due to dating back over time and some were destroyed in the past few decades and the spread of communication and increase the possibility of visiting the historical monuments.

– **erosion, destruction and environmental pollution:**

Unprincipled exploitation and over-capacity led to the destruction of forests and grasslands. Every year hundreds of hectares of forests in Lorestan province are destroyed for various reasons. Some of these factors cut trees and make charcoal is of the valuable trees. Use change in Lorestan forests to agricultural land, intentional and unintentional fires, cutting down trees for road construction or widening of roads, the arrival of dust from the western regions of Country are factors that will gradually be exhausted valuable forests in Lorestan province.



Picture 13- charcoal preparation by Oak forest

– **lack of standard road:**

Lack of infrastructure such as roads in the Kuhdasht county from other causes of the undevelopment of tourism.

– **lack of accommodation facilities and amenities:**

According to the financial strength and preferences of individuals required different facilities for tourists that unfortunately there is no or very few facilities in the county.

– **Lack of sufficient appropriations:**

In planning usually the tourism sector as it should be considered and dedicated not have its the necessary funds.

Approaches for achieving to sustainable tourism:

– **branding:**

Three samples of cave or bronze in province that explained not only at national level but also at the global level can be a brand because well known for experts and archaeologists in Iran and the world.

– **Writing a comprehensive program of sustainable tourism in the city:**

with scattered planned can not be achieved to tourism development and the need for comprehensive planning. Of course environmental and cultural aspects should also be given special attention.

– **Private sector investment:**

There is a need to private sector investment for the tourism boom. It should be done under the supervision of government because the spread of unbridled the private sector would be at risk to nature and historical monuments.

– **museum dedicated the Bronze:**

Apparently there are plans to implement such a program but not yet implemented.

– **Establishment of tourist villages:**

The creation of tourist villages that can be near the historical monuments and can be held where the local traditions; Crafts and local foods are sold.

– **Integration in Tourism Management:**

Tourist can not well managed with scattered and sectoral planning and require that different organizations to integrated work for the same purpose means sustainable development of tourism not for the purposes of their collection.

– **serious protection of the environment and historical monuments:**

In Kouhdasht county both historical monuments and the environment are in danger and the need is for protecting the both of which receive special attention.

– **use of successful experiences:**

Use of successful experiences of other countries and other regions of the of Iran can be very effective in solving problems and planning such as Lascaux cave in France that has a similar attractions with caves of county the Kouhdasht.

– **Training and continuous promotion of local residents:**

For the development of knowledge and cooperation of local residents is required to continuous training.

– **Development of community-based tourism:**

Development Cooperation of plural to combat with pollution much more effective than issuance administrative directives for example instead of junk shed on the day of the nature a mass mobilization for garbage collection of nature. Of course authorities could also be facilitator in partnerships for example, giving the vehicle, garbage bags.

References

1. Aref, Fariborz (2011). Sense of Community and Participation for Tourism Development, Life Science Journal, Volume8. Issue1.
2. Armaghan, S. (2007). tourism and its role in the geography, Islam shahr, Islamic Azad University of Islam shahr.
3. Coccossis, H and M, E, Constantoglou(2006). The use typologies in tourism Planning Problems and conflicts, 46th Congress of the European regional Science association (ERSA), university of Thessaly- Department of Planning and Regional Development.
4. Cohen, Goyle (2001). Tourism industry and Sustainable development a symbol of dynamic management, Journal of Ecology, 21, School of the Environment, Tehran University.
5. Ebrahim zadeh, isa and Abdollah, Aghassi zadeh(2011). Impact the Chabahr Free Zone on tourism development of its sphere using regression model and T-test, Journal of Geography and Development. Number 21. University of Sistan and Baluchestan.
6. Eftekhari, Abdul reza, Mahdavi, Davood and Mehdi Pour Taheri (2010). assess the sustainability of tourism in the historic-cultural villages of Iran with an emphasis on paradigm of sustainable tourism development, Quarterly of tourism studies, Winter.
7. Ghirshman, Roman (2005 Iran beginning to Islam, translated by Mohammad Moein, Scientific and Cultural Publications, Tehran.
8. Haji Nejad, Ali and Yari, Monir (2013). Strategic planning of ecotourism using the hybrid model of TPSIS - SWOT, case: Forest Park boloran In Kouhdasht, geography and development, (32).
9. Kahkeshan, S. (2004). Amirkelayeh wetland ecological potential for tourism (using GIS). Master's thesis, field of environment, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch of Tehran.
10. Kazemi, Mahdi, Ismaili, Mahmood Reza and Beigi Firuzi, Allah Yar (2013). Development and selection tourism development strategy in Lorestan province based on SWOT analysis and matrix of Quantitative strategic planning, geography and development, (32).
11. Lomsden, Los (2001). Marketing of tourism, translate by Ebrahim Goharian, printing1, Cultural Research Bureau, Tehran.
12. Mirkazemian, Maryam ul sadat (2007). Geotourism Atlas in Lorestan province.
13. Mohseni, Reza Ali (2009). sustainable tourism in Iran: functions, challenges and strategies, journal of geographical space, Islamic Azad University of Ahar, No. 28.
14. movahedi, Saeed, Piri, Siamak and Kavooosi, Reza (2012). Evaluate and analyze Tourism climatic index in Lorestan province using climate index TCI, geographical perspective the Zagros, 11.

15. Papoli Yazdi, Mohammad Hossein, Saghaei, Mahdi (2007). tourism (nature and concepts), SAMT publication.
16. Pir mohammadi, Ziba, Fegghi, Jahangir, Zahedi Amiri, Ghavamodin and Sharifi, Morteza (2010). The environmental capability commensurate with the approach of ecotourism in Zagros forests (Case Study: Sman orphi, Cham Haji, forest of Kaka reza, Lorestan), Forest and Spruce Researchs of iran.
17. Rahnamaee, Mohammad Taghi (2000). The effects of development on the environment in Kurdistan, Conference research achievements in the development of the Environmental Protection Agency In the second development program, the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency.
18. saraee, Mohammed Hossein, Zarei, Abdul Majid (2009). Ecological footprint (EF) as an indicator of Communities sustainability, ecology magazine, Issue 50, Summer.
19. Schmidt, Eric Friedrich (1997). flying over the ancient cities of Iran, translate arman shishegar, publications by Cultural Heritage Organization.
20. Torabi, n. (2005). Tourism development planning in OshtorankooH region using hierarchical analysis using GIS and RS. Master's thesis, faculty of Environment, Tehran University.