Evaluation of Social Dimension of Urban Sustainability by Emphasizing on Public Participation

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Abstract— Sustainable development theory is one of recent currents which are presented for resisting challenges caused by population increase in recent century. Emphasis of this development on sustainability means preserving capitals including natural, human, social and ecologic capitals for intra-generation justice and its achievement needs alignment among all aspects. However, one aspect of sustainability, which is generally considered, is its ecologic dimension and emphasis on social aspects is low. Another topic which has close relationship with social sustainability concept is public participation which is raised from different views. Purpose of this paper is studying social dimension of urban sustainability with emphasis on citizenship participation which is done based on descriptive-deductive, library and content analysis methods. Results indicate that social sustainability is influenced by three qualities social capital, social integrity and social deprivation that determining each of these three qualities in also influenced by social interactions and public participation level in city. Based on this, it could be said that enhancing public participation mechanisms in urban planning can have effects such as the feeling of belonging to a place, increasing habitat stability and improving security, establishing social sustainability and alignment with other sustainability dimensions live sustainable urban development.

Index Terms— Sustainable Development, Social Sustainability, Public Participation, Social Capital, Social Integrity.

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1 INTRODUCTION

ALTHOUGH urban sustainability, which was presented after sustainable development theory in urban planning literature, is not a new concept it is generally limited to environmental concepts. In recent years, there are many attempts to move toward other dimensions like social sustainability which is in macro level policy making. However, it seems that this subject is neglected and needs more attention. This article emphasizes sustainability social dimension and its relationship with citizen participation. For this purpose, these concepts were studied and role of citizen participation was evaluated in achieving urban sustainability.

2 METHODOLOGY

Based on research purpose, this is a fundamental research. Studying relationship between social sustainability and citizenship participation, along with explaining basic concepts like urban sustainability and participation leads to a view that can be used as evaluation basis. It should be said that research method is drawn from results of descriptive-inferential, library and content analysis studies.

3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In order to develop sustainable development into mainstream of global politics discussions, no event is considered more in-

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fluential that report of environment global committee (1987) which is known as Brundtland commission. This report indicates a subject which is now known as common definition of sustainable development: development which meets needs of present generation without endangering ability of future generations for meeting their needs (Wheeler and Beatly, 2005: 81). Based on this general definition, other definitions are presented:

• Sustainable development is focusing development on people and establishing justice for present and current generation. In this regard, development is not only related to economic successes but it also encompasses dimensions like health, social, life quality and environment quality. Sustainable development should seek high economic level sustainability and employment, social progress and identifying needs, effective environment protection and reasonable use of natural resources (Barton and Tsourou, 2002; Azizi 2001).

• Sustainable development is a development which seeks to provide strategies and tools that can answer 5 basic needs (Mirabzade, 1995: 39):
O Combining protection and development;
O Meeting primary human needs
O Achieving social justice;
O Self-autonomy;
O Cultural diversity and preserving ecologic unity

• Sustainable development designs a philosophy of social and environmental dimensions with economic dimension instead of focusing on development economic aspect. Simultaneous application of these three dimensions seeks collective objectives including creating welfare, livelihood, eradicating poverty and providing life and increasing interest rate of future generation from natural sources (Motevasseli, 2003: 56).

• Sustainable development is seeking a strategy for reaching

optimized perfection (sustainable growth) such that it supports an acceptable job related with per capita income growth rate without destroying national capital without destroying environment capital (Pearce, 1992: 27).

• Sustainable development is discussed in a systematic relation in a dynamic and balanced system (Moshar-zadeh & Sabri, 2006):

O Physical-biologic dimensions;

O Social dimensions

O Economic dimensions

• Skeletal dimensions Sustainable development needs considering long-term effects and results, correlation, participation and clarity, justice and prevention in decisions (Pricopi, 2005).

• Sustainable development have these characteristics (Azizi, 2006: 37):

O Answering needs of future generation (meeting needs of future generation without negative effect on future generations)

O Attention to tolerating capacities of ecosystems (improving quality of life considering capacity of supporting ecosystem capacity)

O Preserving wealth and natural capital (preserving natural sources as environmental assets)

O Preserving and improving systems (along with maintenance and improving level of environment assets)

O Not getting worse (every positive change should not erode ecologic and social systems)

O Making life more sustainable (preserving system power foe making life sustainable)

O Preserving environment (simultaneous maintenance)

O Integrating protection and development as a general approach (human satisfaction in meeting basic and social needs)

Based on above definitions we can define sustainable development as: a development which is tries to create, preserve and improve life high quality, social justice and equal use of resources for present and future generations relying economic, environment, social and spatial dimensions.

4 URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability concept is presented McLaren and is differentiated from urban sustainable development considering sustainability concept as a describing condition or optimum or set of durable conditions. Development in urban sustainable development is a process which sustainability can be reached through it. According to him, some key characteristics of urban sustainability include equality between generations, equality in protecting natural resources, using least renewable resources, economic survival and diversity, self-relied society, individual welfare and meeting basic needs of society (McLaren, 1996: 183).

Another view argues that in sustainability discussion, the purpose should be preserving general characteristics and environment quality. We should consider social and economic subjects along with environment stimulus. Unsustainable social conditions can lead to environment instability (Azizi,

2006). Sustainability principles are (Mofidi, 2008):

• Using renewable resources less than renewable part;

• Optimizing and influencing use of renewable resources;

• Attention to amount of wastes and pollutions such that they can absorb from local to global scale.

• Meeting basic needs and society and achieving healthy environment

In basic needs level, a city should meet all physical needs of habitants, a place for life and work, reasonable income, education, transportation and communication and access to services and facilities. A good city should have safety, security and protection and organized environment visually and performance and free from pollution, noise, accidents and crime. It should have desired aesthetics and imaginable (Mumford, cited by Nourian and Abdollahi, 2008). Rio declaration about environment and development (UN, 1998) which is official view about sustainability considers attention to human, society, development and environment as requirements of sustainability and emphasizes scales for measuring sustainability that some parts of it are:

• First principle: Concerning human in sustainable development

O Humans are at the heart of subjects related to sustainable development.

O Healthy and productive life in harmony with nature is their right.

• Third principle: Concern for harmonized development with environment.

O Development right should be such that it provides development and environment needs of current and future generations, equally.

• Fourth principle: Concerning protection of environment

O In order to access sustainable development, environment protection should be considered as a part of development process not isolated from it.

• Eighth principle: concerning economic and social development and balanced population

O In order to reach sustainable development and higher quality of life for people, governments should be considered unsustainable patterns and take suitable population policies.

• Eleventh principle: necessity of domesticating sustainability in geographical and political areas.

O Determined standards for sustainability in developed countries may be unsuitable for other countries considering economic and social costs.

Sustainable and developed city is a city which developed logical and integrated relation between new and old spaces during growth, development and creating new spaces and preserves and enhances integrity and urban identity (Davoud-pour and Nik-nia, 2011: 32). Sustainability purposes are often expressed in three words environment, economy and justice and in a sustainable society all of them enhance and develop

instead of destruction. In all definitions related to sustainable development, improving life quality considers bearing capacity of environment and responding future generation needs without limiting facilities for future generations. Besides, it can be said that sustainability idea is a concept which considers four items environment, social, economic and skeletal (Moshar-zadeh & Sabri, 2006).

Based on this, urban sustainability concept can be expressed following sustainable development concept:

Set of continuous conditions which lead to protecting and improving high life quality, social justice and equal exploitation of resources for current and future generations based on economic, environment, social and skeletal aspects along with integrity and urban identity.

5 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Although agenda of sustainable development emphasizes social dimensions of sustainable development but there are little agreements about constituents of items or in other words, what definition is considered for it. From one view, development that has harmonized evolution trend with civil society creates a suitable environment for different cultural and social groups along with improving life quality for whole society is considered as a social sustainability (Polese and Stern, 2000: 15-16). In another definition, this concept is equal with continuous urban ability in order to perform in human, communications and cultural development in long-term (Yiftachel and Hedgcock, 1993: 140).

Social sustainability means improving life quality, developing human resources and self-rehabilitation of local societies in order to overcome challenges and internal and external problems and managing values. In this sense, objectives of sustainable social development are equal opportunities (inter and intra-generation), improving life quality, social integrity, social participation, institutional capacity-building, social se-curity, responsibility and place belonging (Pour-taheri et.al, 2009: 2).

In defining social suitability four elements are referred: social justice, social integrity, participation and security. In this sense, items like equal opportunities and progress for all individuals, life with cooperation, equal chances for playing social roles and security of livelihood and security of human settlements against natural dangers are basics of social sustainability (DFID, 2002: 2).

In sustainable development with social approach two concepts participation and empowerment have special position (Overton, 1999: 7-8). Social sustainability includes equality, providing social services like education and health, gender equality, political accountability and social participation (Harris, 2000:6).

Social sustainability concepts are typically along with qualitative dimensions and evaluated with concepts like human life and welfare. Social sustainability means preserving and improving social capital. It means forming homogenous and integrated societies with mutual interests, sympathy, patience, flexibility and loyalty and ethical capital. Social capital refers to equal rights of human, religions, cultures and values which provide these conditions in human societies (Goodland, 2003: 1-6).

Recognizing social sustainability is accompanied with concept of life quality and social welfare and measured with items like accessibility to services, housing, security, income and deprivation (Byden, 2002: 9).

While there are concentrated and limited information about social sustainability but there is much information about in common concepts like social capital, social integrity and social deprivation which can achieve accurate definition using them.

Table (1) is a comparison between three concepts social capital, social integrity and social deprivation regarding definition and elements.

TABLE 1
COMPARING SOCIAL CAPITAL, SOCIAL INTEGRITY AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

	Social capital
Concept	Social capital relates to social structure features like networks, principles and resources which provide cooperation (Putnam, 1993: 35).
Elements	Empowerment, participatory activities, participation, common objectives, mutual action, supported networks, security, belonging (Forrest and Kearns, 2001).
	Social integrity
Concept	Social integrity emphasizes common sense of ethics and objectives, social control and order, threat of inequality in wealth and income (Forrest & Kearns, 2001).
Elements	Common civil values and culture, social order and social control, decreasing wealth differences, social networks and belonging (Forrest and Kearns, 2001).
	Social deprivation
concept	It is a process that deprives individuals and families, groups and neighbors from resources needed for political, social and economic activities in society as a whole. This process is result of poverty and low income but other factors like differentiation, access to low level education and life environment (Pierson, 2002: 7)
Elements	Poverty and low income, unemployment, lack of support and social networks, effect of local domain and deprivation (Pierson, 2002: 7).

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Precondition of all concepts is that individuals in society need cooperation and interaction. Social networks provide communication string among three concepts. These concepts show necessity of relationship between people and attempt to achieve common interests along with this issue that there should be just access to social services for all people. Among this, third concept i.e. social deprivation with higher focus on access to economic chances and services is more distinguished than two other concepts which are aligned with each other. In addition to associations and social networks, a set of commonalities about norms,

values and culture along with belonging, security and trust are aspects of social sustainability (Jenks and Jones, 2012: 179-181).

By reviewing literature, two constituent concepts in social sustainability are identified: first, social equality and second, local societies' sustainability. While cases related t social equality are about policy-making and focus on social justice or justice in distribution (Burton, 2000:1970), sustainability of local societies is less understood. Following dimensions can be considered for identifying local sustainability (Jenks and Jones, 2012: 182):

- Interaction in local societies
- Participation in collective activities
- Pride/ belonging
- Residence stability (versus displacing)
- Security (lack of order or social disorder)

Interaction in local societies by emphasize on social informal communication which is distinguishable through active participation in activities or organizations and local institutions is used as common index for understanding and identifying local social capital and is meaningful in relation with social sustainability. It is assumed that if people participate in local societies' activities, they find strong relations with it.

Similar reasoning are about pride or belonging to place in local societies concept: if people have correlation and dependence on locality, they will help permanent, continued and sustainable development (Woolever, 1992). Another aspect of social sustainability is residence stability. Various experiences have shown that output flows of residents in combination with low input or zero input are sign of instable societies. Most often, local society stability is accompanied with considerable social integrity and its benefits like less crime and high security (Hirschfield and Blowers, 1997).

Regarding these cases, social sustainability is a quality related to social welfare which is defined based on three aspects social capital, social integrity and social deprivation.

6 PARTICIPATION

In Dehkhoda it is defined as partnership, storage and exploitation (Dehkhoda, 1994: 18474). In other place, it means mutual participation for doing a work (Azkia & Ghaffari, 2004: 289). Participation means becoming partner and participating with each other in order to reach to a purpose (Shadman-far & Vakil-pour, 2011: 29). Participation concept is a concept which has various applications in different sciences like planning, sociology and politics and various definitions are presented for it. Some of these definitions are:

- Active participation of individuals in political, economic and cultural dimensions (Ansari, 2000: 24).
- Organized attempts for increasing control on resources and organizing institutions in certain social conditions from some groups and movements which were deprived previously (Hosseini, 2008: 97).
- Participation is sharing policy-making and suggestions, giving information from local authorities and criticizing information and active role of people in planning and practice

(Oosthuizen, 1984: 206).

- Public participation in city building is a tool by which members of society can participate in policy making and plans which influence their lives (Safar-zadeh, 2008: 26, cited in city building dictionary).
- Participation is sharing people in power in order to influence government behavior in which deprived people join to determining data gathering, determining objectives and policies, allocating financial resources, programs and distributing resources (Arnstien, 1969: 216).
- Participation is another kind of emotional and mental involvement of individuals in group positions which arose them to help each other in achieving group objectives (Moshkelati, 2005: 23).
- Participation is a process in which individual participates in social activity through belonging feeling (Hosseini, 2008: 97).
- Participation is an action through it members of society provide meeting expectations conditions (Tajik, 2005).

Based on presented definitions, we can say that participation is a mental-emotional involvement which negates dictatorship and up-down approach and forms group cooperation in order to achieve common objectives by enhancing responsibility.

6-1- Social participation or citizenship

In urban sociology participation is a mean for transforming indifferent city residents to citizens with rights and social and individual responsibilities (Faurks, 2000), a right which reflects individual role of society members to each other and by socializing human, his responsibility increases and leads to determine legal limitations (Macdonald, 2000). In other words, participation is a process by which people influences structures, organizations and authorities to provide suitable urban services. Therefore, participation increases capacity of people in managing local affairs and is accompanied with empowerment (Schubler, 1996). Participation occurs in data gathering. Citizenship concept is connection point of social and political participation (Piran, 1995 and Piran, 1997). Therefore, it needs changes in mental moods of society members in their intentions, values, attitudes and commitments which leads to rights and responsibilities and organizes voluntarily activities for sustainable development (Mosaee & Shiani, 2011: 249).

Approaches and theories in recognition steps emphasize on intention, attitude, motivation and participatory behavior and sometimes considered structural conditions and elements of participation. In social interaction theories, by differentiating participation into two mental and behavioral parts, participation is distinguished as a human behavior from reflective behaviors because individuals have mental meaning for their behavior (Ritzer, 1995).

These actions are individual and social actions by emphasis on mental criteria in Max Weber theory and objective and external criteria in Emil Durkheim theory (Roshe, 1996). In Aizen and Fishbein action analysis, there is emphasis on intention of

individuals I behaviors and participation is intention of participation. From this view, forming elements of one action are results, evaluation, action, facilities and required tools for practicing action (Alavi-tabar, 2001).

Parsons in his social action theory considers action as including all emotional, intellectual and behavioral states that practical patterns form based on it. Social participation is action under influence of external norms and on the other hand, it is influenced by intellectual states, beliefs and emotions and their relationships which are considered as conditioning and controlling personality system in interaction with society. In fact, social action is seeking profit, pluralism and satisfying all factors which are influenced by social, economic and political conditions of society (Rooshe, 1996).

In exchange theory, Homans considers behaviors as calculation if profit and loss instead of results of beliefs and attitudes. This means that behaviors and participation are formed when their profits are higher than costs and increasing it is function of individual imagination from objective interests. In this regard, compensation, punishment, motivation, value and success reveal themselves (Ritzer 1995). Therefore, if participation has value and positive evaluation for human from action it will continue.

6-2- Necessity of public participation in urban planning for sustainability

Urban planning influences all society members equally because of its nature and function because by allocating land and space to different activities and guiding them toward changes, planning mechanisms not only influence value of land and space but also redistribution of wealth and power. For this reason, there is secrecy in planning for preparing programs and planning. Increasing transparency and democracy in planning is difficult despite widespread participation of people in management and urban planning. People ask for increasing planning system efficiency (Blowers and evans, 1997: 92-102).

Regarding planning role in redistribution of resources, tools like land use, providing welfare services, general facilities and infrastructures of city, when this role develops necessity of widening planning against democratic pressures will be increase. This does not mean that a democratic planning system can facilitate redistribution but increase in public involvement in planning may lead to struggle in planning system and raised difficult questions. However, least superiority of planning system is based on public participation that decisions of policy-makers and pressure groups will be challenged by people even if resources displacement was not in favor of poor people (Abdi Danesh-pour, 2012: 342).

Forming a people-led planning system and based on local associations should provide conditions like access to land and land use, access to financial resources, reduction in central institutions intervention and production power of public planning which are as important as local authorities plans (Ashouri, 1999). People participation in urban planning meets targets that the most important of them are (Abdi Danesh-pour, 2012: 343):

• Increasing people confidence to planning system and accepting decisions in this domain.
• Training citizens and transferring information about life environment from decision making authorities to people;
• Empowering society in different fields like understanding collective problems in cities and thinking to solutions;
Public participation in planning has advantages for them, organizations and planners (Rashidi 2001). In other words, final product of people participation in urban plans was achieving urban sustainability which all groups benefit it. Regarding people participation advantages in urban planning, following cases can be considered:
• Public belonging to plans and urban sustainability: collective and common work process and achieving common objectives create a place sense. Therefore, city will be better managed and irresponsibility and costly displacement decrease. People participation reduces their resistance against plans (Hanachi, 2004: 149).
• Increase in decision-making speed and urban development: as a result of participation, citizens gain better understanding of realistic choices and time will not wasted. Participation facilitates and speeds up decision making and prevents long arrangements.
• Ease in financing: if needs and wants of citizens met, they will provide additional resources for solving problem. By participation, general sector costs reduce by covering cost from volunteer labor (Sheikhi, 1998: 515).
• Increasing information accuracy: people participation can provide more accurate and fast information about local subjects (Hanachi, 2004: 149). In other words, participation helps decision makers to gain clear picture of people' needs and maximize effect of decision-making (Oosthuizen, 1984).
• Planning system dynamic: people participation makes urban planning and management dynamic and flexible (Hanachi, 2004: 149).
• Reducing resistance and increasing conformity: participation reduces people resistance against change, innovation and reconstruction and increases their conformity. In participatory space conflicts and struggle replace with cooperation (Saeedi, 2004: 10).
• Citizen's cooperation in achieving targets: when individual participates in decision making he will participate in reaching it (Sheikhi, 1998: 515).

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Sustainable development theory is one of the most important attempts that has risen incurrent century after development of cities and problems caused by population increase in these areas. Emphasis of this theory on sustainability needs explaining its different aspects. However, what has been generally considers is environment and transportation concepts. Although it is important in sustainability but it seems that its relation with human and social aspects is neglected. Cities form to meet needs and increase life quality and their performance in this regard is positive. Therefore, paying attention to citizens as those influenced by

urban planning is necessary.

Social sustainability has close relationship with three indicators social capital, social integrity and social deprivation. In studying these three items, it is clear that people participation in local level is very important. This subject has two aspects. First, participation of local people with themselves in social actins and their participation in higher decision making levels especially with city authorities should be considered to meet urban sustainability through improving quality of plans and urban programs.

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