

## Original Research Article

# A Critique on The Preparation of The Rural Guide Plan Process From The Planning Stage to Action With Landscape Approach

(Case Study: Pay-e Astan village in Kohdasht region, Lorestan province)\*

Reihaneh Khorramrouei<sup>1\*\*</sup>

Pedram Sadafi Kohnehshahri<sup>2</sup>

1. Ph.D. Candidate in Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran

2. Ph.D. Student in Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran

## ARTICLE INFO

Received: 04 February 2023

Revised: 16 March 2023

Accepted: 29 March 2023

Online available: 04 June 2024

**Keywords**

The Hadi plan

Place

Landscape

Sustainable development

Agentive and non-agentive approach

## ABSTRACT

The Hadi plan, referred to as a plan for change and transformation in the physical-structural of villages, is part of the rural development process, the preparation and implementation of which is within the framework of the planning system, with criteria and regulations that affect the structure of villages, especially the value of land. Determining and establishing a legal boundary for the village, as well as the necessity of construction and development therein, has led to changes in land prices in villages, turning the village into a capital commodity guided by government organizations with a policy of concentration-based development, undergoing fundamental changes and transformations. Under the government's focus on Rural Guide plans (such as Hadi plan) and its agentive and linear perspective to their formulation, which has led to the standardization of most plans, as well as the lack of public participation in development plans, numerous problems have risen from the planning stage to implementation in the projects. This study is descriptive-analytical and the data is collected through library research and field study, which is the result of a four-day trip to Kohdasht region of Lorestan province. This study seeks to find out why the present society, despite rural guide plans, is witnessing the lack of environmental quality in the physical and non-physical fields and lack of satisfaction in the development of the village? During a field visit to Pay-e Astan village in Lorestan's Kohdasht region, it seems that the failure to realize development plans in the action stage is mainly due to the inability to understand and identify the environmental characteristics and territorial values of the village in the stage of developing the plan. The realization path of Rural-Guide plans requires a detailed knowledge of the location and attention to the landscape layers in the planning process. The requirement for this is the inclusion of a stage in the description of spatial planning document compilation services under the title of reading landscape layers, in which landscape layers are discovered with the help of a landscape expert and the participation of the local community, after which, territorial values are identified. This process will lead to the preparation of a Place-based program that guarantees the sustainable development of the village.

\* This article is taken from the research project entitled "Place-oriented development; Reading the rural landscape in Kohdasht region" which was carried out by the research team of Nazar Research Center under the supervision of Dr. Seyed Amir Mansouri in 2023.

\*\* Corresponding author: **Phone:** +989186090192, **E-mail:** r.khoramrouei@ut.ac.ir

This is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

## Introduction

Technological changes and the consequent transformation of rural life spaces have accelerated due to the expansion of information technology and an increasing inclination towards globalization, while preserving local characteristics and numerous environmental factors. These factors all contribute to the undeniable perception of the necessity of development programs in rural areas. Today, rural areas are not merely traditional, static, and pre-modern spaces to be emancipated from, and on the other hand, they are not modernist places that in scientific and academic circles, from a romantic and aesthetic point of view, consider it as the preserver of national culture, tradition, and customs and present an imaginary image of it. Therefore, rural areas, influenced by the changes that have taken place, have undergone significant structural changes, which in themselves testify to the movement of villages towards development orientation. According to the definitions provided, rural development is about enhancing rural life in various social, environmental, and economic dimensions achieved through comprehensive planning. Rural development plans in Iran over the years have primarily aimed at empowering entrepreneurship and employment, income generation, increasing production in the agricultural sector, rural access to educational and health services, and expanding infrastructure such as water, electricity, gas, communication routes, etc (Taghilo et al., 2017, 2). In the last few decades, significant measures have been taken in the field of infrastructure development in Iran, among which we can mention the Hadi plan, which is a rural guide project. Rural Guide Plans<sup>1</sup> (Hadi plan), while modifying the existing structure and organizing it, determine the location and extent of future expansion and how to use the land for various functions such as commercial, residential, agricultural, production, facilities and equipment, and also determine the general rural needs according to the needs of the rural community in the form of approvals of regional master plans or spatial planning plans and rural settlements (Zarei, 2009, 58). According to the article seven of the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation's statutes approved in November 1987, the Islamic Council has introduced the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation as the trustee of the issuance and implementation of Rural Guide Plans, and all relevant institutions and the people of the villages are required to participate in full coordination with this

institution. Despite the goals and reform approaches mentioned in the structure of rural development programs, the process of planning, preparation, action and implementation of development plans, especially Rural Guide plans, is generally long and faces problems. These problems, which have been created from the macro level to the micro level in different layers of development plans, seem to be the result of the government's policies with centralist tendencies on development, which underlies many structural problems in the physical and non-physical fields in the villages of the country. Government agencies responsible for rural development projects often encounter resistance from local communities, particularly when their initiatives fail to align with the realities of rural life. This resistance manifests in various forms, such as the dissolution of production cooperatives, farming, and industries, as well as the improper implementation of development plans against the government's actions. In fact, considering the significant political, economic, and social changes at national and global levels that drive rural development, the socio-economic realities of rural life have not received adequate attention in rural development planning over the past years (Khosrobeigi Barcholoie & Javan, 2015, 3). The issue present in development plans, especially the Rural Guide plans, is that in which direction the approach of Hadi's plan will guide rural development? Why, despite numerous development plans in villages, are we still witnessing numerous problems in both physical and non-physical aspects in villages? Is the goal of development and equality in villages merely manifested in physical development, or do other factors play a role in the development of villages? This study, which is the result of a four-day trip to Kohdasht region located in Lorestan province, intends to criticize rural development plans, especially the Rural guide plan of Pay-e Astan village. It seems that according to the goals of Rural guide plans, which is equality and justice, which is central in providing services to the villagers, most of Rural Guide plans are focused on the physical development of the villages, and under this measure, many problems have occurred in the villages, especially in the village of Pay-e Astan (Fig. 1). Therefore, the purpose of choosing the subject of criticism of the Guide plan of the Pay-e Astan in the Kohdasht region of Lorestan is to identify the factors affecting the development plans that have led to their inefficiency in the stage of planning to action. This study attempts to address

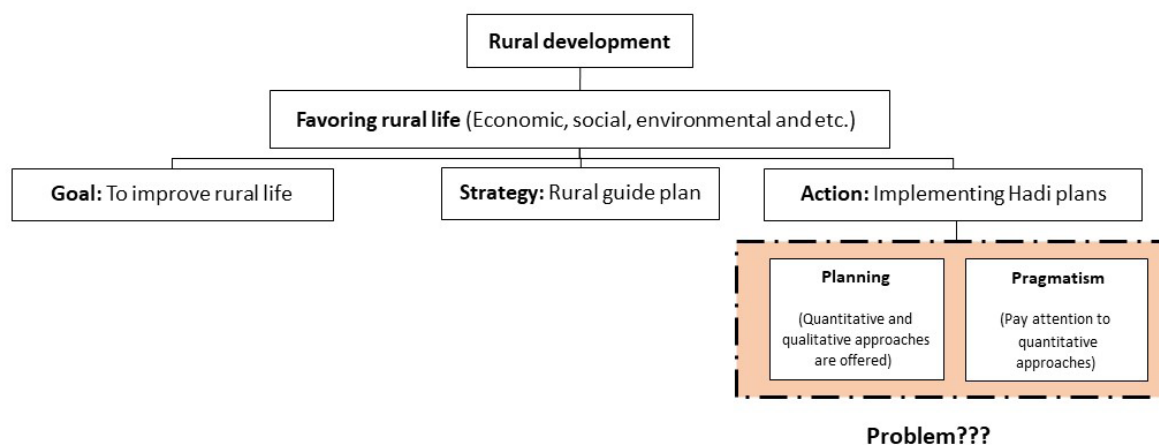


Fig. 1. Research problem framework. Source: Authors.

the shortcomings resulting from the implementation of rural guide plans (the current situation of the village of Pay-e Astan), and to drive the rural guide plans towards being Place-based according to the existential characteristics of each village.

### Research Background

Numerous researches have been conducted in the field of the concept of development. Also, many studies have been done on the history of development and criticism of development plans, especially Rural guide plans (Hadi plans). This study is the result of a four-day research trip to the cities and villages of the Kohdasht region in Lorestan province; Therefore, the sources and texts mentioned in the study are all within the framework of the concept of rural development. In the following, further attention has been paid to critical concepts in the field of Rural Guide Plans, which seems that the lack of attention to the concept of place in criticizing rural development plans, especially Rural Guide Plans, is a neglected issue in the sources. Efforts have been made in this study to address this matter by examining the relationship between development plans and being place-based as a forgotten issue. Azizpour and Hosseini Hassel (2008) argue in their review article on the process of physical development of rural areas in the country (with an emphasis on the Rural Guide plan) that the lack of coordination among relevant authorities, the absence of effective utilization of a comprehensive and integrated rural plan focused on the rural community, and the implementation of a technical and centralized planning with a positivist methodology have not only failed to bring about fundamental changes (especially in the economic dimensions) in the country's rural areas, but have also

provided the groundwork for a single-dimensional approach, to the extent that development indicators in the country's rural areas are still not at a desirable level. Zarei (2009) in a critical article on the Process of Rural Guide-plan, stated that the main problem in the discussion of guide plans is the lack of a coherent intellectual system and a stable and sustained concept of the plan in the semantic range of rural and urban plans. Taghilo et al. (2017) in the study titled "Propellants of rural development in Iran" believe that factors such as: furistic and development-oriented management by taking advantage of the participation of all stakeholders in the path of rural development; the formation of practical and productive information links between different institutions in order to intensify inter-institutional cooperation; focusing on and investing in infrastructure and production sectors, especially agriculture and tourism, with the aim of playing a national role in controlling and reducing inflation; the rapid improvement and development of information technology infrastructure along with its proper culturalization at the village level, will be the drivers of development in the villages, which should be used in rural development programs. Eftekhari et al. (2018) in the study "Meta-analysis Assessment of rural development plans articles in Iran" believe that factors such as attention to the role of methodological studies (comprehensive, systematic, and participatory combination) and interdisciplinary studies in the evaluation and realistic assessment of Rural Guide plans, as well as the process evaluation of Rural Guide plans in all regions of the country based on attention to environmental and geographical-spatial diversities, can be beneficial and effective in rural development. Khosrobeigi Barcholoie and Javan (2015) in the article "Discourse of Modernization and Divergence

of Development Policies and Agricultural Utilization” believe that in the modernization discourse, rural life is separated from local ties and reduced to a residential environment with apparent and tangible features of opposition between rurality and urbanity. In this process, urban and rural coexistence is ignored and it often leads to contradictory meanings of coexistence differences in rural communities. Ahmadian (2018) in the article “A Critical Review of the End of Development, Post-Developmentalism and Development Paradigm Impasse” believes that in contrast to the elitist, structuralist and top-down view of development, post-developmentalism gives importance to the development agent of social conditions and their real economic needs, and practically, it prioritizes the bottom-up, non-authoritarian, people-centric approach in its work. In this view, local communities have the ability to make decisions for the future of society. Also, Rahimipour Sheikhan Nezhad et al. (2021) in the article “in rural development from a Investigating the role of Guide Plans physical perspective with emphasis on identifying the space”, believe that the effects of these projects are limited to changes in the physical structure and in its implementation, and the economic factor is less considered.

### Research Methodology

The research methodology in this study is descriptive-analytical, and the data collection is conducted through library and field methods. In the field of development and related concepts, as well as in the field of Rural Guide Plans and relevant criticisms thereof, information for expressing the literature of the subject and desired concepts is collected using reputable books, journals, publications, websites, and relevant theses. Subsequently, a conceptual framework for research is prepared using descriptive and analytical methods to present proposals and conclusions. The data collection tool in this method is field observations, including a research trip to the Kohdasht region of Lorestan province, and the case study discussed in this research is the Rural Guide plan of Pay-e Astan village, which has been criticized.

### Theoretical Foundations

#### • The process of development of Rural Guide Plans and its challenges

If we consider sustainable rural development as moving forward and changing functional and structural processes in ecological, economic, and

social areas with the aim of achieving development rights in society and improving quality of life standards, then physical planning for sustainable development should pursue five major objectives for the sustainability of rural settlements (Eftekhari et al., 2018, 29). Organizing access to rural transportation and communication services, providing infrastructure for the maintenance of rural areas, upgrading and improving housing quality, village strengthening, as well as planning to increase resilience in the face of disasters and natural hazards through the implementation of physical plans and creating a suitable framework for organizing urban-rural relationships.

Following the construction and development measures taken in the country for the physical development of rural settlements, Hadi Rural Guide plans are among the frontrunners of the physical development projects of the Rural Development Deputy of the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation. In fact, the activity of preparing Rural Guide Plan was started a year before the start of the first program in 1988 and in this year it was prepared for 65 villages. On June 19th, 2005, the National Organization for Management and Planning of Iran, based on Article 23 of the Budget Plan Law, considered the Rural Development Guide Plan not only as roles that focus on the physical and structural development of villages, but also as a rural development document. Similar to a comprehensive plan, it addressed not only physical and environmental issues but also economic, cultural, and social issues in villages. By identifying existing problems, it provided suitable solutions and programs to improve the living conditions in rural areas.

Despite all the changes and modifications that have occurred in the Rural Guide plans, problems still persist. This is because the rural life realities have not been adequately addressed in recent years in the discourse of rural planning in relation to the major national and global political, economic, and social developments that drive rural development. Government policies tend to be centralized, with the central government being responsible for responding to the issues and problems of rural residents (Khosrobeigi Barcholoie & Javan, 2015, 3). This has led to the production of relatively similar maps of the Rural Guide Plans, and the demarcation and limitation of villages with similar services in all villages of the country. Entrusting all responsibilities from the planning stage to action and implementation in the field of rural development projects, especially Hadi Rural Guide Plans, to a

designated authority necessitates the standardization of rules in planning to facilitate and execute its tasks effectively and efficiently. Therefore, this will lead to the normalization and uniformity of all Rural Guide Plans in the country. Essentially, by approving the standardization of Rural Guide Plans and disregarding the situations and place-based features in villages, the legitimacy of government power is established, leading to a reduction in the economic independence and self-management of local communities more than ever in development plans. Therefore, the product of such a perspective results in a quantitative rather than qualitative approach; lack of coordination between relevant authorities and experts; absence of specific infrastructural and cultural resources and standards for the rural sector (Zarei, 2009, 65); and commodification of land.

• **The village, as a place and a complex system**

According to Schulz's definition (1974) of the concept of place: "The existence of spaces is from place, not from space itself". Therefore, spatial design depends on understanding place and what is called the sense of place. This sense is something beyond physical and sensory attributes, which is called the spirit of place. Thus, a place can be called a space with meaning. The reality of a place always accommodates its reality within a social process (Logan & Molotch, 1987, 47). According to the definition of landscape, which is an objective – subjective phenomenon, dynamic and relative, which is the result of the interaction of man with the environment and society with history (Mansouri, 2005), in fact, space becomes place from the moment it becomes readable and interpretable. Because on the objective side of the space, it carries interpretations that include the same subjective side of the landscape. There are multiple indicators and factors for understanding the spatial context of a village, and among the most important ones are: centrality; landscape qualities; structured nature; historical and semantic significance; indicative natural aspects; attention and consensus (crowdedness-seclusion) (crowdedness-seclusion); orientatoin, and hierarchy.

In explaining the above concepts and expressing the analytical relationship between the factors that shape the village's sense of place, four main factors can be explained in its success (Fig. 2): comfort and perceptibility; accessibility and communication; functionality and activity; and sociality (PPS, 2001).

On the other hand, complex systems are systems consisting of many elements and high density

of relationships (Vakili, 2010, 46). The theory of complex systems does not examine the components, but the relationships, the boundary of the system with the environment and the collective behaviors in the scope of the system (Bar-yam, 2002, 3, Vakili, 2010, 17). For this reason, it can be an alternative model for the reductionist approach (Farshad, 1983, 10-41). Since this theory is close to the concept of place, it can be considered as a part of the concept of place in relation to the topic of rural development. Therefore, the village has been formed as a system of a complex network consisting of dynamic elements and numerous relationships between them. The complexity of the village is noteworthy at the level of planning, policy-making, and impactful action. The development of such a complex system with mechanisms that are characterized by a lower level of complexity is accompanied by high risk. The village can be considered as a unified entity consisting of sub-sections such as social, economic, cultural, historical, natural, physical, etc. While each of these components has an independent nature, they operate entirely systematically alongside each other, and the village, with its components, is designated as a place-based specific area. Interventions of Rural Guide Plans that address the village with partial and fragmentary views can pave the way for turmoil in the complex village system. Based on the definitions provided, it seems that the fundamental problem in the planning process up to the actions in Rural Guide Plans lies can be sought in the incorrect recognition of the value of the place, which itself arises from the lack of a correct reading of the sense of place in the village, and the disregard for the value and power of the place within it.

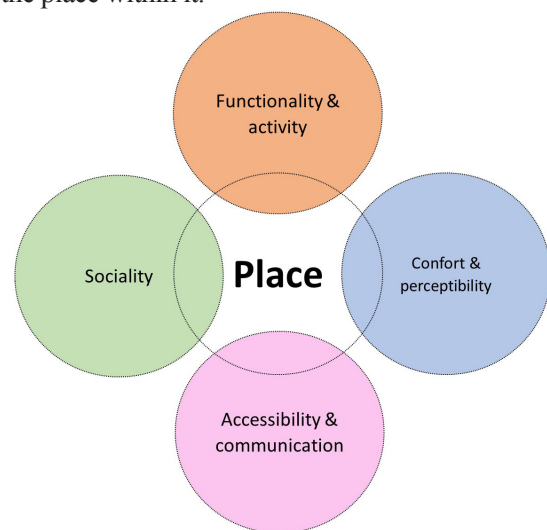


Fig. 2. The main indicators that create the sense of place. Source: Authors.

## Analysis and Description of Case Study: Pay-e Astan Village

Pay-e Astan village is one of the villages of Zirtang Siyab district of Konani district of Kohdasht city, located in Lorestan province, situated at 1400 meters above sea level. The village is located in a plain with a dry moderate climate and the settlement of the village is dense. In the north of the village, there is an intercity road; in the south of the village, there are agricultural fields and the Mozafari Castle; in the east of the village, there is the village of Bagh Pay-e Astan; and in the west of the village, there is the intercity road to Kohdasht (Parvari, 2010, 15). The Rural Guide Plan studied in this research is related to the year 2010, in which the ten-year horizon of the village's future is mentioned based on the first and second five-year priorities (Table 1), according to the needs of the villagers located there, which is as follows (Figs. 3 & 4).

According to the settlement records in the village, the first settlement took place in 1960s. The first history of settlement in this village goes back to the establishment of nomads, which was developed by construction during three stages. The primary core of the village was formed in the center of the current village and some of the buildings in this part are in ruins. The first stage of development is in the west of the central core of the village, and then the second stage of development is in the east of the core, where most of the buildings are restored. The third stage of development has also been formed in the south side of the village (ibid., 50). Based on the statistics provided in the Hadi Rural Guide Plan, in the past, the various lands of the village in different areas had the same locational and monetary value, and almost all the village lands had the same value. In recent years, due to the provision of rural infrastructure services, village improvement and rehabilitation, road widening, types of construction in a region, the presence of specific service uses, as well as the determination of village boundaries and demarcation therein have led to the creation of added value in certain parts of the village. In the village of Pay-e Astan, lands and houses located

on the main street and road have a higher financial value, while houses situated on secondary streets and alleys have a lower value (Figs. 5, 6 & 7) (ibid., 48). Discussion

In today's world, villages have become the product of urban industrialization, where rural areas are transformed into regions of capital creation based on industrial exploitation of natural resources or as rural



Fig. 3. The village of Pay-e Astan and the implementation of Hadi plan. Photo: Reihaneh Khoramrouei, 2023.

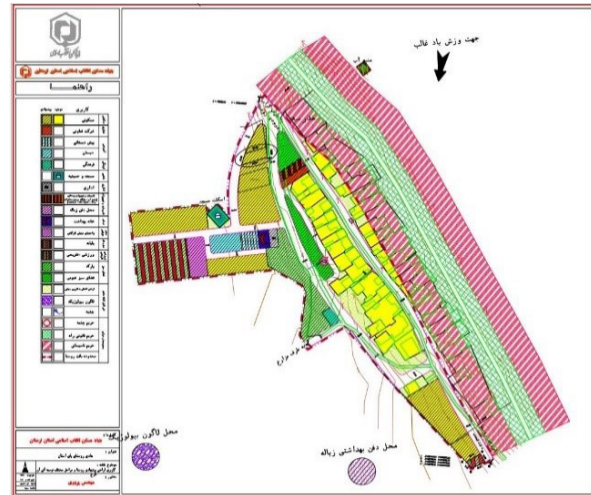


Fig. 4. Rural Guide Plan of Pay-e Astan village. Source: Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation of Lorestan Province, 2010.



Fig. 5. The village of Pay-e Astan and the development of construction in the margins of agricultural lands. Source: Reihaneh Khoramrouei, 2023.

Table 1. Ten-year horizon program of the Rural Guide Plan of Pay-e Astan based on the needs of the villagers. Source: Parvari, 2010, 20.

First five-year priority	Second five-year priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Widening and organizing the main road of the village</li> <li>- Widening and organizing the 3rd and 2nd grade crossings of the village                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land division in development areas for transfer</li> <li>- Construction of office buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Implementation of the sanitary system of sewage disposal in the village as one of the problems in the current situation of the village                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connecting the village to the natural gas pipeline network</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building a cultural-sports Spaces according to the needs of the village</li> <li>- Construction of the village council office to solve the problems of the village                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attending to third-class roads and dead ends</li> <li>- Attending to the post and telecommunications situation</li> <li>- Attending to the proper flooring of passages</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Fig. 6. Aerial map of Pay-e Astan village in 2011. Source: Google Earth.



Fig. 7. Aerial map of Pay-e Astan village in 2024 and the physical development of the village along the entrance axis. Source: Google Earth.

characteristic of which is the emphasis on government centralization and the lack of participation of rural beneficiaries and technology in the planning process. Although the participation of people has been emphasized in many rural development programs in Iran, this participation does not mean giving decision-making power to villagers, but rather it mostly refers to collaboration in implementing the programs determined by organizations and dedicated experts. In this process, the concept of participation has been reduced to a unilateral and linear matter, which in this study has been referred to as the agentive approach. In the agentive approach, it is emphasized to preserve the dominance of organizations and experts over the place in order to preserve interests, which in practice limits participation in development and increases people's dependence on the government; therefore, the formation of people's participation in rural development requires a change in the concept of development. In the village of Pay-e Astan, Rural guide plan, as an agentive and linear approach, has taken over most of the measures at the levels of planning, design and action. By implementing such an approach, the village has become not a complex system, but simply a space for the life of the villagers, which has provided the minimum facilities for their well-being. One of the most important effects of implementing the Rural Guide Plan in the village of Pay-e Astan and other villages is the commodification of land and the capitalistic view of land resulting from the creation of the Rural Guide plan in the village, which contradicts the village's sense of place, community participation, and dynamism. Experience has shown that the increase in land prices in determining the scope of the Rural Guide plan, although is economically considered capital production for low-income households, and has positive effects in terms of increasing motivation for permanence and sustainability of life in the village for villagers, it alone cannot be indicative of the desired quality of life in rural areas. In development documents and in the land restriction section of Rural Guide plans, with the aim of limiting the village and preventing its uncontrolled expansion, measures have been taken to demarcate and limit rural lands. At first glance, such a program seems desirable as it can be used as a tool against spatial disorder. However, it must be borne in mind that the village, as a people-centered living space, is constantly engaged with land, agricultural affairs, and animal husbandry. On the other hand, each village has its own specific geographical and

areas that are conceptualized as remnants of national culture. In the present era, villages that have the ability to create and return capital and are economically viable and profitable are deemed important. In this case, villages are transformed into consumable goods and, with the influences of economic diversification policies, are subject to the influence of non-local individuals and become dependent on capital resources outside the village. Therefore, all development programs and documents are considered physical matters because they will have greater impact on the society for the stakeholders. In fact, at the operational level, development is based on renovation, the main

cultural characteristics, and restricting its boundaries without examining the specific features of each village would lead to further harm to the village in various economic, social, cultural, environmental, and other areas. In this regard, Heidegger, in his famous speech titled “Deconstruction of settlement and thinking”, eloquently explained the concept of “residence” and strongly condemned the notion of building a structure and residing in it. He defined residence as a process in which a person has turned a place into a home and establishes harmony with the four main sources of thinking, namely God, self, sky and earth (Yarahmadi, 1999, 223). According to Heidegger, human habitation has been reduced to construction in this era. Part of this is because we have manipulated and interfered with the world too much. With this description, it seems that the approach of the Rural guide plan has led rural development plans towards linearity and agentive factor. Therefore, considering the examination and analysis of the Rural Guide plan of Pay-e Astan village, it can be said that the planning and drafting process up to the implementation of the Rural Guide plan therein becomes distorted because the proposed plan is not place-based and has disregarded the perceptual values of space (historical, meaningful, identity, natural, etc.). On the other hand, since the main pillar of being place-based is participation, the relationship between the sense of place and the audience is complex and intertwined. Based on the field visits conducted, it appears that the planner’s perspective on the Rural Guide plan for the rural area of Pay-e Astan has been merely objective and physical, with short-term goals being the focus of the planning process, resulting in defining land use, defining property boundaries, assigning land use, and so forth. The attention to the physical form and personal taste has been so prioritized by the planners of the Rural Guide plan in Pay-e Astan village that, disregarding the (knowledge) section, which is a prerequisite for identifying the place and contextual values in the document drafting process; they have merely contented themselves with preparing the final map and have disregarded the natural features of the land, heritage capacities, etc., which are recognized as limiting factors in the planning process. Therefore, this type of perspective on space is actually based on the reality of the matter, not people’s perception of the matter. As a result, the position and role of various natural and man-made elements in the village have been disrupted during planning, and the values of their sense of place have been disregarded, with

the primary goal of village planning being limited to determining boundaries. Planners should, by adopting a landscape approach and focusing on the landscape as a reality, seek to read the layers of the village landscape and discover the interpretive aspect of space from the people’s perspective, meaning they should understand how people read and record that place, then base the document on that, and ultimately what is produced will be the village landscape itself. Therefore, the Rural guide plan must have a non-agentive approach and act as a consultant alongside stakeholders to ensure that resources, capital, and education are sustainably available to villagers. In this way, the village can engage in a place-based and participatory process in the realm of development (Fig. 8).

## Conclusion

Based on field observations, oral interviews, and review of upper-level documents from the village of Pay-e Astan, it appears that in response to the research question, it can be said that the lack of attention to qualitative aspects in the planning process, such as neglecting the environmental characteristics of the village, lack of understanding of the economic and livelihood dimensions of villagers, emphasis on spatial uniformity and homogenization without considering obvious natural variation, disregard for meaningful components (preservation of symbolic values of the village, social well-being, sense of identity and belonging), and participation and role of people result in a reasoned conclusion of lack of recognition of the context, place, and its role in the planning process. Due to this, the most important and fundamental pillar of the failure of the development plan (Hadi Rural Guide plan) in the village of Pay-e Astan from the planning stage to implementation must be sought in the process of formulating the Rural guide plan. Where the lack of proper recognition of the place and land capacities leads to the formulation of plans that do not correspond much with environmental realities; in the village of Pay-e Astan, ignoring the primary core of village formation, development of the village towards the entrance axis, as well as neglecting its historical-cultural capacities, such as the historical castle “Nazeh”, which is considered a symbolic element for the villagers, and on the other hand, the division of agricultural lands and their conversion into residential lands to increase land value and encouraging villagers to stay and not migrate to the city has created a false

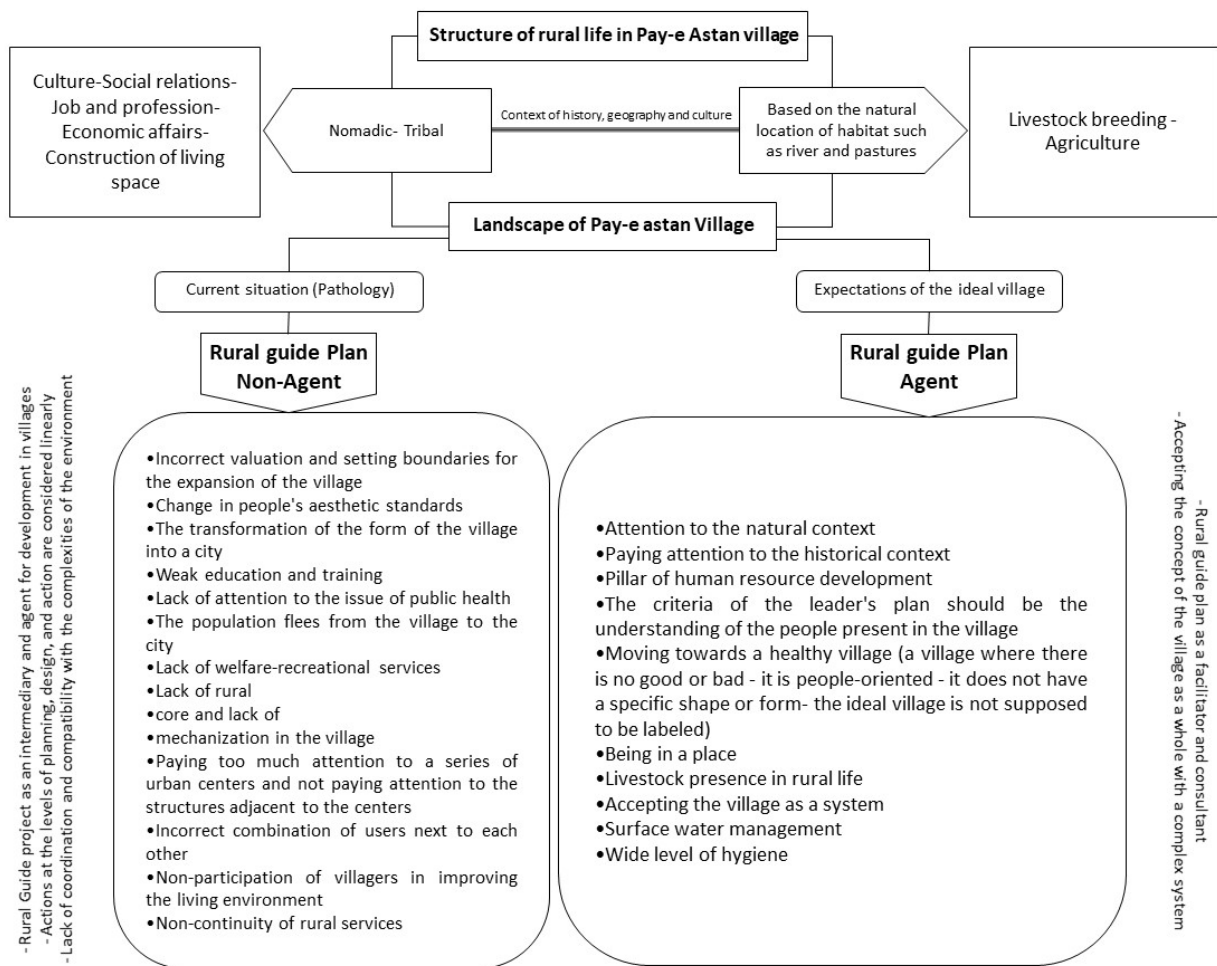


Fig. 8. Pathology and presentation of place-based indicators in Hadi Rural Guide plan of Pay-e Astan village in the Kohdasht region of Lorestan province. Source: Authors.

ground for growth and development of the village. Furthermore, by eliminating the natural fabric and context, the village's sense of place has been reduced to the lowest degree. To prevent such issues, it may be necessary to shift the focus from government organizations and affiliated agencies in the planning and formulation of development plans towards promoting participatory and empowering approaches to community development. This requires adopting a non-agentive approach to development plans, particularly Hadi Rural Guide plans. With such an approach, the Rural Guide plan will act as facilitator and advisor alongside the people to promote the growth and development of the village with the aim of creating a place-based space. Therefore, one of the most reasonable solutions to overcome this impasse may be a change in the description of services and the process of formulating Rural Guide plans. The prerequisite for this is the inclusion of a stage called "landscape

reading of the village", which by considering the place-based indicators discovered by the landscape expert and the participation of the local community, reveals the layers of the landscape and the inherent values of the land. This process will lead to the preparation of a Place-based program that ensures sustainable rural development.

## Endnotes

1. Rural Guide Plan Known as Tarh-e-Hadi is a plan that, while organizing and modifying the existing structure, the amount and place of future expansion and the way of using the land for various functions such as residential, production, commercial and agricultural, as well as facilities and equipments and general rural needs, as the case may be, in the form of approvals of spatial planning plans and settlements, It determines rural or regional comprehensive plans.

## References list

• Ahmadian, G. (2018). A Critical review of the end of development, post-developmentalism and development paradigm impasse. *Pazhuhesh nāmah-enteqādi-i mutūn va barnāmah hā-yi 'ulūm-e*

*insāni [Critical Studies in Texts & Programs of Human Sciences]*, 17(8), 25-46. url: [https://criticalstudy.iics.ac.ir/article\\_2898.html?lang=en](https://criticalstudy.iics.ac.ir/article_2898.html?lang=en)

- Azizpour, F. & Hosseini Hassel, S. (2008). Review on physical transition process in villages in the country (with emphasize on villages guide plan). *Housing And Rural Environment*, 27(123), 42-55. url: <http://jhre.ir/article-1-97-fa.html>
- Bar-Yam, Y. (2002). General Features of Complex Systems. In *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems*. Oxford.
- Eftekhari, A. R., Khalifeh, E., Pourtaheri, M. & Rahmanifazli, A. (2018). Meta-analysis assessment of rural development plans articles in Iran. *Journal of Rural Research*, 9(1), 26-41. doi: 10.22059/jrur.2018.138811.823
- Farshad, M. (1983). *Negaresh-e systemi [Systems Approach]*. Amirkabi.
- Khosrobeigi Barcholoie, R. & Javan, J. (2015). Discourse of modernization and divergence of policy development and operation of Agriculture. *Journal of Rural Research*, 6(1), 1-26. doi: 10.22059/jrur.2015.54229
- Logan, J. & Molotch, H. (1987). *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. University of California Press.
- Mansouri, S. (2005). An introduction to Landscape architecture identification. *Bagh-e Nazar*, 1(2), 69-78. url: [https://www.bagh-sj.com/article\\_1489.html?lang=en](https://www.bagh-sj.com/article_1489.html?lang=en)
- Parvari, M. (2010). *Tarh-e Hadi rosta-ye Pay-e Astan [Pay-e Astan*

Village Rural Hadi Plan]. Bonyad Maskan-e Enghelab-e Islami Ostan-e Lorestan [Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation in Lorestan Province].

- Project for public spaces (PPS). (2001). *How to turn a place around: A Handbook for Creating Successful Public Spaces*.
- Rahimipour Sheikhan Nejad, M., Mahmoodi Chenari, H., Emami, S. F. & Nasiri Jan Agha, F. (2021). in rural development from a Investigating the role of Guide Plans physical perspective with emphasis on identifying the space. *Journal of Environmental Research and Technology*, 6(9), 1-12. url: URL: <https://journal.eri.acecr.ir/ar/Article/24262/FullText>
- Schulz, N.C. (1974). *Existence, space & architecture* (M. Hafezi, Trans.). Ketab Foroushi-e Tehran Publications. [in persian]
- Taghilo, A., Soltani, N., & Aftab, A. (2017). Propellants of rural development in Iran. *Journal of Spatial Planning*, 20(4), 1-28. url: <http://hsmmp.modares.ac.ir/article-21-5316-fa.html>
- Vakili, Sh. (2010). *Nazariye-ye systemha-ye pichide [Theory of Complex Systems]*. Shourafarin.
- Yarahmadi, M.A. (1999). *Be so-ye yek shahrsazi-ye ensangara [Towards Human-Centered Urban Planning]*. Tehran Municipality Information Technology and Communication Organization Publications.
- Zarei, Y. (2009). A Critical view to the process of rural guide-plan provision. *Housing And Rural Environment*, 28(127), 56-65. url: <http://jhre.ir/article-1-61-fa.html>

#### COPYRIGHTS

Copyright for this article is retained by the authors with publication rights granted to Revitalization School journal. This is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).



#### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

Khorramrouei, R. & Sadafi Kohneshahri, P. (2024). A Critique on The Preparation of The Rural Guide Plan Process From The Planning Stage to Action With Landscape Approach (Case Study: Pay-e Astan village in Kohdasht region, Lorestan province). *Journal of Revitalization School*, 2(2), 34-43.

URL: <http://jors-sj.com/article-1-34-en.html>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22034/2.2.34>

