Resuscitation of Rural Buildings Containing Valuable Historical-Cultural Monuments from the Perspective of the Tourism Industry: A Case Study in Kahak Village of Qom

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Abstract
The tourism industry is greatly developed in the world and many countries could improve their condition in this way and reduce the problems such as unemployment, low levels of per capita income and the lack of exchange earnings. Many countries know this dynamic industry as the main source of income, employment, private sector growth and development of infrastructures. Rural tourism is a type of tourism that its advocates are increasing day by day and it seems that villages are going to be one of the most important tourist destinations in future. Due to the climate variety, material variety and native construction technology, and human harmony with nature, rural buildings of country have provided unique samples in long term at specific locations and this lack of uniformity and exclusive properties which are attractive for tourists and the curiosity sense of tourists specially the seeker tourists is another motivation for recognition and understanding the life style and culture of different villagers of world. Therefore, Iran’s ancient history has been resuscitated by revival of valuable rural buildings and provides the area for researchers and explorers. One of the rural buildings with valuable architecture buildings and such properties is Kahak village of Qom that its resuscitation will lead to survival of building and tourist and investment attraction which prevent the migration of villagers to nearby cities such as Tehran, Qom and Saveh. Rehabilitation and expansion of building according to the existing monument in the building (Mulla Sarda’s Home) during the construction and operation lead to job creation and economic prosperity and investment flow and improvement in the region. Therefore, taking appropriate action to improve and maintain the available physical reserves and cultural assets in the village is necessary. The main objective of this research according to the range of the problems in this buildings is to achieve the objectives of rural tourism development. This paper seeks to answer the question that how the protection of valuable rural monuments and buildings for sustainable restoration and development could help to attract tourist proportionate to the potential capabilities of the buildings.

Keywords: resuscitation, valuable rural buildings, Kahak village, economic prosperity, tourism industry

Introduction
Now, tourism is considered as one of the largest and most diverse industries of the world and its rapid growth has caused many social, economic and environmental changes and hence, it is has become an important area of study among researchers (Taghavi, Pour Soleimani, 2009). In the globalization process of economic which is being done quickly and affects the economy of all countries of the world, to get rid of single-product economy and achieving sustainable and durable
development, rural tourism is one of the most important aspects of economic growth and development of the countries. Because in addition to the enhancement of the exchange earnings, it creates various employment in villages and prevents the migration of rural population by providing job opportunities. In addition, it preserves the rural production capacity and expansion of agricultural in all of its branches (Ghadiri, Masoum, Estealaji, Pazki, 2010). Physical context of the Iranian villages in addition to having architectural values like simplicity and aesthetic, compliance with the natural environment, and having harmony with living and biological function utilizes the local materials and indigenous knowledge. It has visual patterns beside its simplicity and meanwhile the physical context of some of the villages of the country because of the specific characteristics of architectural, historical and cultural is regarded as a valuable heritage left by our ancestors which its maintenance has great importance.

Residents of the villages are such a link between the economic growth, empowerment of village and the protection and improvement of valuable monuments. Village is an environment in which the life and communication is in the balance between human and nature. The relationship that is associated with mutual respect. Now, a citizen (native- regional tourist) who turns to village from urban life problems or a tourist who wants to visit valuable cultural monuments located in the village and spends a few days there. Anyway, it has a positive economic load for the village. The aim is to explain and analyze the rural tourism meaning to improve these regions where are an important part of national treasures. The village studied in this article is Kahak village located in 37 KM distance from south of Qom city where the house of Hakim Mulla Sadra one of the greatest philosophers of Iran is there. He had lived around the year 1020 AH over there. The only trace that can be searched about him is his home in Kahak (it should be noted that his body was buried in Basra). It is mentioned in his papers that the moderate weather and unique nature of Kahak had a great influence on his discoveries and answers to the most difficult philosophical problems.

However, some questions are raised in this regard that at first, the role and effect of tourist attraction on the economic cycle should be accepted:

1) How can the best space be prepared to attract tourist by using Hakim Mulla Sarda’s house monument as the greatest Iranian philosopher and the unique nature of Kahak and by resuscitation of rural building?

2) How can we take benefit from the vicinity of this village to Qom as the greatest seminary in Iran to attract more people?

Research Methodology

Protection and resuscitation of valuable rural buildings and monuments and tourist and attraction with a view to the tourism industry in physical, spatial, and activity context of village make this research more urgent than before. The dominant approach in this study has been descriptive-analytical and data is collected by written sources, books, articles and related magazines and then the collected data is analyzed. This is done by interviewing with the village residents, village assistants, municipalities and physical presence to assess the capabilities of the village for sustainable development and also field study method is done by participation in several samples in rural buildings of Qom.

The necessity of resuscitating project of valuable building

One way to renew and revive the values of the past is to introduce them to everyone. Intrinsic values in cultural heritage in which rural buildings are considered comprehensive samples for them and an expression of the cultural, social and indigenous values are related to the originality in environmental and physical resources of this buildings.
The most importance is to paying attention to valuable rural buildings and increasing exhaustion of them that todays, for various reasons are damaged and therefore, taking necessary actions for improvement and maintaining the physical reserves and cultural wealth of the villages seems to be important.

Architecture of the villages of the country is the representative of thought and cultural movement of time and indicating the ideas and opinions. Although this native architecture is the purest and most representative architectural cultures, it is the best example for man belongs to the natural environment and objectification of physical compatibility with the environment. Preparation for authentication and providing the possibility to keep the valuable rural monuments and buildings which are the obvious emergence of native culture of this land, is considered as one of the importance of projects' resuscitation to transfer the cultural values to next generations (Akrami & Same 2008).

Recognition of local and native culture becomes possible by maintaining, resuscitation, and establishment of life in valuable rural buildings and through this way, transfer of the cultural experiences is achieved and the possibility of recognition of former construction technologies become possible (Mazaheri, 2001).

Therefore, physical development plans about valuable rural buildings requires a good attitude in a way that in addition to answering the basic daily needs of their residents, the structural, physical and cultural identity of the village should be regarded with deep thinking and deep insight than the past.

**Resuscitation: Meaning and Concept**

The term includes a set of different and complete actions which are taken to restore life to a set or intended urban places. These actions could be done in physical-spatial organization and cause to remove or add parts to physical-spatial organization of old building without any damage to it. Making these actions contemporary include all social, economic, cultural and physical aspects (Hanachi, 2007).

**Iran’s Tourism Attractions**

Iran’s tourism attractions are so broad and diverse that it can be claimed it can cover almost all tourism tastes of people of the world. A variety of natural attractions from dry deserts to beaches and impenetrable forest has created a wide range of tourism landscape (Nasirizade and Toutounchi, 2003).

Extensive natural attractions are provided in natural dimension throughout the country from southern coasts of the Persian Gulf to Caspian Sea in the north. Holy places are another aspect of tourist attraction which play an important role and this importance with regard to the adjacent Muslim and Arabic countries provides area for attraction of this kind of tourists. In this regard, registration of over 4000 religious shrines in Iran is good for attracting religious tourists (Nasirizade and Toutounchi, 2003). In addition to different motivations of tourists for traveling and different tourist attractions, factors such as entertainment, cure, religion, art and history, culture, sport, economic, business, and rest are also important in tourism industry (Mahalati, 2001).

**Villages: Next tourist destination**

Tourism industry has greatly developed all over the world and many countries could improve their condition through this way and reduce their problems such as unemployment, low level of per capita income and lack of exchange earnings. Tourism industry is regarded as the most divers industry in the world. Many countries know this dynamic industry as the main source of income, employment, private sector growth and development of infrastructures. Today, tourist industry is so
important in economic and social development of the countries that economists call it the invisible export. Rural tourism is another type of tourism that its advocates are rapidly increased, and it seems that villages are going to be one of the most important destinations of tourists

**Rural Tourism**

From conceptual perspective, rural tourism can be defined as a type of tourism in rural areas and areas around the cities, but this definition cannot include a series of activities and various forms of management active and developed institutions in different countries in relation to tourism industry.

According to the International Conference on Tourism, the rural tourism includes different kinds of tourism with facilities and utilities in rural areas which provides the possibility to take advantage of natural resources and attractions along with rural life and work in farms. Rural tourism has different meaning in different countries. In 1986, the Commission of the European Community defined the rural tourism as follows:

- Rural tourism is not only agricultural tourism, but it covers all tourist activities in rural areas.
- Rural tourist is also proposed as a philosophy for rural development which this aspect has three perspectives: first, tourism is a way to rural development and a reflector of rural environmental characteristics. Another perspective knows tourism as a tool and policy for rebuilding the rural economy. Some others know it as a tool and policy for sustainable rural development.

**Rural tourism: A source of income for villagers**

Because tourism industry is considered as a clean and cheap industry as well as the activity sectors in a country that its prosperity will lead to the creation of various jobs. In other words, tourism industry improvement will activate national, international, urban and also rural and local economy and this mobility will activate the economy of country from micro to macro. By tourist movement from beginning to destination and tourist centers, the economy of that parts will be activated because tourist has to start spending money in different required dimensions individually or in group form to reach the destination and to go back to his starting point. This will provide the balance between expenditure, saving and investment and government will also make money through this way (Erabi and Ezadi 2011).

Rural tourism could be a new source of income for villagers specially in developing countries and could solve a part of their problems or reduce them. It requires special programming and management to make familiar tourists with that village’s costume and culture in addition to seeing the natural landscapes. Therefore, they will interested in buying villagers' products such as handicrafts, local products, traditional dishes and so on and hence, increasing in villagers income directly or indirectly works in this industry.

Furthermore, building new hotels and restaurants and recreation and sports clubs through job creation will result in increasing the revenue and reducing unemployment and poverty.

Tourism is considered as a major and very effective economic factor in recent years and leads to economic development in some countries and regions. Various job creation and expansion of employment is in such a way that both unskilled and skilled workers could find a job there.

Special properties of tourism products in rural tourism provides the feeling of natural and human environment of rural areas for the visitors as well as opportunity to participate in activities, traditions and lifestyles of the people. Therefore, a rural tourism destination could be defined as a much boarder area in which natural environment, forest and cultivation is dominant and where there are special natural, socio-cultural and economic features such as traditions, local cooperation, trust and reciprocity. It is like a unique tourism product with small scale which is compatible with nature and in other words, it is stable.

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Hence, the rural living conditions have close relationship with traditional and romantic ideas, sincere and simple life, and a proper humanistic relationship with environment. Therefore, the nostalgia of the past which requires to improve the lost connection with nature on one hand, and very complicated and highly structured, anonymous (artificial), compact, stressful and inhumane urban life on the other hand will cause to pay attention to rural regions.

Kahak village

Kahak is the center of one of the sectors of Qom province named Nofel Loshato (Neauphle-le-Chateau) in the south of the province and the distance of the center of section (Kahak) to Qom is 37 km. Kahak sheriffdom has more than 70 years history and its population is on the second place right after the central part. It has two rural district (Kahak and Fordow) and 18 villages.

Kahak is almost a cold region with high humidity and rainfall and this causes the area to be green and fertile. Kahak’s winters are cold and with adequate precipitation of snow and in the summers, the weather is much more moderate than Qom. The difference between the highest and lowest points in Kahak is 29/9 M. (Fig.1)

Nearest weather station is in Qom which represents the average annual rainfall of 100 to 200 mm and maximum heat of 39/8 in August and minimum heat of 0/6 in January. The average annual humidity is 41/5% and in December with about 75/2% as maximum and in July with about 17/1% as minimum and maximum number of the frost days per year is 38 days. Only one trip to Kahak is enough to find out that its climate is different from Qom.

Kahak village has had a special type of sheriffdom that is not coordinated with other rural areas. It means that there was no boss “khan” there, and the decisions were taken by local chiefs of each region. Perhaps this kind of performance comes from the influence of great men lived there like Mulla Sadra. Three districts named Omran Abadi, Chale Hammam and Paeen Deh had shaped Kahak and each one had a chief and turning point was the decisions of each region and finally, they have consulted for overall decisions. Now, with the creation of community council of Kahak and establishment of sheriffdom in kahak, the decision making system has been totally changed.

Village building

Understanding the Kahak’s formation way during the history and appearance of today’s Kahak city require a look to the past. A city with great potential equipment which has great potentiality for development in tourism areas and is rapidly developing physically. In this part, urban structure, the main cores of Kahak and finally, development programs are studied in Hadi project of Kahak. Considering Kahak’s shape in 1967, it is determined that development process has passed its logical process and originality of building has been preserved during its expansion (Fig. 2)

Kahak’s building is composed of a series of parallel crescent-shaped networks which sub-routs have cut off them vertically. Unlike most of biological complexes which formed around a central building and grow as circular, the order determined in Kahak's formation process has
followed crescent route system which is the result of natural effects such as land slope and Kahak’s southern fault. It seems that the area where the comprehensive mosque and water restore and old cemetery are placed, are the oldest places. But there is no evidence about the existence of primary core in this place. A region that includes Mulla Sadras home, Agha Masjed, Agha and Esari which is at the end of one of these crescent shaped routs and this area as a garden was out of Kahak’s dense building (Fig. 3).

According to the present policies on the basis of centralization of Kahak and establishing welfare facilities, Kahak’s area has been almost twice the status in 20 years ago until 1987 and the shape of Kahak was changed by making new transition networks (Fig. 5).

However, Kahak’s building has been destructed so much, but the crescent form of original building is still recognizable and new networks try to make a kind of plaid context on the north side of Kahak which some of them are placed along the radial routes of old building (Fig. 4).

Since deciding forces deal with Kahak affairs without deep studies and quite superficial, in Hadi project of Kahak all mentioned valuable and traditional monuments of Kahak were marked as
destruction regions and buildings with bricks and beams were acceptable. It can be realized even by a glance that there are still traditional buildings like Mulla Sadra’s home which still remain even after about three hundred years but 30 years old metal buildings are getting destroyed.

**Mulla Sadra**

Mohammad Ebn Ebrahim Ebn Yahya Shirazi entitled as Sadrolmotealehin and known as Mulla Sadra is one of the greatest Muslim philosophers and scientist of the world in theosophy who was born in 1572 AD in Shiraz and had seven Haj pilgrimage during his blessed life that mostly went there on foot and he got sick on the seventh trip and died at the age of 58 (70 told by some others) in city of Basra and buried there (Sadra Islamic philosophy institute, 2010).

Mulla Sadra learned jurisprudence, psychology and Quran interpretation from Sheykh Bahaei and philosophy and mysticism from Mirdamad and syntax and nation science from Mirfendereski. Due to the scope and extent of scientific range, Mulla Sadra had great influence on his own future’s history (Mahdavizadegan, 2008).

The great philosopher like Mulla Sadra influenced science society and still influences and every thinker appreciates him. He with hard spiritual efforts could achieve great scientific rank and could turn a light on in the way of conduct to his God which enrich the mind and soul of every man seeking the truth.

**Mulla Sadra in Kahak**

By an overview on numbers, we could guess that 1020 AH was the average year that he has been in Kahak and since he was buried in Basra, his only trace in Iran could be found in his home in Kahak village. The place which led to creation of his greatest book and was also a place for students to be there and learn philosophy from him.

According to the written sources, the presence of Mulla Sadra in Kahak is clear but 4 walls in kahak which are famous as Mulla Sadra’s house are not documentary but the history of main buildings and formation of collections including Kuchak (small) mosque and quietness of location which was outside of rural dense context could be used as reasons for the presence of a noble character in this place and off course Mulla Sadra is the greatest one who had been resident there at that history.

Kahak village is located in a region in Qom that has the best climate of the region and different historical monuments could be observed in route of Kahak to Qom that shows the great capabilities of region to live.

To find Mulla Sadra’s house, it is just enough to go to the end of traditional building of Kahak. By approaching to this region, a prospect of a dome could be seen which is different from surrounding building. This building is located in a garden which is now occupied by neighboring houses.

The probability of Mulla Sadra’s presence in Kahak village is confirmed from investigated documents. The years of creation of his greatest logical and philosophical book “Asfar Arbae” is matched with his presence in Kahak. Therefore, we can not ignore the influence of natural environment of Kahak in fostering the spirit of Mulla Sadra and then the flow of his spirit in Kahak especially in his house.

**Reviving the rural building**

In these strategies which is based on conducted studies, the followings are suggested for modernization and rehabilitation of valuable rural building:

- The presence of valuable historical element (Mulla Sadra’s house) in pervasive realm of Kahak village, the rehabilitation and ordering of Agha Khan Valley and organizing the surrounding
space in respect to the regnant spirit pave the way to create the required facilities for residents in tourism field.

- The presence of wastelands in the valley next to Mulla Sadra’s house is a potential to make green spaces, culture and recreational centers, parking and so on which suffers from the lack of these facilities. The deficits can be reduce by rehabilitation and applied definition of tourism in this region.

- Taking advantage of the long history of people’s resident to revive the building and finally, to prevent migration of native residents by absorbing the participation of private sectors in order to invest on the improvement of the building.

- Ignoring the quality of the houses of studied area is one of the factors which led to migration of native residents. Rehabilitation and improving the quality of houses and visual views compatible with valuable houses is a way of taking advantage of appropriate function in order to establish more social interactions among residents.

**Conclusion**
Tourism is an activity that has influence on rehabilitation and resuscitation of monuments in different ways and is very important in economic, social, cultural and physical improvement of historical building. The direct relation between the rehabilitation of valuable rural building and rural tourism development is completely certain.

The truth is that the real solution for reviving and rehabilitation of rural building is to change a great part of it to tourism area by relying on valuable historical-cultural monument (Mulla Sadra’s houses). It can be done through considering three components:

A. global tourism (tourism attraction from other nations by proper investing and advertising).
B. Domestic tourism( encourage people to visit and stay in the studied area)
C. Urban tourism (encouraging Qom’s residents and religious science students of this city as one of the largest religious learning centers in Iran and short destination of this region which is about 37 km from Qom city could be the motivation of attraction of philosophical and religious students to Kahak and it is a suitable place for challenging the religious and philosophy teaching in today's modern world. Because this center could be a place to take influence from appropriate architectural space and flow spirit of Sadra in this region.

Kahak has a quiet and beautiful nature. Fresh water for drink and agriculture which has a better quality in comparison to Qom’s drinking water have made this area a good place for residents around there. But its development as a recreational and historical center of region acts as a kind of tourism attraction to attract tourist and investments.

**Recommendations**
Research’s suggestions has been offered in two sections according to the hypotheses:

**Rehabilitation of the building**

- According to the existing and limitation in conduct of rural affairs, rehabilitation activities in a pervasive form is done in a boarder level instead of insist on creating high quality on a special area of valuable rural buildings.

- Rehabilitation should not be done without considering people as a private issue and decisions could be made through consulting with people and local institutions and they should be aware of the results because they are the main users of projects and they have the right to be aware of the decision which is made for them. Therefore, using native knowledge, retraining and making this knowledge contemporary, using local materials, reproduction and making contemporary them, using rural potential forces and training them for the application of indigenous knowledge in rehabilitation process of valuable rural building are necessary.
Rural Tourism
- Field studies report low level of government’s budget and financial resources for tourism researches and changing attitude and behavior of government in this field is required for strengthening and expanding of this industry.
- Better appeal of global competitors is preventing the attraction of tourist and effort in recognizing the logical appeal fields to strengthening the industry is really necessary.
- Recognition and identifying new dimensions of tourism is necessary to attract different taste of tourists.
- Field studies show that advertising actions of the organization in attracting foreign tourists is poor and paying attention to customer-oriented is necessary. Yet, these actions should be managed and planed for all sections related to tourism by the organization.

References