

Reviewing the Public Participation Criteria in Traditional Cities: To Achieve Social Sustainability

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Abstract : Small fast-developing Iranian cities with a historical background have no defined criteria for their social sustainability. However, their traditional architecture is well-known as a socially and environmentally sustainable role model. In today's cities, citizens' participation has been considered an effective strategy to achieve social sustainability. By scrutinizing the extent and manner of public participation in traditional Iranian cities, taking Yazd's historical context as a case study, this study examines how these criteria can be applied to developing parts of the city. The paper first reviews the concepts, levels, and approaches of public participation to analyze different modes of citizen participation. Then, exploring social behavior and activities in Yazd, using the qualitative-analytical methodology, the paper compares diverse elements influencing participation with contemporary approaches. The findings of this study would lead to suggestions for the developing parts of the city to enhance their socially sustainable development.

Keywords : citizen participation, social behaviors, traditional city, built environment, social sustainability

Conference Title : ICDPOSU 2022 : International Conference on Design, Planning and Operation in Sustainable Urbanism

Conference Location : New York, United States

Conference Dates : August 08-09, 2022