

# Criteria for Determining the Center of Khorramabad City (With Emphasis on Functional and Identity Criteria)

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**Abstract:** *The central part of cities is one of the most important urban areas that according to the specific features of each city have features and functions at different levels of activity (urban and sometimes beyond) and are usually considered as the center of major urban activities. In this research, a framework consisting of historical factors, economic, social, traffic. Subsequently, by analyzing the various characteristics, the role of each of these factors is studied in the formation of the central sector and by overlapping the boundaries, the central area of the city Khorramabad is specified. The researches have shown that historical factors identity and economic factors have played a greater role in the city of Khorramabad. Also, the variety of functional and activities with a variety of functional (and metamorphic) levels is also the most important aspect of the central part of the city from other parts of it and its range in this respect is different from other parts of the city.*

**Keywords:** *City Center, Khorramabad.*

## INTRODUCTION

City centers are important from a variety of economic, historical, cultural, social and urban spheres. Each city has a history and record of the realities and abilities, and even the beliefs and attitudes of the people who founded that city, and preserved and restored over time. The central part of the city can be the basis for understanding the history, economy, culture, and art of their creators was considered (Khaksari, 2011). Urban centers play an important role in the overall urban environment, so that the role and function of each city can be clearly seen in Check its center. Accordingly, the central part of cities has always been considered in urban sciences, especially urban geography (Kazemian, 2007).

However, population growth and the development of urbanization have led to the expansion of urban areas around central and outlying areas and part of their functions outside their borders, reducing the importance of the former centers (which until then formed the main and major structures of cities But the importance of historical, cultural and urban centers of the cities and their ability to become the most attractive and diverse public spaces of the city, the need to study the central part of cities and identify the factors and factors affecting its formation and its particular definition It reveals various urban levels.

Accordingly, in this paper, by studying the theoretical literature, determining the factors affecting the explanation of the central part of cities, the role of each of these factors in the formation of the central part of Khorramabad city is analyzed and analyzed.

This study investigates and determines the central boundary of Khorramabad city with the assumption that "economic, historical and historical factors are one of the most important factors determining the central part of Khorramabad city".

#### **Necessity of attention:**

Urban centers, in addition to their economic function (as the main function) and the focus of activity and function of the city, are the areas of social interactions and cultural-historical identity of citizens, and therefore have a close relationship with leisure and leisure facilities and activities. The realization of this important factor requires the consideration of planning for social, cultural, value, economic and ... factors within the framework of sustainable development in the city center. Therefore, determining the city center range in order to properly plan for intervention in it is one of the important priorities of management in urban.

In Iran, due to various reasons (such as rapid physical growth, migratory influx, lack of planning and, most importantly, ineffective policies and procedures in dealing with urban centers, as well as disregard for the role of these centers in promoting social, economic, and physical identities. ...) Urban centers of most cities in Iran, including Khorramabad, have experienced problems. And sometimes it brings about a balance between social welfare and economic efficiency (in favor of economic efficiency) and, in general, a decline in urban quality of life. The city center, which is the heart of the city and the motor of each city Has a functional, functional, social and ... disorder and disorder.

#### **Theoretical Framework**

##### **city center:**

If we assume that cities are as living and living organisms, the central part of the cities will be their heart (Shokuwi, 2000).

The term "central part" of the city may in the first instance center the geometric and spatial center of a city, but due to the shape and spatial structure of a city, its center does not necessarily have its geometric and spatial center. Therefore, it seems that the city center has a functional-functional function, not just physical (Kazemian et al., 2007).

The city center is a cultural symbol of the big cities. Everyone from the center of the city has its own specific definition:

city heart, urban or regional center, central business district, and so on. Geographers use the term "central business area" to define the area that is the business center or the economic heart of the big city, with the highest rents and the most congested performance of business and business services (Pollack, 2006)

Friedman says: "Each geographic system consists of two spatial sub-systems: one center, the pioneering heart and the dynamism of the system and the other is that it can be considered as the rest of the system and is in a state of dependence and domination of the center (Papelli Yazdi, 2008).

Urban areas that have the same or varied users with urban or trans-urban performance are called city centers or centers (Nick Carr, 2005).

Therefore, in defining the city center, emphasis is more on physical, traffic and especially functional aspects.

In these definitions, the city center as "the most active neighborhood of each city" and a combination of administrative, commercial, artistic, and cultural centers of the whole city are "the social manifestation of all the people of the city" (Basirat, 2004).

In general, according to the definitions given in this research and the wide semantic scope of the city center, and the necessity of considering the practical aspects of the "city center concept", the following definition for the "city center" is the subject of this research and is the basis for studying it:

"The city center can be defined as the central part of the city - not necessarily in its geometric sense - which is the major part There are also activities and economic interactions of the city, and in addition to being the

basis for the occurrence and formation of collective memories and the tumultuous social presence of all the people of the city, historically (sometimes) is the initial destination of stagnation and urbanization, and somehow markers The identity and character of the city."

**Table 1:** Main Concepts Related to the City Center

Definitions	English equivalent	Related concepts
Smaller than the central area of the city, it includes land with the highest value, the most intensive construction expansion and the highest concentration of pedestrians and cars.	City core	The core of the city
It is said that part of the city is the focus of the buildings of the city administration and sometimes cultural and recreational centers. The center is usually located adjacent to the city's commercial center. The city's civil center is built and used to show the nature of a city beautifully for public activities.	Civic center	Civic Center or City Center
This particular term is used by the United States to name the commercial area or downtown of a city and is expanding into the urban literature of other countries.	Down town	Old Town Center
This term represents the business and business district of the city. This is a district center of the city with the highest user focus on business applications and other related applications. The commercial center of the city is usually the highest commercial density, the highest commercial building density, the highest value of land, the highest traffic density and pedestrians.	Central business district	City Business Center
The area is near and adjacent to the city center, which has suffered from burnout and physical, social and economic deterioration due to certain population movements. This area is home to social strata with low incomes, rural origin and, most importantly, a lack of sense of belonging to the place.	Zone in transition	Inner area of the city or area in transit
It is used to describe a number of buildings that are dedicated to public use, such as a library, meeting room, shop and school located in a small town or village. Sometimes it is used in the concept of construction that is made for all kinds of social activities and is different from the civil center of the city. The social center does not serve the whole city, but just satisfies the necessary needs.	Community Center	Local Community Center

Source; extraction and compilation from various sources (Shabibamanesh, Basirat, Shokouie, Kazemian, Nikkar, Mahdizadeh and ...).

Based on this definition and according to the studies and experiences, the most important features and characteristics of the city center can be summarized as follows:

- The most important or at least one of the most important urban elements in the development and development of the city.
- City centers accept social tasks as the main public arena of the city and the place of social relations in the city.
- In the central part of the cities, there is a collection of memories and a valuable public sphere familiar to the inhabitants of the city. (Tallon, 2004).
- The central part of the cities has an important economic role and perhaps the most important and most important function of the central part of the city is its economic function (Bastia, 1998).

- The importance of the economic function of the central part of the city is such that even today, despite increasing employment in the suburbs, many CBDs still have a high concentration of employment, which indicates that economic gatherings (the benefits of aggregating economic activities) are still important in some markets (Voith, 1998).
- The central part also plays an important historical role, so that in most cases the central part of the present day cities is the same core and its historical center, and the changes of each city can be searched at its center.
- The population density in the central part of cities is maximized at certain times of the day; that part is naughty at night. (Shakibamanesh, 2008).
- The traffic function of the central part of the city is another important function of the central part and features. The main feature of the city center is its accessibility. This feature is the most important factor affecting the spatial decisions of users of the city center (Kazemian, 2001). This capability attracts and deploy various activities to the city center.

It is noteworthy that the importance of Shahr's center is not due to the gravity power of those subjects, which is more than anything dependent on its communication and multifunctionality.

Accordingly, it may be possible to focus on the city center due to the concentration and accumulation of a large part of human, social, economic, historical, cultural and physical resources of the city in its limited space, the heart and development engine of the city (Shakibamanesh, 2008).

Therefore, in order to determine the city center, according to the considerations and specific conditions of each city, the criteria and indicators related to it should be used. Accordingly, according to the set of theories and studies, in order to identify and determine the central zone of Khorramabad in the present situation, four major criteria have been introduced and are the basis of planning.

- Historical and Identity (the core of the city, the staggering of the historical expansion of the city, the elemental elements, etc.)
- Functional and economic (city market, focus of business units, activities of financial institutions, insurance and social security, employment density, variety of economic activities)
- Socio-demographic (growth rate, population density in certain hours of the day)
- Traffic and Traffic (number of intra-urban trains, ease of access, traffic jams, density of inland urban transport stations).

In the next step, in order to introduce the final range of the center of Khorramabad city, the following process has been used:

**Figure 1:** The process of determining the center of the city of Khorramabad

## **The Methods**

The method of this research is descriptive-analytical. So it was done to do it:

Documentary study: This approach was used to deduce the main concepts, theoretical models, main variables and specific documents and information in Khorramabad city.

Field study (field observation and surveying): This study has been used to study the central part of the city according to the identified factors and the resulting indicators.

According to the four indicators mentioned (historical and identityeconomic, functional-social and demographic-traffic), and in order to apply the above-mentioned criteria in practice, using the proposed indicators, the functional ranges of each are introduced, then combined with Mapping different maps of the central part of Khorramabad city was determined and the role of each of these factors was explained in the formation of this part of the city. It should be noted that the required information is obtained through the information of the comprehensive plan and field observations of the detailed plan and the analysis of land use map of Khorramabad city.

### **Physical development process:**

In almost all historic cities such as Khorramabad, the city center is largely in line with or at the core of the city's primary fabrication. In other words, the study of the physical development of the city and the spatial structure is carried out with the aim of identifying and locating the central area of the city around it.

Khorramabad city is the capital of Lorestan province in western Iran.

### **Map 1: location of Lorestan in the Iran**

The total area of the city is 4100 hectares. The natural habitat of Khorramabad city is a form of valley with a northern-southern direction in the Zagros Mountains. This feature, along with the city's communication status (located in the north-south link of the country), has a significant impact on its physical development orientation. Is.

The richness of water resources in the natural habitat of the city includes rivers of Kraganeh and Khorramabad, as well as numerous springs facilitating its housing needs.

This city, like any ancient city, has undergone different stages of development. In general, the origin and development of the city of Khorramabad and its economic social and physical-spatial changes can be influenced by two main origins of the city's deployment, that is, geographical and historical factors (natural valley And its fossil fortress and Falkal- Aflak Castle) and the strategic position in governing and monitoring the region.

The development process of Khorramabad city after the Islamic Revolution has had a major impact on the extensive migration of villagers and tribesmen. On the other hand, the existence of suitable villages for urban development in the direction of the development of the city of Khorramabad, such as Masur, Espestan, Falakdin and ... are other important factors in the development of the city.

**Analysis of findings:**

**Functional criteria:**

The city center is the focal point of activity focusing on the activities of the third sector (services). In other words, it can be said that the role of the central area in the city's economy is particularly significant in the market functions and supporting the production, such as the main retail market, financial services, and banks and administrative units.

The distribution and distribution of user friendliness in the city illustrates the following:

- The central area of Khorramabad city with its axes and activity zones is considered to be the main activity center in the city (with the functional level of the trans-city). These axes have a high concentration of activity, which also affects the surrounding axis of the surrounding area. The activity of specific activities in the central area indicates the attractiveness of the scope for attracting such activities.
- In the further expansion of activities, the southern axes (especially the Alavi avenue) and the northern (mainly Enghelab avenue) also occupy another part of the activities (often with the district and regional services)
- The main feature of Khorramabad's functional function is its linear pattern, concentration of activities and uses (in the case of a visitor with a transactional level of performance) in the body of the main axis of the city as well as important urban nodes (Imam Hussein Square, Imam Khomeini, ) And the old city texture range. Major activities with a transactional level of performance (including commercial, health services and physicians' offices, law offices and registries, and financial institutions and banks) have been deployed in the body of the city's major business activities.

**Map 2:** Map of major activity axes

**Map 3:** Map of deployment of major activities with over performance functional level

- The area of the Qi field is an administrative core with urban and urban performance, following the expansion of the city boundaries (and the need for more office space) due to the limited space of the central section, as well as the requirements of urban development plans, part of the central departments of the province Have been moved to this area.
- Other sectors have less activity than the abovementioned areas, and often activities with regional and neighborhood activities are formed in a combination of housing and its impact on these areas.
- The distribution of specific activities in the central area indicates that parts of the city are particularly attractive for certain activities. In other words, certain areas of the city while having diverse activities, but some Activities that are overcome. Activities that often require a high threshold of population and require special conditions such as high availability, the need for adjacent proximity activities with high profitability, etc. In addition, some of these activities It is a type of luxury and specialized activities that are not located anywhere in the city. This is due to the multifunction al nature and the capability of the central section to attract various activities, as well as the privileges and facilities that this range provides for different uses.

**Map 4:** Map Distribution Map of Business Activities in the Central District

- The establishment of a large part of the city's activities in the historical boundaries of the city indicates the high importance of the historical factor in the formation of the central part of the city as well as its ability to attract and concentrate various activities in the later stages of urban development. Relative adaptation of the central part of the city It is well documented by the city's historical boundaries.
- In this area, more than 45% of all city-based activities, more than 53% of the total business (wholesale and retail) of the entire city is based.

- **Demand-Social Criteria:**

Almost all urban centers devoted to commercial, financial and administrative activities, on the other hand, are faced with a lack of integrated and unitary planning, with a reduction in the population living side by side, and an increase in the population employed or utilized. Accordingly, in order to diagnose City center based on demographic criteria, the following indicators were planned:

**Population growth rate:**

The annual growth rate of the population is usually negative in urban centers. Central areas of the city, which coincide with the activity centers, they have a negative growth rate. It should be noted that parts of the southern region of the city also have a negative growth there are different conditions with the city center (the center of activity).

The expansion of the zone with the negative growth rate of the population in this map, in addition to the limitation of the physical development of the city center, can be attributed to the increase of labor centers and economic activities, the tendency of management and urban development to the suburbs, as well as relative weakness and deficiency in the center of the city.

**Distribution of population:**

Map also shows the distribution of population density in Khorramabad city in the year 90, indicating that the total density of the population in the city for 2011 is about 85 per hectare. According to the above-mentioned map, the areas around the central area are more than the population. In other words, the tendency toward Living in these areas is higher than in other parts of the city. Although the central areas (often the major centers of activity in the city) have had a negative growth rate, they still retain an important part of the city due to their proximity attractions (identity, access to services and transportation facilities, and proximity to activity centers) Are in place.

**Map 5 :** Map of the number of population growth rates in the area

**Map 6:** Map of population density in the areas relative to the average density.

- **Press center of work and activity:**

One of the results of a combination of activities and actions is the reduction of the distance between the centers of work and activity from residential areas, because development approaches from within, focusing on the mixing of activities, try to optimize the use of space and reduce the distances.

The main functional center of the city is linearly in the range of "market to martyrs square" and the easternwestern streets around it, which has been drawn through the bridge of martyrs to Motahari Street in recent years. The measure of distance to kilometer and the distance between the center of gravity of each neighborhood is considered relative to the center of gravity, range of work and urban activity (martyrs square). With this view and as it is clear in the plot of the plot 1, the farthest distances from the city center are the neighborhoods located in the northern and southern part of the city (neighborhood 9-24), and the smallest distance is from the neighborhood 5 where the martyrs' area .Gradually, as distances from neighborhoods from the city center, distances from the city's operational center have also increased.

**Diagram 1:** Diagram of distance from the center of work and activity

The attraction of the population in these areas is well illustrated by the importance and status of the mentioned boundaries in the city. The change in population density at certain hours of the day, although it is itself due to other factors, can make the position of private places more prominent in the minds of citizens and even become a factor in attracting more activities to them. . The city's social ceremony, especially in the castle of Falak al-Aflak, has also highlighted the importance of this part of the city.

Typically, areas with a higher stationary background have a higher level of service.

These areas are typically formed in the primary context of towns and in the boundaries of them. - Area coverage of the total area of the area this indicator also indicates that the higher the ratio, the more daily visits to these areas (from other areas of the city) is higher. In other words, the population of the exploiters (non-residents) will be higher and indicate the level of service of these areas (Diagram 2).

**Diagram 2:** Diagram of Area-to-Area Surface Area Ratio Chart.

The area of the green field and the fortress of Falak Olafalak and its immediate spaces (as the center of social ceremony) of Kiv Square and green space and its eastern side as the main open and recreational place in the city, high social spaces Khorramabad towns are closely related to their surroundings and the city as a whole, and their social function has shaped these ranges along with its other functions.

Summarizing the analysis of these cases, ultimately, the demographic range of the downtown of Khorramabad is presented in accordance with Map 8.

- **Huite and Historical:**

The identity of each city owes its city center. The central role of the center of the city is more than anything else due to the existence of historical and cultural works and sources that somehow relate to the collective memories of citizens. Regarding this, one can observe the concentration of resources and historical and cultural influences in the core of Khorramabad city. The existence of monuments that have a strong connection with the history and past of the city has given it a special identity. One of the most significant and most prominent cultural and historical affairs of the city of Khorramabad is the "Falak Al-Falak Fortress", which is located on the outskirts of the city center, the hill is glaring.

**Traffic and displacement criteria:**

The city center is the focal point of all inland urban traffic systems, and the measurement of the role of the city center as one of the criteria for its determination has been used here (Tarhokavosh, 1989).

One of the indicators used here is the comparison of the rate of travel attraction to various urban areas. The map shows the number of charts of sorted trips to different urban areas. This map clearly indicates that the area 11 indicated in this map - whose boundaries correspond to the east and south of the Khorramabad River, north of Gandaramri Street, and west to the streets of 17 Shahrivar and Hafez - compared to other areas of Khorramabad, It has the most attraction of trips in terms of walking and riding, and in comparison to these two types of travel, attraction of rides is significant. In the case of pedestrians, 22 percent of the uptake of infantry trips, the most popular in all parts of the area, is in the central area of Khorramabad.

The result of this is the high traffic volume in the area and also becoming the most accessible area of the city. The study of traffic factors in relation to other factors shows that the streets with the highest traffic volume are the same streets that have the most concentration of activities and especially important economic activities. The streets of Imam Khomeini, Shohada and Motahari are in fact the same streets. Which shapes the main structure of the old parts of the city and most of the activities are located in the corpses of these streets

**Map 7:** Map of functional area of Khorramabad city.

**Map 8:** Map of Khorramabad Population Zone.

**Map 9:** Map of the historical area of Khorramabad city.

**Map 10:** Map of the traffic area of Khorramabad city.

**Results of application of four indicators:**

Comparison of the zoning of the indicators and the introduction of the final range of the city center:

In order to identify and determine the different districts of Khorramabad city center based on the various suggested parameters, the spatial unit is used for statistical blocks of Iran's statistical center. Accordingly, the results of the use of these indicators have introduced certain zones as functional areas and it is obvious. The boundaries resulting from these factors are overlapping and differentiating in some ways, but are concentrated and relatively in line with the limits of historical factors, that is, the historical core of the city and the primary boundaries of urban development.

- **Comparison of the indicators' zoning and the introduction of the final range of the city center:**

At this stage, in order to reach the common area of Khorramabad city center, the four criteria criteria are compared. In this comparison, the common range of functional criteria as well as demographic as a range of other areas was considered. However, zoning according to other criteria also confirms the functional and demographic (employment) of the city center. Therefore, although the boundaries resulting from these factors are overlapping and differentiating in some ways, they are consistently and relatively in line with the limits of historical factors, that is, the historical core of the city and the primary boundaries of urban development. Finally, the city center of Khorramabad has been introduced as follows:

North - Revolution Bridge Bridge and Agricultural Garden.

South - Coastal Street.

West-Agricultural streets, Guards, and part of the city's legal area.

East-Sahel Street.

**Map 11:** Map of the central zone of Khorramabad city

**Conclusion**

Urban centers as the most important urban element in the history of cities encountered profound changes in their social and economic dimensions. Nowadays, urban centers, in spite of their specific characteristics, have different characteristics depending on the specific conditions of Harshahr.

These centers, in addition to their original function (as the focal point of the city's activity and function); play a central role in the emergence of social interactions and the manifestation of collective memories, as well as the crystallization of civil life and the social identity of the citizenry.

In Khorramabad, in spite of the impact of a set of historical, economic, traffic used factors on the formation and explanation of the central part, this section is faced with the overwhelming overlap of some activities, as well as overlapping historical and economic factors. Khorramabad City Center (Especially after the comprehensive plan of the late 60's) has suffered decentralization. This area has played an important social role and has gained a certain status in the city from a spatial perspective. The set of these factors gave this section of the city a special functional diversity and made it an almost definite area in the city and distinguished it from other parts of the city.

The formation of the central part of the city is the result of a set of historical, identity, economic, demographic, and traffic factors. Nevertheless, the historical factors (due to the relative alignment of the central part with the historical boundaries) and economic (due to the concentration of economic activities with the superficial functional level has a more significant role, and this feature provides an opportunity to strengthen its functions. But what matters to each of these factors is the extent to which each of them has a central role in shaping it and the effect of each of them on other factors

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