

TOURISM IN BORDER CITIES: CASE STUDY FROM IRAN

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Abstract: It is necessary to have the knowledge of places and a logical, strategic, and practical view toward their future. Since spatial developments on a macro-scale in political, environmental, physical, social, and cultural dimensions can have different influences in a long-term perspective, the present study was carried out in accordance with the world's effective approaches and the current situation of Iran and the region. The aim of the present study was to examine the primary factors affecting the promotion of tourism level in the border town of Piranshahr. In this regard, the present study was a descriptive-analytical investigation including a questionnaire which was conducted within Delphi model framework and software analyses. Afterwards, following dialog and consultation with the elites and academicians in the form of a research panel on urban issues, 40 individuals were chosen as the statistical population, and 39 variables were identified as the study's primary variables in the form of 8 general categories. For the working process of the primary variables, crossover influences were described within a matrix framework in futures study MICMAC Software. Afterwards, the statistical population was required to use the level of influence – direct, indirect, or potential dependence – in order to evaluate the variables in the range from 0 (no influence) to 3 (very strong influence). The results of 2 repeats of data rotation indicated that the fit index of the obtained model was 96.52%, which shows the high level of influence of the variables on one another. Moreover, based on the results of the present study, the index of strategic situation of the town and being located on the border (R) with a score of 114 had the strongest level of direct influence. Finally, by taking into account the recognized key driving forces, desirable, middle, and disastrous scenarios were proposed.

Key words: tourism, border, border towns, Iran

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, tourism as one of the largest and most profitable sectors of the global economy has a special place in human societies and plays an effective role in promoting the economic, social, and political structures of countries particularly in developing countries. Meanwhile, developing border tourism as one of the internationally essential dimensions is highly significant especially in countries like Iran which has numerous tourist attractions (Ghaderi, 2007, p. 13). Achieving this important factor and its benefits requires planning which should be based on a realistic view in order to manage the interaction among the main factors of tourism development (tourists, the region, and destination features) in border areas (Alvani & Pirouzbakht, 2006, p. 112). In this regard, geographers and urban planners pay more attention to degree of permeability, boundary influences on patterns of spatial interaction (flow of goods, people's thoughts and movement, relation of place to place and people to place), and the attitude of the border residents (Higham & Lück, 2002, p. 35). According to the estimations of World Tourism Organization, the total number of tourists in 2020 will reach 1,600,000,000 people (WTO, 2004). The importance of this statistics will be clear when we come to know that regarding growth indices, Iran experienced a growth of 10% in 2014 compared to 2013 and placed fourth in the world (World Health Organization, 2015).

According to what has been announced, although Iran tourism growth is double of that of the average global rate, Iran's share of world tourism does not even reach 0.5% (Tourism of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2015). In the Sixth Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran however, the government considered an annual growth rate of 15% for years 2015-2019, so that a total number of 13 million tourists and 10 billion dollars can be obtained (Kheirollahi et al., 2016). As a factor beyond an industry, tourism is a dynamic global and social phenomenon (Elliott, 2002). A phenomenon whose integrated mechanism takes different shapes in different places and times can have different influences (Zahradníčková & Vacík, 2014). Such a concept involves various sections and acts in a framework of totality and a system of different components (Gunn & Var, 2002, p. 34). Therefore, understanding the exact factors and analyzing this phenomenon along with futurism and proper strategic vision can be highly useful, and due to this important issue, benefits can be obtained from tourism economy by identifying important factors and their influence on "tourism planning", determining short- and long-term goals, and adopting tourism development strategies. With regard to strategic planning, since futures study has features such as logical decision-making process (Jimenez, 2013) and determining how to proceed toward appropriate future (Gates, 2010, p. 3), it highlights the necessity of paying attention to this thought more (Kabberger, 2002). Therefore, the main aim of the scenario is to promote the efficiency and quality of planning in uncertain conditions of the future (Rahnama & Mahrufi, 2015, p. 56; Wack, 1985, p. 140).

Piranshahr has a special geographical position and various attractions and capacities; therefore, it can be proposed as one of the tourism hubs, particularly commercial and natural tourism, in the northwest of Iran. According to what mentioned above, the present study was aimed at identifying effective factors in tourism of Piranshahr based on analytical scenario-planning model in order to examine the factors affecting the development of tourism in Piranshahr, methods and strategies to develop based on the capacities of the region, and prioritize the obtained strategies using MICMAC Software. Therefore, the present study is important and necessary because tourism futures study is a process of regular attempt in good urban governance, aimed at obtaining sufficient understanding of strategic research fields (Heydari et al., 2016). It was also aimed at practicing a wise spatial management in order to include the public interest of the citizens, impose minimum damage to the urban environment, and propose

proper border tourism scenarios by taking into account a model of democratic and ecosystem management. In this regard, the present study proposed a type of creativity and innovation in the field of proper management and strategic planning by taking into account sustainable urban development with an emphasis on futuristic and environmental aspects in tourism of border cities. The present study was a part of geographical and urban planning research. In order to explore the issue, the objectives of the present study were as follows:

- Identifying primary effective and key factors in developing the tourism of the border town of Piranshahr

- Evaluation of the potentials of border tourism in Piranshahr

- Converting weaknesses to opportunities usable in the field of urban tourism

- Proposing approaches that are based on futures study of border tourism.

Theoretical framework

Urban tourism

Tourism includes 29% of services all over the world, and it is sometimes considered as the first important source of foreign income in developing countries (Pour Ahmad et al., 2016). Nowadays, the concept of tourism is not like the past and its economic aspects are paid more attention to. Since tourism is a money-making activity and creates jobs, it can bring money to a country (Lita et al., 2014). Tourism is in fact a mixture of different activities that are carried out in a chain form to provide tourists with services (McIntosh, 1998, p. 9). Urban environments all over the world were among the most important tourism attractions for many years. Urban tourism is a type of tourism in which the citizens who are interested in different attractions spend a part of their free time in such places while they are walking in the city (Higham & Lück, 2002). The main motive in launching and boosting tourism in every urban region especially in developing countries is promoting the criteria of life quality and achieving a sustainable income for local communities (Khoshkam et al., 2016). Tourism of border towns can provide the grounds for this important issues in sensitive areas by increasing the people's income in tourism destinations (Lee et al., 20013).

Tourism planning

Tourism is one of the main activities to support the economic sectors and accounts for 9% of gross world production (WTO, 2010). It has remarkably developed over the recent years. Due to the benefits of tourism, different countries are trying to establish the grounds to take advantage of the positive aspects of this industry by providing and valuating tourism attractions in capable areas (Rosentraub & Joo, 2009, p. 759). In this regard, specific plans are required in order to create natural, social, economic, historical, and ecological potentials to motivate people to travel (Ștefănică & Butnaru, 2013). Therefore, by utilizing appropriate views and identifying advantages and limitations, planners try to establish grounds for success of tourism centers in response to the tourists' desires on the one hand and modification of host regions on the other hand (Royo Vela, 2009). It should be based on a type of planning that leads to selection of strategies which bring about success if conducted correctly and timely (Hasangholipour & Aghazadeh, 2005, p. 65). The significance of tourism in the present era is more dependent on its economic cycle, and it is highly important in dynamic local and international economy (Lee & Chang, 2008, p. 180). With regard to tourism of border towns with its high potential, urban management should respect the local people's measures and methods in the form of a professional approach to urban development, because a sustainable strategy cannot be actualized without local participation (Nana Ato & Victor Mensah, 2006, p. 299). Therefore, using a comprehensive democratic approach and by considering environmental and spatial conditions, it seems necessary more than ever to create a proper and logical futuristic plan.

Border towns and tourism

Borders as special geographical areas lead to compatibility and consistency of economy in convergence among countries. They are essentially considered as moderate areas for domestic and foreign markets and regarded as the main convergence center for the region in a geographical aspect (Niebuhr & Stiller, 2002: p. VI). Strengthening tourism in border regions not only accelerates non-oil exports but is also useful in economic growth and development of the region. Also, it greatly helps job creation in the region; in addition to direct employment, a large number of people will have an opportunity for indirect employment (Pourbodaghi, 2000). In general, urban tourism takes place with some main motives and aims which are very different and include: business and culture (Low, 1996, p. 670). In sensitive border regions, these aims can lead to expansion of peace and stability, increased security, and improvement of infrastructures and services needed in urban areas (Roknadin Eftekhari et al., 2009, p. 83). Luis Worth (1938) believed that division of specialized work increases with market growth, and not only can cities have different economic functions, but some special cities can also specialize in producing products that bring about huge benefits. Therefore, their markets convert from their local form into a national and finally an international one (Darkosh, 2009). Tourism economy in border towns can lead to economic progress and development of the areas around them, improvement in standards of people's lives, decrease in poverty, appropriate distribution, creation of more friendship, and acceleration of more cooperation among border regions (Chandoevrit & Srawooth, 2004: p.145). Since joint border markets are among the major factors that revolutionize border towns, they can boost the economy of the border regions, and tourism develops and finally more economic growth is achieved as a result of activities in border markets, which lead to economic growth and urban development (development of cities)(Edwards et al., 2008).

Table 1. Existing views on the role of the markets in the economy of the country

Views	Reasons
Overall denial view	The activity of border markets does not follow the regulations governing the country's exports and imports. There is a lack of controlling and monitoring the method of activities, and these factors cause the trend of exports and imports to exit their normal channels
Corrective view	They lead to relative mobility of the economies of the regions and border areas. Relative flourishing of the economy of the border villages A factor to create employment and prevent the evacuation of the border areas and maintain the population
Supportive and reinforcing view	The positive role of the markets in decreasing deprivation from border regions and their economy They want to boost the markets regarding the number, the level of exchange, and provision of more discount and facilities to such markets Completing the utilities and services of the markets, the possibility of obtaining interest exemptions and custom duties to establish regional balance

The scope of study

As the political center of Piranshahr County, Piranshahr is located in southwest of West Azerbaijan Province, 12 km from the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Iraq (The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq). This town shares its borders with Oshnavieh and Naqadeh from the north, Sardasht from the south, and Mahabad from the east. Based on the Population and Housing Census of 2006, its population was 59,721 (Iran Statistical Center, 2006). It increased to 91515 in 2016 (Ibid, 2016).

As seen in Figure 1 above, Piranshahr is limited to Haji Omaran Mounts as the border from west and southwest. On the other side of these mountains is located The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, and Tamarchin Border Market is located at the

zero point of the border. Moreover, Sardasht and Naqadeh are respectively located in the north and south of Piranshahr (Rahnama & Sharifzadeh Aghdam, 2018). Having a special strategic and geopolitical situation in the northwest of Iran and being adjacent with north of Iraq, Piranshahr has proper and easy access to Turkey via Oshnavieh.

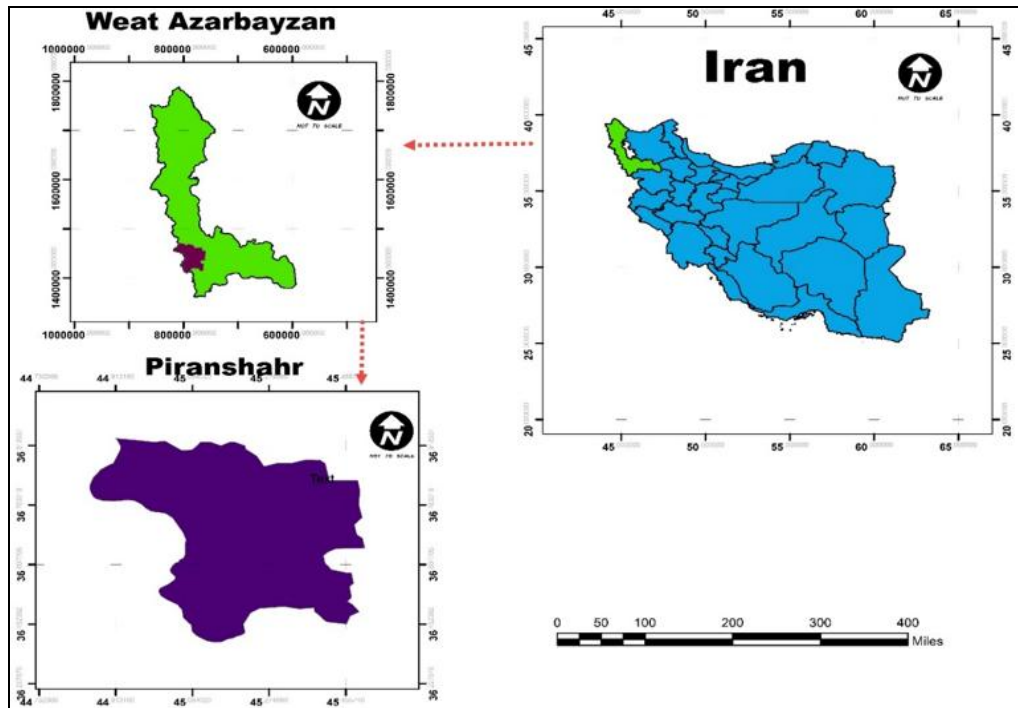


Figure 1. Geographic location city of Piranshahr

Moreover, locating on the Zagros mountain range, being foothills, having good and clean climate with excellent environmental conditions, jungle and natural resorts, and pristine and unique nature, and a variety of plant and animal species have enabled Piranshahr to include various tourist sites and elements such as business tourism, ecotourism (such as permanent water-rich rivers, water-rich springs, dense and lush oak forests), historical places, cultural elements, presence of traditions, unique traditional clothes of the citizens, and local music. Quantitative and qualitative diversity and variety of foreign goods in 20 malls and possibility and ease of exchange of goods and currency with foreign countries such as China, UAE, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria lead to absorption of tourists from the surrounding regions and central Iran. Furthermore, entrance a large number of resident of The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq to Piranshahr with their private vehicles, existence of the official customs of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the border, and transport on the road to economic progress in Iraqi Kurdistan over the recent decade have intensified the desire of its citizens to travel to this part of Iran. The newest developments in the region include construction of some large dams with high reservoir which can boost the potentials of the region if exact planning is made.

METHODOLOGY

Planning and management have lost their traditional meaning in today's complex and fast societies. A new science called futures study has emerged over the last two or

three decades. Instead of linear and definite planning, it tries to achieve a united future in order to open a broader horizon to many kinds of possible proper futures for human by searching in the extensive unknown facilities of human and technology. Therefore, the concept of planning gave its place as following the past or predicting the future to the concept of planning to make the future or future making (Mahdizadeh, 2010, p. 12).

Once a border region or line is created, it can not only consider the natural landscape as a part of it, but also affect the architecture and policies of the neighboring countries (Prescott, 2014) the significance of simultaneous use of futures and scenario study approaches in tourism studies of border towns seems necessary. In fact, development of futures study can create more hope for more cooperation in order to overcome the barrier to sustainable development and creation of a better future for border residents (Mahdizadeh, 2010: 54). With regard to its objectives, the present study was an applied one, and regarding its method and nature, it was descriptive-analytical. It was an attempt to utilize futures study within the framework of indices and effective factors in the tourism of the border town of Piranshahr in order to analyze political and social developments in both micro and macro scopes. In so doing, documentary studies and questionnaire were utilized within the Delphi model framework and scenario software. Since an applied plan is considered in strategic studies in order to achieve long-term goals of the government with regard to the method of receiving tourists given the environmental potentials, obtaining sustainable tourism in urban environments requires experts and elites with appropriate level of knowledge about the environment. Therefore, data collection was based on documentary and survey methods, and the statistical population was consisted of both authorities and elites, respectively 23 and 27 people. The sampling method was purposeful and non-randomized. Participants Delphi model is as follows.

Table 2. The field of expertise and level of education of Delphi Participants

Degree of education	Number	Specialist field	Number
Diploma	6	Urban planning	14
Masters	10	Tourism Geography	8
M.A	12	Sociology	6
Ph.D.	17	Urban Management	10
Ph.D. post	5	Political science	7
		Spatial planning	5

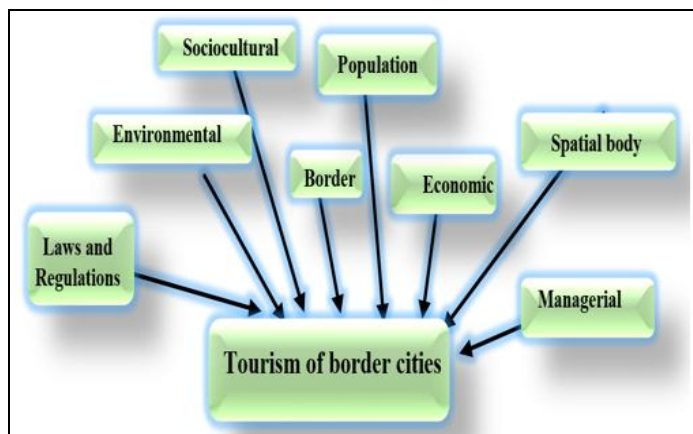


Figure 2. Identified indices of tourism in border cities

Identifying the primary indices and forming the crossover matrix

Classifying the factors affecting urban tourism in the border town of Piranshahr was carried out within an $n \times n$ matrix. In so doing, 8 main classifications of variables (as shown in Table 3) along with 39 of their subsidiary variables were discovered as the study's primary variables after different dialog during meetings with the academicians and the executive and the elites as civil institutes, which finally led to a matrix with dimensions of 39×39 . After all subsidiary variables were identified by forming the crossover influences matrix in the next step, the elites were required to evaluate the variables in question based on the level of their influence. In the end, the variables were scored from 0 to 3 based on the intensity of their influence and P according to their potential influences. According to the results presented in Table 3, it can be stated that the fit index obtained for the variable shows the Table of 96.52% by 2 times data rotation in the software, which shows the high coefficient of the selected variables and factors' influences on each other. This shows the fit and efficiency of the study instrument and affirms the necessary accuracy in reliability of the results of the software and the appropriateness of the questionnaire and the collected data. According to the results presented in (Table 3), which are calculated based on the value of 1468, in the primary matrix of crossover influences evaluated by elites and experts, 923 cases with the highest statistical volume had strong effectiveness. Moreover, 355 cases were evaluated to have moderate effectiveness, 94 cases weak influence, 53 cases no influence, and 97 potential effectiveness.

Table 3. The properties of the primary matrix

Matrix size	39×39
Repetition	2
Number of zero's	53
Number of ones	94
Number of twos	355
Number of threes	922
Number of Ps	97
Total	1468
Filling index	96.51%

Direct influence-dependence matrix and distribution of indices

According to the status of the indices and the sum of the obtained values presented in the table above, the variable of “the strategic border situation of the town” (P₅) with a score of 114 had the strongest influence coefficient on the other variables. Moreover, “neighborhood with The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq” (P₃) with a score of 109, “Tamarchin border exchanges” (P₁) with a score of 104, and “Water and agricultural and environmental activities” (V₄) with a score of 104 had great influences. The weakest level of effectiveness was related to the variable of “The feeling of belonging based on the fact that the citizens are immigrants” and “Favorable elements based on urban environment”. Therefore, it should be stated that the weakest level of being affected was related to the variable of “Construction of the equipped stone factory in order to make optimal use of stone mines especially black granite stones to export to foreign markets”. The following figure shows the influence-dependence graph as Figure 4. In this figure, the direction of the influence in each group from one group on the other group is indicated with arrows, and the level of effectiveness is shown using numbers on the arrows.

Finally, the key factors can be extracted and ranked based on the topology of the variables (Figure 3). In analyzing the influence-dependence matrix, attention should be paid to the spatial arrangement and dispersion of tourism indices in the border town of Piranshahr using the futures study model within the framework of Figure 5.

Table 4. Primary classification of direct influence-dependence matrix of tourism in the border town of Piranshahr

#	Classification title	Index	Variables	Effectiveness	Being affected	Signs
1	Managerial components	W	Presence of expert and experienced managers and use of expert planners and counselors	92	98	W1
			Educating and clear informing (urbanization culture) through the municipality	83	83	W2
			Coordination among governmental and non-governmental offices and organizations and the municipality	83	84	W3
			The citizens' awareness about the responsibilities and performance of the municipality and city councils	84	85	W4
			Development of foreign and environmental economic diplomacy	93	86	W5
2	Economic components	V	Investment on and improvement of the infrastructure of the town	90	92	V1
			Presence of industrial workshops (factories, industrial town, etc.)	91	94	V2
			Customs facilities and services	98	89	V3
			Facilities to control and transfer water for agricultural activities and completion and construction of irrigation and drainage networks	104	96	V4
			Conversion industries to convert agricultural products of the town into products with high added value	95	91	V5
			Development of technology in order to reduce environmental costs	91	98	V6
			Construction of the equipped stone factory in order to make optimal use of stone mines especially black granite stones to export to foreign markets	87	76	V7
3	Environmental components	E	Paying attention to climatic comfort	94	93	E1
			Presence of natural landscapes such as tall mountains, valleys, caves, mineral water springs, etc.	96	91	E2
			Fertile agricultural lands for gardening and planting agricultural products especially sugar beet	95	97	E3
			Passage of rivers on two sides of the town	81	86	E4
			Changes of frosty and hot days	91	92	E5
4	Environmental regulations and laws	F	Development of laws related to protection of the environment of the urban region	100	99	F1
			Assessment of the expenses of destruction of the environment in the town to construct dams	92	95	F2
			Cooperation with international institutes within the framework of the climate conditions	103	83	F3
5	Population Components	N	The citizens' and immigrants' behavioral pattern in the urban environments	99	89	N1
			The feeling of belonging based on the fact that the citizens are immigrants	90	90	N2
			Imbalanced distribution of population in suburban and urban environments	83	92	N3
			Pressure on environmental resources especially in suburban areas (lands ending in villages of Shinabad and Zidan) and lands of constructing Soghanlou Dam	83	96	N4
6	Physical-spatial components	M	Organic and unplanned urban development	83	101	M1
			Physical-spatial design based on the urban environment	88	86	M2
			Nonstandard density of residential units and population	88	81	M3
			Physical-spatial justice in accessibility	95	97	M4
			Favorable elements based on urban environment	76	92	M5
			Commercialization of land and residential units and pressure on resources	85	87	M6
7	Sociocultural components	O	Using sociocultural capacities in urban environments	95	99	O1
			Organizing sociocultural laws within the framework of educating the citizens and authorities in order to revive and protect urban places	94	100	O2
			NGOs and development of urban environments	78	94	O3
			Social morality and responsibility with regard to protecting the urban environment	60	80	O4
8	Border	P	International exchanges of Tamarchin Border market	104	93	P1
			Incoming and outgoing passengers	92	100	P2
			Neighborhood with The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq	109	98	P3
			The level of exports and imports and transits	108	98	P4
			The strategic border situation of the town	114	92	P5

The pattern of this dispersion has a direct relationship with stability and instability of the tourism system of Piranshahr by a futuristic approach, such that in stable tourism systems along with possessing indices with strong effectiveness, variables have a normal distribution on other levels of the graph (having determinant, double, risk, goal, regulatory, independent, and second lever variables). On this basis, in instable urban tourism systems, distribution of the variables is not normal, and most indices have either up or down skewedness. Therefore, according to Figure 4 and the conducted analyses, it can be concluded that the capacities of urban tourism have a good status by regarding the influence-dependence graph, but they have an instable status in the current situation, which can be due to the policies that have indirect influences on this situation, such that all of the variables in question were different regarding the effectiveness and being affected, and their number is among the determinant factors of the changing graph, which can be an indication for progressive changes and developments (Figure 4). According to the results presented in the influence-dependence graph, they can be indicated as Figure 5. In this figure, the effectiveness of each group of the variables on the other ones is indicated with arrows, and the level of effectiveness is shown using numbers on the arrows. Finally, the key factors can be extracted and ranked based on the topology of the variables (Figure 3).

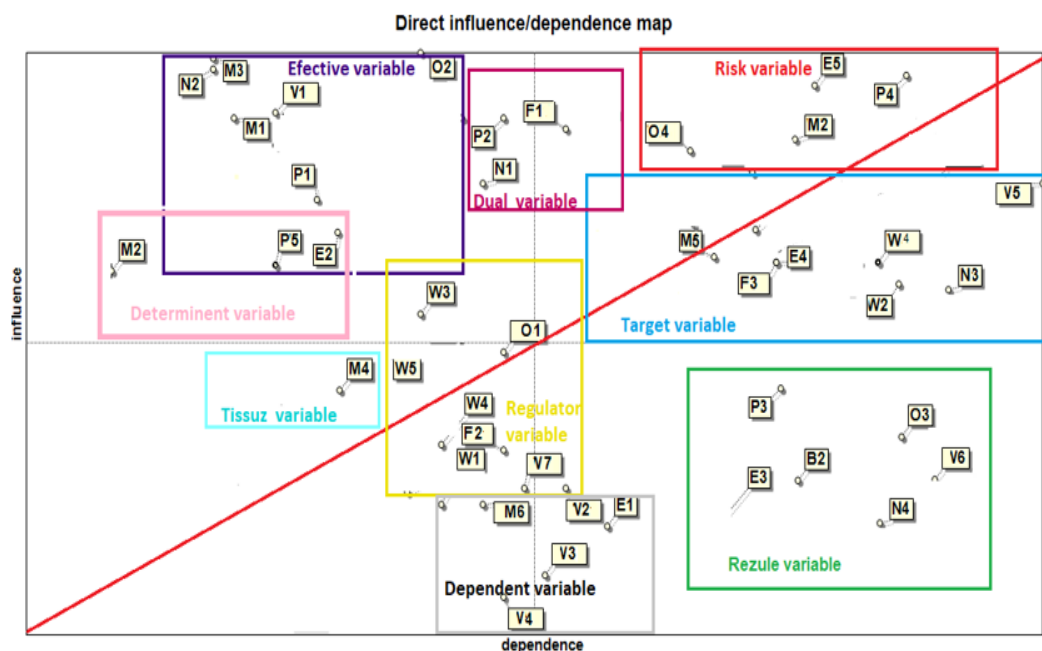


Figure 3. The graph of direct influence-dependence analysis of the tourism variables in the border town of Piranshahr

Indirect influence-dependence matrix and distribution of indices

The level of the influences is through exponentiations 2, 4, 6, and so on of the data obtained from the direct influence of the variables. Within an argumentative and comparative framework, it can be stated that based on the data obtained from analyzing the level of indirect influence of the variables on each other, the status of the tourism system in Piranshahr is appropriate. As a result, positioning and distribution of the variables show different influences of the variables. In the first status, most variables have a double condition and nature. Such variables are very effective and highly being affected

at the same time, they are also very likely to change in the near future, such that distribution of the variables is around the diagonal line in the northeast above and southeast below this section, and the variables have a double nature. Such variables are very effective and highly being affected at the same time, and due to their instable nature, they intensify the primary influence, because any action and change in the role or influence on tourism leads to a constructive or destructive change in other variables in Piranshahr. Therefore, the influences of heterogeneous management and inappropriate distribution of population and construction of dams on effectiveness by other variables can be seen, and the changes in the border and its subsidiaries can easily be understood, which have a transient influence. Moreover, among the variables presented in Figure 4, it should be stated that the index (the strategic border situation of the town) with a total calculated row value of 952023 has the highest level of indirect influence on urban environment within the framework of futuristic approach. Moreover, the variables of the strategic border situation of the town 913192, neighborhood with The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, the level of imports and exports of goods and transits, international exchange of Tamarchin border, and facilities to control and transfer water for agricultural activities and completion and construction of irrigation and drainage networks had the highest coefficient of indirect influence on other variables (Table 5).

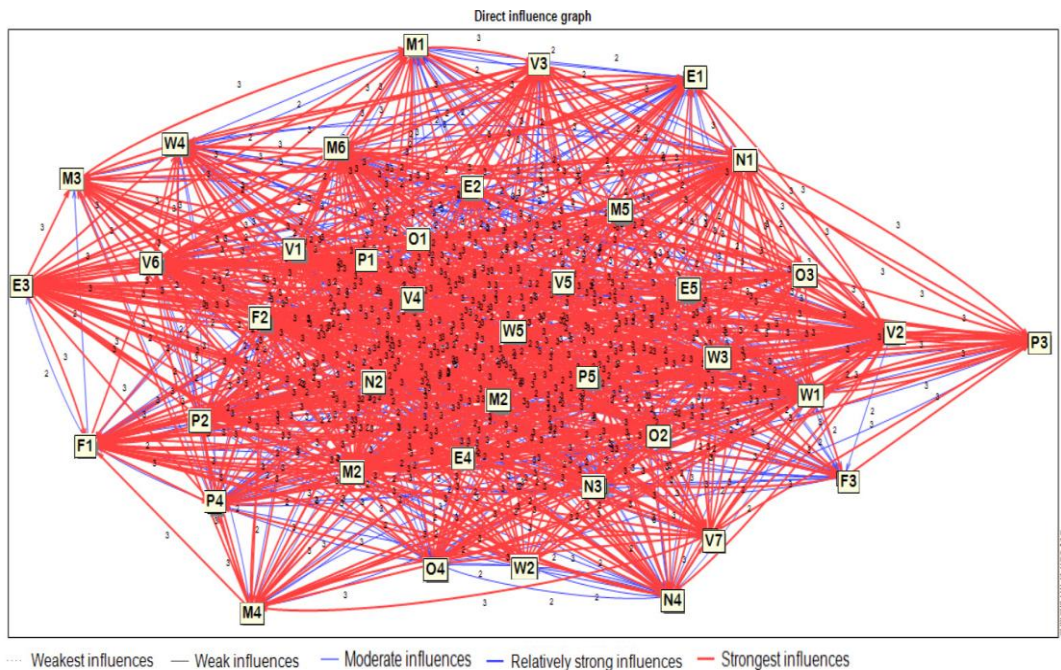


Figure 4. Direct influence-dependence analysis of tourism indices in the border town of Piranshahr

According to the results presented in this “Table” and “Figure” 1 to 6, the key driving forces can be presented as in Table 4 with regard to effectiveness and being affected. In this regard, based on the total 39 analyzed variables, 10 key driving forces can be presented from most to least important, respectively (Table 6).

Production of tourism scenarios in Piranshahr by a futuristic approach

Based on the total approach governing the study, it can be stated that after the 39 final variables were identified, they were evaluated and ranked by the elites and executive

managers within the framework of the key assumptions of border tourism with futuristic approach. Finally, 8 variables were presented as the (direct and indirect) key effective factors on a spectrum from highly important to relatively important and important, as indicated in Table 5, which were utilized as a basis for developing the study's scenarios. Here, since some indices of the study were close to each other, they were used as a complementary variable in the process of planning the scenarios. Moreover, in order to complete they requirements of presenting the scenarios, some indices were added to the previous list and utilized in the process of presenting desirable, middle, and disastrous scenarios.

Table 5. The variables of indirect influence-dependence matrix of tourism in Piranshahr

N ^o	Variable	Total number of rows	Total number of columns
1	Expertise Management	783001	821138
2	Education and information	701000	700707
3	organizational cooperation	705595	709047
4	Citizens information	708551	716004
5	Diplomacy Project	784707	731449
6	Infrastructure improvements	762139	778113
7	Industrial workshop	763284	790794
8	Customs service	823960	749333
9	Installations conveying water	873420	807243
10	Alternant industries	804333	768542
11	technology development	759783	821515
12	Associated with the construction	745386	648855
13	Climatic comfort	797715	782841
14	landscapes	810378	771031
15	Agricultural and cultivation fields	806825	816021
16	Crossing of the river	689268	729559
17	Change the days of glacial and heat	771188	773320
18	Environmental legislation Codification	836199	829044
19	The costs of environmental degradation	809481	776510
20	International organization cooperation	861560	697803
21	Pattern of behavior citizens and migrants	827117	748774
22	The lack of a sense of place	756844	755455
23	Uneven distribution of population	703273	781503
24	Pressures on environmental resources	687841	806327
25	Unplanned Urban Development	699009	850658
26	Physical and Space design	750839	729762
27	Non-standard residential units density	737092	681949
28	Justice of physical - space	794475	814470
29	Desirable elements based on the urban environment	647807	776014
30	Commercialization land and residential units	718019	737855
31	Utilizes the social and cultural capacity	798190	831954
32	Organizing rules of socio-cultural	787557	837227
33	NGO and development of urban ecology	647440	791430
34	Social morality and responsibility feeling	511162	676738
35	International border exchanges	870542	782625
36	incoming and outgoing passengers	772146	838514
37	Neighborhood with the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq	913192	819114
38	Amount of export and imports of goods and transit	902522	822925
39	The strategic location of the city border	952023	772700
	Totals	3570	3570

Since the periods of strategic planning include short-term processes of 5 to 10 years, middle-term processes of 10 to 20 years, and long-term processes of 30 years, the present study used a period of 15 years to develop the future studies pattern of border tourism in Piranshahr because the present study had an applied nature. Afterwards, based on (Table 6, 8) factors and 32 states were supposed for the four presented scenarios which were proposed on a spectrum from the most desirable to the most disastrous within the framework of desirable, middle, and disastrous scenarios. Therefore, obtaining any of them requires development of specific strategies which will lead to conduction of the most unfavorable scenarios if they are not actualized. As a result, given the comprehensiveness of Wizard Software, only the scenarios are presented in Table 7.

Table 6. The key driving forces affecting the tourism status with a futuristic approach

Key factors with an indirect influence	Abbreviation	Key factors with a direct influence	Abbreviation
Strategic situation	RY	Strategic situation	RY
Neighborhood with the Kurdistan Regional Government	UL	Neighborhood with the Kurdistan Regional Government	ME
Trading the border goods	ME	Trading the border goods	UL
Dams and water transfer	EE	Population and immigration elements	PM
Urban management	CP	Environmental factors, climate, and beautiful scenery	OT
The rate of exports and imports	UD	Modern technologies	NT
Population and immigration elements	MP	Urban management	EP
Environmental factors, climate, and beautiful scenery	OT	Dams and water transfer	EE
Modern technologies	PM	NGOs and development of urban environment	CP

Table 7. The status of the key driving forces in the border tourism of Piranshahr in the next 15 years

Desirable scenario	Disastrous scenario	Middle scenario	Key factor
Strengthening the ties between Iran and the Kurdistan Regional Government, independence of the Kurdistan Regional Government from Iraq, and development of international ties through Tamarchin Border and increase in transit	Disruption of the relations between Iran and Iraq, closure of borders, pressure of border residents, and militarizing the region	Conversion of the Kurdistan Regional Government into a state, Iran's pressure on the borders, and restriction of relations between Iran and the Kurdistan Regional Government	International diplomacy management
Essential attention to the climatic and environmental element, climate changes affecting the quality of urban environment	Increase in construction of dams and destruction of agricultural lands and change in the region's climate	Construction of a dam appropriate with Piranshahr and consideration of environmental conditions	Environmental technology
Using expert and experienced managers and counselors and expert local planners familiar with the region	Strengthening the centralization view and using unqualified people appropriate to the positions and marginalizing the local people	Strengthening the decentralization view and increasing people's participation at all levels and creating equal opportunity to take part in planning	Democratic and meritocratic and specialist management
Facilities to control and transfer water for agricultural activities and completion and construction of irrigation and	Constructing dams merely to transfer water to other cities/towns and failure to complete	Finishing the dam constructing and a balanced and sequential trend	Facilities of water control and transfer

drainage networks, and using the region's natural potentials	irritation projects for the region's people		
Unequal distribution of population in suburban areas and inside the town and increase in pressure on agricultural lands around the town	Continuation of the unfavorable current status	Boosting small towns and villages around Piranshahr and creating jobs in them to prevent immigration growth	Imbalanced population distribution
Organic and unplanned urban development and mismatch of the uses	Continuation of the unfavorable current status	Following the sustainable development principles	Physical development of the town
An increase in social mortality and feeling of responsibility regarding protection of urban environment, formation of NGOs	Preventing the development of NGOs and oppressing the people's sense of cooperation to manage the town and protect the environment	Continuation of the current enlightenment and slowly boosting the people's mentality regarding the nature and an increase in the level of awareness about decrease in destructions	Comprehensive protection of environment
Using the natural and historical capacities in developing and boosting tourism of the region	Continuation of the unfavorable current status	Change in urban management and more active emphasis on the future opportunities	Capacities of tourism development

CONCLUSION

Borders as gigantic coordinators can motivate the managers to think deeply, predict, and foresee the far horizons through mutual integration. Therefore, in order to develop such a horizon, close attention needs to be paid to the mutual relation between development and tourism including the role of people, economy, and so on, in order to provide the border residents with better conditions of living using a comprehensive trend to increase human-social capacities to respond to the needs of human communities in a spatial scope. Economy and attraction of commercial tourism in border regions, main indices in establishing the relationship among neighboring countries, families, and people residing the border regions are not only economic development engines but also centers for cultural innovation, social developments, and political changes. Here, scenario planning and creating a regular and systematic method can be used to determine the key driving forces within all changes, complexities, and sensitive uncertainties, and urban governors can obtain an understanding of real current situation and an attitude toward the developments through time and explore the conditions in the future by referring to unexpected events in the future and understanding their probable consequences.

In fact, development and correct execution of scenarios can guide the managers to carry out the plans. Based on what was said, the importance of strategic planning to develop tourism is felt more than ever. In general, if we have a principled attitude toward the variables and the subsets of the above indices and the outputs from MICMAC and scenario writing, we can refer to the importance and highly efficient role of the international border of Tamarchin and the strategic situation of the region and development of foreign exchanges and appropriate environment in developing the region's tourism. Although the variable of integrated urban management in the border region can be a strength in intensifying tourism industry in the region, it has been a threat to its development over the last few years due to lack of inefficient management.

Finally, it can be concluded that the present study could be carried out with the highest level of validity and reliability with regarding its analyses, which has high infirmity with the stated realities regarding border tourism in Piranshahr, and exact outputs within the framework of strategic and futuristic studies confirm this reality.

Moreover, analysis of the collected data remarkably confirms the point that tourism in the border town of Piranshahr has a semi-stable status, such that continuation of the present status will lead to formation the scenario of disaster, and in the best condition, if the present status continues, the tourism of the town will remain the same without any change or exchange of goods. Therefore, in addition to taking into account other conducted tourism studies, the present study revealed new and strategic dimensions in the framework of utilizing the approach of border town tourism.

By taking these factors into account, a more sustainable tourism can be created, which is an issue that would be not accounted in other geographical and spatial studies. In the present study, sustainable border town tourism approach, indices like “variables of urban, social and cultural management, various urban and economic-natural ecosystem in urban areas, and population and immigration and border factors”, and the model of future studies of MICMAC and analysis of crossover and strategic influences were utilized in order to develop a desirable model to show the developments in the tourism of the border town of Piranshahr. Therefore, the indices affecting tourism in Piranshahr were determined within the framework of a 39×39 matrix, 8 general categories, and 39 subsidiary variables. Afterwards, the results of the matrix of analyzing the crossover influences were calculated by giving them weights (from 0 to P).

Based on the calculated value of 1468 in the primary matrix of crossover influences by the elites, 922 cases with the highest statistical size had the highest influence, which shows the willingness of the elites toward high valuation among other variables of the study. Furthermore, this point covers high potentials at a high scale to boost the environmental indices in Piranshahr, such that a relatively desirable status of distribution of tourism variables can be shown only by applying risk and double indices on the distribution graph of the indices. Within the framework of the above results and based on the table of development of the scenarios, the subsets of border index, integrated and efficient management, management of water control and transfer, and dam construction are the most important understandable items in terms of obtaining desirable and middle scenarios by a futures study approach. In this regard, the results of the present study is capable of being executed, writing scenarios, and guiding in order to improve the correct tourism management within the framework of structural planning although the empirical results of the present study show the compliance between theoretical results and analyses carried out by the elites and tourism status of Piranshahr.

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