

The Role of Religious Tourism on Urban Development & Infrastructure in the Historical Centers of the City (Case study: Boshruyeh)

Hossein Balali¹ , Ahmad Esteghlal^{2*} 

¹ Department of Geography and Urban Planning, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Islamic Azad University, Iran.

² Faculty of Art and Architecture, Yazd Branch, Islamic Azad University, Yazd, Iran.

*Corresponding author: Hossein.balali59@gmail.com

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Abstract:

Aims: The aim of this research is to investigate and identify the key factors influencing religious tourism in historical cities, with a focus on how these factors can contribute to urban development. Specifically, the study seeks to explore the role of historical centers in increasing tourism in a sustainable manner that benefits both the local community and future generations.

Methodology: This study employs a comprehensive methodology that includes the use of a detailed questionnaire and analysis of recent scholarly articles. Data collected from these sources are analyzed through thematic analysis using MAXQDA software. The research also involves mapping the relationships and influential variables related to religious tourism and urban development, emphasizing variables such as cultural sensitivity, educational campaigns, community involvement, and transportation systems.

Findings: The findings highlight several critical factors affecting religious tourism and urban development, including cultural sensitivity, awareness campaigns, community engagement, and transportation infrastructure. The analysis shows that leveraging historical centers can significantly enhance tourism growth when these factors are prioritized and managed effectively, leading to more sustainable urban development.

Conclusion: The study concludes that historical centers have substantial potential to boost religious tourism and support urban development. By focusing on key variables identified through thematic analysis, such as cultural sensitivity, education, community participation, and transportation, urban planners and policymakers can maximize the benefits of tourism while minimizing negative impacts, thereby fostering sustainable development in historical cities.

Keywords: Tourism, Religious Tourism, Urban Development, Urban Infrastructure, Historical Centers.

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1. Introduction

Dysfunctional urban areas are parts of a city that are not developing as fast as other parts, and they are cut off from the normal growth and changes that happen in a city. These areas often have many problems and shortcomings. However, even though they face many challenges, they still have a large number of people living there and also

hold potential for future growth and development. The lack of proper planning and economic opportunities has led to some areas being left behind, with limited access, unstable conditions, and poor infrastructure. These issues, along with a decline in social and economic life and physical disorder, have made the urban environment worse. This has made it even more important to focus on these areas and work to improve them [1]. Usually, cities

grow outward by building new structures on the edges. Because people care about their quality of life—like quiet, clean air, less noise, and less traffic—the middle and wealthier classes are moving to the city's outskirts. This movement has caused the city centers to lose population, and the area there is now filled by people with less money. Because of this, city planners focus a lot on using empty spaces in old areas and making the most of existing public things like roads and utilities. Urban planning has started to focus on infill development as a way to bring life back to neglected parts of the city. This type of development helps make cities more compact and improves the look and feel of urban areas. Infill development is seen as a way to stop the spread of cities and make neighborhoods more lively and dense [2].

Religious travel has been one of the three most important tools in city development in many cities throughout the world. Pilgrims and, as such, visitations to these religious sites therefore imply growth in both economic development and infrastructural development in the surrounding places. This inrush, therefore, opens up businesses for the local populace and ends up providing jobs for them. Many cities have therefore learned to capitalize on religious tourism as a stable source of income for urban development. Not only was the preservation and promotion of the religious sites attracting tourists, but it also enhanced the cultural identity of these urban areas. Religious tourism acts as a means of re-enlivening towns and boosting the economy of the entire city [3].

Religious tourism, with proper planning and investment, can be the catalyst for sustainable growth and development. Interchanging religious tourism has a positive impact on urban areas; the preservation of religious heritage, involvement of communities, and improvement in cultural exchange go hand in hand. Religious tourism contributes to boosting the local economy but also enhances interfaith understanding and tolerance between and among the religious communities. This therefore impacts socio-economic development and cultural development in urban areas. Similarly, the cities should keep on investing in the preservation and promotion of the respective religious sites so that the full potential of religious tourism for sustainable development and growth can be exploited. Hence, by balancing delicately between the economic benefits weighed against the cultural heritage, cities can ensure that religious tourism remains a sustained positive force for communities [4].

Religious tourism affects urban and economic development in different ways in different parts of the world. For example, studies conducted in India have shown that religious tourism, in addition to providing income and employment, helps to promote cultural coexistence between pilgrims and local communities. Also, in Indonesia, religious tourism is known as a tool to preserve and revive cultural identity and strengthen urban infrastructure [5].

The worn-out and old textures of the country's cities, which often form the core of those cities, are considered part of the cultural and historical heritage of those cities, and their preservation, physical improvement, and functional empowerment are inevitable. On the other

hand, most of these textures over time lack proper attention and maintenance, they suffer from physical and functional wear and tear [1].

Achieving sustainable tourism development depends on three approaches: holistic, holistic and egalitarian. The first view holds that development is sustainable when viewed in a political, economic and ecological context. The second approach is considered estimating the current needs of tourists, the host community and at the same time protecting the environment and preserving equal opportunities for the future. In the third approach, intergenerational equality in the use of facilities and resources is considered [6].

Other successive areas of research include how religious tourism plays a role in development and infrastructure related to urban historical city centers. This holds a singularity in potentially shedding light on the controversial relationships between religious tourism and urban development, including infrastructure in historical urban centers. These relationships are to be understood as enabling policymakers, urban planners, and local communities to revoke or invoke suitable programs for the management and preservation of such sensitive areas. Hence, research assumes great importance in this regard. Mostly, these historical city centers are rather ecologically fragile ecosystems that have to achieve a fine balance between preservation, conservation, and economic development. On the one hand, it allows for enhanced revenues, the creation of jobs, and cultural exchange, while on the other, it results in congestion, noise pollution, and the erosion of cultural heritage. It needs a great understanding of the dynamics at play to strike equilibrium between these competing interests.

Aside from the economic and environmental legacies, religious tourism can also realize very serious social and cultural results in terms of urban development and the infrastructural survival of historical city centers. Involving improved community participation, better social cohesion, and progressive cultural exchange, such outcomes arise. Research work such as this one would lead to a nuanced understanding of how religious tourism plays its role in such cities and influences the urban fabric and citizens' lives. It is demanding to have studies create a local empirical base, more so against the backdrop of religious tourism that is growing at high speed worldwide. Current tourist flows demand ever-increasing respect for processes of data-driven decision-making, paying respect to the particular needs and queries of every local community. This may provide useful tools for better managing this complex phenomenon, which is essential to sustain tourism, by studying religious tourism in the process of development in the city and the urban infrastructure of historic town centers. Therefore, what religious tourism can represent with regard to developing and structuring historical city centers is an open question within the complex interrelationship of economic variables, social, cultural, and environmental factors. This would result from painstaking research and attempts to ground the phenomenon in local contexts, which would foster better understandings of how religious tourism is reshaping the urban environment and inform policies for sustainable development in a framework that balances economic growth with the preservation of culture. Thus,

research is needed on the role that religious tourism plays in urban development and the infrastructure of urban centers; it will make better decisions and management practices to get truly sustainable outcomes in cities everywhere.

Moreover, the theme of research in regard to the issue is also very important, which includes economic benefits: Religious tourism offers great potential economic benefits to cities by providing employment opportunities, rising revenues, and foreign exchange earnings. Researching the effect that religious tourism has on urban development can help policymakers devise strategies to maximize these benefits. Culture Preservation: City centers are flavored with a number of cultural heritages and religious sites that have to be preserved and conserved. Religious tourism's role in such regions may well be studied to come up with effective cultural preservation strategies that can maintain the latter but still ensure the achievement of this economically.

Urban Planning: The impact of religious tourism on urban infrastructure, such as transport systems, housing, and public services, is very serious with the influx of tourists. Cities, having comprehended the effect of religious tourism on urban planning, can help in setting up more sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

Community Engagement: Religious tourism can be either very positive or negative for the local community. If it can be more vividly studied, the role performed by religious tourism in historical city centers will be clear on how to really diffuse community and social cohesion.

Connecting religious tourism to sustainable tourism: In the case of rapid growth in religious tourism, it compromises the sustenance of sustainable tourism practices. Research on the role of religious tourism in urban development and infrastructure would inform strategies for reducing the impact of tourism on the local environment and community. Governance: Governance, through effective management, is one of the key factors in addressing the effects of religious tourism on urban development and infrastructure. This can be achieved by assessing the extent to which better governance strategies are influenced by government organs, local authorities, and community groups in the management of religious tourism. Infrastructure improvement: Increased religious tourism calls for infrastructural facilities, which broadly cover transportation, accommodation, and facilities.

Research in this field of infrastructural development can also help ease religious tourism with appropriate investment choices. Heritage conservation: Most of the historic city centers encompass calm cultural heritage together with religious sites that are under conversation and restoration. Therefore, studying religious tourism together with its roles will help develop ways of balancing heritage conversation needs with those of economic development. Tourist Satisfaction: Numerous studies conducted on tourist satisfaction have been very instrumental in designing efficient marketing and management strategies. Typically, it helps to understand tourist needs and preferences, which is vital in enhancing the visitor experience. International Cooperation: Religious tourism requires cooperation between countries, governments, and agencies. Analyzing the research related to the role international cooperation plays in the

facilitation of religious tourism may establish the basis for stronger collaboration. innovation of research and identification of study gap: The current research was conducted with the aim of investigating the role of religious tourism in urban development, and there have been fewer studies in this field so far. There is a lack of studies on this issue, especially in identifying the effects of religious tourism on cultural identity and intercultural interactions of host communities. By analyzing this issue, this research tries to provide a new and practical approach for religious tourism management. Figure 1 shows all the cloud code of this study, which was prepared using MAXQDA software.



Figure 1. Research cloud code (Authors)

The main assumptions of this research are as follows:

- 1- Religious tourism can act as a tool for developing sustainable urban infrastructure.
- 2- Local community participation and awareness through educational campaigns help to preserve cultural identity and reduce social tensions.
- 3- Integration of environmental and cultural considerations in religious tourism planning will lead to long-term sustainability in these areas.

2. Literature review

Urban Tourism and Its Impact on Cities:

This might be related to the situation of gentrification and people being displaced as a result of the rising price of property and rents [7]. This may lead to the loss of community-identifying features as well as cultural heritage. The prices may surgently rise, too, together with other things, which will affect the rent. Thus, the community-identifying features and the cultural heritage are lost [8]. Therefore, policies which seek to encourage the promotion of sustainable tourism practices would have reduced the negative impacts of urban tourism. This would mean the loss of community identity and cultural heritage [9]. Condemning such scenarios through the adoption of such policies as the measures for affordable housing, control of short-term letting, and investment in projects for the development of the local community should take effect. In this manner, it would be possible to reconcile all the pros of prices and rent soar. More sustainable and responsible tourism [10]. Preservation of local culture and heritage. Balancing growth of the economy with the well-being of people in the community:

policies that are making urban texture for more sustainable practices in the tourism sector and, therefore, will work a fine balance of the benefits of high prices and rents. It preserves local culture and heritage as well, hence making more sustainable and responsible tourism [11].

The theory of responsible tourism shows that the participation of the local community in the development of tourism can lead to the improvement of the quality of life of residents and, on the other hand, strengthen intercultural interactions and the preservation of local values [12]. Sustainable development means appropriate and efficient use of resources in a way that not only meets the needs of the current generation but also does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to use these resources. In the context of religious tourism, sustainable development is promoted by promoting the responsible use of natural and cultural resources that help sustain tourism and protect the environment [13].

Cultural identity is the set of values, beliefs, and local traditions that come down through generations and are considered to be any society's cultural identity card. Since religious tourism opens a space for cultural and social interactions amongst diverse communities, it really helps preserve and strengthen cultural identity in order to give the next generation an advance transmission of its local value system [14]. Religious tourism projects in the city of Mashhad in Iran and Mecca in Saudi Arabia were in a position to attract millions of tourists, develop infrastructure, and create jobs within the community. Secondly, the extension of the public transport network and an increase in urban services related to these areas do show that religious tourism does have a positive effect on the development of infrastructure and economic welfare within the host community [15].

This can instill a sense of pride or ownership in the community residents due to knowing that they have to preserve those things that set them apart. At the same time, it also reduces the negative effects that tourism has

on the environment through pollution and rapid development, among others [16]. This the cities can do by responsible tourism that doesn't hurt the former, while at the same time supporting local economies to improve opportunities for small businesses. It's been mentioned above by [17] that sustainable tourism is not only going to provide well-being to the residents by reduced overcrowding and improved quality of life, it will also enhance a sense of community pride and interrelatedness between and among the residents [13]. These sustainable tourism practices also further help to create a more vibrant and diverse local economy, creating employment and benefiting wonderful artisans and businesspeople [18]. This will, in a long-term projection, warrant an ability for visitors to experience the city in all of its raw character, since so much of it is unique and uplifted to uplift visitor experience. It would also save the natural beauty and ecosystems in the city, which attracts many eco-tourists. Well, this sustainable tourism practice might be well able to provide some limited but long-term economic benefits to the city by creating a positive image effect on this city that would attract more tourists over a longer period of time [19]. Moreover, sustainable tourism characterized by mutual respect for each other's culture may make cultural interchange or understanding possible between tourists and local members of the community. Not only will it provide a more enriching experience visiting places, but it also lets the tourists get in touch with local people who will see more of the city they visit. It can also help toward the preservation of the historical as well as the cultural heritage of city places, saved or left for the future generation, as it enables the adding up of goals for the sustainability of the city as a whole [20]. In this regard, through sustainable tourism, awareness among the public and their education about environmental conversation and cultural preservation can be increased [21]. Figure 2 fully lists all the sustainable urban development variables that are examined in this study.

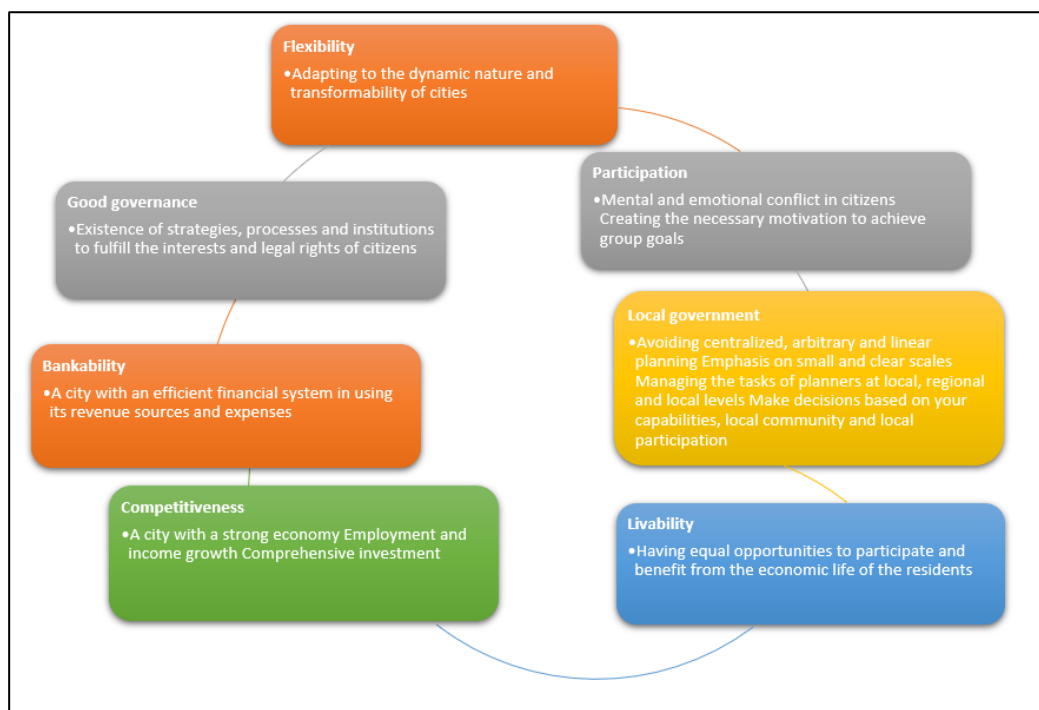


Figure 2. Variables of the Sustainable urban development

Necessity of Urban Development:

Urban development refers to the growth and progress of an urban area. In other words, it's the procedural development of infrastructure, houses, and facilities against the increased human needs. It requires proper planning, sustainability, and integration among mediators to make the city grow in a sure and effective manner. Urban development does not merely enhance the quality of urban living by providing improved infrastructure and better services but generates job opportunities for its subjects and is an economizer as well. It favors environmental sustainability with the absolutely necessary green spaces, minimizes pollution, and massively improves efficient transport systems. The city can therefore be much more resilient and adaptive vis-à-vis challenges thrown by a vigorously changing world. Urban development is just but one of the various facets that go into planning a city; it is very important to pay much attention to such aspects in order to give communities blooming and sustainable lives. In essential terms, urban development is very vital in being able to satisfy desires and necessities of the ever-growing population, so as to establish livable and prosperous cities within the future [22].

Advantages of Urban Development

The contexts highlighted above are summarized by stating that urban development is principal for growing and continued prosperity in the cities. It should be ensured that the city adjusts to the changing needs of the population and the environment but, at the same time, promotes economic growth and sustains the environment. By doing so, a city is capable of surviving and becoming competitive in a globalized world. Investment in urban development enhances the livability of the concerned city and attracts investments for growth, hence creating a more vibrant and resilient urban scape. Urban development gives spaces to social interaction among residents, hence increasing social cohesion and community engagement. This will therefore establish even closer relationships and a sense of belonging among the residents, thus forming a cohesive and united community [23].

Besides, urbanization can drive sustainable economic growth while generating jobs for reduced levels of unemployment experienced by people and thus in return improving the economy at large. Improved infrastructure, for example in transport systems, improves public service provision and offers better living standards for citizens. In a nutshell, urban development is therefore of great importance to the sustainable and prosperous future of cities [24]. by the end of the day, urban development will have decided the future of cities in respect to economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social cohesion. It is therefore indispensable in making cities able to adapt under conditions altered by changes in citizens' needs or the environment while bagging economic gains and environmental sustainability. Strategic urban planning will make cities in the world increasingly competitive and supportive of growth. Strategic city planning gives places the potential to create bases for growth and sustainability. The development of these areas is an investment for the future, which will be full of prosperity and well-being that

comes together with protracted conditions in which residents can live, work, and enjoy a sustainable urban setting. It is only in the process of constant cities' development; urbanization, too, will occupy a central influencing place in the cityscape, with a consistent elevation of city sustainability into the long run [25].

Urban development should be aimed at inclusive growth, with equal distribution of access to resources for all strata of the population, irrespective of social-economic status. Looking ahead to the near future, sustainable urban development will involve strategies related to smart growth, promoting efficient land use planning, and community engagement in development projects. Incorporating sustainability principles into plans will help to transcend issues like rapid urbanization and climate change. The need to, therefore, stress urban development with renewable and sustainable green infrastructure cannot be overemphasized to sustain human beings in an environment in which they have encroached on nature [26].

Revitalizing Urban Infrastructure: A Comparative Analysis.

The accelerated urbanization processes taking place in cities across the world strain the already existing infrastructural systems. These failures cut across overstretching and standstill traffic to public provision. Cities need their urban infrastructures refreshed to cope with spiraling populations and to meet present-day challenges, let alone those of the future [27]. this shall call for investments in advanced transportation networks, extension of public utilities, and digital solutions to make them efficient—something policy-makers really need to rise up to. In fact, upgrading old infrastructure will make the city resilient and sustainable in the long run [28].

Improved transport systems will reduce congestion and increase interconnectivity between cities. The more that is done in providing public amenities, such as water and electricity, the more people make their way to avail themselves of these facilities. Hence, digital solutions can be harnessed for [29] to ensure their efficient operation and optimum infrastructure management for the realization of cities that come with challenges of urbanization, thereby ensuring sustainable growth in the future. Amongst many other benefits, it is going to reduce the carbon footprint left by cities and reduce the impact on the natural environment caused by human activities [30]. Other green energy solutions can be utilized further to reduce fossil fuel dependency and associated emissions in making cities more environmentally friendly and resilient to climate change. Continue urban planning practices that integrate mixed land use development with compact city design. This combination achieves efficient land use and sprawl minimization, therefore ensuring effective resource use and an improved lifestyle [31].

Urban Infrastructure is Important

Urban infrastructures facilitate and sustain economic growth and improve citizens' quality of life, with facilities for the ease of movement, access to services, and connectivity. The invested infrastructure is therefore very necessary if moving forward these cities are to be ahead in the game of competitiveness globally in attracting

businesses and investment. Job opportunities are created through the upgrading of infrastructures, leading to economic stimulation [15].

Improved infrastructure of the city ensures enhanced urban quality of life and thus attracts a more qualified workforce. It therefore also promotes reduced emissions of greenhouse gases that support unlimited development [28]. It raises economic productivity, values of properties lying in an urban setup, along with smart city initiatives that place optimal use of resources for better living of the city dwellers. It fights the implications of climate change by institutionalization of green infrastructure and improvement of the state of air quality in urban set ups. Lastly, for cities to thrive in the future, priorities have to be changed to infrastructure development. One has to reflect on sustainable and resilient solutions by considering with the increased demands of urban residents [32].

The problems these pose to urban infrastructure are:

Besides, aging infrastructure is posing a problem regarding maintenance and repair. Under funding interferes with the need for improvement works and upgrade works. Congesting traffic and scanty public transport facilities come part of the list. Still, another is the limited access to affordable housing and basic services in some places. At the end of the row stands vulnerability under natural disasters and climate change impacts. Inadequate harnessing of technology: bidding little investment in the infrastructure of renewable energy for sustainability [33]. Moreover, lack of access to reliable at the same time affordable Internet connectivity in urban areas, coupled with the ineffective waste management system, and might result in environmental pollution. The current infrastructure may, therefore, require upgrading and maintenance to address these. This could be in terms of private sector involvement or grants targeting, or even public-private funding to ensure that in the long term, balance of these urban infrastructure initiatives indeed pays off. Besides, smart technologies should be put in place to enhance efficiency and reduce energy use [34]. Other carbon reduction strategies may target improved public transport networks and mixed renewable energy sources to foster more sustainable urban environments. This can foster green building and energy efficiency within infrastructure construction projects for resilience and sustainability. More importantly, the investment in green infrastructure can result in a city that is resilient to the illusions of climate change and sustainable [12].

Tourism-City Historical Texture Relationship

Historically, a widely accepted approach has not been to reconcile these two ambitions: that of preserving the historical texture within these cities and of satisfying the demands of urban tourism [35].

The relation of urban tourism with urban historical texture has been dynamic all along, and it shows promise of continuous performance in the development and shaping of identity of the cities around the world [36]. while it is making changes in cities in order to make them compatible with this growing tourism industry, finding sustainable ways of preserving the historical texture of the cities also matters. It would require careful planning and

cooperation from the city officials, historians, and all other concerned parties [37]. The discernment to preserve the unique historical characters of the cities, at the same time tapping into the economic opportunities availed by tourism, can only be made a reality by a proper preservation strategy. Here, what matters is mainly the cooperation, respect towards the history and heritage of a city to whose past, according to the view of people, will look backward in the future [29]. At the very same time, the responsible tourism practice has to be ensured to add less to the dispersive effect on the historic texture of the city [5]. It is achievable through education, legislation, and community cooperation between the residents and business operators. As these have been put into consideration, municipalities should not leave behind the conservation of heritage locations and structures in favor of urban tourism. It is very much possible that cities stay themselves while at the same time catering to tourists [38].

Hence, this is the balance between preservation and development that it will take to attract visitors to the cities without compromising on historical integrity. Ahead must lie the aim to strike a delicate balance so that these cities do indeed thrive or grow sustainably under the rising tourist pressures. More investment efforts should be paid to conservation, adaptive reuses, and heritage tourist initiatives that could enhance the uniqueness of the historical heritages, making a city livable and sustainably attractive [39]. Such cities can make use of these historical assets in order to differentiate in the competitive tourism market and create a memorable travel experience. More specifically, the cities will be in a position to create a fine line that has to be stricken between the preservation of integrity of history and making an appeal to the tourist by balancing the preservation and economic growth. The city officials have to remain focused on the preservation of historical sites and buildings since future generations come to take rich heritage from the city. According to Darwin, this will only be possible if local communities and businesses link up in cooperatives in 2019. The second point is that the development of sustainable tourist infrastructure guarantees that historical sites, by legislation about it, are preserved and passed on to future generations with absolute certainty [16].

In addition, education campaigns might help in raising the awareness of both visitors and residents about the cultural heritage and reasonable tourism practices. Public information on the fundamental value of historic sites to a city ignites pride, with prime stewardship towards their heritage, and tends to galvanize support for conservation and sustainable tourism practices [14]. his collective responsibility is of paramount importance to ensure that these historic sites and buildings stand the test of time [40]. delegating preservation tasks to be done, by involving businesspeople and residents, could instill ownership and pride in heritage. It can also be the means toward new solutions and sustainable practices in furthering the preservation of historical sites and buildings so they may remain valuable to humanity for generations to come [41]. this shall help cities maintain their competitiveness within the tourism market by offering something unique and authentic to the visiting tourist. (Betts & Ross, 2015). A good balance between

conservation and economic development, therefore, allows them the capacity to report well on their heritage and excel in tourism [42].

Scope of the study:

Tourism development is one of the basic dimensions of development in different areas, including the economic sector. These conditions are especially important in areas that face harsh natural and climatic conditions, and it is hardly possible to make a living in conventional ways. Numerous studies indicate that with the least pressure on existing water resources, a very significant economic benefit can be obtained, and in this regard, the tourism industry will be more useful than any other type of activity. Despite the importance of the tourism industry in the economic development of cities, people and officials often do not have sufficient and appropriate knowledge about these issues, and for this reason, they still emphasize the previous methods of work and activity. These things will not only improve people's livelihood problems but also destroy existing natural resources. Figure 3 shows the location of the city of Boshroiye

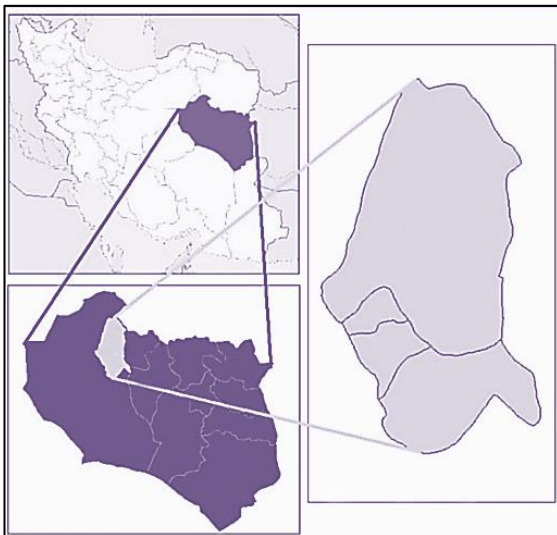


Figure 3. Location of Boshroiye

Boshroiye city is located in the northwest of South Khorasan province, and this city was previously one of the parts of Ferdous city, which has been upgraded to a city in these years. As the center of this city, Boshroiye is located on the northern edge of the salt desert, and this city is located in the northwest of South Khorasan, in a plain area, and has smooth and flat lands. Boshroiye city is located in the end parts of the Boshroiye plain and attached to the foothills, where rivers around this city surround the natural area. The eastern parts of the range include flat and low-lying lands. Due to the smoothness of this part, the amount of curves are separated from each other by moving towards the west of the natural range. In fact, the most important feature of morphology in the natural limits of the city is the integrity of the land and its uniformity in terms of slope and flatness. By examining the key elements in Boshroiye city, the development of Boshroiye city causes the approximate preservation of the structure of the old texture, and both the historical and new textures of the city have their own system and spatial organization and continue to exist. The main weakness in

this is the lack of continuity of the spatial organization and the system governing the old texture in the new texture, which has caused the objective and mental fragmentation of the texture and structure of the city. However, in the current situation, the lack of solutions to connect these two parts to each other and a communication of the type of spatial organization in the city of Boshroiye is strongly felt, and it is possible to revive the organizational unity of the fabric by studying more deeply and presenting plans based on the principles of spatial organization. It is important that the special and unique characteristics of the houses of Boshroiye city be studied and investigated as the main attractions of this city, as well as the old and local houses.

The book Riaz al-Ulama, written by Mirza Abdullah Isfahani, who was alive during the Safavid period, is one of the documents that can be cited about the urban structure of Boshroiye. As mentioned, the historical context of Boshroiye has four historical neighborhoods, namely, Sarpol, Lower Neighborhood, Middle Neighborhood, and Moghri. In the past, these neighborhoods were surrounded by a roof that was probably built during the Zandiyeh period. The main square of the city is located at the intersection of four neighborhoods, which is a rectangular square and is separated from the main roads. However, the names of the historical neighborhoods of Boshroiye that are mentioned now, or there is no clue about the social status of their residents in historical texts, or what is said today about the names and residents of the historical neighborhoods, are all information that has been passed down orally from generation to generation. Although it may be possible to make some comments about the social and economic situation from the architecture of the houses and the urban body, According to the oldest aerial photograph in 1355 of the city of Boshroiye, what can be said about the neighborhoods that had different names and different social conditions is that the physical separation of the four neighborhoods is based on wide and long north-south and east-west passages. The presence of the wider east-west passage, which was the Tabas-Mashhad transit route and the communication channel between the two gates, and the longest north-south passage, which connected the other two gates, can be signs of the borders of the neighborhoods. The central washhouse (today's square) or the old caravanserai of the city was the only common element of these 4 neighborhoods. Neighborhoods had koi (alleys) with different names, which were named according to the lives of people with the same guild or according to an event or issue related to koi. Like Barzgarha village, it is named after the lives of Barzgar people, or Mulasaadi village, where, according to the old residents, in the mosque of this village, Akhundi gave his advice and sermons with the book of Saadi. Lower Neighborhood is another one of the four neighborhoods of Boshroiye, which has become famous due to the slope of the land and because of the lives of poor and low-social-status people. the middle neighborhood is the one that has the most area among other neighborhoods. The houses in this area are large and elegant. According to the informants, due to the presence of the main center of the city in this neighborhood and the gathering place, it is considered the center of the neighborhood; it is known as

the middle neighborhood, and it is actually the center. The social status of the residents of this neighborhood is relatively favorable compared to the historical context areas due to the neighborhood being inhabited by nobles and having large houses, and due to the residents' trust in each other and their satisfaction with the security of the neighborhood, there is a relatively active and dynamic life. Sarpol neighborhood, which, according to elders and informants, has been given this name due to the presence of a pedestrian bridge, The southern part of Sarpol neighborhood has been destroyed and renovated for the construction of the market, as well as the two sides of Ayatollah Shirazi and Imam Khomeini streets, and the widening of other roads has also taken away many buildings from the neighborhood. What is left of the historical context of this neighborhood is very little. The social condition of this neighborhood is favorable due to the renovations and physical changes in the buildings and the city. Currently, with the increase in population and the development and expansion of the city, new neighborhoods and urban areas have been created. In the new areas, the social system is mostly based on the economic system, and today's urban neighborhoods are less segregated by sect or religious beliefs than in the past. Unless a neighborhood is considered by a special organization for its personnel, such as a teacher's settlement.

3. Method research

Since employing this kind of analysis will serve as the foundation for other analyses' primary talents. For instance, we can look at the research conducted in 2000 by Ryan and Bernard, which employs theme analysis as an analytical method based on the data's viewpoint and takes a particular research methodology into consideration. One of the main advantages of theme analysis is its flexibility. The two components of qualitative analysis methodologies are as follows:

1. Those that are a root of, or integrated with, a certain theoretical or epistemological stance fall into the first category. Like interpretative phenomenological analysis and conversation analysis. This method's framework has limitations; it might be described as a principle to direct the analysis. Nonetheless, there are differences for other approaches, such as discourse and contextual analysis, quote or narrative analysis, and comprehensive extraction from within their theoretical framework, the most significant of which can be identified.

2. The thematic analysis falls within the second group, which is unaffected by theory or epistemology and is utilized in a variety of theoretical and epistemological approaches, even though they are frequently subtly described as practical or experimental methods. By fostering theoretical freedom, the previously discussed theme analysis approach lays the groundwork for a versatile and practical research tool that may be applied to produce an accurate and comprehensive report that takes into account the intricacies of the data. This study makes use of the flexibility and other possible benefits of theme analysis for data analysis.

To categorize the studied data and identify trends pertaining to the gathered data, thematic analysis is employed. As previously indicated, this approach can

convey and understand more intricate facts on a range of subjects. Thematic analysis is among the greatest analyses now accessible in the area for research aimed at determining the use of interpretations. This is because the research approach exhibits a rise in accuracy and complexity, which eventually improves the entire concept of the study. The researcher may comprehend and evaluate any problem through the use of thematic analyses, and by employing this strategy, they can ultimately conduct a more thorough analysis of each problem's potential. Another advantage of employing thematic analysis is that the comparison and establishment approaches can be used as they are adaptable [43]. Utilizing the most popular methods for the data gathered enables the investigation to start with exact material. It will result in a more comprehensive allocation and, ultimately, in the formulation of theories, which will improve accuracy and guarantee that the patterns and data are effectively connected. The processed data are sorted and presented taking into account their distinctions and commonalities. When employing thematic analysis, it is crucial to present the research's substance; the model need to account for a significant portion of the data [43]. In this research, a structured questionnaire is designed to cover different aspects of religious tourism and urban development. This research has been done using the purposeful sampling method. The selection of samples was done based on the criteria related to the research topic, so as to include experts and people with experience in the field of religious tourism and urban development. The number of questionnaires conducted in this research is equal to 330 people who were randomly selected from experts, tourists, and residents of the city. This method is adopted in order to obtain comprehensive views from different stakeholders. After collecting qualitative data, MAXQDA software was used to code and identify common patterns in qualitative data analysis. Then the findings are reviewed to obtain a comprehensive and coordinated view of the effects of religious tourism on urban development. This process of integration led us to obtain results from social and cultural perspectives to better understand the effects and mutual relationships.

This method requires the application of a logical process that connects the classification of data at the beginning of each pattern and their relationship to the discovery of the mutual connection between variables and factors, establishes conceptual coherence, and determines the validity of the final results in a manner that aligns with the research's theoretical framework. Information must be displayed and drawn in a sequential manner using all necessary processes. Given that the data was gathered by qualitative means, a qualitative research methodology was used, and research onion and MAXQDA software were utilized in the data collection process. The necessary data was first gathered, and after that, the variables for urban development, important components of urban infrastructure, religious tourism, and historical centers were categorized using the results of the questionnaire, which were then evaluated using MAXQDA software. Ultimately, the most significant influencing variables were identified by looking at the literary background, the variables suggested by the experts, and the library documents. To help readers better comprehend the

research process, the Figure 4 shows the process of research methodology.

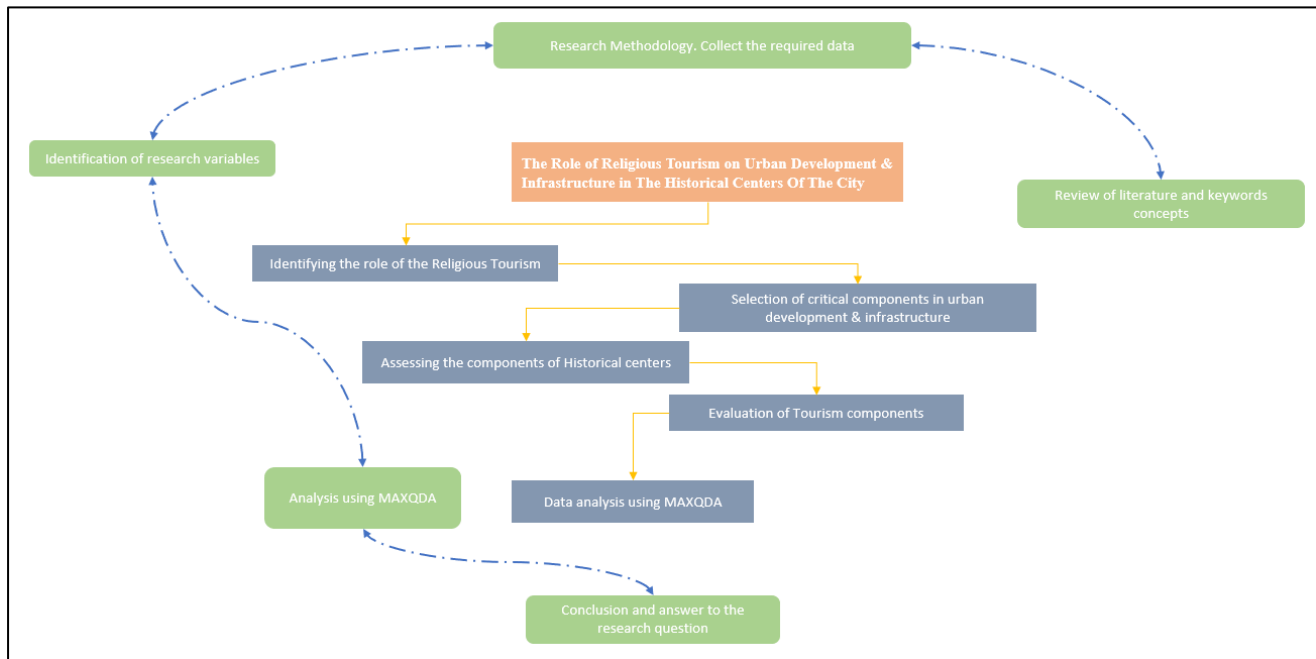


Figure 4. The model and process of research methodology (Authors)

4. Data Analysis

In this section, we analyze the collected data using MAXQDA software. First, in the collected documents, we code the words from the texts of the collected documents. At this stage, according to the variables mentioned earlier in the theoretical literature and the theoretical framework of the stated research, we choose the codes displayed in the list which shows in Figure 5, compiled in the figure of all the checked codes.

In this section, the number of coding done in the documents collected in the software is displayed, and as you can see, the highest number of coding is related to community Engagement & Cultural Sensitivity variables. Figure 6 displays the evaluated codes' ratio for better understanding.

In the output of the matrix from the MAXQDA software which shows in Figure 7, from the analysis and coding of the documents collected in this research, we see the highest correlation between the variables urban development & Religious tourism, among which among the variables urban infrastructure, Historical centers, we see the most coding relationship between Cultural Sensitivity & education and awareness campaigns & Community engagement & Transportation Systems the City variables. In the following figure, the output matrix from the software shows the relationships between all the coding done from the documents collected in this research.

Finally, for a better conclusion and a complete view of all the relationships between the coding done in the MAXQDA software, we prepare a map of the relationships between the coding done from the collected documents, which you can see in the Figure 8, and it is important that based on the frequency, the thickness of the connecting line between the codes increases.

Code System	Count
Code System	9095
Historical Centers	1880
Religious Tourism	1140
Cultural Significance	70
Accessibility	45
Amenities & Services	190
Pilgrimage Route Network	65
Faith-Based Organizations	215
Tourist Infrastructure	1100
Cultural Sensitivity	475
Security Measures	215
Seasonality	65
Digital Presence	120
Education and awareness campaigns	315
Public-private partnerships	345
Digital technology integration	165
Disaster risk reduction and management	290
Climate change mitigation and adaptation	85
Infrastructure development	45
Land use planning	115
Economic Development	285
Tourism Management	25
Community Engagement	510
Funding and Financing	150
Urban Conservation Policy	90
Urban development & infrastructure	730
Economic Development	15
Urban Morphology	15
Population growth	10
Environmental Factors	15
Governance & Policy	45
Infrastructure Condition	15
Transportation Systems the city	105
Water Management	25
Waste Management	55
Innovation & Technology	65

Figure 5. The list of coding done in the MAXQDA software (Authors)

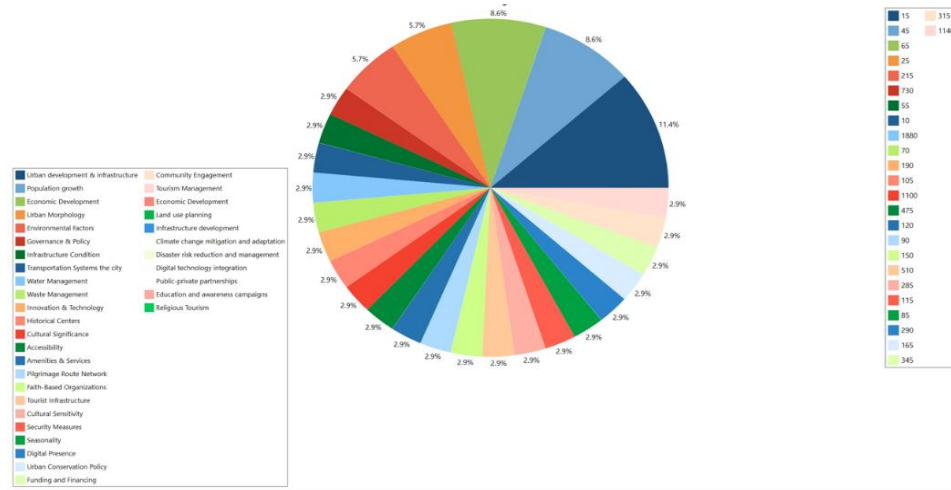


Figure 6. Segments with code (Authors)

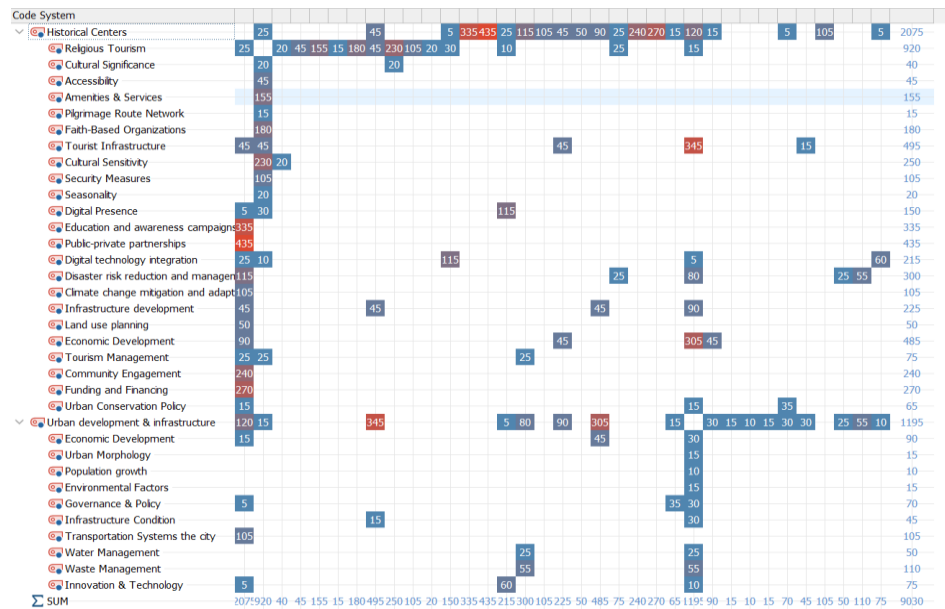


Figure 7. The relations between codes in the MAXQDA software (Authors)

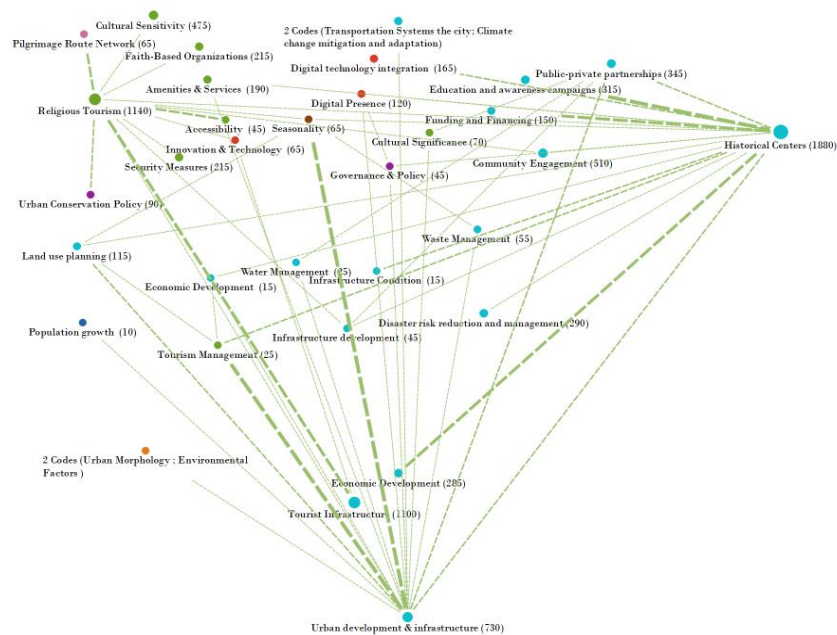


Figure 8. CODE MAP, MAXQDA software (Authors)

5. Conclusion

One of the important research gaps addressed in this article is the lack of research on the direct and indirect effects of religious tourism on urban development and the protection of cultural heritage in urban historical contexts. In particular, issues such as the role of local community participation and the importance of protecting cultural and religious environments alongside economic development have been less explored. Recent research has also pointed out that the growth of religious tourism regardless of environmental and social sustainability can lead to the destruction of historical contexts and increase in social tensions [3, 14].

Contribution of research in filling the gaps:

This research has tried to provide a comprehensive approach in the sustainable development of religious areas by examining the role of religious tourism on the development of urban infrastructure and strengthening cultural identity. The main focus of research is on the integration of cultural and economic policies to create a balance between economic and cultural needs. In particular, this study has investigated the effects of religious tourism on infrastructure and social solidarity in historical centers by using the thematic analysis model and has provided solutions for the sustainable management of religious tourism, which will be useful for future research.

One of the important elements in religious tourism development is the involvement of the local community. In this respect, for example, we may refer to Peru's experience, where religious tourism has brought about an increase in the cultural exchange between the residents and the tourists and a positive impact on the promotion of a sense of cultural identity. Moreover, by listening to what the local community has to say, one might be able to improve on tourism management and reduce some of the possible tensions created by its presence.

Religious tourism can influence urban development in many ways, from improving infrastructure to increasing growth in jobs and the economy. In a few cities like Mashhad and Karbala, the coming of tourists increases the local people's incomes, promoting growth in urban facilities such as hotels, restaurants, and transportation networks. These aspects cause economic development and improvement in the quality of life for the citizens.

This thus presents a very broad and complex theme that requires satisfactory evaluation based on a number of key factors pertaining to the impact of religious tourism on infrastructure and urban development in the city's historical districts. A successful approach for dealing with the impacts of religious tourism will have to contain cultural sensitivity, educational and awareness programs, community schemes for participation, transportation systems, etc. Nevertheless, one realizes that each city has to design a policy of its own with respect to its particular cultural and historical perspectives.

Economic development with social upliftment in any city goes line by line with the preservation of monuments in their cultural heritage and their promotion. The projects have to balance preservation with showing respect toward the cultural sensitivities of the local people. On a large scale, awareness programs through education may help in

promoting cultural sensitiveness among tourists. This community engagement helps in the development process through trust building and involving locals.

Similarly, a strong transport system has to be set up which provides assurance to the tourists visiting heritage sites that these are definitely going to have low impacts in the neighborhood. It shall bring investment in sustainable mobility solutions so as to relieve traffic and enhance air quality for the visits to turn out to be better experiences.

This would work for religious tourism management in historical city districts with a full strategy: looking at the interplay of economic, socio-cultural and environmental variables involved. On that note, co-operation in concretizing tourist packages with cultural awareness, increasing sustainability of education, and community involvement can truly make cities reap revenues derived from this kind of tourism and more genuinely conserve this particular cultural heritage for later generations. Then, after the data analysis and obtained results, it could be certified that:

- 1- First hypothesis: religious tourism was able to make a positive contribution to the urban infrastructural development, in which transportation systems were improved and more jobs were created.
- 2- Alternative hypothesis: It was determined that an active attitude, on the part of the locals, in developing religious tourism has contributed both to the preservation of cultural values and to the strengthening of social cohesion.
- 3- Third hypothesis: The results showed that this has enabled fewer negative impacts and long-term sustainability in the areas as a result of including environmental policies within religious tourism planning.

Based on the influencing variables elicited in the last section of this article, we provide strategies to increase tourism in relation to urban development or urban infrastructure in [Table 1](#). These can be cultural sensitivity, educational and awareness campaigns, community involvement, or transport systems that are a part of the strategy.

Table 1. Strategies to increase tourism in relation to urban development or urban infrastructure

Strategies to increase tourism in relation to urban development or urban infrastructure

Reviving cultural heritage through religious tourism: a sensitivity-oriented approach

Increasing awareness through education: the key to responsible religious tourism

Community-oriented Development: Empowering Local Communities through Religious Tourism

Transportation systems that strengthen the protection of cultural heritage

A holistic approach to urban development: integration of religious tourism in urban planning

Strategy 1:

Title: "Reviving cultural heritage through religious tourism: a sensitivity-oriented approach"

Objective: Emphasizing the importance of cultural sensitivity in the development of religious tourism and its impact on urban infrastructure in historical centers.

❖ Approach:

- To examine the necessity of cultural sensitivity in the development of religious tourism by citing examples of successful initiatives that have preserved cultural heritage while promoting tourism.
- Investigate how urban planners and policymakers can incorporate cultural sensitivity into their decision-making processes.
- Highlight the role of community participation in preserving cultural heritage and promoting tourism.

❖ Important points:

- The importance of cultural sensitivity in the development of religious tourism
- Strategies to include cultural sensitivity in urban planning and policy making
- The role of community participation in preserving cultural heritage and promoting tourism

Strategy 2:

Title: "Increasing awareness through education: the key to responsible religious tourism"

Objective: Emphasizing the importance of educational and awareness campaigns in promoting responsible religious tourism practices.

❖ Approach:

Discuss the impact of mass tourism on cultural heritage sites and communities.

* Highlight the role of educational and awareness campaigns in promoting responsible behavior among tourists.

* Explore successful examples of educational and awareness campaigns that have promoted sustainable tourism practices.

❖ Important points:

- The importance of educational and awareness campaigns in promoting responsible tourism practices
- Strategies for designing effective educational and awareness campaigns
- The role of community participation in promoting responsible tourism practices

Strategy 3:

Title: "Community-oriented Development: Empowering Local Communities through Religious Tourism"

Objective: To demonstrate the benefits of community-led development projects in promoting sustainable religious tourism.

❖ Approach:

- To examine the concept of community-based development and its relationship with religious tourism.

- Highlight successful examples of community-led development initiatives that have promoted sustainable tourism practices.
- Discuss the importance of community participation in decision-making processes.

❖ Important points:

- Benefits of community-led development projects in promoting sustainable tourism practices
- Strategies for empowering local communities through community-led development initiatives
- The importance of community participation in decision-making processes

Strategy 4:

Title: "Transportation systems that strengthen the protection of cultural heritage"

Objective: Emphasizing the importance of transportation systems in preserving cultural heritage sites and promoting sustainable tourism practices.

❖ Approach:

- Discuss the impact of transportation systems on cultural heritage sites and communities.
- Explore successful examples of transportation systems that have promoted sustainable tourism practices.
- To highlight the importance of integrating transportation systems into urban planning and policymaking.

❖ Important points:

- The importance of transportation systems in preserving cultural heritage works
- Design strategies for sustainable transportation systems
- The role of integration in planning and urban policy

Strategy 5:

Title: "A holistic approach to urban development: integration of religious tourism in urban planning"

Objective: To demonstrate the need for a comprehensive approach to urban development that integrates religious tourism into urban planning.

❖ Approach:

- Discuss the challenges facing cities in balancing economic development with cultural preservation.
- Explore successful examples of cities that have integrated religious tourism into their urban planning processes.
- To highlight the importance of a holistic approach to urban development that takes into account multiple stakeholders and interests.

❖ Important points:

- The need for a comprehensive approach to urban development that integrates religious tourism
- Solutions to integrate religious tourism into urban planning
- The importance of stakeholder participation and cooperation.

For a better understand in [Figure 9](#) shows example of a valuable historical opportunity with the potential to attract tourism in Boshruyeh.

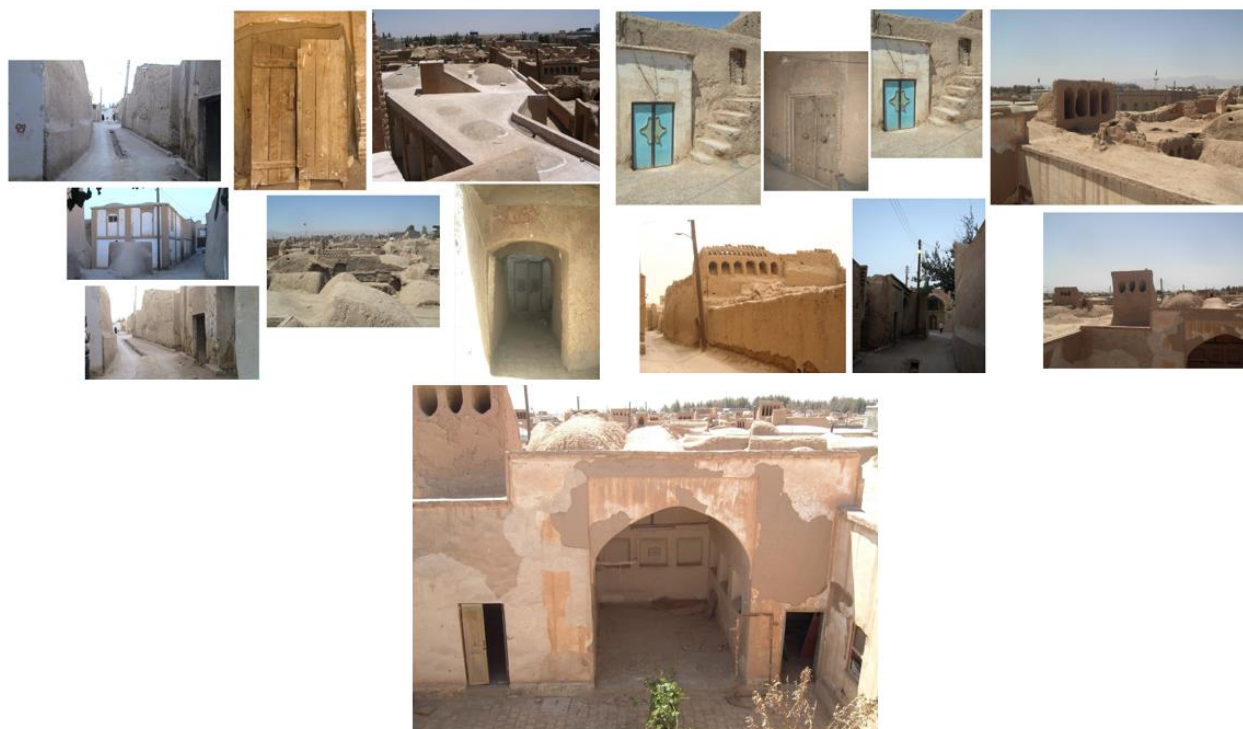


Figure 9. An example of a valuable historical opportunity with the potential to attract tourism in Boshruyeh

Conflict of Interest:

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest regarding the publication of this work. In addition, the ethical issues, including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication or falsification, double publication and, or submission, and redundancy, have been completely witnessed by the authors.

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