Introducing Tourism Attractions and Their Role in Development of the Shahr-E-Babak City

1 Zinat Hoseini, 2Sedighe Mosazade, 3Leila Momen Por

1 MA Geography of Urban Planning, 2MA Geography of Urban Planning, 3MA Geography of Urban Planning.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 28 February 2014
Received in revised form 19 April 2014
Accepted 23 April 2014
Available online 25 May 2014

Keywords:
tourist attraction, development, shahr Babak.

ABSTRACT

Tourism industry are called white and the third world industry after the oil and automotive industries and tourism activities are industries and service industry as the fourth part of the activities of humanities after agriculture, is one of the industry in developing countries where other forms economy, such as manufacturing and resource extraction cost is not highly regarded .Shahr Babak is a small town in North West province of kerman , one of the historical provinces of the country, our main purpose in this study knowing and introducing Shahr city's tourism attractions and the role it can have in the development of the city .The type of research is applied -development and the method is descriptive – analytical and collection of information have made use of library and field observations .Tourist attractions in Shahr Babak include ecotourism have attractions, natural and historical - the ancient attractions and religion and are due to the rocky village Meymand is part of a registered national and regional conditions and convenient access to the city each year saw the presence of domestic and foreign tourists .These attractions can definitely a positive role in the development of city that with properly targeted and efficient planning can be best use of the position of the city.

INTRODUCTION

In present time, with regard to today’s countries and societies, the importance of tourism has increased and it is rememorated as an industry. This industry is important for any country from the economical, social and cultural point of view.

Iran still known as one of the developing countries has historical-ancient and cultural attractions, due to its long historical background and enjoys also unique natural attractions due to its diverse and beautiful nature. Some of its tourism sources have been remained intact and there is no use of them. Shahrbabak city also both in the region and the country has potential tourism attractions. According to the role of tourism industry in development, it is needed to make best use of these attractions using a proper planning.

Natural characteristics of shahrbabak city:

Shahrbabak city has been formed topographically in two parts, plain and mountains. Mountainous part in the north of city which is a continuation of central mountains of Iran and from Aj (Ivory) mountains to Sarcheshme Mountains is known as Shahrbabak Mountains. Almost many of the city’s villages and rural communities are located in the mountains’ valleys and slopes because of more appropriate climate. These places of a pleasant climate are as a luminous gem of the region. In the plain part, the region located between mountainous parts, desert pits have been located. Its climate is, according to the Gosen’s bioclimatic map, desert like .............

Introduction to Some Of Shahrbabak’s Tourism Attractions:

Tourism’s sources and attractions can be categorized to two types; Natural eco-tourism attraction and historical-ancient and religious attractions.

Corresponding Author: Zinat Hoseini, M.A Geography of Urban Planning.
Tel: +9809134910426; E-mail: sayed1364@gmail.com
Sources of natural, eco-tourism attractions:
Natural attractions and outlooks are characteristics which can be observed by human eyes and other senses are able to perceive them. The first characteristics of this group of promenades, is wonderful views that cause tranquility of man’s soul and satisfaction,

A. Promenade set in village of Korom:
Promenade set in village of Korom, in the heart of nature and in an area 37 kilometers north east of Shahrbabak. This set with its summits and villages around, Paykohi village with wonderful perspective, rare species of plants, springs, seasonal rivers and geysers has very unique abilities for traveling as a tourist, promenade in the nature, sojourn, bivouac, picnic, alpinism and etc.

Fig. 1: Seasonal river of Korom village.

B. Geyser of Korom village:
Geyser 4 kilometers away in the north of Korom village is located in the geyser’s region. This mineral spring boiling at the bottom of river contains sour water and it has medicinal and healing properties. The interesting point about this spring is that it is unique in the whole region of Shahrbabak so that 30-40 meters away of this spring, other springs’ water is sweet and doesn’t taste sour as it does.

C. Abali of Korom village:
7 kilometers northeast of Korom village, there is a unique and very beautiful cascading spring which is known as Abali and has been a place for worship and dedication of the village inhabitants in the past.

Fig. 2: Abali in Korom village.

D. Ayub cave:
The history has exhibited its tiredness through the yawn of the biggest igneous cave of Iran in a beautiful manner. A yawn which represents a past full of ups and downs of ancient times belongs to people of Shahrbabak’s territory. And “Ayub” mount with a height of 3308 meters which is located in central mountains of Iran, is a mount in the southeast part of “Dehaj” town which is one of Shahrbabak’s dependencies.
This cave is one of the biggest of its own kind in Iran which has shown an opening of 50 meters length and 40 meters height. The cave is the result of mechanical and chemical air stroke.
Of characteristics of this cave is the steep slope of cave’s floor which causes fast evacuation of air stroked materials. Volume of this cave can be estimated to several million square meters. For its location in a pleasant climate, the cave is one of the reasonable places in the city for spending free time along with communal
alpinism especially during holidays. During three months of the year, it is one of the important geo-tourist places of the country that unfortunately has been unknown so far.

Fig. 3: A view of Ayub cave.

E. Salt lake:
Salt lake or in its local name known as “Kafe Namak” is another tourist attractions of Shahrbabak which in years with good rain it comes to life and it is changed to a beautiful place for migrant birds. This lake is located in northwest of Shahrbabak in Estabraq region and in the past times it has been connected to Maharloo and Bakhtagan lakes in Fars province. This lake is covered with salt in summer due to evaporation. It is a tip to those who want to visit this lake; they should go to the region with enough information and a guide not to get caught in salt swamp.

F. Siliceous sandy hills:
In south of Shahrbabak, some parts are covered with siliceous hills that in future will help the industrial development of the region and they will be a center for astronomy studies and astrology science.

G. Rhubarb plain:
Rhubarb plain is one of the biggest and most beautiful rhubarb plains of the country. This red belt is located 20 kilometers away of Shahrbabak. This plain is about 2500 hectares which in spring season especially in April gives a beautiful view to the region’s nature.

In addition to rhubarb plain, Aslan plain, wild tulip, Shakaro plain, flowers and special plant covering grant another view to the region.

Fig. 4: Rhubarb plain.

(Human resources and attractions) ancient and religious:
Historical, tribal and cultural manifestations are considered as the attractiveness of tourist sources which can complete the tourist activities in free times beside natural attractiveness. This set of tourist sources includes historical buildings like fortresses, towers, bridges, palaces, squares, bazaars, baths, tombs, petro graphs and ancient hills, religious buildings such as shrines, tomb of Imams’ children, Tekye, mosques, temples, and different places of pilgrimage. Cultural ceremonies and different people’s customs includes ceremonies for pilgrimage and mourning, style of performing happy ceremonies of festivals and wedding parties, music and rhythmical together movements (dances), beside a set of local arts from cooking many kinds of foods, dessert, cookies and seasoning to many kinds of handcrafts and clothing can be considered as human life manifestations that are worthy for tourism specially cultural tourists. These can be accessible in natural promenades.
A. Historical Village of Mymand:

Mymand, is located 38 kilometers northeast of Shahrbabak in a latitude of 30 degrees and 16 minutes and a longitude of 55 degrees and 25 minutes. It is 2240 meters above sea level and its size is 420 square meters. This village is one of the most ancient and magnificent residence of mankind in Iran and the world. The history of this village comes back to the ear in which sun worshiping has been the religion of the Iranians. Mountain has been symbol of eternal endurance and has been considered as the best place for residence. That has been named as the equivalent and born together with history and according to a tradition; Mymand is a place in which history hasn’t been changed. Thereby, this village has been chosen as the seventh cultural, natural and historical sight of the world and in 2005 won the Mercury reward. It is noteworthy that Melina Mercury reward is one that is presented by Greek government with collaboration of international cultural societies like UNESCO and ECOMOS. It is presented to the works which have the unique cultural and historical qualifications. Mymand village, in September 2007, was introduced as the national model village for tourism. This is an important matter which has undoubtedly affected the recognition of Maymand is Maymand’s architecture in comparison with many other places. Here, home has not been made by placing stone and brick on top of each other, using mortar and free space but by removing a heap out of the stone heart and make it room and digging the wall to create niche which is used to place things and equipments. The whole house, which may contain one or some rooms and a stable, has been called “Kiche”.

These “kiches” also don’t have a common structure on the basis of size and the number of rooms and of course they are not orderly the same. Amongst 400 small and large “Kiche” which exist in Maymand, the biggest one of them doesn’t exceed 9 square meters. They are on top of each other alternately in five storeys like stairs so that they don’t encounter each other. The interesting point is that in the rocky village of Maymand unlike all of the known urban and rural places of residence, there is no alley or passage. Alley in the Maymand culture is merely applied to the horizontal paths that have been dug on the steep heart of hills and at the end reach the cave like residential houses. Maymand has been derived from the word “Myar” which means shelter. This idea seems more acceptable than the rest of views as Maymand have been dug deep in the heart of mountain and it doesn’t have many entrance ways.

A.A. School:

The old school of the village has been built the same as other houses. The only difference is that the width and depth of the “Kiche” and the entrance of that is greater than those of residential ones. Generally, the more we go further from the beginning of the “Kiche” to the depth of that, the dimensions of the classes broaden and this is the result of increase in the thickness. This school totally contains five spaces that are used as the classrooms and office. In the front of the school’s “Kiche” there is a big yard which has been surrounded with fence of stones without any mortar. There is a tree in this yard by the name of “Taei”.

A.B. Maymand’s bath:

The bath like Maymand’s houses has been dug deep into the heart of stones and it is about 120 square meters and is similar to traditional baths and the interesting point is that there is a hole on the top bath’s courtyard and dressing room on which a marble stone has been placed and strangely reflects the light into the bath.

A.C. Traditional Guesthouse:

In an environment as old as the history and in a completely traditional manner using the nature and historical architecture of the village, traditional guesthouse has a one-bed room and a three-bed room, a hall for a capacity of residing 50 domestic and foreign tourist.

A.D. Traditional Restaurant (sofreh sara):

The furniture has been made in a completely traditional manner using the nature and historical architecture of the village and the restaurant’s tables have been made from stone with wooden legs. The guests are received with local and traditional dishes.

A.E. Handcrafts Store and Artistic-Training Stalls

Blacksmith’s craft, felt making, felt hat making, carpet weaving, basketry, Dolo Dozi (sewing a special container using cloth for hard sugar), and selling herbs and etc. are attractive facilities of Maymand. Also it has anthropology museum, two parking places, flat spaces, and a children park.
Fig. 5: A view of Maymand village.

B. Moses Khan’s mansion:
This historical work with an area of 7 thousands square meters in two storeys of 2300 square meters, is one of the buildings remained from Qajar’s era. This building was built by “Moses Khan” son of Sheik Allah. The plaster works with birds and animals’ pictures and beautiful decorations in this mansion is why it is significant. Moses Khan’s mansion also has been built in two separated parts with winter time, west side for four season time, south side for summer time. It has a yard paved with bricks and a pool that with its unique crystallizations and running water which flows through it, has increased the beauty of this building. This building has been one of the aristocratic residential buildings and chief town residence. That has been consisted of two parts: internal and external with a central yard. This mansion was mended in 1994 by the governor’s office and the suggested program and the supervision of cultural heritage.

Fig. 6: Moses Khan Mansion.

C. House of Mr. Samad Khan:
The oldness of this building which is the oldest residential house of Shahrbabak, is about 150 years and dates back to Qajar age.

D. Underground tunnels:
According to aged and great people of Shahrbabak, under the city of Shahrbabak there is a broad network of connecting tunnels which connected the important parts of the city to each other underground.

E. Fortresses and towers:
Over the west hills adjacent to the Maymand village, there are seven towers with a distance of 25 meters of each other and the internal diameter of each tower is 2-3 meters. Also in eastern part of Maymand, there are also four stone towers on a hill adjacent to the village with a distance of 50 to 100 meters of each other. All these towers have been built using stone without any mortar. It seems the mentioned works which have had defending use, belong to the late times in which there has been insecurity and disorder and sometimes the inhabitants of the Maymand had been threatened.

F. Avesta temple
Near Maymand, in the village of Pish Osta and in the hillside of a mount by the name of Pish Osta, there are remnants of a temple which is called Avesta. This temple like Maymand’s houses has been dug inside the mountain. That needs more investigations.
G. Marj castle:
The natural castle of Marj 300 meters far from the village of Marj, is located 53 kilometers northeast of Shahrbabak. It is considered as one of the unique ancient vestiges of Shahrbabak. According to German Doctor, Mr. Ditrish Hof, its oldness dates back to the first human beings. This castle has been the seat of government in different eras and during past centuries it has been the center of the Khans (tribal chiefs) and that’s why the villages around it has been called Pa Qaleh (near the castle).

Fig. 7: Marj castle.

Religious-pilgrimage attractions of shahrbabak city:
A. The old city’s mosque:
This mosque one of the oldest mosques of the Shahrbabak which contains a beautiful Shabestan (a part of mosque designed for sleeping or nocturnal prayers), and it is located in the center of the city. The exact date of building the mosque is not clear but according to the aged people and contents of history book of Shahrbabak, the mosque has been built at the time of Safavid dynasty.

B. Maymand Mosque:
Maymand mosque is the result of changes which has been done in one or some residential house. This mosque’s space is around 120 square meters and it has a round and irregular shape. After going through a corridor with a width of 5.1 meters the mosque’s courtyard can be reached. The mosque’s ceiling has been built on three stone pillars with a height of two meters. The mosque’s adytum (Mehrab) has been excavated in the stone and its height is about 1 meter. According to the extant documents, the date of this mosque goes back to 1240 Hejira (The Moslem era) computed according to lunar calendar.

C. Maymand Hossainyeh (place):
where the martyrdom of Imam Hossein is mourned for Maymand Hossainyeh is located at the center of the village and it has three small porches with cradle shape arches at the end of which the entrances of Hossainyeh have been placed. The building of Hossainyeh has been built using some rocky residential houses and all the constituents of that have been stone carved. The spaces inside the Hossainyeh have irregular plan with a size of 200 square meters. It stands on four thick rectangular-shape pillars. The height of the Hossainyeh’s ceiling is in some points 80.1 and in other points 30.2. There is no inscription in the Hossainyeh to give a hint of its date.

6. The role of tourism attractions in the development of shahrbabak citys:
Tourism and eco-tourism attractions of Shahrbabak city have had a positive role in attracting tourists, both domestically and internationally. The impact of presence of tourists in development of the city particularly in recent years can be described as follows. The role which tourism has had in economic development of the city is in the form of creating formal jobs: in cultural heritage office in Maymand village, and indirect jobs: in hotels, restaurants, and dining halls located in roads, and informally: presence of peddlers in special times and places. The role of tourism in social and cultural development of the city is in form of mutual familiarity between people of the city and the passengers about each other’s culture, customs, dialects, language, and kind of clothing. Other impact: restoration of handcrafts in the form of creating training classes by cultural heritage office and selling handcrafts to the passengers. The attention of authorities to the city by introducing that to others using publications of book, magazine, brochure, and training-cultural CDs, is another impact. The role of tourism in physical development of the city is in form of establishing and restoring new asphalt roads of villages and specially Maymand’s road and the road to Ayub cave. Also authorities have paid attention to the beautification and improvement of main streets of the city particularly those nearby the transit road of Persian Gulf and establishment of hotels, restaurants, dining halls, and offices of passenger services. On the whole, tourism attractions have had a positive role in multilateral development of the city.
Conclusion:  
At present time, tourism industry is paid attention by many different countries of the world and taking advantages of this industry is very significant. Shahrbabak city is considered as undeveloped areas and that the city has proper tourism and eco-tourism attractions in the region and in the country. Also proper location of city, accessing to the Persian Gulf highway has performed a positive role. The proper climate condition of villages in mountainous regions has also played a positive role since the region is almost contains deserts. This city has potentialities in tourism industry. The use of these potentialities needs much attention of authorities and people by an exact and proper recognition of tourism and eco-tourism attractions of the city and introducing them to the region, province, country and international countries through internet websites, TV and radio programs, providing publicity CDs, catalogues and brochures. People and authorities also should maintain the attractions and provide proper conditions and facilities in the city and nearby attractions for the welfare and satisfaction of the passengers. Finally, as Shahrbabak isn’t in isolation like many other small cities, and it has many abilities in tourism and eco-tourism for growing and development, therefore, by proper planning, we can use its situation in the best way so that the city can grow and develop more rapidly.

REFERENCES


