Developing civil rights; A Step toward the Realization of Urban Sustainable Development

Zahra TAMJIDI[1,*], Alireza BOZORGVAR[2], Hamidreza TAMJIDI[3]

[1] Researcher in the Research Center for Roads, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development.
[2] PhD students of Geography and Urban Planning
[3] MS in urban management from Ferdowsi University

Abstract. Urban sustainable development can be considered as the improvement of life quality in the urban structure which results in improving environmental quality. Accordingly, developing urban sustainable development leads to human sustainable development which contributes to the establishment of social capital and creation of social justice. The concept of suitability in development can be possible via providing the grounds for increasing citizenship welfare which results in the improvement in infrastructures and urban housing as well as fair and equitable distribution of facilities and urban services. Accordingly, citizenship welfare can be considered as the main axis of urban sustainable development which provides the increase in human security and social satisfaction. The present study is to investigate the role and status of the development of civil rights in urban sustainable development.

Keywords: Civil rights, sustainable urban development, social welfare, social justice, economic aspects

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, sustainable development has attracted the attention of a lot of advanced countries of the world. This concept over time has changed its mere concentration on environmental dimension or project view to it into a movement which has economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Adopting long-term policies and doing institutional reformation in all economic, social, cultural, and environmental sectors are requirements of accessing sustainable development and surviving it as a dynamic and renewable movement in line with development of human societies. In fact, sustainable development is not a totally established concept but it is more a process of transformation of the relationship of economic, social, and cultural systems. Sustainability in practice is an equation between environmental necessities and development requirements. New concept of sustainable development is holistic. This concept includes all economic, social, cultural, and other human needs.

2. METHODOLOGY

The method employed in the present study is a descriptive-analytical one and the collecting data via library and documentary studies.

Key concepts and definitions

Development

Development can be considered as the evolution of levels of life and attainment of ideal conditions in economic, social, and cultural domains which result in the concepts of freedom, justice, social dynamics, human development, and economic, social and cultural growth. In addition, development can be considered as exploration of methods of accessing an evolution which balances social, economic, and cultural phenomena and provides new conditions for social and economic dynamicity and realization of social justice (ZahediAsl, 2002: 5). Contrary to the

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* Corresponding author. *Email address: Zahra Tamjidi*

advancement which induces a movement towardsa new destination, development is a kind of compatibility with something which is present now and induces continuity in evolution called identity; and therefore it is distinct from the concept of advancement (Mark Henry, 1995: 77). Accordingly, the main objective of development is providing services for humans which convers improvement in life quality, and can be presented in the form of increasing income and expanding employment and public welfare (Griffin and Mc Kenley, 1996: 11). Accordingly, the concepts of human development and sustainable development are in a binding relationship in which they should be realized in uniform and synchronized relation with each other. In this path, utilizing social capital and using social participation are important. As a result, social welfare is the prerequisite of development which should be evolved by state organizations and social institutions (Welfare and social security system, 1999: 11) in order that sustainable development can be obtained in line with social, economic, political, and civil dimensions. Development has an endogenous nature whose richness can be added by being helped from outside, while if it is exogenous or heterogeneous, it cannot be considered as development. On the other hand, this claim that development can be independent and utterly independent is an imaginative issue because evolution required motion, something which moves present forces from beyond and produces a kind of modernism or innovation which results in every kind of advancement (Mark Henry, 1995: 77). Philosophically, the degree of development is evaluated in relation with the quality of the identity of human capital which tries to reconstruct concepts such as social identity which are dependent on social, psychological, and cultural values and are threatened. In this regard, in the framework of development, some opportunities which come out of these threats should be provided (Khadem Adam, 1996: 136).

The dimension of quality of development can be the main objective of the structure of development. To attain it, an instrument is required in order that the motion towards attaining the destination of social welfare can be provided. Accordingly, the indices of social welfare economic are considered as family, health, and nutritional as well as the domain of collective life (Mohseni and Salehi, 2003), education, healthcare and human development (Griffin, 1996), population, healthcare, education, employment, housing, and leisure time (ZahediAsl, 2002). The concept of "Sustainability" is the demand of close balance between impulsive needs of today and future needs of individuals and between private motivations and public measures in the framework of social greed and mercy of individuals and social sympathy (Jean Prank and Mahboub Al-Hagh, 2001). "Sustainability models" needs changes in their basic structures in human investment and utilizing investment and using environmentally clean technologies and equipping human resources in such a way that can be obtained on the ground of new world morality emphasizing the national and global solidarity. International solidarity is necessary because the world economic system should prevent this issue that annually, 500 billion dollars be spent for poor nations because developing countries are faced with limitations and inequalities in opportunities for utilizing experiences of human and investment forces, while in developed countries, only 35% of their GDP are paid instead of that 500 billion dollars (a sustainable development report, 2001). Sustainable development can be considered as a concept in which the continuous supplement of individuals' needs and satisfaction along with their life quality can be considered (Eliot, 1999: 3). Sustainable development is a concept which convers economic development and results in wellbeing and creates opportunities for all people of the world, but it does not seem that a few natural resources in the world should be devastated for their own benefits (Jean Prank and Mahboub Al-Hagh, 2001). Accordingly, the economy of sustainable development, in addition to paying attention to the resources of material capital constructed from artificial devices and equipment in industry, agriculture and services, consider resources of social capital, i.e. human knowledge, skills, experiences, energy, and innovation. In addition, the strategy of sustainable development emphasizes construction of social capital. Sustainable development can be considered as an approach which is constructed in the interaction of economic development and environmental improvement and in each time or place, it becomes practical. In addition, it emphasizes historical and cultural characteristics (Vercelli, 1998: 259). It takes steps for improving economic improvement along with environmental considerations by providing

opportunities for changing in governmental policies. It enhances environmental quality as well. Models of sustainable development should be based on four principles in order that the possibility of social welfare and satisfaction as well as collective life improvement can be provided:

a. People should be at focus. Protecting the environment is vital, but it is not the only aim and it is an instrument such as economic development.
b. Models of development should be based on technologies compatible with the environment.
c. The appropriate values of the environment should be reelected with powerful motivations in all decision making processes.
d. Sustainable development models should be based on providing grounds of universal participation and consideration of the state of the society (Jean Prank and Mahboub Al-Hagh, 2001).

According to the World Commission on Environment and Development, the basic issues of development include "population and development, food security, Species diversity of life and the environment, energy, industry and urban challenges". Accordingly, the World Commission on Environment and Development considers sustainable development as a model which defines human needs without removing the capabilities of the future generations. Undoubtedly, sustainable development and particularly sustainable development in urban structure in the form of concepts such as urban design and sustainable architecture will not be possible except via improving urban life quality and increasing citizenship welfare.

The concept of sustainable development

The concept of sustainable development is a debatable and evolutionary concepts. The most common definition of sustainable development refers to "the development which realizes the present generation's needs without limiting the facilities of the future generation" (Rees and Roseland, 1991).

As observed in the definition, this type of development convers two key concepts:

• The concept of needs and realizing them particularly the emergency needs of poor layers of the society.
• Thinking about the limitations of the environments and the pressure imposed on them for realizing present and future needs.

In this regard, Chaguill states that sustainable development means minimizing the consumption of unrenewable resources and in this line, sustainable utilization of renewable resources and attraction of local capacities as well as responsibility for human needs should be considered (Chaguill, 1993). The UN in 1991 defines sustainable development as a policy by which positive benefits are obtained from consuming natural resources for predictable times in the future (Laghaei and Mohammadzadeh, 1999: 34).

In addition to environmental aspects, social and economic aspects are considered among important concepts in sustainable development. Nowadays, presented action plans in the agenda have 21 applications because it considers supplying three necessary needs of our time:

1. Need to protect the environment such as water, soil, and biological diversity on which life is dependent.
2. Need to develop economy for coping with poverty
3. Need to social justice and cultural diversity for empowering local communities in stating their values for solving issues (Willis, 2006:9).

The environmentalelement is considered as an outstanding point in sustainable development and as elements of human development. This discussion is mainly presented for using natural-environmental resources and since the issues related to this domain are detectable in the framework of quantitative researches, it can be said that environmental discussions include the most challenging domain of sustainable development (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007).

Concept of citizenship

A citizen is a formal member of a city, state or country. This ideas remind us the rights and responsibilities of a citizen which are predicted and codified in the law.

Definition of civil rights

Legally, a society requires the existence of laws and regulations which organize and consider issues related to business, properties, ownership, urbanization, policies, and even issue of families. Therefore, from urban viewpoint, the issue of civil rights includes relations among people, their rights and responsibilities for each other and principles, objectives and duties as well as the method of doing them. In addition, the mode of managing urban affairs and the quality of supervision on the homogeneous development of cities which can be considered as the most important principles derived from the constitution of a country.

In fact, civil rights is a mixture of duties and responsibilities of citizens for each other, cities, and government or the dominant power over a country, as well as rights and privileges which have responsibility of supplying those rights is burdened on the shoulder of urban managers, governments, or in general, dominant powers. The set of these rights and responsibilities is referred to as "civil rights".

The objective of urban sustainable development

The objective is to create cities which are economically flourishing, culturally rich, and socially fair, clean, green, and safe in which the possibility of a constructive, creative and happy can be provided. These cities should guarantee employment, housing, healthcare, possibility of movement and displacement, proper training and healthcare, healthy drinking water, cultural development and public security, access to nature and participation in urban government for their own citizens.

Accordingly, urban sustainable development becomes functional aspects in the evolution of the following concepts:

a. Providing grounds for social and citizenship justice
b. Providing grounds for citizenship participation and social integrity
c. Providing grounds for reinforcing the foundations of social institutions and family foundations
d. The strategic approach to the appearance of urban sustainable development
e. Expanding rituals and customs of urbanization
f. The help of state and private organizations
g. Making policies and plans of policy making efficient in the domain of metropolises
h. Expanding civil rights and developing civil relations

Basic principles of urban sustainable design

In line with the realization of urban sustainable development, conditions should be provided in order that the possibility of providing grounds for human sustainable development and improving

citizenship social welfare can be provided. In this grounds on can refer to establishing social justice (Harvey, 1997: 99-110), climatic design compatible with human environment (Bahreini and Shieh, 2001), reinforcing structures of social integrity such as commitment, responsibility, reinforcing social and family foundations and reviving the universal environment (Bahreini, 1999), creating structural disciplines in urban spaces for aesthetic perception and urban eligibility (Kevin Lynch, 2001: 12-43), improving utilizing urban spaces and increasing citizenship satisfaction (Bahreini, 1999: 98-129), creating integrity to visual structure of the environment and urban landscape (Gordon Cullen, 1998: 64-90). Sustainable design in urban structure can be formed based on three main principles:

Principle 1 can be considered as saving resources and it is to reduce the degree of the application of unrenewable resources in the application of urban constructions by optimized consumption of resources.

Principle 2 is based on life cycle which covers the environmental results and consequences of whole urban life cycle and construction resources form the stage of supplement to return to the nature.

Principle 3 is considered as human design rooted in the need to keeping chain elements of biological systems and the survival of human beings. Accordingly, urban design and sustainable architecture should improve the quality of work and life places. This issue results in the increase in productivity and reduction in human psychological pressures as well as improving biological conditions. It also provides the grounds for social and citizenship welfare.

Strategies of urban sustainable development

Two important factors in attaining appropriate development in local scale are to pay attention to the function and significance of local governments and the other is to pay attention to the issue of citizens' participation in adopting and implementing decisions. In this relation Willis believes that local governments are responsible for the selection and decision making regarding values of their societies and adoption of decisions which directly influence sustainability of cities in social, economic and environmental terms (Willis, 2006:8-12).

In a country, local governments are active on the fields of participation with their societies and citizens for developing long-term visions and working plans which guide the access to sustainable results not only in the future but now. Such visions and projects which belong to local governments can provide frameworks for helping citizens and local governors to understand opportunities and potentials, drawing the future and making apparently conflicting needs compatible (ibid).

The objective of adopting policies based on urban sustainable development is to access sustainable cities. The concept of sustainable cities and its features have been repeatedly paid attention to by scientific circles and official and unofficial organizations. This concept in such an expansive range and finding a unified definition of sustainable city is not possible. Components of sustainable city are environmental, social and economic instances to which each theorist refers. Sustainable cities are those which have conducted measures for maintaining health in long-term periods. These cities have visions which are accepted and actively enhanced by all sections of a society including different professions, vulnerable groups, environmentalists, civil associations, state institutions, and religions associations. These cities consume resources appropriately and try to keep and develop their economy based on local considerations. The meaning of sustainability in different societies is different because different societies have not the same perception of sustainable in their cities in terms of different social, economic, environmental, and subjective conditions. In general, to obtain sustainability, paying attention to the role of people and citizens

is very significant because it make possible the attainment of strategies of sustainable cities better and more rapidly.

The necessity of paying attention to urban sustainable development for realizing civil rights

Nowadays, the issue of sustainable development is considered as one of the most key concerns in all urban societies and this issue may be the case of competition for all countries and even it has been observed that these countries, for attaining this important issue, have started changes in the world and the results of these changes indicate the dominant approach towards citizens' satisfaction and supplement of their rights in a society.

Since in the definition of "urban sustainable development" humanity is at the center in the development which is responsible for realizing the present generations' needs without limiting the needs of the future generations (Rees and Roseland, 1991); therefore, inaccessibility to sustainability can endanger and spoil a large part of humans' rights. For example, the lack reformation in consumption patterns results in the consumption of resources of energy and use of these kinds of energy on the one hand, and leads to the lack of sustainability and spoil of the rights of the future generations.

In other words, urban sustainable development can be considered as the improvement in life quality in the urban structure which results in the improvement in environmental quality. Accordingly, urban sustainable development results in human sustainable development which per se contributes to the establishment of social capital and social justice.

The concept of sustainability in development can be possible by providing grounds for increasing citizenship welfare which results in the improvement of infrastructures and urban housing as well as fair and appropriate distribution of urban facilities and services. Accordingly, citizenship welfare can be considered as one of the main axes of urban sustainable development which can provide the grounds of increasing human security and social satisfaction.

As a result, to obtain a comprehensive image of the concept of urban sustainable development, the explication of features of "sustainable city" seems necessary. These features are as follows:

- A justice-centered and proper city: a place where justice, food, shelter, training, healthcare, and hope are justly distributed and all people participate in managing the affairs of the city.
- A beautiful city: a place where art, architecture and landscape are signs of artistic understanding and enthusiasm.
- A creative city: a place where completes intellectual freedom and experiential movement of the capacity of human resources and allows humans to react appropriately and rapidly to changes.
- An ecologic city: a place in which unfavorable ecologic consequences are at the least level, the place and shape of the human-made environment is compatible with the natural profile and building and infrastructures are safe and fully productive.
- A city with easy accessibility and contact: a place where social activities in public realms are encouraged, and information are exchanged both face-to-face and electronically.
- A compact city with multiple centers: a place where the natural regions around the city are protected from the expansion of the city and the coherent local associations in neighborhoods are emphasized.
- A diverse city: a place where an expensive range of concurrent activities, liveliness, happiness, and motivation result in public life.

In this framework, key indices of urbansustainable development are as follows:

- Urban development management
- Economic development
- Social justice and the city
- Beauty of the environmental with the sense of the place

These four key indices of urban sustainable development are not separate from each other and urban ecology is the foundation of all of them.

in conclusion, urban sustainable development is a combination of economic, social, and environmental development which regarding the basic rights and freedom of human beings, is the instrument of accessing a sustainable world, more durable peace as visional-moral as well as spiritual development. Therefore, the foundational necessity of realizing sustainable development is the existence of democracy, governments, and executive institutions responsible for observing civil rights which are clear and representative of all social groups and effective participation of a civil society.

Strategies of realization of civil rights

The realization of civil rights needs the institutionalization of citizenship laws and duties. In this line, all social, political, cultural, and economic measures should be conducted in line with the institutionalization of citizenship laws and duties.

These strategies of realization of civil rights and operationalization of them in Iran are as follows:

8.1. Recognition of the rights of citizens: codification of the Bill of Rights by the government of Rohani can give citizens and their rights a kind of certain identity in the government and in the next stages in the legal system of IRI.

8.2. Explication of the scope and framework of citizens' rights in Iran: it is obvious that identifying the scope of the coverage of civil rights and its instances is an important step in the path of identifying these rights and the duties of citizens to each other and it can make their responsibilities for the government and other citizens clear.

8.3. Creating effective and efficient enforcement: this issue can be conducted via the participation of legislative, executive and judicial powers.

8.4. Increasing the public knowledge towards civil rights: enhancing people's knowledge of their rights results in balancing the levels of demands and consequently increasing the level of standards. This issue can be conducted via short-term, middle-term, and long-term plans and with cooperation of media and educational institutions.

8.5. **Providing grounds required for creating the activities of civil institutions, groups, associations, and sessions**: these institutions can take the some part of the responsibility for enhancing the level of public knowledge and on the other hand, play effective roles in the form of organized activities. Further, the role of these groups cannot be deniable in building cultures and institutionalizing the issue of civil rights.

8.6. Creating interaction between people and the government

Civil, political and judicial rights whose realization depends on close and attentive realization of damages and strategies of the same domain seem to have particular significance. Therefore, in each domain, expensive studies should be conducted on each domain in planning, policy making,

execution, and supervision and based on identified damages and challenges, practical strategies specific to the realization of civil rights should be investigated.

Conducted measures with the axis of sustainable development and civil rights at the international level

One of the most important activities which has been conducted on the field of realizing sustainable development in the world one can refer to the following issues:

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan for sustainable development. Naturally, no country and organization by its own cannot reach such an important thing, but by cooperating with local, regional, national, and global institutions, the objectives of sustainable development can be accessible.

Agenda 21 investigates important issues which nowadays they are at the focus with regard to the needs of next generations. The success of this plan will be guaranteed when its recommendations can be developed and executed byLocal Action Agenda 21.

Agenda 21 is a global and developed plan for accessing sustainable development in 21st century which was approved in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro by the heads of 187 countries. This agenda includes main principles of sustainable development. Agenda 21 is a favorable model for economic sustainable development and enhancing life quality for the present generation without that the next generations be deprived from natural resources. It has considered economic, social, and environmental issues and presented strategies for them.

Developing objectives of the third millennium development

The objectives of the millennium development includes 8 ideas to which the world should get access until 2015 in order to respond main challenges of the world's development. The objectives of the millennium developmentdraws an image of the measures and objectives which are mentioned in the declaration of the third millennium. The declaration of the third millennium was approved by 189 co9untires and 147 heads of different countries signed it in the September 2000. These 8 ideals are divided into 21 aims with 60 measurable indices:

Ideal 1: removing severe poverty and hunger

Ideal 2: accessing universal primary training

Ideal 3: expanding and promoting sexual equality and empowering women

Ideal 4: lowering the death rate of children

Ideal 5: improving mothers' health

Ideal 6: fighting with AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases

Ideal 7: guaranteeing the sustainability of the environment

Ideal 8: expanding global participation for development

Holding the 1stWorld Conference on Cities, 2002: Nairobi-Kenia (Sustainable Urbanization)

The 1st World Conference on Cities was held in 2002, Nairobi-Kenia. The main axis of this conference was Sustainable Urbanization. In this conference, more than 1200 experts and specialists from 80 countries of the world discussed about the following axes:

- The role of local officials and other shareholders of the Habitat Agenda (de-centralization, cooperation and coordination of cities with cities and the role of non-governmental organizations were three main discussions of this axis).
- Cities without factorable settlements
- Global campaigns for secure settlements and urban government
- Supervision on urban affairs

Holding the 3rd World Conference on Cities, 2006: Vancouver, Canada (Our Future: Sustainable Cities, Changing Thoughts into Practice)

The 3rd World Conference on Cities, 2006 (Our Future: Sustainable Cities, Changing Thoughts into Practice) was held in Vancouver, Canada. The issues discussed in this conference includes land and housing, infrastructural facilities, urban security, and etc. in the form of the following axes:

- Aces to the objectives of the third millennium development: empowering unfavorable settlements and constructing cheap houses
- Public commitment
- Supplying financial resources of municipalities: cooperation and creativity
- Urban security and safety: taking responsibility
- Cities' forms: urban management and planning
- Energy: local measurement, global effects

The 4th World Conference on Cities, 2008, Nanjing-China (Harmonious Urban Development: The Challenge of Balanced Land Development)

The 4th World Conference on Cities, 2008 (Harmonious Urban Development: The Challenge of Balanced Land Development) was held in Nanjing-China. In this session, experts presented their ideas about issues related to the following issues:

- Land balance in urban development
- Promotion and expansion of equality and the absence of social deprivation
- Making cities and economic productivity active
- Creating coordination and balance between natural and artificial environments
- Keeping historical roots and spirit of cities
- Cities for next generations

The 5th World Conference on Cities, 2010: Rio de Janeiro -Brazil (advancing people's rights to cities: creating a bridge between urban gaps)

The 5th World Conference on Cities, 2010 was held in Rio de Janeiro –Brazil. The main axis of this session was "advancing people's rights to cities: creating a bridge between urban gaps" discussed in three days. The session followed the following six axes:

1. Advancing the objective of enjoyment of urban rights
2. Creating a bridge between urban gaps
3. Equal access to shelters
4. Cultural and identity diversity in cities
5. Urban government and partnership
6. Sustainable urbanization, being prepared for a changing urban environment

The most important measures conducted with a focus on sustainable developmentcivil rights at the national level

The idea of sustainable development and Agenda 21 as the action plan in the framework of this idea at the global level, serious changes and transformation in methods of decision making and sustainable measures, intra-sectional forerunninginstitutions in facilitating specialist and management decision making which both promote the idea and present solution for it at natural levels, provide the grounds for active international participation. One of the main international domains is the active presence of Iran's experts in annual seminars of the CSD in which the latest positions of countries regarding sustainable development are presented.

In Iran, such as other countries in the world, sustainable development with a focus on maintaining the environment has been significantly considered and gradually, it has attracted attentions to itself in the field of policy making, planning, and executing different activities and other components of sustainable development as a comprehensive and multi-dimensional concept. To deepen the scientific and technical events and providing principled grounds for making effective and efficient decisions in the process of Iran's sustainable development, the supreme council of protecting the environment, an institution working under the Presidency Institution approved the establishment of the National Sustainable Development Committee in 8 September 1993. In the line with the policy making and coordination among plans of economic and social development in the country and access to the objectives of protecting the environment and achievements of the Earth Session (Rio 1992), the duties of the mention committee were determined as follows:

- Reviewing the draft of sustainable strategy and presenting suggestions to the Supreme Council for Environment
- Developing and expanding database and the documentation centers regarding the programs of Agenda 21 and related conventions
- Presenting suggestions for determining coordinated policies to the supreme council regarding the issues related to the conventions in international societies
- Planning common executive-research project about conventions related to the national committee and with countries of the region
- Investigating the measurers conducted in line with sustainable development and the environment and pursuing related measures
- Investigating and commenting about affairs which are referred by the supreme council for protecting the environment.

3. CONCLUSION

A sustainable city can be the ground for attaining sustainable objectives which result in citizenship welfare, restoration of civil rights, social justice citizenship, and human development which cause the improvement in environmental quality and optimal distribution of urban services and facilities for increasing social satisfaction. Urban sustainable development is to provide opportunities for the projects compatible with climate, reinforcement of social foundations, protection and curing the environment, and optimize life quality in cities. These measures cover all economic and cultural criteria. They consider paying attention to the sustainable architecture and design, prevention from spatial separation and housing separation as well as supplement of material and spiritual needs of citizens along with respect to rights and the legacy of next generations as the objectives of urban sustainable development which emphasize particular social capital.Basic principles of sustainable development are human design and design based on life cycle. These principles create the improvement in environmental quality and consequently, result in the increase in civil public welfare. The increase in social welfare is the human and basic basis of urban sustainable development, which provides opportunities for improving urban environments, housing quality and urban spaces, the possibility of equal distribution of services and facilities, reconstruction of urban infrastructures and facilitation of transportation, and access to urban users.

Urban sustainable development represents a city which has value and moral framework and by utilizing financial and natural resources, social capital, as well as material and spiritual qualities realize social welfare, and accordingly, help the dynamicity, convenience, and calmness in the process of urbansustainabledevelopment.

It is obvious that investigating mentioned issues and reviving civil rights in line with urban sustainable development requires "national determination", governmental determination", and "people's participation" (via making them familiar with their own rights in the realm of sustainable development both in implementing projects and urbanization regulations).

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