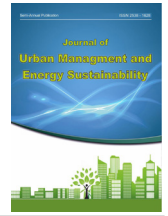


# Journal of Urban Management and Energy Sustainability (JUMES)

Homepage: <http://www.ijumes.com>



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

### Explanation the optimal model of participatory planning of urban projects using the Delphi method (Case Study: 1th District of Tehran city)

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#### ARTICLE INFO

##### Article History:

Received 2023-08-20

Revised 2023-09-23

Accepted 2023-11-29

##### Keywords:

Participatory planning, physical component, social component, sustainable development, Tehran.

DOI: [10.22034/ijumes.2023](https://doi.org/10.22034/ijumes.2023). \*\*

#### ABSTRACT

The current research is applied research because it seeks to achieve a scientific goal and emphasizes on solving a problem and includes a set of methods whose purpose is to describe the conditions or phenomena under investigation. In this research, considering the need to explain and present the optimal model of participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran, the type of exploratory research and the method of carrying it out is descriptive-survey based on qualitative interview data and quantitative Delphi questionnaire and structural equation questionnaire (to verify the extracted codes and provide a quantitative model). Therefore, the present research is a mixed method. The statistical population of this research includes two groups, the first group is 12 urban planning experts and city managers and decision-makers who are at the top of affairs, and the second group is the population living in district one of Tehran, based on the census. In 2015, more than 487 thousand people are estimated. The results show that physical component (0.455) has high-priority and social component (0.218) has a low-priority in participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran. Finally, urban planning is compatible with strengthening the economic capabilities of the local community and maintaining independence and self-sufficiency in the production of goods and services. This practice increases income, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in the local community. Also, by preserving natural resources and reducing dependence on imports, it helps to achieve the goal of sustainable development

Running Title: *The optimal model of participatory planning of urban projects in using the Delphi method*



NUMBER OF REFERENCES

18



NUMBER OF FIGURES

00



NUMBER OF TABLES

09

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On the one hand, the action of random planning depends on the features of the context in which planning takes place. (Bolan, 1973; Dyckman; Othengrafen, 2012) and on the other hand to program with different values, individual characteristics, talents and skill who interact with other people, organizations and institutions as agents of planning in society Hariz program as one of the actors of Hariz program is one of the environmental features that (Othengrafen, 2014) Their institutional and professional conditions “influence” that program. Planning decisions to It depends and results from the tension between individual goals and common interests and between professional judgment and preference Therefore, judgment is at the heart of what planning’s program does. In this situation, “Citizens”. Instead of searching for universal rules of action, focus on the backgrounds and limitations (Othengrafen and Reimer, 2013) the capabilities of planners are necessary for selection and judgment in the texts of the planning program, the importance of the conditions and context of the Harizi program is emphasized in the practice of the planning program. Booth with planning ‘s program is likened to pest worship that changes color in certain social, political and cultural fields. and with doubts about the concept of Harizi program (Beierle,1986; Conard et al., 2011, Cited in Knieling & Othengrafen, 2014) He believes that the concept of spatial programming (De Vries, 2015) as a necessarily technical and neutral activity) The 1990s has changed as a cultural process, the results of which are influenced by the interaction between Masazan’s decisions and Booth, 1993, 219; (Cited in Othengrafen) is the meaning they give to the tool they use Friedman emphasizes that if planning’s program is used as words. (Ran, 2012, 1271) free from social, political or cultural themes, then they can be popular all over the world. They acquire the habit of saying the same words or tending to the same action until the emergence of a culture of the same arbitrary agenda. But in spite of the growing volume of international relations that are attracting each other’s names. In the form of social nesting around

the world, there are still important differences in the ways in which Knelling and Ottengrafen (2005), referring to the complexity (Friedmann, 2005) and the multifaceted nature of the spatial planning program, including the interactive processes between the involved actors, in the cultural and social frameworks are deeply rooted in cultural contexts society has and it is understood and operationalized in a different way. In other words, non-obvious cultural levels and there are also unconscious practices that clearly express the diversity of social practices affecting (Othengrafen, 2013). In the planning contents, the components that shape the environment of the program that affect the operation of the program It is mentioned in a scattered way. Different researchers have different interpretations to refer to the field that Friedmann, (planning takes place there), have used concepts such as decision-making environment (Steinhauer, 2011), Faludi, 1970 (1967), planning environment 3; Bolan, 1973 Knieling & Othengrafen and planning culture (Cullingworth, Nadin, 2006; Whittick, 1974 2009; Othengrafen, 2012; Friedmann 2005; Sanyal 2005; Othengrafen, 2014; Abram, 2011); Although these concepts have many similarities with each other, considering their differences (Faludi, 2005), which has become more prominent especially in recent years with the project about Harizi’s concept of culture, is necessary to draw a comprehensive picture of the components of the planning environment is important. (Connelly, 2010) Participatory planning in the field of urban planning refers to the participation and active participation of citizens, community groups, stakeholders and other related institutions in the urban planning process. This collaborative approach is used with the aim of including diverse perspectives, local knowledge and expertise in the decision-making process and implementation of urban development projects, and they should participate in shaping the future of their communities. This approach goes beyond traditional top-down planning approaches and encourages active participation and collaboration between planners, policy makers and the general public. (Forester, 2021)

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Methodology

The current research is applied research because it seeks to achieve a scientific goal and emphasizes on solving a problem and includes a set of methods whose purpose is to describe the conditions or phenomena under investigation. In this research, considering the need to explain and present the optimal model of participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran, the type of exploratory research and the method of carrying it out is descriptive-survey based on qualitative interview data and quantitative Delphi questionnaire and structural equation questionnaire (to verify the extracted codes and provide a quantitative model). Therefore, the present research is a mixed method. The statistical population of this research includes two groups, the first group is 12 urban planning experts and city managers and decision-makers who are at the top of affairs, and the second group is the population living in district one of Tehran, based on the census. In 2015, more than 487 thousand people are estimated. According to statistical studies, it has a five percent growth per year. Therefore, the sample size of 395 people was calculated and randomly selected as a snowball. The sample volume is calculated based on the formula given below.<sup>1</sup>

$$n = \frac{(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)(Z_1 - \frac{a}{\gamma} + Z_1 - B)^2}{(\mu_1 - \mu_2)^2}$$

<sup>1</sup> and  $\mu_1$  are data related to interviewees in similar research and  $\mu_2$  and are data related to elites in Delphi technique in similar research. The required sample size is based on the results of the research and the number of sample size based on this method is estimated to be 12 people who were selected using a targeted method. It should be noted that in addition to interviewing these people, which is distributed among them in accordance with the Delphi questionnaire (to verify the validity of the extracted codes), the second group was randomly selected from among 395 people using a structured questionnaire.

### Delphi research questionnaire

The questionnaire used in the current research, which is used to verify the validity of the indicators, is the Delphi questionnaire.

After the interview, the sentences of the interviews are categorized and indicators are extracted. The indicators will be verified with the Delphi technique. The Delphi method is the result of the studies that the Rand company conducted in the 1950s to create a method for obtaining consensus among group specialists. This method has replaced traditional research approaches using statistical methods. In fact, Delphi is a method for structuring a group communication process, in such a way that the process allows group members to challenge the problem. In order to carry out this structured communication, there is a need to reflect on the role of individuals, to evaluate the judgment of the group, the opportunity to correct viewpoints and a level of anonymity. Therefore, the goal of this method is to reach the most reliable agreement of a group of experts on a specific topic, which is done by using a questionnaire and asking experts for their opinion many times, considering the feedback obtained from them.

The traditional Delphi method has always suffered from the low convergence of experts' opinions, high implementation cost, and the possibility of deleting the opinions of some people. Later, to improve the traditional Delphi method, the concept of integrating the traditional Delphi method with fuzzy theory was proposed. In fact, the fuzzy Delphi method was presented by Kofman and Gupta in 1988. This method is a generalization of the traditional Delphi method in urban planning. In the Delphi method, the opinions of experts are expressed in the form of definite numbers, while the use of definite numbers for long-term forecasts makes the prediction result far from reality. On the other hand, the experts use their mental skills and abilities for prediction, and this shows that the uncertainty governing these conditions is a possibility, not a probability. The possibility of

uncertainty is compatible with fuzzy sets, so it is better to use sets to make decisions in the real world. In the Delphi method, the necessary information is taken from experts in the form of natural language and analyzed in the form of dimensions (Salma, 2012).

In the fuzzy Delphi method, experts usually present their opinions in the form of minimum value, most possible value and maximum value (triangular fuzzy numbers). Then, the average opinion of the experts (numbers provided) and the amount of difference in opinion of each expert is calculated from the average. In the next step, this information will be sent to experts for new opinions. Then, each expert presents a new opinion or corrects his previous opinion based on the information obtained from the previous stage. This process continues until the average of the fuzzy numbers is stable enough. In addition to this, if the study of subgroups of experts is also necessary, it is possible to identify the opinions of experts based on fuzzy relations in similar groups by calculating the distance between the triangular numbers and provide the relevant information to the experts. He sent the item for consideration (Rasmussen, 2012). The most important tool used in the Delphi technique is the interview. In this research, after defining the topic and its dimensions, Delphi panel members were identified and selected in three stages using non-probability sampling methods. Then, using the Delphi method, four stages of questionnaire distribution were done in person. Tab. 1 shows the date of distribution and collection of interviews of each round.

In the first round, a list of effective factors extracted from previous researches was provided to the members to determine their importance. In addition, they were asked to provide their ideas about factors that are not on this list. In the second round, the group of factors that were proposed in the first round were given to them to determine the importance level. In the third and fourth rounds, the members' opinion about the factors that were identified as important in the first and second rounds were received again. The Delphi method was completed after the fourth round and reaching a favorable consensus.

## **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

### *The results of the Delphi method*

In this research, the Delphi method was carried out in four rounds, and in this section, the findings of each round are presented separately.

### *The results of the first round of the Delphi method*

The first round of Delphi questionnaires in the number of 12 questionnaires were distributed to the panel members in person, and after a week, the follow-up to receive the answers began. After 5 face-to-face calls to all the members, the interviews were completed and the item results were extracted. It is necessary to explain that in the first round of Delphi, a list of effective factors on participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran, which was extracted from previous researches, was presented. In the first part of the mentioned questions, the respondent should express his opinion about the effect of each of the factors extracted from pre-

**Table (1):** Date of distribution and collection of interviews

Round	First interview		Collecting data			The average number of follow-ups of each member
	Date of distribution	Number	last date	Number	Percentage	
1th	19 - 3 - 2017	12	5 - 4 - 2022	12	100	5 Times
2th	12 - 4 - 2016	12	28 - 4 - 2022	11	95	3 Times
3th	4 - 5 - 2016	11	22 - 5 - 2022	11	100	3 Times
4th	5 - 6 - 2016	12	21 - 6 - 2022	12	100	3 Times

vious researches by choosing one of the options available in front of them. These options were in the form of a Likert spectrum and included “very little effect: 1”, “little effect: 2”, “moderate effect: 3”, “high effect: 4”, and “very high effect: 5”. In Table 3-4, the results related to the first part of the first round of the Delphi questionnaire, which include items such as the number of answers for each item, the average of the answers, their standard deviation, the order of importance of each factor based on the average of the answers, and the percentage of members who ranked the order of each factor as the group training have determined, it is inserted. (Tab. 2)

The second part of the first-round questionnaire of the Delphi method was dedicated to providing effective factors that were not included in the list of the first part, but were considered important and key according to the respondents. In this section, the respondents were asked to provide a maximum of six factors along with a brief explanation. In this section, the respondents raised a total of 103 factors, and by combining some of them, 84 factors remained. Among these, 19 factors were similar to the factors included in the first part of the questionnaire, and after removing them, 84 effective factors on participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran were extracted. Table 4-4 shows

the results related to the second part of the first round of Delphi questionnaire. (Tab. 3)

Table (3): factors affecting the participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran (provided by Delphi panel members)

Components	Number of responses
Economic	12
Social	11
Cultural	12
Environmental	11
Motivational	8
Physical	12

The results of the second round of the Delphi method

In the questionnaire of the second round, a list of factors was presented that the participants in the first round had put forward as effective factors on the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects. In this section, the respondent should have expressed his opinion about the effect of each of them by choosing one of the options available in front of them. These options were presented in the form of a Likert scale, including “very low impact: 1”, “low impact: 2”, “medium impact: 3”, “high impact: 4”, and “very high impact: 5”. In Table 4 and 5, the results of the second round of the Delphi method include items such as the num-

Table (2): Statistical description of the respondents’ opinion about the factors affecting the participatory planning of urban projects in Tehran, which was extracted from previous researches - the first round of Delphi

Components	Number of responses	Average responses	Standard deviation of responses	order importance	The percentage who determined the order of this factor as the order of the group
Economic	12	4.72	0.470	1	72
Social	11	2.38	1.071	1	77
Cultural	12	4.77	0.0429	1	77
Environmental	11	4.73	0.455	1	72
Motivational	12	2.50	1.058	1	58
Physical	12	4.82	0.395	1	81

ber of answers for each item, the average of the answers, their standard deviation, the order of importance of each factor based on the average of the answers, and the percentage of members who have determined the order of each factor in the same way as group training. (Tab. 4 and 5)

*The results of the third round of the Delphi method*

In the first part of the third round Delphi questionnaire, a group of factors were presented that the participants in the first and second rounds identified as key and effective factors on the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects. The average effect of these factors was “high” and “very high” (items with a weight of 4 or more). In front of each factor, the average of the answers of the panel members in the previous rounds and the answers of each person were also entered separately. In this section, the respondent should have expressed his opinion about the effect of each factor by choosing one of the options available in front of them. These options were in the form of a Likert spectrum and included “very little effect: 1”, “little effect: 2”, “moderate effect: 3”, “high effect: 4”, and

“very high effect: 5”. The number of answers for each item, the average of the answers, their standard deviation, the order of importance of each factor based on the average of the answers, and the percentage of members who determined the order of each factor as the order of the group are given in Tab. 6 and 7.

In the second part of the third-round questionnaire, the set of factors affecting the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects were presented in order of their importance based on the average answers of the previous rounds. In this section, the respondent should have expressed his opinion about the order of importance of each factor, assigning “number 1: as the most important” to “number 5: as the least important” in front of each factor. Kendall's coordination coefficient for the responses of the first, second, and third, fourth, fifth, and sixth components of this round is 0.757, 0.766, 0.850, 0.765, 0.716, and 0.786, respectively.

*The results of the fourth round of the Delphi method*

In the first part of the questionnaire of the fourth round, a group of factors was presented

**Table (4):** Statistical description of the respondents' opinion about the factors affecting the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects, - the second round of Delphi

Components	Number of responses	Average responses	Standard deviation of responses	order importance
The level of communication with neighbors and residents of the neighborhood	11	4.66	0.489	1
The level of trust in partnership activities	11	4.26	1.097	1
Access to entertainment centers	21	4.35	1.182	1

**Table (5):** Statistical results in the first and second round of Delphi

Component	N	Kendall's
1th Components	12	0.745
2th Components	12	0.717
3th Components	12	0.710
4th Components	12	0.730
5th Components	12	0.717
6th Components	12	0.723

that the participants had identified in the first and second rounds as effective factors on the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects. The average effect of these factors was “high” and “very high”. In front of each factor, the average of the answers of the panel members in the third round and the answer of each person were entered separately. In this section, the respondent should have expressed his opinion about the impact of each factor by choosing one of the options available in front of them. These options were in the form of a Likert spectrum and included “very little effect: 1”, “little effect: 2”, “moderate effect: 3”, “high effect: 4”, and “very high effect: 5”. The number of answers for each item, the average of the answers, their standard deviation, the order of importance of each factor based on the average of the answers, and the percentage of members who determined the order of each factor as the order of the group are listed in [Tab. 8 and 9](#).

In the second part of the questionnaire of the fourth round, the group of factors affecting the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects was presented in the order of their importance based on the average of the answers of the third round. In this section, the respondent should have expressed his opinion about the order of importance of each factor in terms of the effect on the components, assigning “number 1: as the most important” to “number 5: as the least important” in front of each factor.

**CONCLUSION AND RESULTS**

The results show that urban planning is compatible with strengthening the economic capabilities of the local community and maintaining independence and self-sufficiency in the production of goods and services. This practice increases income, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in the local community. Also, by preserving natural resources and reduc-

**Table (6):** Statistical description of the respondents' opinion about the factors affecting the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects, the third round of Delphi

Components	Number of responses	Number of responses	Average responses	Standard deviation of responses	order importance
Economic	11	4.80	0.218	1	86
Social	11	4.76	0.538	1	75
Cultural	11	4.80	0.511	1	69
Environmental	11	4.80	0.218	1	86
Motivational	11	4.76	0.538	1	75
Physical	11	4.80	0.511	1	69

**Table (7):** Statistical results of the third round of Delphi

Component	N	Kendall's
1th Components	11	0.757
2th Components	11	0.766
3th Components	11	0.850
4th Components	11	0.765
5th Components	11	0.716
6th Components	11	0.786

ing dependence on imports, it helps to achieve the goal of sustainable development. Participation can also be related to various types of interactions, including holding public meetings, presenting opinions and suggestions, participating in important decisions, and even implementing economic plans and programs. This shows the importance of two-way interactions between the city authorities and the local community to ensure the economic and financial development of the city. With this type of participation, it is ensured that the needs and preferences of citizens are considered in line with economic development and financial decisions. Also, encouraging entrepreneurship and creating job opportunities in innovative and creative sectors is important, and fair and sustainable economic development is also important in urban planning. It should also be considered that the de-

velopment of social infrastructure, the reduction of income differences and the promotion of economic justice are also part of the importance of urban planning. In this process, paying attention to the development of stable and sustainable economic sectors is also of great importance.

Finally, participatory planning tries to achieve sustainable achievements and improve the quality of life in cities by combining and converging these six components with the complexities and diversities in urban planning. This requires collective efforts, cooperation and coordination among the society, managers, professionals, and citizens in order to achieve a dynamic and effective participatory urban planning and guide the cities towards sustainable development. Cities are known as dynamic and complex environments that are influenced by various variables. These variables can be eco-

**Table (8):** Statistical description of the respondents' opinion about the factors affecting the participatory planning of contemporary urban projects, - the fourth round of Delphi

Components	Number of responses	Number of responses	Average responses	Order importance	The percentage who determined the order of this factor as the order of the group
Economic	12	4.75	0.229	1	92
Social	12	4.76	0.218	1	88
Cultural	11	4.74	0.229	1	65
Environmental	12	4.77	0.429	1	83
Motivational	12	4.77	0.429	1	83
Physical	12	4.73	0.455	1	71

**Table (9):** Statistical results of the fourth round of Delphi

Component	N	Kendall's
1th Components	12	0.819
2th Components	12	0.881
3th Components	12	0.862
4th Components	12	0.873
5th Components	12	0.829
6th Components	12	0.817



conomic, social, cultural, environmental and political, and in contradictions, they give diversity and dynamism to cities and create challenges from the point of view of planners. With the increase in the number of actors in the urban planning process, the need for participation and interaction between institutions and individuals has increased. In this situation, various complications can arise that require new solutions in urban planning and management. Therefore, combining the principles of participatory planning with regard to the complexities and diversity of the urban environment, provides the possibility of responding to the needs and problems of different cities. Finally, paying attention to the principles of participatory planning and a deep understanding of the complexities and variations of urban planning are powerful tools for sustainable development and improving the quality of life in cities. This combination can help in the proper management of resources, effective interaction with different sections of society, environmental protection, promotion of citizenship culture, economic promotion, and motivation for participation and interaction in the urban planning process. This also indicates changes in urban planning approaches. Innovative methods in this field are considered as a way to adapt and adapt the current planning and governance to urban complexities. The complexities in cities, especially in the intersection of various economic, social, cultural, environmental, motivational and physical factors, require new approaches for urban management and planning. These developments lead to changes in the views of citizens' participation in planning processes. Focusing on communities and networks, both in the global and local categories, as well as in the professional and public categories, is necessary in order to gather sufficient knowledge of urban experiences and the management of urban spaces, especially in the face of today's complexities.

As a result, the interaction between different concepts of urban participation and different

disciplines related to urban issues creates a fundamental basis for the development of new approaches in urban planning. This interaction increases the diversity of interests and needs of different individuals and groups in society, and the multiple needs that continuously highlight and challenge the participatory and inclusive nature of planning processes. The concepts of participation and complexity in cities and urban planning make urban planners look for innovative solutions that have the ability to manage complex changes in the urban environment. These changes lead to diversity in planning disciplines and risks and require effective interaction and cooperation between different disciplines and urban risks. Combining the concepts of economic participation, social participation, cultural participation, environmental participation, motivational participation, and physical participation with different disciplines that are related to urban issues, creates interactions and a combination of different knowledge and experiences. This combination not only develops new approaches in urban planning, but also helps to better and more effectively manage the complexities and challenges of today's cities.

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