Analysis of the Tourism Capacities of Geomorphosites
(Case Study: Gilangharb, Qasr-e Shirin, and Sarpolezahab Cities)

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Extended Abstract:
1-INTRODUCTION
Geomorphotourism is one of the new methods of presenting tourist attractions, which generally follows the principles of sustainable tourism. The connection between geomorphologic issues and tourism has become widely addressed in interdisciplinary studies. Accordingly, tourism landscapes are defined as landform and geomorphological processes with aesthetic, historical-cultural, scientific and socio-economic values, based on human perception of form the factors affecting geomorphology. In this regard, Panyza, the geomorphologist Italian, introduced the term “geomorphosite” into geomorphology literature for the first time. Geomorphosite refers to the landforms with specific geomorphological characteristics that are considered as part of the cultural heritage of a territory (in the broad sense of the word). In this research, we attempt to present and identify geomorphologic landforms (which are most attractive) in Sarpolezahab, Qasr-e-Shirin and Gilan-e-Gharb townships and present a comparison and analysis of their geomorphotourism values.

2- THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Geomorphosites have a variety of scientific, cultural - historical, economic and ecological values and are integral to tourism and recreation. Geomorphosites are divided in two general categories. The first category presents the morphological characteristics with cultural - historical and landscape values. The second category, which is dominated by scientific values, deals more with geomorphological processes or specific nature of landforms and their conditions.
3- METHODOLOGY

According to the proposed model and a collection of tourism, scientific, cultural-historical and socio-economic criterions, the potential rate and touristic value of these landforms are evaluated and analyzed. In this model, all criteria and sub-criteria are evaluated and compared based on the mean questionnaire scores. To gather preliminary data, we used Landsat satellite imageries, geological and topographical maps, and original data obtained from observations and field surveys.

In the next step, the geomorphologic landforms of Sarpolezahab, Qasr-e Shirin and Gilangharb townships (Piran Waterfall, Gelin Valley, Alvand River, Imam Hasan Spring, Hajian cluse and Gilan-e-gharb vaclusienne) with touristic aspects were identified. Then, for each of the above landforms, the identification forms were prepared and characteristics of each landform were described in these forms.

4- DISCUSSION

Piran Waterfall is the most attractive geomorphosite in this study area. This geomorphosite is located in Dalaho Mountains with unique landscapes, which promotes the importance and tourism value of this landform. This landform is composed of three classes with two upper classes being very high and another being low in terms of height. The great height is another notable feature of this landform that increases its score so that height the difference between the highest and lowest points of the landform is about 180 m based on GPS data. If the waterfall height is considered as the primary landing site, the waterfall endpoint will be at the end of the second floor. Considering the lower height of the third floor (about 20 m) and a height difference of 10 m above the landform from the water flowing site, the total height of Piran Waterfall geomorphosite will be about 150 m. Also, this landform with a cultural – historical value of (0.61) had the highest score among geomorphosites.

5- CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

The result of the study shows that Piran Waterfall with a mean score of (0.77) is more important than other landforms. It obtained the highest scores in terms of scientific (1.26), and cultural - historical (0.61) values. Also Gilangharb vaclusienne landform gained the highest score with respect to the tourist value (0.72) among the landforms under study. This geomorphosite and Alvand River landform with a score of (0.68) ranked second with Alvand having the highest score in terms of socio – economic value (0.53) among landforms under study. It seems that tourism authorities should pay greater attention to promoting the development of tourism infrastructure in the study area as it would significantly help the employment rate and improve the economic status of the local residents.
Key words: Geomorphologic Landform, Geomorphotourism, Gilan-e-gharb, Qasr-e Shirin, Sarpolezahab

References

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