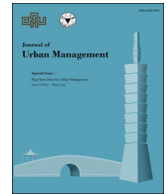


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## Research Article

## Recognition of management structure and spatial planning in Tehran metropolitan area

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## ABSTRACT

Metropolitan areas are concentrated and dense areas filled settlements and include a central urban region with its surrounding residences. Severity and complexity of issues in metropolitan areas along with intricacy and quantity of influential factors in these areas necessitate novel approaches and innovative solutions for comprehensive strategies and management coordination of land use in these regions. The present study has taken this approach to investigate management structure and spatial planning in Tehran metropolitan area. The study takes parameters like political and management decentralization, elements affecting urban management based on the sources of power and province and finally spatial domain of urban management into account. Findings revealed that decentralization in national management and political structure has limited tasks and authority of urban management. In this regard, a closer look at management structure and spatial planning of Tehran metropolitan area demonstrates that the government and its element dominate policy making, planning and spatial management of the city and inherent position of municipality and city council suffer weaknesses in their role as urban management. Results from investigating official tasks in urban management elements and their spatial domain reveals lack of coordination and Fragmentation in management structure and spatial planning in the region. The paper attempts to discuss these Fragmentation in the fields of management, function, politics and domains.

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## 1. Introduction

History has always had cities all around the world with various management styles and different civilizations and societies. The history of evolution of practice and theory in urban management and planning shows that before industrialization of cities, their organization was somehow organic and automatic; yet, increasing populations, various activities brought to the cities and profound changes in them, shifted the antecedent rules dominating spatial structures and juxtaposed the city with unprecedented environmental, social, economical and political issues. Since then, theorizing in the fields of spatial planning and management of cities have become the focus of several scientific and academic studies.

The beginning of the twentieth century in Iran brought about new economical approaches based reach development. The growth in public management organizations and industrial activities in cities was followed by an increase in population and induced huge spatial and physical changes. These changes were of greater effects in Tehran as the political and official

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**Table 1**

The evolution of the proportion of Tehran population to the country and metropolitan area between 1956 and 2006.

Year	Total population of country	Population of Tehran metropolitan area		Population of Tehran	The proportion of the region's population to that of the country	The proportion of Tehran's population to that of the country	The proportion of Tehran's population to that of the region
		Population of whole metropolitan area	Excluding Tehran				
1956	18,954,700	1,990,300	478,000	1,512,000	10.5	8.0	76
1966	25,788,722	3,456,000	756,000	2,700,000	13.4	10.5	78
1976	33,708,744	5,332,000	832,000	4,500,000	15.8	13.4	85
1986	49,445,010	8,108,000	2,108,000	6,000,000	16.4	12.1	74
1996	60,055,488	10,344,000	3,594,000	6,750,000	17.2	11.2	65.3
2006	70,495,782	13,422,000	5,710,770	7,711,230	19.04	10.94	57.5
2011	75,149,669	14,595,904	6,441,853	8,154,051	19.42	10.85	55.86

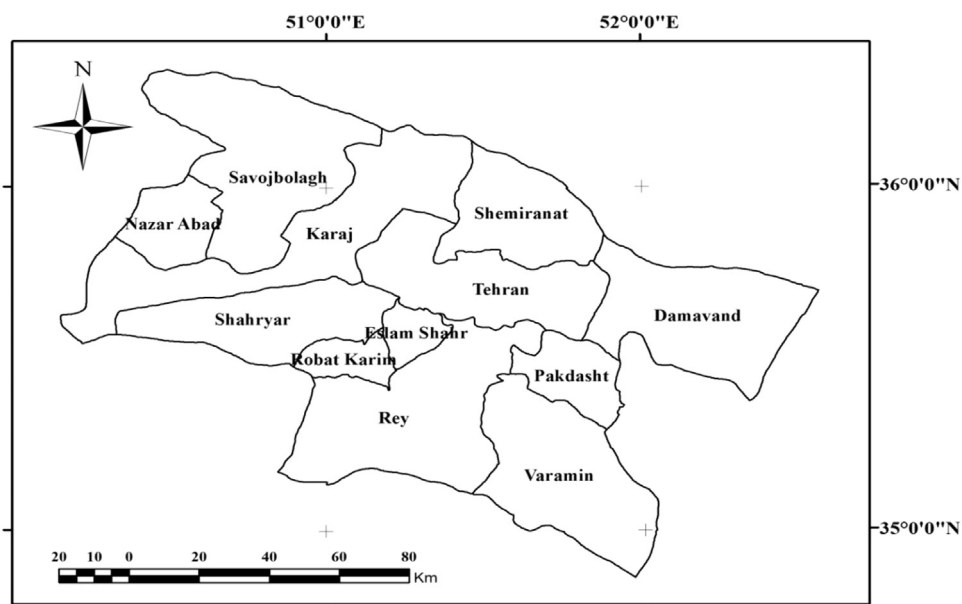
capital of Iran. In 1956, Tehran hosted a modest 8% of the population of the country reaching to 13.5% in 1976. However, it dropped to 11% in 2011 with around 8.5 million people. Nevertheless, these numbers are extremely noticeable in case of Tehran metropolitan area. In 2011, some 20% of the whole population was living in this area (Table 1 and Fig. 1). The changes in these areas necessitate designing an efficient management and planning system to lead these physical spatial changes in urban and metropolitan areas of the country. In order to manage and plan these changes, various management organizations and plans were founded and passed by the government some of which have been enacted and practiced. However, in spite of all said and done in recent years, Tehran metropolitan area is facing major problems like priority of unauthorized developments over authorized ones, indecent and insufficient regulations and urban policies, limited provision of land and home for low-income families ending in unofficial residences, lack of proper infrastructures in urban development due to unrealistic practical predictions and unauthorized development along with deterioration of environment etc. all of these problems has made it inevitable to look for solutions for them and ways to move toward a desirable future.

Recent expansions of the past 20–30 years have formed newer marginal metropolitan development and have raised the need for improvements in management structure and spatial planning in Tehran metropolitan area.

The main hypothesis of the present study is that the measures taken in Tehran metropolitan area, during this period, have been taken without an efficient management and planning structure properly designed for the development of such a metropolitan area.

The first subsidiary hypothesis of this study is that political-managerial macrostructure in Iran has not provided necessary conditions in order to form organization and desirable function of management system and planning proportional to Tehran metropolitan area.

The second subsidiary hypothesis is that as a result of mentioned structure, management system and spatial planning of Tehran metropolitan area has faced organizational-institutional challenges and problems for guidance and control of

**Fig. 1.** The limit of the Tehran metropolitan area and counties.

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