

Abstract:

The *Qajar* city of *Asterabad*, presently considered the historical fabric of today's city of *Gorgan*, is one of the most valuable historical urban fabrics in the north of Iran. The integrity of physical structure of old city of *Asterabad* has been conserved and it is still dynamic despite the changes caused by development of the city since Pahlavi Era. One of the reasons for dynamics and stability of the *Gorgan* historic fabric life is the existence of places called *Tekieh*, which has a very important role in the formation of the life of historic fabrics. In addition to its religious function in the sacred month of *Muharram*, *Tekieh* has economic function in the other days of year. *Tekieh* has a considerable effect on residents' social interactions because of its situation in the neighborhoods. The historical, architectural, cultural, religious, economic and social values of *Tekieh* are considerable. As well as the valuable architectural structures surrounding *Tekieh* and related axes which are a part of the particular mourning route are considerable. Therefore definition a part of the mourning route as a cultural and historical pedestrian axis is essential. In this research the characteristics of *Gorgan* historic fabric, is studied. *Tekieh* of *Gorgan* and mourning ceremony and its relationship with *Tekieh* architectural structure is introduced. Then a cultural and historical axis is introduced in this research called *Asterabad Axis*. Afterwards the parts of the Axis are introduced in the past and present time, after performing practical study, and studying the historical texts and historic documents related to *Asterabad* region. In the next step strengths, opportunities and threats of a part of the Axis called *Darbenow* alley as a case study has been studied. Finally the improvement plan for *Darbenow* alley is presented based on theoretical basics according to the results of the analysis of the axis and *Darbenow* alley and its strengths.

It is worth explaining that defining the cultural and historical axis and rehabilitating, revitalizing and reorganizing it, in addition to conserve and restore a part of the historic fabric of *Gorgan*, and providing residents requirements, will have an important role in promoting the social level as well as economic and tourism development in *Gorgan* historic fabric.

Keywords:

Esterabad, Gorgan, Cultural and historical axis, Improvement, Darbeno alley.