



## **A Spatial- Location Analysis of the Factors Affecting Place Attachment (Case Study: Kurdish Villages, Rahmatabad and Blokat Districts, Rudbar County)**

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose-** Place attachment is not just dependent on the place of birth and, as phenomenologists have acknowledged, "experience," is the most significant element of the perception of concepts and meaning of a place; accordingly, meaning in a place is directly related to the way of human perception and its related categories. The main objective of the present study is to investigate and analyze the spatial-geographic factors affecting place attachment of the Kurdish immigrants in Rudbar, Guilan province .

**Design/methodology/approach-** This study is quantitative in terms of the nature of the research and is descriptive-analytical in terms of data analysis. Data collection was done using library and documentary as well as field and survey methods. The statistical population of the study consisted of the Kurdish villages of Guilan province in Rudbar with 12 villages and a total population of 2,955 people. Using Morgan's table, the number of samples was determined as 340 people. To increase the level of confidence and reduce the error in data, the number of samples was increased and 355 questionnaires were finally completed. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by a number of professors in the geography department of Guilan University. Moreover, to determine the reliability of the questionnaire, Cronbach's alpha was run. The value of 0.874 was obtained for the coefficient.

**Findings-** The results of the study showed that there was a negative relationship between the location of the villages and the level of education and place attachment of the villagers in the way that the more the distance between the villages and districts, towns, and cities, the lower the sense of place attachment of the villagers would be. Based on the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), 4.5% of the variance of place in the rural households under study was explained by these indicators. Also, with the increase in the education level of the villagers, place attachment is reduced. On the other hand, there was a direct and positive relationship between the duration of residence in the village and place attachment to the village, which means that people who had lived longer in the village had also more sense of place. The obtained results showed the effect of spatial-geographic factors on place attachment of rural households. Based on the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), 99.1% of the variance of place attachment was explained by spatial, economic, and socio-political factors .

**Research limitations/implications-** A limitation of this study was the lack of easy access to the Kurdish villagers in the above-mentioned villages .

**Originality/value-** By providing the ideal conditions for living in different spatial (geographical) dimensions, one can strengthen place attachment in the villagers and significantly reduce its harmful consequences. For instance, despite the great ethnic and cultural differences with the host society within a long period of residence, the immigrant Kurds in Rudbar have been able to have pleasant feelings towards their place of life and somehow attach to it due to the existence of certain desirable spatial, social, and economic features and potentials such as proper and safe physical environment, intergroup and intragroup interactions, as well as desirable areas for earning money and employment .

**Keywords:** Place attachment, spatial factors, Kurdish villages, Rudbar County.

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## 1. Introduction

Understanding the concept of location and space is used in many scientific fields. Space and location are considered to be human activities. In fact, the concept of "place", "spatial sense" and "lack of space" are the main concepts that the early geographers, such as Yi-Fu Tuan and Edward Rolf, studied in the field of human geography. They tried to understand these concepts through the relationships of people with the outside world. They believe that the philosophical thought of people is related to their understandings, perceptions, and reactions to their environment (philosophies like existentialism and phenomenology have a certain perception of place) (Baldwin, 1999; Rezvani & Ahmadi, 2009). Recognizing the environment and self creates various meanings and images of different places in human mind (the meanings and mental images that result from perception and feeling) which give identity to the place, and make place attachment in the inhabitants (Kavianirad & Azizi Kaveh, 2011). Place attachment is defined as an effective link that people make with spatial sites where they tend to stay and feel comfortable and secure. From the point of view of phenomenologists, place attachment means connecting with the place through the perception of everyday symbols and activities. Such feeling can be created in the living space of a person and deepened over time. In this approach, the most important concepts are related to place attachment, the place of friendship, the experience of place, and personality of place. Sense of place means immaterial features or personality of the place which has a meaning close to the soul of the place (Falahat, 2006). Today, one of the issues considered in cities and villages is the identity crisis and the low quality of life of people. This identity crisis, or more precisely, the identity crisis of the place, is due to the lack of place in its true sense. According to studies and research carried out by environmental behavioral thinkers and theorists from the late 1970s, identity of place affects the quality of the relationship between man and place and the formation of spatial identity, followed by the individual's identity and the creation of place attachment (Kashi & Bonyadi, 2013). Disturbance in place attachment can cause feelings of distress and grief and have harmful

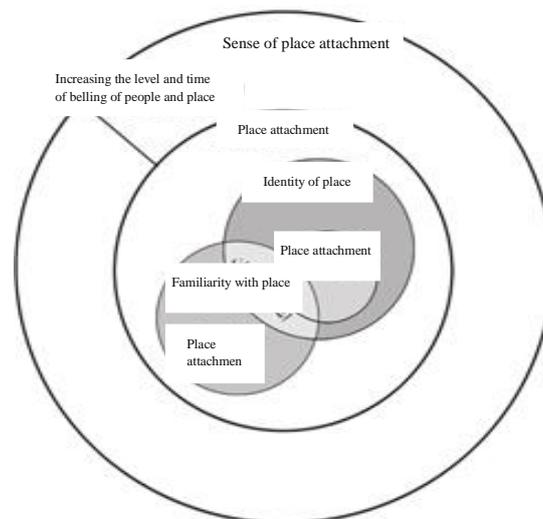
consequences for communities. The diminution of place attachment reduces the willingness of individuals to invest in their area of living and can lead them to leave the region (Christakopoulou et al, 2001; Rostamalizadeh, Ghasemi-Ardahi & Rostami, 2013). Therefore, considering the significance of the problem, one of the main objectives of the present research is to study place attachment among a migrant ethnic group that has settled in Rudbar area in Guilan province for many years. The main concern of the researchers is to what extent the Kurdish ethnicity with distinct cultural backgrounds such as language, religion, values, customs, and so on has been able to attach to their new life environment and to find themselves belonging to that place, or to be condemned to stay there. To this end, the present study sought to investigate the effect of spatial-geographic factors on creating place attachment in the Kurdish villages of Guilan province (Rudbar county) as well as whether the settlers living in the villages of this city tend to stay in the present place and that they are happy with their situation or not and how much they consider themselves to be dependent on that place.

## 2. Research Theoretical Literature

In recent years, human geography has been trying to move from the attempt to purely understand the places to the recognition of the social forces that shape the places or the places that shape human culture (Shokouii, 2013, p.287 as cited in Badi'ee Azandahi, Panahandeh Khah & Mokhtari, 2008, p.158). In this regard, Enterikin believes that these attentions are to "guide geographical research to human enrichment and understand human action." In fact, human geography pays attention to both space and place, as some have defined it as "a systematic study of what makes places special and unique," and others have defined it as "studying the spatial organization of the human activity". The emphasis in the first definition is on place and in the second definition on space (ibid, p. 158). Therefore, a location is considered to be a certain place on the earth which is limited to an identified or identifiable position that has its own particular values (Rezvani & Ahmadi, 2009). In other words, place is the bonding of objects and space within a specific boundary and limit, on the basis of which they derive interpretations and values. In this way, each specific place has features that

distinguish it from other locations. Most geographic studies emphasize three main aspects of the landscape, namely, settlement patterns, patterns of land division, and architecture (Rezvani & Ahmadi, 2009; Jordan & Raventree, 2001). In addition, a location involves not only special physical places, but includes symbolic meanings, emotional attachments, and emotions that people have about particular place settings (Dominy, 2001; Kashi & Bonyadi, 2013; Stedman, 2002). In this regard, Jorgensen and Stedman (2001) suggested that "sense of place" is a widespread and inclusive structure, consisting of three dimensions of place attachment, spatial attachment, and identity of place. Williams and Vaske (2003) also tested the validity and the generalizability of the concept of place attachment and confirmed the existence of a two-dimensional structure (spatial identity and spatial dependence) in several situations (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001;

Williams & Vaske, 2003; Kyle, Graefe, Manning & Bacon, 2004). Therefore, persistent phenomena will be able to persist for a longer period of time and become part of collective memories. In this way, paying attention to the implications of space sustainability makes sense of space attachment. In this case, space has another time other than the current time. The experience of space becomes more enjoyable for the user and the power of space influence is also strengthened, and as a result, the place takes the opportunity to emerge. Also, the favorable biological complex is formed (Pourjafar, Izadi & Khobeyri, 2008). At the local social level, place attachment can lead to the social interaction, participation, and cohesion (Putnam, 2000). The sense of place in people can motivate them to take care of their living environment and to return or become close to meaningful places (Trell, Van Hoven & Huigen, 2012; Rostamalizadeh et al., 2013) (figure 1).



**Figure 1. Relationships between different levels of the bonds between people and places**

Source: Pourjafar et al., 2015, p. 50

Therefore, as it can be understood in the discussions raised, the lack of consensus on a unified and comprehensive definition and semantic affinity among the various concepts such as place attachment, sense of place, identity of place, and place attachment has made a clear picture of sense of place attachment difficult for a specific ethnic and cultural group. Thus, in order to explain the subject, the conceptual extension of identity of place and place attachment is discussed in the theoretical framework of "human culture

and role of the place" and "the role of place and creation of sense of place".

As various studies have found, on the one hand, human beings influence the shaping and functioning of places by their culture in the way that different cultures create their own places and give them appropriate functions. Economic, cultural, political, military, and similar functions can create special places. In this framework, geographic schools also have their own intellectual features that contribute to spatial and geographic organization and creation of spatial

landscapes. Therefore, school views such as idealism, culturalism, modernism, and post-modernism create promising landscapes that are in line with the ruling ideology of housing, communication networks, and urbanization. In general, spatial landscapes are an expression of the dominant culture of various societies (Rezvani & Ahmadi, 2009). In this regard, Carl Sauer, the founder of cultural geography, has been studying the relationship between the land (place) and life. His studies indicate the formation of different places through different cultures. In other words, different cultures create different agricultural systems, settlements, transportation, and so on (Baldwin, 1999). In fact, this is "the physical representation of place attachment" which appears as territorial attachments to the environment and brings three characteristics to the person: the sense of spatial identity, the sense of monopoly, and the control of communication in space and time (Pourjafar, Sadeghi & Yousefi, 2015).

On the other hand, physical context, activities, and meanings have always been recognized as the components of identity of place. In fact, Kevin Lynch simply describes the identity of a place as something providing individuality or distinction of the place from other places and serves as a basis for recognizing that place as a separable entity (Lynch, 1960, p. 6). Ian Narin somewhat expands this issue and recognizes that "there are multiple identities of places as the number of human beings". Because identity is as close as it is to the physical appearance of the village, it lies in experience, eyes, thought, and personality of the observer (Carmona & Tiesdell, 2007). However, this analysis of the identity of place is not complete. There is another important aspect of the identity of place, which is less tangible than these components and dialectics, which nevertheless is useful for joining and adopting them. This is the same as the attribute of identity, which has been shaped in various ways as "the spirit of the place," "sense of place," or "place talent." All the terms that refer to character or personality are obviously the spirit of the place, which consists of ripeness and appearance, economic functions and social activities, and the special significance of past events and current circumstances. Beyond this concept, spatial identity is part of the infrastructure of individual human self and the result of his general cognition of the physical world in which he lives. In the

identity of a person with spatial identity, the sense of place attachment is obtained, which is, in fact, a related relationship between man and the environment (Sharifi et al., Ramesht, Rafieian & Ghavidel, 2013). In other words, the identification of a space with symbolic meanings and its transformation into a place increases

place attachment of people to that space and place (Pourjafar et al., 2008). In this regard, any place attachment that has higher levels of sense of place, makes it possible for a person to develop in his /her mind personality, and role of that place based on his/her own experience, so that he/she considers himself /herself, not only to be a part of the place, but respects and values for that place (Badi'ee et al., 2008). In this context, studies on spatial sense and environmental behavior have yielded significant results. As the emergence of ecosystem management calls for a new method to value natural resources (Manzo, 2003), this important issue occurs through landscape or place attachment (Brown, 2005; Williams & Patterson, 1996), as well as personal ties to them (Williams & Vaske, 2003). Another example is that place attachment or a natural environment has led to a responsible environmental behavior by local residents (Budruk et al., 2009). In fact, as Williams and Waske (2003) acknowledge, place attachment from the perspective of environmental psychologists is equivalent to that of geographers (Brown & Raymond, 2007). However, place attachment means that people define themselves by the place in which they were born and raised. This connection, which is generally called the sense of place, affects people in a profound and lasting manner and strengthens the memory of the place, identity, and power of man (Badi'ee et al., 2008; Falahat, 2006). Beyond this concept, the place attachment is not only dependent on the place of birth and, as phenomenologists have also acknowledged, "experience" is the most important element of the perception of the concept and meaning of a place, and therefore meaning is in a direct connection with the way of human perception and its related categories. Research has shown that as long as people are connected with one place, the same level of knowledge and perception of people from that place and also the possibility of creating the meaning of belonging to the environment increases (Bonaiuto, Aiello, Perugini, Bonnes & Ercolani, 1999; Hidalgo &

Hernandez, 2001; Meshkini, Ghasemi & Hamzehnejad, 2014).

It is worth mentioning that place attachment comes from the effects of long-term experiences with a particular geographic location and the meanings it achieves. When a person lives in a particular place in a long period of time, emotional feelings, sense of belonging, and the presence of a place are formed in him, where "that

place is considered as the harbor of the individual's identity" (Morgan, 2010). On the other hand, the anthropologist, Stallow, points to another aspect of place attachment, and states, accordingly, that place attachment is beyond emotional and understandable experiences, including cultural beliefs and activities that interacts man to the environment (Cross, 2003) (figure 2 and table 1).

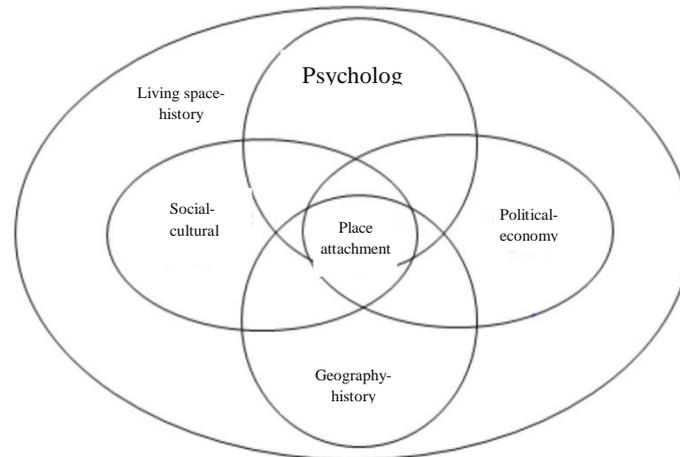


Figure 2. Dimensions of place attachment

Table 1. The relationship between human and place in different fields

Source: (Negin Taji, 2010, p. 27)

Anthropology	Symbolic linking (location dependence in public space)	"Place attachment" is a symbolic link, the people shape it who bring common cultural emotions / excitements into the special space of the land, and forms the basis for understanding individuals and groups of the environment and its relation to it. Therefore, place attachment is more than an emotional and cognitive experience, and includes cultural beliefs and practices that associate individuals with the place (Setha Low).
Psychology of environment	Sense of place	"Sense of place" is the special experience of a person in a particular environment (sparked by emotions, excitements, joyfulness, comfort, etc.); (Fritz Steele).
Geography	Topophilia	"Topophilia" is an emotional bond between people and places or environments that are varied in terms of intensity, elegance and method. The reaction to the environment can be aesthetic, tactile or emotional (Yi-Fu Tuan).
Architecture / History	Sense of place, sense of time	"Sense of place" is something we create in the flow of time. This is the result of habits or customs. What may be called the concept of alternate events reinforces the sense of place (John Brinckerhof).
Sociology	"Attachment to the community: local orientation and sense of place"	The term "sense of place" means the perceptions of individuals about their environment and their less or more self-conscious feelings about it. The sense of place is inevitably of a dual nature, including an interpretive perspective on the environment, and an emotional response to the environment. A sense of place involves personal orientation relative to the place in which the perception of a person from his place and his feelings about the place blends in the context of the meaning of the environment (David Hummon).

The table below shows the criteria for measuring and creating place attachment and identity of place from the point of view of the experts.

**Table 2. Criteria for measuring and creating identity of place and place attachment from the point of view of the experts**

Source: [Kashi and Bonyadi, 2013, p. 49](#)

Row	Experts	Year	Criteria	
2	<a href="#">Relph</a>	2007	individual and collective values, initial expectations, experiences, human's intentions, spirit of place, time, social interactions, activities and interactions between human-place and human-human, stimulating (stimulator of vision, hearing, smell, movement, touch, memory, imagination and prediction)	
4	<a href="#">Lynch</a>	1960	Identifiable, memorable and visible	
5	<a href="#">Steele</a>	1981	Size of place, degree of confinement, contrast, analogy, fit, human scale, distance, texture, color, smell, sound, and visual diversity.	
6	<a href="#">Punter</a>	1991	Physical structure	Village landscape, view, permeability, shape
			Activity	Uses, the amount of pedestrian traffic, cabin traffic, behavior patterns, artistic environment and legibility
			Semantic	Cultural relations, perceptual functions and qualitative assessment
7	<a href="#">Shamai</a>	1991	People experience, attitudes, behavior and participation of people	
8	<a href="#">Montgomery</a>	1998	Vitality and diversity	
9	<a href="#">Stefanovic</a>	1998	Symbolic and emotional concepts	
10	<a href="#">Cross</a>	2001	Type of relationship with place (biographical, spiritual, ideological, narrative, desirable and affiliated)	
11	<a href="#">Sircus</a>	2001	Quality of place, stability of place, and reliability	
12	<a href="#">Bonaiuto et al.</a>	2002	Background and context, services and facilities, position of place, how to communicate with the surroundings	
13	<a href="#">Salvesen</a>	2001	Situation, landscape, individual diffusion, physical personality, ownership, originality, residents, conveniences, nature and private and collective spaces	
14	<a href="#">Pretty, Chipuer &amp; Bramston</a>	2003	Relationships between people with places and people with people, scale and physical factors	

In addition, in another study, in order to measure the effective environmental conditions of place attachment from three dimensions, including: a) environmental effects caused by human use; b) residential development; and c) human manipulation in the place were used. ([Kyle et al., 2004](#)). In general, a review of studies has shown that some of the spatial-geographic factors that affect place attachment are ([Heydari, Matlabi & Nekovey-Mehr, 2014](#)):

- Physical factors: Stedman's studies about the role of the physical dimension of place on place

attachment points out to its direct role in satisfaction.

Attachment refers to the place, which is also influenced by the symbolic meanings of the place. In fact, physical elements make sense by creating an environmental distinction between inside and outside in the spaces ([Sadrian, Hosseini & Norouziyan Maleki, 2014](#)). The context and substrate of the place, the availability of services and facilities, the location of the place, and the relationship with the surrounding, and many other features, are among the items mentioned in a collection of studies ([Bonaiuto et al., 1999](#)) (table 3).

**Table 3. Physical factors affecting a sense of place**Source: [Sadrian et al., 2014, p. 38](#)

Researcher	Physical factors
<a href="#">Lynch, 1960</a>	Vitality, meaning, adaptability, control and supervision, efficiency, justice
<a href="#">Carmona, 2003</a>	Accessibility, Public space, Safety and security, Landscape, Use Interface
<a href="#">Steele, 1981</a>	Size of place, degree of confinement, contrast, scale, fit, human scale, distance, texture, color, odor, sound, visual diversity, identity, security, vitality and memory
<a href="#">Salvesen, 2002</a>	Amenities, nature like water, plants, sky, sun and private and collective spaces
<a href="#">Lewicka, 2011</a>	Size, enclosure, diversity, scale, nativism, the use of a distinct element
<a href="#">Shieh, 2010</a>	Readability, permeability, confinement, proximity, dynamical structure

-Social factors: Basically, the psychology of the environment is concerned not only with the physical dimension of the place but also with its social dimension ([Bonnes & Secchiaroli, 1995](#)). The positive relationship between the individual and the physical location is related to his sense of satisfaction with the social connections existing in the place, so that the experiences and social interactions that occur in the place make it possible for the person to sense it. Some scholars consider place attachment based on the participation of people in the place, and the rate of employment in social networks and cultural interactions ([Marcus, 1995](#)).

-Cultural factors: The ethnic identity is a nascent, multi-dimensional, and ever-changing phenomenon with different definitions of it. Ethnic identity, like the national identity, is a form of self-knowledge and distinction with others, and refers to the sense of loyalty and honor to the ethnic symbols such as language, religion, customs and rituals, and cultures ([Alizadeh Aghdam, Ghaderi, Mohammadzadeh & Rezaei, 2014](#)). Ethnic identity also means the sense of belonging and attachment to common elements and symbols in the ethnic community and refers to a set of characteristics and attributes that distinguish one ethnicity from other nations, create a sense of attachment to each other among members, and make them coherent. Therefore, similar cultures of individuals and groups in a society have a significant influence on the formation of place attachment. Place attachment depends on the activities that individuals perform in their cultural contexts ([Low & Altman, 1992](#)). "Flow" is a very important factor in linking culture and places. The flow of contact and the flow of thoughts and services (social, economic, cultural) is the factor that connects the places with all human, social, cultural, and economic characteristics ([Rezvani & Ahmadi, 2009](#)). The

exchange of information among places, the role of natural and geographical factors as "repulsive and attractive" factors in the displacement of populations with different cultures, government policy makers in the dynamism of the place, removing the places from isolation and introversion, and attention to its all-encompassing development play an important role in facilitating the flow and strengthening it in a region. Therefore, places and cultures are permanently interrelated because every place is a substrate for interactions between human beings, which in turn are the origins of culture. The places and landscapes within them can be influenced by the culture of societies in the construction and role of the places and in accordance with the type of the ruling ideology ([Rezvani & Ahmadi, 2009](#)). Nevertheless, place attachment among different cultural groups will be shaped in line with the type of human interaction in a particular territory and natural-geographic characteristics, and a particular type of economy and social organization.

Utilizing the descriptive-analytic method, [Meshkini et al. \(2014\)](#) showed that there is a significant relationship between four variables of the period of residence, the sense of security of residents in the place, satisfaction with access to services, and urban and community activities and place attachment. Also, the results of the regression analysis showed that approximately 29% of the changes in the dependent variable (residents' sense of place) are explained by the independent variables (duration of stay, urban services, place security, social and public activity). In another study, [Shafiei Masouleh \(2014\)](#) investigated place attachment in relation to the two groups of citizens and tourists. The findings of the research showed that characteristics of the physical form and the function of the places not only affect the quality of physical factors and the

intensity of activities, but also affect the attachment of users (citizens and tourists) directly or through a satisfaction mediator, or affect their loyalty through satisfaction and attachment mediators. Also, in a study conducted on tourists, the findings showed that the number of visits from Anzali during the past 12 months has had a positive effect on emotional attachment.

In a paper, [Javan Forouzandeh and Matlabi \(2011\)](#), studied the related literature based on a cognitive research method and with ontological and epistemological approaches. The results of the study showed that the place attachment is the criterion of the evaluation of high quality environments and in the architecture and environmental design disciplines, physical features such as form (color, size, shape, scale) and physical component relations with supply and emphasis on social activity of the environment has an important and effective role in forming the place attachment. Finally, a model of environmental influences was presented.

[Rezvani and Ahmadi \(2009\)](#) in their study conducted in a descriptive and documentary way found that the cultural characteristics of the community penetrate into the body as a soul manifests in it and reveals itself in the spatial context. Architecture, cultivation practices, the type and form of human settlements, and the construction of roads are among the human phenomena affected by culture, which are studied as cultural perspectives. [Badi'ee et al. \(2008\)](#) sought to understand why and how place as a geographical concept, among individuals and groups, create different feelings of interest or indifference. In this research, sense of place (independent variable) is a factor in transforming a normal space into a place with special sensory and behavioral characteristics for Yasuj students in Tehran universities. The research method used in this paper was descriptive-analytical and library resources and questionnaires were used to conduct the study. Accordingly, the result of the research showed that ethnic culture, despite being influenced by the general culture, has managed to maintain its traditions and continue to provide its native identity.

Using a two dimensional and psychometric scale, [Brown & Raymond \(2007\)](#) measured place attachment in Australia, and its relation with landscape values. The questionnaire of place attachment and landscape value was made available to Australian residents and visitors to the

Ottawa region through email. The analysis of the findings by regression analysis revealed the importance of landscape values, especially spiritual and psychological value, as well as the value of virgin and intact lands as significant scales in spatial domains. Also, the results of spatial correlation and regression analysis showed that the aesthetic, recreational, economic, spiritual, and therapeutic values are spatially related to and have a significant relationship with specific locations. In their study, [Hidalgo & Hernandez \(2001\)](#) examined and tested the place attachment into three dimensions of spatial dimensions (with levels of home, neighborhood and city) as well as physical and social dimensions. This study was conducted in 177 different urban areas in Spain. The results showed different degrees of place attachment in different spatial, social, and physical dimensions and levels. The results were as follows: 1) place attachment was poor in neighborhood level; 2) sense of place attachment was stronger in physical dimension compared to social dimension; and 3) a different range of place attachment appropriate to age and sex was observed. With a review of previous research, one can see that place attachment is one of the main issues of development planners. In fact, having a sense of living place attachment will be very influential in the success of the developmental and participatory programs. What emerges from studies shows that attention to environmental variables, especially physical variables, has always been emphasized and taken into consideration at various spatial levels. The point that distinguishes the present study from previous studies is important in two directions: First, the study and assessment of place attachment to Guilan province among immigrant Kurds, which differs from different cultural backgrounds to the host community; Second, considering the geographic scope of the research involving rural areas, the study of the set of spatial-geographic factors based on the theoretical foundations of the research is one of the main objectives of the present study.

- Activity factors: One of the most effective features of the place that is involved in promoting the attachment of people to that site is the activities and humans-places interactions. In fact, this roots in the way people interact with the physical and social place; in this way, the type of activities in place leads to the acquisition of meaning from the place, and the acquisition of

meaning is the source of attachment to a place

(Brown, 1992; Lowe & Altman, 1992) (figure 3).

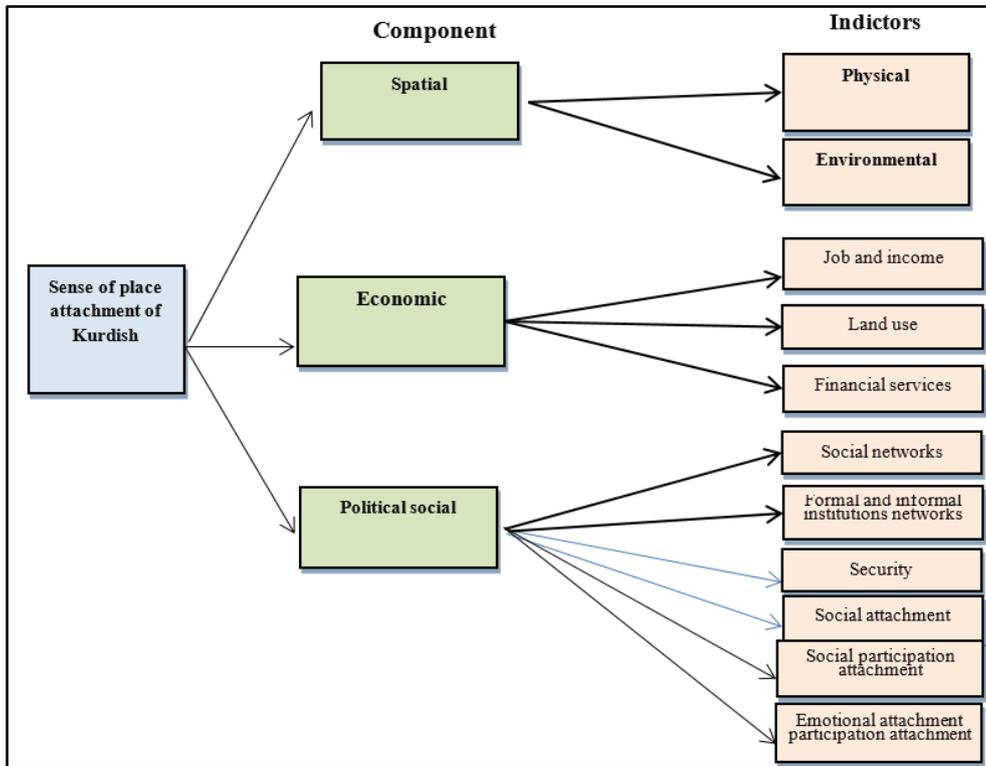


Figure 3. The conceptual model of research

### 3. Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Geographic Area of the Research

Rudbar is located in Guilan province with 12 villages and a total population of 2,955 people (according to the census of 2016) (Table 4 and figure 3).

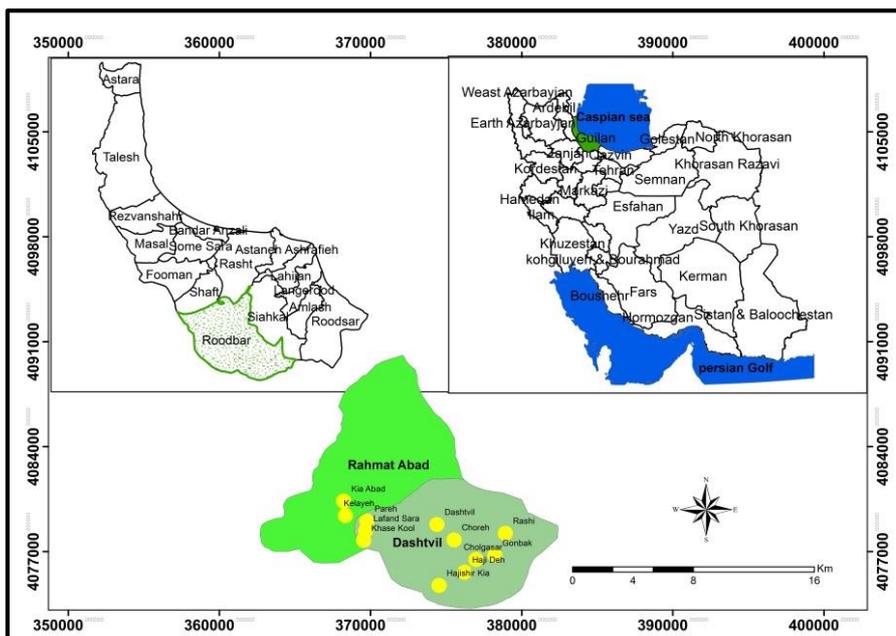


Figure 4. Location of the studied area

### 3.2. Methods

This study is quantitative in terms of the nature of the research and is descriptive-analytical in terms of data analysis. Data collection was done using library and documentary as well as field and survey methods. The statistical population of the study consisted of the Kurdish villages of Guilan province in Rudbar with 12 villages and a total population of 2,955 people (table 5 and figure 5). Using Morgan's table, the number of samples was determined as 340 people. To increase the level of confidence and reduce the error in data, the number of samples was increased and 355 questionnaires were completed. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by a number of professors in the geography department of Guilan University. Moreover, to determine the reliability of the questionnaire, Cronbach's alpha was used. The value of 0.874 was obtained for the

coefficient. On the other hand, in the present study, in order to measure the spatial-geographical factors affecting place attachment among the Kurds of Guilan province, three main dimensions including spatial dimension (environmental and physical indicators), economic dimension (land use indicators, employment, and income and financial services), and socio-political dimensions (security indicators, social participation, social solidarity, social cohesion, and formal and informal institutions) were used. It should be noted that in developing these indicators, in addition to studying various studies, the criteria listed in table 4, especially by experts such as Fritz Steele (1981), Punther (1991), Shamai (1991), Bonaiuto et al (2002), Stedman (2003), and Perty et al (2003) have also been used. The table below shows the dimensions, indices, and main variables of the research.

**Table 4. Dimensions, indices and main variables of the research**

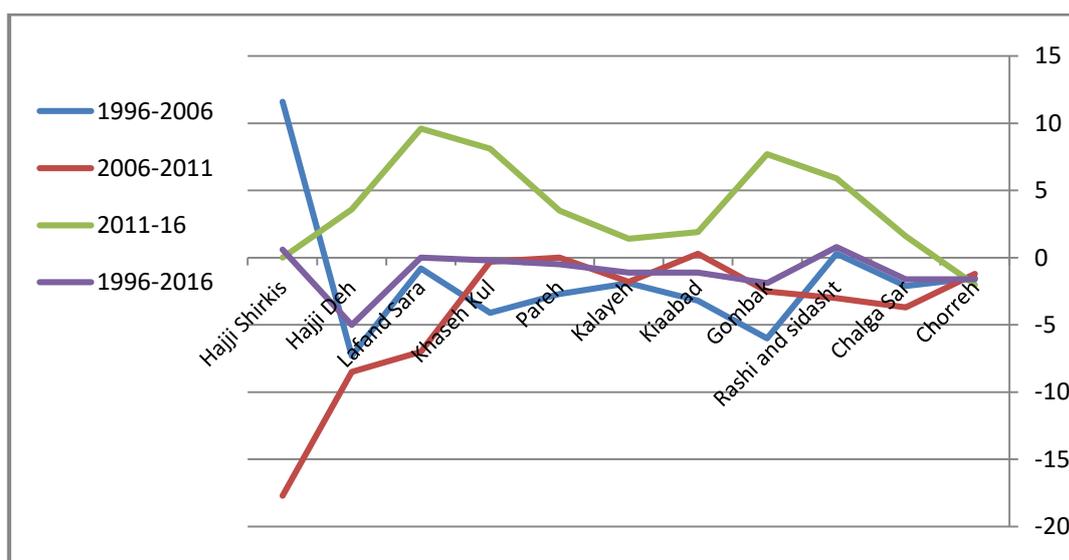
Source: Research findings, 2017

Dimensions	Indices	Variables
Spatial	Environmental (natural- geographical factors and context of rural areas)	The natural landscape of the village, such as the natural position of the village (plain, sloping or mountainous), the presence of beautiful cultural landscape such as architecture and scenic works and beautiful passageways, the presence of suitable climates, green spaces such as forests and parks , waterfalls, location of the village, environmental hazards
	Physical (made or synthetic elements)	The apparent appearance of the village, such as the type of living texture (having new and durable homes), streets, squares and markets, standardization of housing (the availability of suitable facilities in residential units "heating, cooling, lighting, adequate lighting"), type of materials, telecommunication facilities, proper Internet access, having a waste collection system, having a sanitation network, collecting and disposing of sewage, providing health services, access to schools at different levels of education, the availability of appropriate cultural facilities in the village, such as the library, the existence of spatial and religious facilities in the village, the existence of sports facilities in the village, the satisfaction of access to infrastructure services and infrastructures such as a convenient communication
Economic	Land use	Land use change, rural tourism, land acquisition, ownership of agricultural machinery, ownership of agricultural machinery
	employment and income	Providing basic needs, satisfaction with jobs and income, having a decent income, characteristics of labor supply in the village
	financial services	Access to financial and credit services (bank, loan, cash loan)
Socio-political	security	Security in rural roads, crime rates, access to and compliance with law enforcement
	social participation	The spirit of cooperation and teamwork, participation in development and improvement activities, participation with members of the village council
	social solidarity	Celebrations and mourning, affiliation with particular tribe, local language and dialect, family history of people in residence, relationships and communications with other ethnicities living in the province
	formal and informal institutions	Satisfaction with MPs, satisfaction with government, political-administrative institutions in the village, membership of institutions in the village
	Emotional attachment	The tendency to lasting, the pleasure of the place, the importance of the place

**Table 5. Demographic changes and growth rate of villages studied in the years 1996-2016**

Source: Population and Housing Census, 1996-2016

Row	Name of village	Growth rate			
		1996-2006	2006-2011	2011-16	1996-2016
1	<i>Chorreh</i>	-1.5	-1.2	-2.0	-1.6
2	<i>Chalga Sar</i>	-2.1	-3.7	1.6	-1.6
3	<i>Rashi and sidasht</i>	0.3	-3.0	5.9	0.8
4	<i>Gombak</i>	-6.0	-2.5	7.7	-1.9
5	<i>Kiaabad</i>	-3.2	0.3	1.9	-1.1
6	<i>Kalayeh</i>	-1.9	-1.8	1.4	-1.1
7	<i>Pareh</i>	-2.7	0.0	3.5	-0.5
8	<i>Khaseh Kul</i>	-4.1	-0.3	8.1	-0.2
9	<i>Lafand Sara</i>	-0.8	-7.0	9.6	0.0
10	<i>Hajji Deh</i>	-7.3	-8.5	3.6	-5.0
11	<i>Hajji Shirkis</i>	11.6	-17.7	0.0	0.6

**Figure 5. Growth rate diagram of the studied area**

Source: Research findings, 2017

#### 4. Research Findings

##### 4.1 Descriptive Indicators of the Study

The descriptive findings of the research indicate that 52% of the respondents were male and 47% were female. Also, in terms of age, 5% were in the age group of 20-35, 39% in the age group of 50-36,

and 55% in the age group of more than 50 years old. The status of literacy and education of respondents indicates that people completed the guidance school (58%) have the highest number and those with a bachelor's degree and above with 2% have the lowest number of respondents (table 6).

**Table 6. Descriptive characteristics (gender, age, and education) of the respondents**

Source: Research findings, 2017

	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	186	52
	Female	169	47
	Total	355	100
Age	20-35	20	5
	36-50	139	39
	Above 50	196	55
	Total	355	100
Education	Illiterate	37	10
	Primary	22	6
	Guidance school	209	58
	Diploma and A.A	77	21
	Bachelor and above	10	2
	Total	355	100

Furthermore, according to the results of [table 7](#), the respondents' dispersion in terms of job status shows that 37% of them are farmers, 27% householders, 8% livestock farmers, 1% teachers, 11% self-employed, and 14% have other jobs. The

employment place of about 83% of the sample is in their own village of residence. The results also showed that all the respondents had personal property.

**Table 7. Job Status and employment place of Respondents**

Source: Research findings, 2017

	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Job Status	Farmer	132	37
	Animal husbandry	31	8
	Teacher	4	1
	Housewife	97	27
	Self-employed	40	11
	Other (hairdresser, shopkeeper ...)	51	14
	Total	355	100
Job Location	The same village	296	83
	Tutkabon	21	5
	Rudbar	22	6
	Rostamabad	11	3
	Dasht-e Veyl	5	1
	Total	355	100

It should be noted that the most important characteristics of the village as well as the most important unpleasant location factors were

identified by interviewing the surveyed society and classified in 15 cases as follows ([table 8](#)).

**Table 8. The most important distinguishing features and unpleasant location factors for the villagers under study**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Row	The most important distinguishing features of the villagers	Unpleasant location factors
1	The possibility to cultivate various products such as strawberries, plums, hazelnuts and ...	Village youth's migration to other cities
2	Suitable conditions for breeding livestock and animal husbandry activities	No gas
3	Selling livestock and agriculture products to farmers every year	Water shortage in agricultural season for irrigation of products
4	Holding a strawberry festival to sell strawberries produced by farmers	Trash by tourists
5	The location of the village in the direction of Damash and in general, the existence of favorable conditions for the annual attraction of a significant number of tourists	Little attention of the authorities to the demands of the people
6	The use of a suitable climate	Youth unemployment and lack of proper jobs in the village
7	The presence of good and reliable neighbors	Inappropriate way and unfavorable access to the centers of towns and provinces
8	Having the spirit of helping each other among neighbors in the human, intellectual and financial spheres	Much distance to the centers of city
9	Darband Cave in Rashi, where was the habitat of the early humans	Unpleasant smell of keeping livestock in the village
10	The use of beautiful nature and pristine forests and rivers	Unpleasant smell of keeping livestock in the village
11	Young and educated force in the village	Undesirable economic conditions and lack of basic living needs
12	Governor of a rural district and Active members of the council	The lack of suitable sports facilities for young people
13	The existence of people who have led to the prosperity of villages (second homes)	Lack of pharmacy and treatment facilities near the village
14	Holding various educational courses in the village in the fields of agriculture and ranching	The lack of a waste collection system and an unpleasant odor at the village level
15	Handicraft activities among women	Lack of educational equipment in schools

#### 4.2 Inferential Findings

In this section, firstly, one-sample t-test was used to obtain the level of sense of place attachment of the community under study. Therefore, in [table 9](#), the sense of place attachment of the sample group is compared with the criterion score of 3 (Likert

range from 1 to 5 points is coded). If the mean of the sample in the variable is higher than 3 and the significance value is less than the alpha of 0.05, then it can be said that the level of the variable is significantly higher than the mean and vice versa.

**Table 9. One-sample t-test to compare the participants' sense of place scores with the criterion score**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Variable	Mean	SD	Criterion score	t-value	(Sig.)
Sense of place attachment	3.1	0.4	3	8.079	0.000

As shown in the table above, place attachment mean score in the sample group is 3.1 with a standard deviation of 0.4 which the values of  $p < 0.000$  at moderate level and approximately

equals to the mean are considered statistically significant (3). Thus, with the knowledge of sense of place of the sample community, we examine the components and spatial-geographic indicators

that affect it. There is a significant relationship between the distance from districts, towns, and cities and place attachment of rural households in terms of inferential statistics. In other words, the results obtained from Spearman correlations indicate an incomplete and negative relationship

between independent variables (distance from district, town, and counties) and the dependent variable (place attachment), that is, the more the distance of the village from the rural district, town, or city, the lower the level of place attachment of the villagers will be (table 10).

**Table 10. Correlation analysis of the location of the villages and the villagers' sense of place**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Dependent variable	Indicators	Distance from the center of village	Distance from the center of town	Distance from the center of city
Sense of Place attachment	Spearman correlation coefficient	-0.072	-0.025	-0.027
	Significance level	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Number	355	355	355

**Table 11. A regression analysis of the location of the villages and their sense of place**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Indicators		Regression coefficient (B)	Standard Regression Coefficient (Beta)	T value	Significance level (Sig.)	Coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Location of the village	Distance from the center of village	-2.193	-0.063	-1.192	0.234	4.5
	Distance from the center of town	-1.384	-0.043	-0.805	0.422	
	Distance from the city center	-0.704	-0.024	-0.449	0.485	

The results of the regression analysis listed in the table above indicate that the indicators were effective on the basis of the beta coefficients and the significance level of place attachment of the villagers studied. Moreover, based on the coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>), 4.5% of the variance in the place attachment in rural households is explained by the location of the village (distance from the center of the village, distance from the center of town, distance from the city center) (table 11).

The correlation analysis between the level of education and the duration of residence in the

village with place attachment of the villagers indicates that there is an incomplete and negative relationship between the level of education and place attachment ; that is, by increasing the level of education of the villagers, sense of place decreases in them. There is also a direct and positive relationship between the duration of residence in the village and place attachment , which means that people who live longer in the village have a greater sense of place attachment and do not want to leave the environment or migrate. In other words, they consider themselves as belonging to that place. (table 12)

**Table 12. Correlation analysis of the education level and the duration of residence in villages and the villagers' place attachment**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Indicators	Sense of Place attachment		
	Spearman correlation coefficient	Significance level	Number
Education level	-0.008	0.000	355
Duration of residence in the village	0.002	0.000	355

On the other hand, linear regression was used to explain the factors affecting the rural households' place attachment. Table 13 illustrates the relationship between the spatial, economic, and socio-political factors and place attachment of the

rural households under study. The results indicate that these variables have a significant relationship with each other and spatial, economic, and socio-political factors explain the changes in the villagers' place attachment.

**Table 13. Spatial-geographic factors affecting place attachment of households in Kurdish villages of Rudbar**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Dimensions	Regression coefficient (B)	Standard regression coefficient (Beta)	t-value	significance level (Sig.)	coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Spatial	12.555	0.267	27.202	0.000	99.1
Economic	36.261	0.550	71.513	0.000	
Socio-political	15.084	0.439	43.631	0.000	

As shown in the table above, the larger the beta coefficient and the t-value obtained and the smaller the significance level, the greater the impact of the independent variable on the dependent variable will be. Also, based on the coefficient of determination of R<sup>2</sup>, 99.1 percent of the variance of place attachment in rural households is explained in this study by spatial, economic, and socio-political factors. Furthermore, in order to explain the effectiveness of the indicators for each of these dimensions, a regression analysis was used as follows:

First, in the spatial dimension, environmental and physical indices were introduced as independent variables and space attachment as a dependent

variable. On the same basis, as shown in table 14, based on the beta coefficient and the significance level of physical and environmental indicators, there was a significant effect on place attachment of the households under study. As the beta coefficient indicates, the physical factors with beta of 0.604 have the highest effect on the dependent variable. Based on this result, one standard deviation in the physical variable increases sense of place by a standard deviation of 0.604 and vice versa. The degree of influence of the environmental variable can also be explained, that is, one standard deviation in the environmental variable increases place attachment by a standard deviation of 192.0 and vice versa.

**Table 14. Spatial factors affecting place attachment of the households in the Kurdish villages of Rudbar**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Dimensions	Indicators	Regression coefficient (B)	Standard regression coefficient (Beta)	t-value	significance level (Sig.)	coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Spatial	Physical	2.420	0.604	13.929	0.000	72.4
	Environmental	1.809	0.192	4.425	0.000	

Then, land use indices, financial services, and employment and income in the economic dimension were considered as independent variables and place attachment as the dependent variable. On this basis, the results of regression

analysis indicate that the indexes based on beta coefficients (financial services, 0.450; land use, 0.385; employment and income, 0.242) and a significance level of place attachment of the studied households have been effective (table 15).

**Table 15: Economic factors affecting sense of place attachment of the households in the Kurdish villages of Rudbar**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Dimensions	Indicators	Regression coefficient (B)	Standard regression coefficient (Beta)	t-value	significance level (Sig.)	coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Economic	Employment and income	1.168	0.242	6.192	0.000	83
	Land use	2.008	0.385	10.485	0.000	
	financial services	2.896	0.450	10.158	0.000	

Subsequently, socio-political factors were analyzed as independent variables and place attachment as the dependent variable. Accordingly, based on the beta coefficients and the significance level of indicators of social relationships and interactions (intra-group and out-group social networks), formal and informal institutions, security (including social and

physical security), social solidarity, and emotional attachment with R<sup>2</sup> coefficient equal to 87.1% were identified as socio-political factors affecting sense of place. The results also showed that there is no significant relationship between social participation index and place attachment of the villagers despite the existence of beta coefficient of 0.023. (table 16)

**Table 16. Socio-political factors affecting place attachment of the households in the Kurdish villages of Rudbar**

Source: Research findings, 2017

Dimensions	Indicators	Regression coefficient (B)	Standard regression coefficient (Beta)	t-value	significance level (Sig.)	coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Socio-political factors	Social networks	0.636	0.186	4.281	0.000	87.1
	Official and informal institutions	1.221	0.264	8.250	0.000	
	Social and physical security	0.699	0.082	2.418	0.016	
	Social Solidarity	0.429	0.080	2.410	0.016	
	social participation	0.106	0.023	0.610	0.542	
	Emotional attachment	5.829	0.537	16.551	0.000	

## 6. Discussion and Conclusion

place attachment is one of the important factors in assessing human-environment communication and creating high-quality human environments. This level of environmental meaning indicates a deep relationship between the individual and the environment, and at this level, a person feels some kind of affinity between himself and the place. Based on the theoretical findings of the research,

the most important spatial-geographic factors affecting the sense of place attachment were identified in three spatial dimensions (environmental and physical indicators), economic (land use, occupation, income, financial services), and socio-political ones (security indicators, social participation, social solidarity, social integrity, and official and informal institutions) based on studies by Fritz Steele

(1981), Punther (1991), Shamai (1991), Bonaiuto et al. (2002), Stedman (2003), Pertty et al. (2003), Brown and Raymond (2007), Rezvani & Ahmadi (2009), Javan Frouzandeh (2011), and Meshkini et al. (2014). In addition, according to Stile (1981), Giuliani and Feldman (1993), Hay (1998), Bonaiuto et al. (1999, 2002), Hidalgo and Hernandez (2001), Morgan (2010), and Meshkini et al. (2014), the indicators of the location of the village, duration of residence in the village, and the level of education were considered as the mediating variables in place attachment. Accordingly, the results of the present study showed that the mean score of place attachment in the sample group was 3.1 with a standard deviation of 0.4 which significantly ( $p < 0.000$ ) was moderate and approximately equal to the criterion score (3) which is an important positive and potential point that can be useful in participatory rural development programs. Therefore, the results of the study of the spatial-geographic components and indices on the place attachment of the villagers showed that the relationship between the location of the villages (distance from the center of the rural district, distance from the center of the town, and distance from the city center) and the sense of place attachment of the villagers are considered to be incomplete and negative; the more the distance of the villages from the districts, towns and cities, the less place attachment of the villagers will be. Also, based on the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), 4.5% of the variance of place attachment of rural households studied is explained by these indicators. Also, the correlation analysis between the level of education and the duration of residence in the village with place attachment of the villagers indicates that there is an incomplete and negative relationship between the level of education and the sense of place attachment; that is, by increasing the level of education of the villagers, place attachment decreases in them. There is also a direct and positive relationship between the duration of residence in the village and the sense of place attachment in the village, which means that people who live longer in the village have a greater sense of attachment.

On the other hand, the results of the influence of spatial-geographic factors on the sense of place attachment of rural households in this study showed that based on the coefficient of

determination ( $R^2$ ), 99.1 percent of the variance of place attachment is explained by spatial, economic, and socio-political factors. The results in each dimension are as follows: a. in the spatial dimension, based on the beta coefficient and the level of significance, physical and environmental indicators have a significant effect on the place attachment of the households under study. The beta coefficient indicates that the physical factors with beta of 0.660 have the most effect on the dependent variable. Given this result, it can be said that one standard deviation in the physical variables increases place attachment by a standard deviation of 0.604 and vice versa. The degree of influence of the environmental variable can also be explained, that is, a standard deviation in the environmental variable increases the place attachment by a standard deviation of 0.192 and vice versa.

In the economic aspect, the results of regression analysis show that land use, financial services, employment and income based on beta coefficients (financial services, 0.450%, land use, 0.385, employment and income, 0.242) have been effective on the place attachment of the studied households.

In the sociopolitical dimension, based on the beta coefficients and the level of significance of the indicators of social relations and interactions (intra-group and outsourced social networks), formal and informal institutions, security (including social and physical security), social solidarity, and emotional attachment with the  $R^2$  coefficient equal to 87.1% were identified as socio-political factors affecting place attachment. The results also showed that there is no significant relationship between social participation index and place attachment of the villagers despite the beta coefficient of 0.023.

Since disturbance in the place attachment can cause sense of loss and grief and have harmful consequences for communities and that the lack of sense of attachment reduces the willingness of individuals to invest in their area of living and lead to the abandonment of the residents, based on the results obtained, it can be admitted that one can strengthen the sense of place attachment in the villagers by providing favorable conditions for living in various spatial-geographic dimensions. Therefore, one can significantly reduce its harmful consequences as the immigrant

Kurds in Rudbar, despite the great ethnic and cultural differences with the host society within a long period of residence, have been able to have pleasant feelings towards their place of life and somehow attach to it due to the existence of

certain desirable spatial, social, and economic features and potentials such as proper and safe physical environment, intergroup and intragroup interactions, as well as desirable areas for earning money and employment.

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## تحلیل مکانی - فضایی عوامل موثر بر حس تعلق مکانی

### (مطالعه موردی: روستاهای کردنشین، بخش رحمت‌آباد و بلوکات، شهرستان رودبار)

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## چکیده مبسوط

### ۱. مقدمه

شناخت و درک مفهوم مکان و فضا در بسیاری از حوزه‌های علمی کاربرد دارد. فضا و مکان بستری برای فعالیت‌های انسانی تلقی می‌شود. در واقع، مفهوم «مکان»، «احساس مکانی» و «بی‌مکانی» از مفاهیم اصلی‌ای هستند که جغرافی‌دانان اولیه، نظیر یی-فو توآن و ادوارد رلف، در حوزه‌ی جغرافیای انسانی مطالعه کردند. اهداف اصلی پژوهش حاضر بررسی و مطالعه احساس تعلق به مکان در بین یک گروه قومی مهاجر است که از سال‌ها قبل در منطقه رودبار در استان گیلان ساکن شده‌اند. اینکه قومیت‌گرد تا چه حد توانسته است به محیط زندگی جدید خود با زمینه‌های فرهنگی متمایز همچون زبان، مذهب، ارزش‌ها و آداب و مناسک و ...، دلبستگی پیدا کرده و خود را متعلق به آن مکان بداند، یا به هر تقدیر محکوم به ماندن در آنجا هستند؛ دغدغه اصلی نویسندگان مقاله است. بدین منظور پژوهش حاضر بدنبال تبیین اثرگذاری عوامل مکانی-فضایی (جغرافیایی) بر ایجاد حس تعلق مکانی در بین روستاهای کردنشین استان گیلان (شهرستان رودبار) می‌باشد. و اینکه اصلاً کردنشینان ساکن در روستاهای این شهرستان تمایل به ماندگاری در مکان حاضر دارند و اینکه از موقعیت خود راضی هستند و یا خیر و اینکه چقدر خودشان را وابسته به آن مکان می‌دانند.

### ۲. مبانی نظری

جغرافیای انسان‌گرا در سال‌های اخیر کوشیده است که از تلاش برای شناخت محض مکان‌ها به سوی شناخت نیروهای اجتماعی شکل‌دهنده به مکان‌ها یا شناخت مکان‌هایی که فرهنگ بشری را شکل می‌دهند،

حرکت کند. در همین راستا انتریکین معتقد است این توجهات «هدایت پژوهش‌های جغرافیایی به غنای انسانی و فهم کنش انسانی است». در واقع جغرافیای انسانی هم به مکان و هم به فضا اهمیت می‌دهد بطوریکه برخی آن را «مطالعه نظام‌مند آنچه که مکان‌ها را یگانه و منحصر به فرد می‌سازد» تعریف کرده‌اند و برخی دیگر آن را عبارت از «بررسی سازماندهی فضایی فعالیت انسانی» دانسته‌اند که در تعریف اول بر مکان و در تعریف دوم بر فضا تأکید بیشتری شده است. از این-رو، مقصود از مکان، جای خاصی است در سطح زمین که محدود به موقعیتی است با هویت و شناسایی شدنی که ارزشهای ویژه و معینی با خود دارد. بعبارت دیگر، مکان عبارت است از پیوند اشیا و فضا در درون محدوده و مرزی مشخص که براساس آنها تفاسیر و ارزشهایی را به خود می‌گیرد

### ۳. روش تحقیق

این پژوهش از نظر ماهیت جزء تحقیقات کمی و از لحاظ شیوه تحلیل داده‌ها، توصیفی-تحلیلی است. گردآوری داده‌ها به شیوه‌ی کتابخانه‌ای و اسنادی و نیز روش‌های میدانی و پیمایشی انجام گرفته است. جامعه آماری تحقیق، روستاهای کردنشین استان گیلان واقع در شهرستان رودبار با تعداد ۱۲ روستا و مجموع ۲۹۵۵ نفر جمعیت (براساس سرشماری سال ۱۳۹۵). تعداد نمونه‌ها با استفاده از جدول مورگان، ۳۴۰ نفر تعیین شد که به منظور افزایش سطح اطمینان و کاهش خطا در داده‌ها، تعداد نمونه‌ها افزایش یافته و ۳۵۵ پرسشنامه تکمیل گردید. روایی پرسشنامه توسط تعدادی از اساتید دانشگاه گیلان تأیید شد و همچنین برای تعیین پایایی پرسشنامه از روش آلفای کرونباخ استفاده شد که با نتیجه ۰/۸۷۴ مورد تأیید قرار گرفت. از سوی دیگر، در

است. در نهایت، نتایج حاصل از رگرسیون خطی نشان می‌دهد که عوامل مکانی، اقتصادی و اجتماعی-سیاسی تغییرات در احساس تعلق مکانی روستاییان را تبیین می‌نمایند.

#### ۵. نتیجه‌گیری

بر اساس یافته‌های نظری پژوهش، مهمترین عوامل مکانی-فضایی مؤثر بر احساس تعلق مکانی در سه بُعد مکانی (شاخص‌های محیطی و کالبدی)، اقتصادی (شاخص‌های کاربری زمین، شغل و درآمد و خدمات مالی) و اجتماعی-سیاسی (شاخص‌های امنیت، مشارکت اجتماعی، همبستگی اجتماعی، انسجام اجتماعی و نهادهای رسمی و غیررسمی) با استناد به مطالعات صاحب‌نظرانی همچون فریتز استیل (۱۹۸۱)، پانتر (۱۹۹۱)، شامای (۱۹۹۱)، بونتو و همکاران (۲۰۰۲)، سالواسن (۲۰۰۲)، پرتی و همکاران (۲۰۰۳)، براون و ریموند (۲۰۰۷)، رضوانی و احمدی (۱۳۸۸)، جوان فروزنده و مطلبی (۱۳۹۰) و مشکینی و همکاران (۱۳۹۳) شناسایی شدند. علاوه بر این، با استناد به مطالعات استیل (۱۹۸۱)، گیلیانی و فلدمن (۱۹۹۳)، هی (۱۹۹۸)، بونایتو و همکاران (۱۹۹۹، ۲۰۰۲)، هیدالگو و هراندز (۲۰۰۱)، مورگان (۲۰۱۰) و مشکینی و همکاران (۱۳۹۳)، نیز شاخص‌های موقعیت قرارگیری روستا، مدت زمان سکونت در روستا و میزان تحصیلات بعنوان متغیرهای واسطه در احساس تعلق به مکان در نظر گرفته شدند. بر این اساس نتایج پژوهش حاضر نشان داد، میانگین نمره احساس تعلق مکانی در گروه نمونه ۳/۱ با انحراف استاندارد ۰/۴ است که بطور معناداری ( $P < 0/000$ ) در سطح متوسط و تقریباً برابر با نمره معیار (۳) می‌باشد؛ که نکته‌ای مثبت و پتانسیلی مهم است که می‌تواند در برنامه‌های توسعه روستایی مشارکتی مفید واقع شود.

**کلیدواژه‌ها:** حس تعلق مکانی، عوامل مکانی-فضایی، روستاهای کردنشین، شهرستان رودبار.

#### تشکر و قدرانی

پژوهش حاضر حامی مالی نداشته و حاصل فعالیت علمی نویسندگان است.

پژوهش حاضر به منظور سنجش عوامل مکانی-فضایی مؤثر بر حس تعلق مکانی در میان کردهای استان گیلان، از سه بُعد اصلی شامل بُعد مکانی (شاخص‌های محیطی و کالبدی)، بُعد اقتصادی (شاخص‌های کاربری زمین، شغل و درآمد و خدمات مالی) و بُعد اجتماعی-سیاسی (شاخص‌های امنیت، مشارکت اجتماعی، همبستگی اجتماعی، انسجام اجتماعی و نهادهای رسمی و غیررسمی)، استفاده شده است.

#### ۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

در این بخش ابتدا به منظور بدست آوردن سطح احساس تعلق مکانی جامعه مورد مطالعه از آزمون  $T$  تک نمونه ای یا تی تک گروهی بهره گرفته شده است. میانگین نمره احساس تعلق مکانی در گروه نمونه ۳/۱ با انحراف استاندارد ۰/۴ است که بطور معناداری ( $P < 0/000$ ) در سطح متوسط و تقریباً برابر با میانگین (۳) می‌باشد. بدین ترتیب، با آگاهی از میزان احساس تعلق مکانی جامعه نمونه، به بررسی مؤلفه‌ها و شاخص‌های مکانی-فضایی (جغرافیایی) مؤثر در آن می‌پردازیم. به لحاظ آمار استنباطی نتایج بدست آمده از همبستگی اسپیرمن نشان-دهنده رابطه ناقص و منفی بین متغیرهای مستقل (فاصله از مراکز دهستان، بخش و شهرستان) و متغیر وابسته (احساس تعلق مکانی) است؛ یعنی هرچه فاصله‌ی روستا از مراکز دهستان، بخش و شهرستان بیشتر باشد، میزان احساس تعلق مکانی روستاییان کاهش می‌یابد. بر اساس ضریب تعیین  $R^2$ ، ۴/۵ درصد از واریانس احساس تعلق مکانی در خانوارهای روستایی مورد مطالعه، توسط موقعیت قرارگیری روستا (میزان فاصله از مرکز دهستان، فاصله از مرکز بخش، فاصله از مرکز شهرستان) تبیین می‌شود. تحلیل همبستگی بین میزان تحصیلات و مدت زمان سکونت در روستا با احساس تعلق مکانی روستاییان نیز بیانگر آن است که بین میزان تحصیلات و احساس تعلق مکانی رابطه ناقص و منفی وجود دارد؛ یعنی با افزایش سطح تحصیلات روستاییان، میزان احساس تعلق به مکان در آنها کاهش می‌یابد. بین مدت زمان سکونت در روستا و احساس تعلق مکانی آنها رابطه مستقیم و مثبت برقرار است به این معنی که افرادی که از سکونت آنها در روستا مدت زمان بیشتری می‌گذرد، احساس تعلق مکانی در آنها بیشتر

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