



A Survey of the Sense of Spatial Belonging to a Destination Country among Afghan Transnational Immigrants (Case Study: Border Villages in Sistan)

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Abstract

Purpose- One of the key challenges in the border areas of Sistan is the existence of different ethnic groups and nationalities with different sense of place and identity belonging. The ethnic and national differences has created a turbulent and chaotic landscape in border villages of Sistan and caused a lot of damages to the sense of place and identity in affected areas. Accordingly, the aim of this study was to determine the relationship between the Afghans and the sense of place in the border villages of Sistan.

Design/methodology/approach- The research method is descriptive -analytical and is based on library research and survey. The sample consisted of 31 villages inhabited by Afghans with 3669 households. A sample of 347 households were selected using Cochran's formula and were interviewed based on random sampling. The data were analyzed using the Spearman correlation coefficient in SPSS Software.

Findings- The results of the test show that there is a significant relationship between the number of Afghan residents and sense of place in the studied area with a confidence level of 99 percent, so that by increasing Afghan households, sense of place decreases in the rural area and by reducing households in the rural area, the sense of place will increase. According to the results, it can be expressed that informal settlement of Afghans caused a reduction of sense of place in border villages of Sistan.

Research limitations/implications- One of the restrictions on the way of the research can be lack of accurate statistics on the informal settlers living in the border villages of Sistan. Among the strategies that can be offered to improve regional identity, is a complete identification of the illegal migrants, the setting of firm rules for their control, and the monitoring of the security agencies on immigration.

Practical implications- In order to solve this problem, the exact number of immigrants (illegal) settled in the area should be counted and according to law, they should be either granted citizenship or returned to Afghanistan. In the meantime, the best way is to grant citizenship to immigrants because evidence suggests that the majority of refugees return to their country after being fired from Iran. Accordingly, it is possible to confirm Afghan refugees by granting Iranian citizenship, national identity, and immigration in the destination country (Iran).

Originality/value- So far, no attention to the sense of place of cross-border migrants (Afghans) to Iran, especially in border villages. Nevertheless, the present study has authenticity and practical value. Users of the results of this research are rural and regional planners, provincial government of Sistan and Baluchistan and its departments and agencies under the Department of Afghan citizens in the country.

Key words: Informal settlements, refugees, sense of place, Sistan border villages.

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1. Introduction

As international migration is growing increasingly, all human societies have been facing the challenges of immigration. Evidences show that transnational immigration in some cases, brings about the loss of national unity, disturbs the ethnic-national composition of the host country, makes way for espionage and counter-intelligence activities, increased insurgency, and conflicts between immigrants and native population. This makes the housing system of the host country, especially where the immigrants reside, encounter serious problems (Zarghani & Mousavi, 2012). A close investigation reveals that the people who are forced to emigrate from their homeland and live in another country, cannot develop a similar sense of belonging to both places. Such displeasing experiences are the root causes of tensions in different parts of the world (Rezazadeh, 2001). Many studies have tried to depict the relationship between the severity of sense of belonging to a place and various factors; for example, research shows that in settlements where social relations and neighborhood ties are weak, the crime rate is more likely to be higher. Also, studies shows that distrust of neighbors makes them have less contact with immigrants. Some studies showed that emotional attachment as a fundamental element in social relations is the main factor of regional controlling because the sense of belonging to a community makes people feel they are under the control of the community and the community is thinking about them (Rezvan & Fathi, 2012). It is worth noting that immigrant receiving locations are important places, as they are characterized with the presence of mainly low-income immigrant families, poor security, poor health, low quality housing, and lack of facilities and infrastructures. Such unfavorable conditions lead to a reduction in individuals' sense of belonging to the place, and this weak sense of belongings can have undesirable consequences for them and the host community, which is more significant among transnational immigrants (Naghdi & Sadeghi, 2006).

A remarkable example of this can be found among the international Afghan immigrants living in Iran. Insurgencies and international intervention in Afghanistan have led to a surge in immigration to

neighboring countries, especially Iran. At first, it was thought that Afghans would have a short stay in Iran, but due to persistent political turmoil and recession in Afghanistan, Afghan refugees have settled in Iran for a relatively long time (Isa Zadeh & Mehranfar, 2012).

It is worth noting that most immigrants migrating to neighboring countries initially reside in border areas and then move to areas where they are likely to get employed and earn a higher income (Karimi, 2007). Meanwhile, the proximity of the Sistan region to Afghanistan has long paved the way for population movements between the Sistan region and Afghanistan. A part of the Afghan refugees arriving in Iran through the Sistan border, were employed in the area. Nevertheless, after political developments in Afghanistan, this trend was politicized, as a significantly large population of the Afghans, in an open system (dispersed among indigenous inhabitants) resided mostly in border areas of the Sistan region (Bezi, 2006). Nevertheless, the immigration of the Afghans to Sistan region has gradually turned to a socio-economic and political issue and made way for cultural backwardness and socio-economic and political issues in the region (Dahmardeh, 1996). Nevertheless, it is necessary to assess the Afghans' sense of belonging in Sistan region particularly in border villages. Accordingly, the main question of the study is:

What is the relationship between unofficial settlement of the Afghans living in border villages in Sistan and their sense of spatial belonging?

2. Research Theoretical Literature

2.1. Concepts Related to the Sense of Spatial Belonging

Location: Location is the main element of the inhabitants' identity. Man will know himself better if he knows where he lives (Habibi, 2008). In fact, location is the main focus of geography, identity, and cultural manifestation in a place. Man, given his beliefs and actions, is the source of meaning and identity for his location (Kaviyanirad & Azizi, 2011).

Spatial identity: Spatial identity as one of the ways of communication between humans and places is perceived with regard to culture, type and nature of construction technology, and visual-physical properties (Kaviyanirad & Azizi, 2011). Manzo & Douglas (2006) believed

that spatial identity is a dimension of the 'self' that develops in relation with the physical environment through a pattern of beliefs, preferences, feelings, values, goals, and objectives. This is a dynamic phenomenon that come from life experiences, and changes with regard to them (Manzo & Douglas, 2006). In spatial identity, location is a means by which the individual distinguishes himself from others (off-premises), and maintain his sense of identity with the people in the location (Lewicka, 2011).

Spatial belonging: In the definition of belonging to a place, the individual not only is aware of the names and symbols of the location at this level, but also needs the location as a sense of being and a sense of shared appreciation. In this case, the symbols of location are respected, and what happens to the place is also important for the individual (Rezvan & Fathi, 2012). The sense of spatial belonging is an important subject in social studies and local planning. In general, the sense of spatial belonging is the outcome of interaction between three factors: the individual, others, and the environment (Javan Forozandeh & Matlabi, 2011). Environmental, social, and individual conditions are effective in the level of spatial belonging. Such conditions are different in various locations. Therefore, each place has its own particular conditions and a particular level of spatial belonging (Naghdi & Sadeghi, 2006).

Spatial sense: In addition to physical elements, the environment includes implications, meanings, and codes that people decode, perceive, and judge based on roles, expectations, motivations, and other factors. This general sense that is created after perceptions and judgments about a person's specific environment, is called spatial sense. It is an important factor in the harmony between an individual and the environment, and leads to better utilization of the environment, user satisfaction, their sense of belonging to the environment, and their continued presence in that environment (Sarmast & Motevaseli, 2010).

Sense of spatial belonging: Territory finds a psychological identity with a place, and turns into a symbol with the sense of ownership, and physical elements. The distinguishing features of a location

compared to another location make people feel that they are living in a place with a certain quality and, while being interested in it, they tend to meet their needs within that location. Such a feeling towards a living place is called the "sense of spatial belonging" (Sholeh, 2006).

Spatial sense in political geography: Satisfying the sense of belonging to a political land and special national identity is the basis of spiritual motives for being distinguished from others in the thoughts of each individual and every particular human group. When the sense of belonging to a political territory is satisfied, one essentially feels the need to have an identity (Pishgami Far & Akbari, 2007). Hence, there would be a kind of spatial identity that is considered to be a form of self-expression. In fact, the spatial identity is a variety of spatial identity that one gets from the place of birth and residence. Spatial identity, the same as other types of identity answers to the question: Who am I? Where am I? Or where do I belong to? (Mir Haydar, 2005). It also provides a perfect place for the formation of political identity and recognition of political interests. This way, one can organize political activity based on location, especially since it is believed that power is founded and utilized within the framework of location (Pishgami Far & Akbari, 2007). Capabilities of a geographical location reflects its geopolitical weight which could be estimated and ranked in a survey, and one can measure the significance of each one compared to others, and find which one is preferable to others. Therefore, geographical locations and spaces are constantly trying to gain more geopolitical weight and power, and compete with each other (Hafez Niya, 2006).

2.2 Dimensions Effective in Spatial Belonging of International Immigrants

In categorization of dimensions effective in spatial belonging of international immigrants, the sense of spatial belonging is divided into two physical and social dimensions with positive and negative impacts. Therefore, both physical and social dimensions somehow reinforce the sense of spatial belonging; nevertheless, they prevent their growth as well. Table 1 demonstrates this categorization.

Table 1. Categories of dimensions effective in spatial belonging of international immigrants
(Source: Kamalipour & Jedi Yeganeh, 2012, p. 36)

dimensions	value of factors	Factors
Physical	Positive	Physical sustainability, performance sustainability, unique features, congruity of activities, convenience, open spaces, security, access, vitality, diversity, readability
	Negative	Inappropriate development, changes in the physical environment, change in use, changes in socio-economic activities, meaninglessness of life, formal globalization, globalization of the economy, housing changes, weak health services
social	Positive	Length of stay, number of acquaintances, possession of property, reputation of a place, daily enjoyment, physical privatization, beliefs and faiths, public ownership, public behaviors, social control, low fear of criminality.
	Negative	Criminality growth, identity weakening, lack of public participation, indigenous immigration, lack of development, national identity decline, lack of growth in spatial belonging

2.3 Spatial Belonging and Immigration of the Afghans to Iran

Survey of many Afghan families living in Iran shows that there have been profound cultural changes in the Afghan households. Afghans in Iran, wittingly or unwittingly are influenced by Iranian culture and Islamic teachings, and it has become part of their identity. Among the factors that contributed to Afghan immigrants' sense of spatial belonging to Iran include: staying away from the culture of patriarchy in Afghanistan society which has led Afghan women have a greater tendency to remain in Iran, common language between Iran and Afghanistan, common religious beliefs, increased socialization of Afghan women and girls in Iran, and the second-generation immigrants born in Iran (adopted Iran as their country) (Sadeghi, 2007). The indices of spatial belonging among Afghan refugees in Iran shows that in total, Afghans living in Iran believe that compared to Afghanistan, Iran is a better place to live. Such a positive view has been

consistent with more relations with Iran, longer stay, higher education, and a better economic position in Iran (Mahmoodian, 2007). Many Afghans who have lived in Iran for years and have absorbed the Iranian culture, have found it difficult to get back to Afghanistan since the cultural norms in Afghanistan are not acceptable for them. In fact, cultural and identity changes along with economics, livelihood, and ethnic issues are among the main reasons for persistent presence of the Afghans in Iran (Sadeghi, 2007).

There have been various studies about different aspects of sense of belonging to a place; however, most of them have been about urban and regional migration within a country. Accordingly, there has been no study about the sense of belonging among Afghan immigrants in border areas of Iran, especially in border villages of Sistan region. Nevertheless, the present study, in addition to its topic innovation, is practical in nature. Therefore, in this part, we have reviewed the literature most relevant to the present study (table 2).

Table 2. A Review of the Related Literature

Source: Research findings, 2017

Year	Researchers	Title	Conclusion
2014	Ziyari, Sharifi & Na'imi	An assessment of the role of social development in consolidating the sense of spatial belonging. A case study of neighborhoods in District 10 of Sanandaj	The results show a positive and direct relationship between social development and sense of spatial belonging. The greater the sense of spatial belonging, the greater the level of social development.
2014	Meshkini, Qasemi & Hamzeh Nejad	An assessment of the sense of spatial belonging among the inhabitants of new cities (A case study of Hashtgerd new town)	The results show that there is a significant relationship between the sense of spatial belonging and the variables. In a way that if the amount of utilities, local security, social and community activities increased, the sense of spatial belonging in Hashtgerd residents also would increase.

Table 2.

Year	Researchers	Title	Conclusion
2013	European Commission	To maximize the effects of international migration on development	The results show that positive effects of international migration are achieved for countries of origin and the negative (economic, social and environmental) effects are for the host country.
2012	Kamalipour, Yeganeh & Allah Hesabi	Factors affecting the attachment to urban residential environments: A case study of housing complexes	The results indicate that attachment to a living environment has led to a longer residence. The physical aspects of the living area have a significant effect on residence of the immigrants in housing complexes.
2011	Pirbabaee & Sajadzadeh	The sense of collective belonging to a place, social residence in a traditional neighborhood	The results proved that collective belong to traditional neighborhoods is strong and this affects the local identity of the residents and their sense of belonging to that neighborhood.
2010	Varesi, Amel Bafandeh & Mohammadzadeh	The elements of urban identity and its relationship with the sense of spatial belonging of the residents in new towns (A case study of Gulbahar County)	The results show there is a significant relationship between the residents' sense of spatial belonging in Gulbahar County and duration of their residence.
2010	Sarmast & Motavasel	The role of "urban scale" in the level of spatial belonging (A case study of Tehran)	The results show that in neighborhoods with a long history, there is a stronger sense of belonging to the neighborhood; nevertheless, in neighborhoods with a shorter history, there was a stronger sense of belonging to Tehran.
2009	Tavakoli	The effects of spatial belonging of rural Shiite women in border areas on immigration in Sistan Region	The sense of spatial belonging among rural Shiite women in border areas is very strong and it can be used as a tool and strength in sustainable dwelling in border areas and reducing rural migration in these regions.
2007	Margasson	Afghan refugees: current situation and future prospects	The presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, in addition to creating security, economic, and political issues, has raised crime and unemployment in these countries.
2006	Wickramasekara, Sehgal, Mehrani, Norozi & Eisazadeh	Afghan families in Iran: specifications and characteristics	The majority of Afghan refugees are young and working in manufacturing, construction and businesses. The conditions suggest that immigrants are reluctant to return to Afghanistan.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Geographical Scope of the Research

Sistan region with an area of 15,197 square kilometers is located between 30 :5' N to 31 : 28' N, and 60 :15' E to 61 : 50'E in southeast of Iran and the far north of Sistan and Baluchestan

Province; it comprises 8.1% of the total area of the province. This region borders Afghanistan from the north and east, and includes the five towns of Zabol, Zahak, Hirmand, Nimruz, and Hamun as can be seen in [Figure 1 \(Population and Housing Census, 2011\)](#).



Figure 1. Introducing the area under study.

3.2. Methods

This descriptive-analytical study aims at applied and developmental purposes. To collect the required data, library and field resources were used. Library studies are conducted to gather secondary statistics and documents. Field studies in the form of surveys have been done to observe the status quo, gather data from villages, collect questionnaire survey data, and interview samples of the target population. By collecting authentic, first-hand information about Afghans' presence in border villages of Sistan, the present research attempted to investigate their effects on the sense of spatial belonging of villages with Afghan's residing in them in the area under study. Therefore, using research factors obtained from review of the literature and earlier studies as well as random interviews with Afghan and Iranian sampled population in terms of environmental – physical criteria, the questionnaire was designed accordingly, and was based on a

Likert scale (ranging from 1 = *very little* to 5 = *too much*).

Following objective and place-to-place analyses, as well as consulting local experts and political organization data, it was learnt that Sistan border area contains 31 villages with Afghans residents. Accordingly, to better achieve the expected results, the sample population includes all the 31 villages with Afghans residents which, according to the [2011 census](#), involved 3,669 households.

The volume of sample households was determined as 347 heads of households using Cochran formula at 95% level. Moreover, to better ensure the results of field studies, 51 copies of the questionnaire more than the required sample was used. It should be noted that the principle of entering input is observed while entering the data from the questionnaires, and data from negative indicators are entered in the positive form into the SPSS datasheet (see [Table 3](#)).

Table 3. Components and indices

Source: Research findings, 2017

Components	Indices	alpha
spatial-national belonging	The sense of comfort in Iran, the desire to defend Iran at the time of danger, dependence on Iran	.651
spatial belonging and identity cohesion	The desire to respect the law, knowing the purpose of life, knowledge of local rural culture, the degree of dependence on the villagers, the influence of the traditional regional ideas on construction of the houses, awareness of the traditions and history of the region, the desire to do collective tasks in rural areas, the tendency to support rural values, the desire to continue living in a village, caring about traditional ceremonies of rural areas, ethnic-family affiliation within a village	.703
spatial belonging and social-national identity	The desire to live in the Iranian community, the desire to join the national community of Iran, a sense of belonging to national Iranian community, the commitment to sustain the Iranian national community, tendency to accept others as fellow citizens, to honor to join the Iranian community, to pay cost for membership in the-Iranian community, willingness to social partnership, to consider one's role as effective in political affairs	.710
spatial belonging and cultural-historical identity	to value the Persian language, to name one's child according to national-Iranian culture, the desire to watch the national Iranian media, to believe in preserving and strengthening the cultural heritage of Iran, to honor the Iranian history, a sense of belonging to historical courses of Iran	.557
sense of spatial belonging and national-political identity	The desire to defend the political decisions of the country, the desire to defend integrity and political solidarity, to value the political structure of Iran	.508

4. Research Findings

4.1. Some Features of Questionnaire Respondents

By filling out face-to-face questionnaires, 99% (394) of male respondents and 1% of female respondents (4 people) were identified. The average age of the sample population (supervisors of 398 households) is 35.4 years, with a minimum of 21 and a maximum of 63 years, and an average household size of 5.21. In terms of literacy, 41.6% of respondents were illiterate and 58.4% were literate. 53.5% of respondents are engaged in crop and livestock activities, and the rest are engaged in other activities (poultry farming, fishing, merchandise sales, labor and personnel). In terms of income, 45.7 percent of the income is less than 500 thousand tomans, 44 percent of the income between 500 thousand tomans to 1 million and 10.3 percent

of respondents earning income between 1 million to 2 tomans per month.

4.2. An Assessment of the Sense of Spatial Belonging and National-Political Identity of the Afghans in the Villages of the Study Area

To measure the sense of spatial belonging and national-political identity of the Afghans in the villages of the sample population, three specific items, according to the priority of the responses, were scored and tested. Findings show that the maximum mean belongs to the dimension related to giving value to past political structure of Iran with a mean of 2.09. The components of a desire to defend the unity and political solidarity of the nation with a mean of 2.08 and a desire to defend the political decision-makings in the country with a mean of 2.03 ranked second and third respectively (Table 4).

Table 4 - Frequency, mean and standard deviation of the indices of spatial belonging and national-political identity of the respondents

Source: Research findings, 2017

Features	Frequency of the level of effectiveness					M	SD	Rank
	Very few	Few	Moderate	Many	Too many			
to value the political structure of Iran	0	5	19.3	36.4	39.2	2.09	0.88	1
the desire to defend integrity and political solidarity	0.5	4	19.3	37.9	38.2	2.08	0.83	2
The desire to defend the political decisions of the country	2.5	3.5	20.9	34.4	38.7	2.03	0.98	3

4.3. An Assessment of the Sense of Spatial Belonging and National and Histo-Cultural Identity of the Afghans in the Villages of the Study Area

To assess the sense of spatial belonging and national, cultural and historical identity of the Afghans in the sample villages, 6 items have been developed and discussed. According to Table 5, among the items studied, the highest score belonged

to ‘the beliefs and values to Persian language’ with a mean of 3.23. The reason for its significance is the Persian language as the official language of both countries (Iran and Afghanistan). The lowest score, belonged to the sense of belonging to the Iranian historical period with a mean of 1.98. In fact, the international immigrants due to uncommon history of nations, have a less strong sense of belonging to the historical periods of the host country.

Table 5. Frequency, mean and standard deviation of the indices of spatial belonging and histo-cultural identity of the respondents

Source: Research findings, 2017

Features	Frequency of the level of effectiveness					M	SD	Rank
	Very few	Few	Moderate	Many	Too many			
to value the Persian language	0.3	4.3	15.6	31.9	48	3.23	0.88	1
to name one’s child according to national -Iranian culture	0.3	5.3	18.1	36.2	42	3.16	0.86	2
the desire to watch the national Iranian media	1	5.3	18.1	30.2	45.5	2.13	0.95	3
to believe in preserving and strengthening the cultural heritage of Iran	0.5	5.5	18.3	32.4	43.2	2.12	0.93	4
to honor the Iranian history	0.5	5.8	20.4	35.2	38.2	2.04	0.92	5
a sense of belonging to historical courses of Iran	0	7.5	21.4	36.2	34.9	1.98	0.93	6

4. 4. The Sense of Spatial Belonging and National-Social identity of the Afghans in the Villages of the Study Area

To assess the sense of spatial belonging and national-social identity of the Afghans in the villages of the study area, 9 items have been discussed. As Table 6 shows, the highest score was

for the item of “desire to live in the national community of Iran” with a mean of 3.42 and the lowest score was for the item of “to consider your role effective in political affairs” with a mean of 1.98. As a matter of fact, the Afghan refugees believe they have little role in the political affairs of Iran, as they lack valid identity cards and civil rights.

Table 6. Frequency, mean and standard deviation of the indices of spatial belonging and national-social identity of the respondents

Source: Research findings, 2017

Features	Frequency of the level of effectiveness					M	SD	Rank
	Very few	Few	Moderate	Many	Too many			
The desire to live in the Iranian community	0.3	1	11.1	30.9	56.8	3.42	0.74	1
the desire to join the national community of Iran	0	1.8	14.3	35.7	48.2	3.30	0.77	2
a sense of belonging to national Iranian community	0.3	2.3	16.6	30.4	50.5	3.28	0.83	3
to honor to join the Iranian community	0.5	3	16.1	35.2	45.2	3.21	0.85	4
the commitment to sustain the Iranian national community	0.5	3.8	17.3	34.2	44.2	3.17	0.88	5
to pay cost for membership in the-Iranian community	0.5	2.8	19.8	33.2	34.7	3.16	0.87	6
tendency to accept others as fellow citizens	1.3	4.5	20.4	34.7	39.2	2.06	0.94	7
willingness to social partnership	1	3.5	19.8	41	34.7	2.04	0.88	8
to consider one's role as effective in political affairs	0.3	7.5	23.1	31.2	37.9	1.98	0.96	9

4.5. The Sense of Spatial Belonging and Identity Cohesion of the Afghans in the Study Area

Results from Table 7 showed that among 11 items of spatial belonging and identity cohesion in the sample villages, the highest effect was for the item of "respect for the law" with a mean of 2.57 and the lowest impact was for the item of "desire to continue living in the village" with a mean of 1.67.

Concerning the desire to respect the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we may conclude that immigrants entering Iran, had to comply with the rules and law in Iran because of security and special measures of the government. However, as the results show, the immigrants have little desire to continue living in their villages, apparently due to the lack of spatial sense of belonging to the border region of Sistan among the Afghan immigrants.

Table 7. Frequency, mean and standard deviation of the indices of spatial belonging and identity cohesion of the respondents

Source: Research findings, 2017

Features	Frequency of the level of effectiveness					M	SD	Rank
	Very few	Few	Moderate	Many	Too many			
The desire to respect the law	0.5	1.8	17.1	30.9	49.7	2.57	0.84	1
ethnic-family affiliation within a village	0	2.5	16.1	38.4	43	2.21	0.80	2
knowing the purpose of life	0.5	2.8	22.6	38.2	35.9	2.06	0.85	3
knowledge of local rural culture	0.8	4.5	22.9	31.7	40.2	2.05	0.93	4
caring about traditional ceremonies of rural areas	0.3	2	27.4	37.2	33.2	2.01	0.84	5
the degree of dependence on the villagers	0.8	4.5	24.6	36.9	33.2	1.97	0.90	6
the tendency to support rural values	0.5	4	29.6	34.9	34.9	1.91	0.89	7
awareness of the traditions and history of the region	0	6	26.1	37.7	30.2	1.90	0.92	8
the desire to do collective tasks in rural areas	1	5	26.1	37.7	30.2	1.88	0.90	9
the influence of the traditional regional ideas on construction of the houses	1.3	6.5	30.2	35.4	26.6	1.79	0.95	10
the desire to continue living in a village	2.3	7	36.7	29.1	24.9	1.67	0.99	11

4.6. Sense of Spatial Belonging and National-Geographical Identity among the Afghans in the Villages of the Study Area

Table 8 shows that among the items examined about the spatial belonging and national geographical - identity in the sample villages, the highest score belonged to the item of "feeling convenient in Iran" with a mean of 3.22. This could be attributed to security and political authority of Iran compared to

insecurity in war-torn Afghanistan, which has created a particular sense of security among the Afghan refugees living in Iran. The lowest score was for the item of "attachment to the land of Iran" with a mean of 2.18. In fact, immigrants anywhere in the world have a particular attachment to their homeland and this plays a fundamental role in the underdevelopment in the areas receiving immigrants.

Table 8. Frequency, mean and standard deviation of the indices of spatial belonging and national geographical-identity among the respondents

Source: Research findings, 2017

Features	Frequency of the level of effectiveness					M	SD	Rank
	Very few	Few	Moderate	Many	Too many			
The sense of comfort in Iran	0.8	0.3	17.1	31.2	48	3.22	0.88	1
the desire to defend Iran at the time of danger	0.3	3.5	19.1	28.6	48.5	2.21	0.89	2
dependence on Iran	0.3	4.5	16.8	32.9	45.5	2.18	086	3

4.7. Overall Ranking of the Components

Table 9 shows the ranking of each component with regard to their significance. The results show that out of 5 components, "spatial belonging and

national geographical-identity" with a mean of 2.84 ranked first and "spatial belonging and identity cohesion" with a mean of 2 ranked fifth respectively.

Table 9. Overall ranking of the components

Source: Research findings, 2017

Indices	Average	rank
spatial belonging and social-national identity	2.84	1
spatial belonging and cultural-historical identity	2.44	2
spatial-national belonging	2.53	3
sense of spatial belonging and national- political identity	2.06	4
spatial belonging and identity cohesion	2	5

4.8. The Sense of Spatial Belonging in the Villages of the Study Area

The survey of overall mean of the sense of spatial belonging in each village shows the sense of spatial belonging in the villages of Qorqori and Moladady

with the means of 3.45 and 3.20 percent, compared to the other villages, got the highest score and the villages of Dehno, Milak, and Sanjarani with the means of 1.30, 1.33, and 1.41 percent, had the lowest score. Table 10, shows the sense of spatial belonging in other villages of the study area.

Table 10 – The ranking of Afghan inhabited villages in terms of the sense of spatial belonging and the size of Afghan population

Source: Research findings, 2017

Average	Name of the village	Rank
2.60	Kandikeh	23
2.20	Molladadi	2
1.30	Dehno	31
1.75	Gamshad	26
1.42	Gale Bache	27

Table 10-

Average	Name of the village	Rank
2.92	Takht-e-Edalat	4
1.41	Sanjarani	28
1.40	Kanal	29
1.33	Millak	30
2.86	Arbabi	6
3.02	Dahmardeh	3
2.75	Pokak Haji Heidar	11
2.83	Piran	7
2.65	Sasuli	21
2.75	Besmelahdahmardeh	17
2.73	Upper Jahanabad	15
2.74	Padaei	12
2.64	Ali Shah	22
2.48	Tapehkaniz	24
2.36	Nourmohamad Khan	25
2.69	Takhte Pol	19
2.74	Jani Millak	13
3.45	Ghorghori	1
2.80	Seyyed Khan Kharut	9
2.72	Deh Kharut	16
2.74	Molla Ali	14
2.76	Safar Zehi	10
2.90	Mir Jafar Khan	5
2.69	Miran	20
2.70	Sarani	18
2.80	Kuhkan	8

As the data of the study is quantitative, to examine the relationship between the number of Afghans and their sense of belonging in the villages of the study area, Spearman correlation coefficient was used. Statistical analysis shows that the coefficient of correlation between the unofficial residence of the

Afghan immigrants and the sense of spatial belonging was -0.755, as the number of Afghan residents increase in rural areas, the sense of spatial belonging declines in the villages, and it goes up as the number of Afghans increase in rural areas (Table 11).

Table 11. Results of Spearman correlation coefficient test (components of spatial attachment) of the respondents

Source: Research findings, 2017

Dimension	Spatial belonging
Number	398
Correlation coefficient	-0.755
significance level (sig.)	0.000

To analyze the position of Afghan inhabited border villages, we draw the buffer map of the villages using GIS software package (Figure 2).

Figure 2 shows that out of 31 villages with Afghan residents, 14 villages are at a distance of 3 kilometers from the border, 10 villages at a distance

of 3 to 5 kilometers from the border, and 6 villages at a distance of 5 to 10 kilometers from the border. The results indicate that most Afghan inhabited villages are adjacent to the border and are in the shortest distance from the border (3 km).

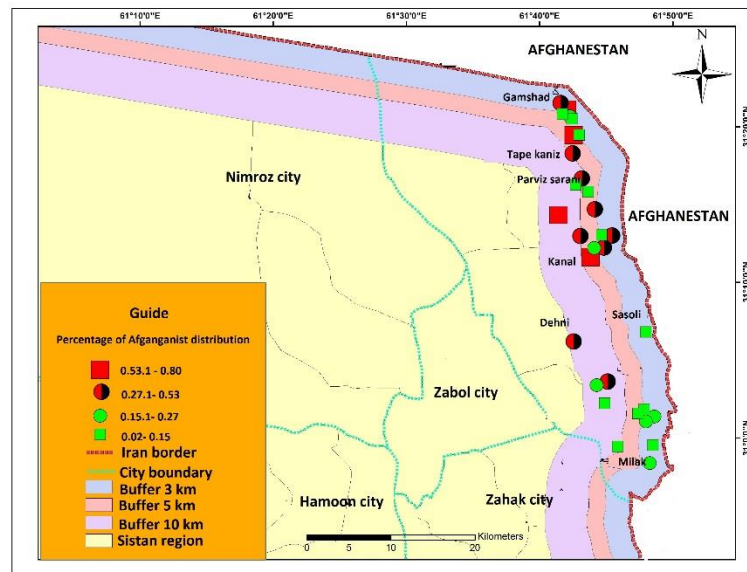


Figure 2. The distance of the sample villages from the Afghanistan border

Actually, we may conclude that as the distance from the border decreases, the number of villages with the Afghan population increases, and as the distance from the border increases, the number of Afghan-inhabited villages' decreases. The results of the class analysis of the rural Afghan population show that almost all the first class villages (53.1-80 % Afghans) and second class villages (27.1-53% Afghans) have a high proportion of Afghans population compared to the total population of the villages in the northern half of Sistan border. The rest of the villages on the third class (0.15.1-0.27%) and fourth class (0.02-0.15%) almost on all border line of Sistan are discretely visible.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

One of the main reasons for the stability and development of settlements having immigrant population is the sense of spatial belonging to destination location, which means the higher the sense of belonging, the residents would display a higher enthusiasm for development of their environment. However, given that Sistan border region is neighboring Afghanistan and for long, Sistan has been host to many uninvited Afghan immigrants, it is essential to examine the sense of spatial belonging especially among the residents of border villages of Sistan region. Accordingly, the present study attempted to examine the sense of spatial belonging among the unofficial Afghan immigrants. For this purpose, factors affecting the sense of spatial belonging among the Afghan

refugees have been investigated based on the views of the residents in the region, then using the Spearman correlation coefficient, we tested the relationship between the Afghan immigrants and the sense of spatial belonging.

Given the results of the present study, we came to the conclusion that the presence of the Afghans in this part of Iran disrupts the national identity and the sense of spatial belonging in the villages of Sistan border region. The findings of the studies conducted by Zarghani and Mousavi (2012), Rezazadeh (2001), and Rezvan and Fathi (2012) is consistent with the results of this study, as the immigrants are the main cause of weakening the sense of spatial belonging in the destination regions. Given that preserving the national identity and spatial belonging is one of the main factors in social cohesion and territorial development, a fundamental guideline should be implemented in border areas of Sistan region for raising the awareness of local people about the territorial values through recognizing the role of the Afghans in the region, promoting the importance of the native values, and raising the awareness of local people about sanctity of their territorial system. As a result, following the above mentioned factors, there would be an increase in social cohesion and development of the border areas in Sistan region.

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بررسی میزان حس تعلق مکانی مهاجران (افاغنه) فرامرزی به کشور مقصد (مطالعه موردی: روستاهای مرزی سیستان)

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چکیده مبسوط

۱. مقدمه

با شروع مهاجرت‌های بین‌المللی و گسترده‌تری آن‌ها، همه جوامع بشری به نحوی با چالش مهاجرت مواجه شدند. شواهد نشان می‌دهد مهاجرت‌های فرامرزی در برخی مواقع باعث از بین رفتن یکپارچگی ملی، برهم خوردن ترکیب قومی - ملیتی کشور میزبان، جاسوسی و فعالیت‌های ضد امنیتی، افزایش شورش‌ها و نزاع بین مهاجرین و جمعیت بومی می‌شود. این امر باعث می‌شود تا نظام سکونتگاهی کشور میزبان وبه‌ویژه مناطق مهاجرنشین با معضل جدی روبرو گردد. نگاه ریشه‌ای به این موضوع نشان می‌دهد، افرادی که از زادگاه و زاد بوم خود کوچانده شده و در مکان دیگری سکنی داده می‌شوند، نمی‌توانند حس مکانی همسانی برای هر دو جا بیابند. لذا همین ناخوشایندی - هاست که اساس تداوم تنش را در نقاط مختلف جهان به دنبال دارد.

۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

مرور کلی بر مبانی نظری و پیشینه پژوهش نشان می‌دهد که تعلق مکانی بحثی مهمی از نظر جامعه‌شناسی و برنامه‌ریزی محلی می‌باشد. حس تعلق بر مکان برآیند تعامل سه ضلع فرد، دیگران و محیط می‌باشد. شرایط محیطی، اجتماعی و فردی در سطح تعلق مکانی مؤثر است. از سوی دیگر، شرایط مزبور در مکان‌های متفاوت، فرق می‌کنند و بنابراین هر مکانی شرایط خاص خود و بالتبع سطح تعلق مکانی متفاوت دارد. در این بین، سکونت‌گاه‌های مهاجرپذیر مکان‌های زیستی مهمی هستند زیرا می‌توان آن‌ها را با ویژگی‌های چون حضور خانوارهای عمدتاً مهاجر و کم درآمد، ضعف امنیت، ضعف بهداشتی، کیفیت نامطلوب مسکن، کمبود امکانات و زیر ساخت‌ها شناخت. عمدتاً

این شرایط نامساعد منجر به کاهش تعلق فرد به مکان می‌گردد و این ضعف تعلق می‌تواند پیامدهای نامطلوبی برای فرد و جامعه مهاجرپذیر داشته باشد که این امر در بین مهاجران فرامرزی سنخیت بیشتری دارد.

۳. روش تحقیق

پژوهش حاضر از نظر نوع هدف، کاربردی - توسعه‌ای و از لحاظ روش تحقیق، توصیفی - تحلیلی است. برای گردآوری داده‌ها از روش مطالعات کتابخانه‌ای و میدانی بهره گرفته شده است. مطالعات میدانی نیز به صورت پیمایشی به منظور مشاهده وضع موجود، جمع‌آوری اطلاعات روستاها، توزیع پرسشنامه و مصاحبه با جامعه نمونه بوده است. حجم نمونه خانوار در ۳۱ روستای مورد نظر (تعداد ۳۶۶۹ خانوار) با استفاده از فرمول کوکران در سطح ۹۵ درصد برابر با ۳۴۷ نفر از سرپرستان خانوارهای افغان تعیین گردید. همچنین برای اطمینان بیشتر از نتایج مطالعات میدانی تعداد ۵۱ پرسش‌نامه نیز بیشتر از حجم نمونه تکمیل شد. روش نمونه‌گیری به کار گرفته شده در این پژوهش از نوع نمونه‌گیری هدفمند بوده است. میزان آلفای کرونباخ بعد تعلق مکانی ۰/۷۷۹ به دست آمده است. به دلیل کمی بودن داده‌های پژوهش، برای بررسی رابطه بین میزان افاغنه بر میزان حس تعلق مکانی در روستاهای مورد مطالعه از آزمون ضریب همبستگی اسپیرمن استفاده شد.

۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

یافته‌های تحقیق حاکی از آن است که وجود افاغنه بر میزان حس تعلق مکانی روستاهای مهاجرپذیر سیستان اثرگذار است بطوریکه با افزایش تعداد افاغنه در هر روستا، میزان حس تعلق مکانی کاهش می‌یابد و با پایین آمدن میزان افاغنه میزان حس تعلق مکانی روستاها افزایش می‌یابد

می‌آیند. لذا با عنایت به اینکه حفظ هویت ملی و تعلق مکانی یکی از عوامل مهم در انسجام اجتماعی و توسعه سرزمینی می‌باشد، باید راه‌کار اساسی در جهت افزایش آگاهی مردم مرزنشین نسبت به ارزش‌های سرزمینی از طریق شناسایی نقش افغانه در منطقه، تبلیغ در زمینه مهم بودن ارزش‌های بومی کشور و افزایش آگاهی مردم محلی بر پایه‌ی مقدس بودن نظام سرزمینی در مناطق مرزی اجرا نمود. نتیجه عوامل نامبرده فوق، افزایش انسجام اجتماعی و در همین راستا توسعه مناطق مرزی سیستم می‌باشد.

کلیدواژه‌ها: سکونت‌گزینی غیر رسمی، مهاجرین افغان، تعلق مکانی، روستاهای مرزی سیستم.

تشکر و قدردانی

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

همچنین یافته‌های پژوهش نشان دهنده این است که از بین ۳۱ روستای دارای سکنه افغان، تعداد ۱۴ روستا در فاصله ۳ کیلومتری مرز، ۱۰ روستا در فاصله ۳ تا ۵ کیلومتری مرز و ۶ روستا در فاصله ۵ تا ۱۰ کیلومتری مرز قرار دارند. نتایج حاصل از این محاسبات گویای این است که بیشترین روستاهای دارای سکنه افغان در مناطق همجوار مرز و کمترین فاصله با مرز (۳ کیلومتر) قرار دارند. در واقع می‌توان اینگونه نتیجه گرفت که با نزدیکی به مرز تعداد روستاهای دارای سکنه افغان بیشتر و با فاصله از مرز از تعداد روستاهای دارای سکنه افغان کاسته می‌شود.

۵. بحث و نتیجه‌گیری

با استناد از نتایج پژوهش حاضر می‌توان این‌گونه استنباط نمود که وجود افغانه در این نقطه از ایران، باعث برهم خوردن هویت ملی و تعلق مکانی در روستاهای منطقه مرزی سیستم شده است، بطوری‌که مهاجران عامل اصلی تضعیف تعلق مکانی در مناطق مقصد به حساب

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