International Journal of Engineering & Technology, 7 (3.27) (2018) 520-526



# International Journal of Engineering & Technology

Website: www.sciencepubco.com/index.php/IJET



Research paper

# Identification of Economic and Social Measures on Reformation of Urban Eroded Context (Case Study: Shahr-E-Kord City Eroded Context)

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## **Abstract**

Cities are alike living beings that are consistently in need of instauration and require restoration and reconstruction of withered tissues and replacement of new cells with the old ones. The eroded context of Shahr-e-kord city is one of the eroded and valuable fabric samples which is facing social, economic, and skeletal evolutions due to problems such as social and economic degradation, skeletal erosion, etc. Given that, the subject of this research that is the reformation of Shahr-e-kord eroded context was chosen and reviewed due to the significance of social and economic studies.

Achieved findings from final evaluation through SWOT factors in of AHP model depicts that in strength points, long settlement of people's in context and integration of available potentials in context for reformation are the most important strengths, and the population mitigation in area and descending value of its functions are the most important threats.

Today, the main problem of under study context is the low affordability and disproportion of expenses and incomes of families in eroded context. Based on final analyses in this research, substantial propositions to benefit from the strengths, opportunities, declination of weaknesses and threats in form of SWOT model strategies are suggested for reformation of Shahr-e-kord eroded context.

Keywords: Eroded context, reformation, economic, social, Shahr-e-kord.

# 1. Introduction

Since the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, by getting into power of Reza Khan (1920) and establishment of security, the fort and gate of the city were fallen down and the first intervention in modernism and skeletal-spatial structure of archaic context was begun. Today, the old fabric consists of a part of urban context which is a result of developments prior to 1300 Hijri and mostly self-organized. These contexts regardless of skeletal exhaustions represent the historical identity of city and are of locational, spatial, historical and social values (Khademi, 2000: 66). Yet today, these contexts are facing with erosion and destruction, so that an important part of these districts' population is relocated. The old and archaic fabric of Shahr-e-kord is not excluded and it is facing with multiple problems. The archaic context of Shahr-e-kord has the area of about 86 acres.

It covers 4 percent of Shahr-e-kord urban zone and has the half of urban traffic.

One of generating factors of urban eroded fabrics' problems, is the unplanned development of these cities. In case of Shahr-e-kord city, the sprawl of the city northward and southward has progressively mitigated the skeletal and functional centrality of city's archaic neighborhood, so that, these neighborhoods have been remained in their archaic past. This issue has led to immigration of long-term settlers of context or the replacement of rural immigrants and nomads, brings about the social transformation of texture and new residents have no strong dependence to the context and no interest toward investment in it.

As a result, progressive renovation of fabric units is stalled that it could be able to inhibit its collapse and for this, the context framework tends to erode. Further, the weak bond between two new and old fabrics also leads to functional fragility of archaic context.

The dominant approach of this research is based on functional objective an analytic-descriptive nature which the social and economic indexes have been analyzed by evaluation models AHP and SWOT. Eventually, it provides policies to reach to sustainable development with the perspective of future to solve the problems pertaining to the considered area.

## 2. Theoretical Concepts of Research

The concepts have been constantly considered in research are as follows:

#### 1. Context

The city context that consists of the interweaving of spaces and urban elements have been replaced following to natural conditions, topography and climate in particular, densely or dispersedly, or in a specific order in urban area, that is, city blocks and neighborhoods (Farid, 1994: 96).

#### 2. Archaic Context

The archaic context is that sort of integrity of residence and the solidarity of skeletal spaces which belongs to the old social order



in which the social life system was differentiated from today's social one (Tavasoli, 2003: 5).

#### 3. Eroded Context

Whenever activities and use meet the requirements but the framework is damaged or the activity system is messed up and uses are defected but the framework has been preserved, the erosion is proportional and whether both types of erosion occur, it is thorough (www.udro.org.ir).

#### 4. Reformation

About reformation, multiple definitions have been provided by city and urban development specialists and scholars which here some of them are pointed. Reformation suggests some interventions which would be attended for maintenance and improvement of city framework and space in a short-term period (Habibi, Maghsoudi, 2002: 18).

#### 5. Renovation

Renovation and rehabilitation of urban eroded districts through improvement of these areas like introducing modern services in old residential areas or by instauration of the alleys or reformation (destruction of all available constructions and their reconstruction) (Wilson James, 1973: 85).

#### 6. Reconstruction

Are the activities which take to action after the demolition of over half of the structure with a new use or perfectly compatible with its rules, generally the reconstruction is integrated at the time of fire, Earth-trembling or war (Habibi, 2005: 16).

### 7. Urban Instauration Theory

Urban instauration as resurrection or revitalization of some parts of urban areas which have no common standards. Therefore, the urban instauration or modification of eroded archaic constructions and their replacement through development of new constructions, streets, and parks. In many countries, the state policies are tended to urban instauration so-called housing (Poal Balchin,1988: 252).

#### 8. Authentication Theory

Some of these theories believe in renovation, some in reformation and some in a combination of renovation, reformation and protection. One of the instauration policies of residential quarters (adjacent units) in this part of city authenticating theory or dwelling improvement policy together with the amelioration of residence conditions in area particularly for high-income young, and low-child bearing groups (Juliet Carpenter and Lortt Alees, 1995: 280-283).

# 3. Methodology

The research is functional from the goal aspect and as to the methodology, it is a combination of documentary, analytic, and descriptive methods.

# 1. Data Collection Tools

Data collection tool is through filling questionnaire, field studies, plotting, library resources, and internet.

#### 2. Data Analysis Tool

Descriptive models and methods and Expert choice and EXCEL applications have been integrated.

#### 4. Discussion

# 1. The Review of Problems Pertaining to Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context through SWOT Technique

The urban problematic context is of fabrics that the existence of different elements and factors in it, results in mitigation of qualitative values for human environment and the importance of residential values, renovation in context halts and tendency toward immigration enhances in residences (Jahanshahi, 2003: 18).

These areas are not capable of self-renovation and the investors are not encouraged for the investment. According to the principles and suggested theories we proceed to the problems of Shahr-e-kord and providing solutions to resolve these issues in form of SWOT tables. To study the problems through SWOT technique, first we classify the internal factors for strengths and weaknesses and external factors for opportunities and threats. SWOT is the abbreviation of four English terms that are strength, weakness, opportunity and threat. SWOT analysis is consisted of identification of factors that it should bear the best compatibility with them. The rationale and approach is that the effective strategy, should maximize the strengths and opportunities of system, and minimize threats and weaknesses. This rationale whether integrated appropriately or not, will result in desirable results to choose and design an effective strategy.

**Table 1:** The Review of Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities in Shahr-e-Kord Eroded Context

External factors	Internal factors
Opportunities (O)	Strengths (S)
O1- integration of available	S1- context reformation
potentials in context for	
renovation.	
O2- elevation of district	S2- high tendency of people for
economic level.	reformation in context
O3- potential to set up	S3- people long residence in context.
regulations due to the location in	
historical fabric.	
O4- potential to attract private	S4- concentration of economic
capital as to private possession.	activities
O5- profitability possibility and	S5- availability of valuable historical
more economic exploitation are	elements
provided.	
Threats (T)	Weaknesses (W)
T1- transformation of context to	W1- low literacy of people in area
a mere commercial context and	
ignoring other individuals' needs	
T2- degradation of security in	W2- disproportion of expense and
neighborhood	income of families in eroded fabric
T3- modification of ruined	W3- insecurity due to wastelands,
spaces to center of criminals and	abandoned and ruined lands
outlaws	
T4- limited affordability of	W4- low contribution of residents in
residents to contribute in context	reformation of eroded fabric
reformation	
T5- uncertainty of investors to	W5- unwillingness of investors for
return of investment in fabric	investment in reformation of area

Resource: Research findings

# 2. The Analysis of Under-Study Area by Applying SWOT Model

It should be said that the SWOT analysis has some deficiencies as a significant tool in strategic planning, like in time of integrating this model, the analysis is not capable of comprehensive evaluation of decision making situation and it mostly determines the list of certain factors in strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat groups. As, the planning procedure mostly embraces many standards and their interdependencies.

It is possible that the integration of SWOT model would not be solely sufficient, therefore, as for the above subjects and to advance the efficiency in strategic planning, the most important policy in this research, is the integration of SWOT and AHP models.

AHP is a method that provides required conditions for quantification of SWOT factors and accommodating the evaluation possibility of decision making situations by SWOT model.

In this combination SWOT provides the framework in which, the analysis of decision-making is carried out and AHP model is also integrated for prioritization of SWOT factors and then for prioritization of SWOT groups. Meanwhile, in order to ameliorate the quality analysis of AHP-SWOT models, several experts in the field of urban eroded contexts and urban planning that are familiar with the under-study area or live there, are demanded to participate in weighting the SWOT elements in form of AHP model.

Hierarchical procedure of AHP is a flexible, potent, and simple that is adopted in decision making in conditions that harnesses the selection procedure between choices. AHP is one of most comprehensive designed systems for decision-making with multiple scales, because this model provides the formulation of case in a hierarchical way and further, it is able to consider different qualitative and quantitative elements in case. Moreover, this procedure engages different options in decision-making and entails the capability of sensitivity analysis on standards and substandards; likewise, it is established based of peer comparison that facilitates judgments and computations and also represents the compatibility and incompatibility degrees of decision-making process and this is of the privileged prerogatives of this model in multi-scale decision-making process (Ghodsi Poor, 2005: 5).

This method consists of three following steps:

- A) generation of dual matrix comparison
- B) scale weights calculation
- C) estimation of agreement ratio
- D) on this basis, the peer comparison of SWOT elements in form of AHP has made in eroded context of Shahr-e-kord, then weighted and prioritized which the results are as follows.

Table 2: Peer Comparison of Factors in Strengths of Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context

Strengths	Relative
	Weight
S1- Context reformation	0.69
S2- high tendency toward reformation in context	0.131
S3- high settlement duration in area	0.468
S4- concentration of economic activities	0.262
S5- availability of valuable historical elements	0.069

Resource: writer's drawing

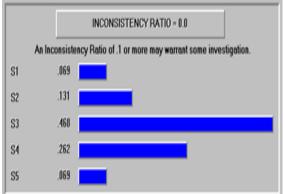


Fig. 1: Final weight of each strength (SWOT-AHP)

Resource: writer's drawing

**Table 3:** Peer Comparison of Elements in Opportunity Group of Shahr-E-Kord Opportunity Points

~-	a opportunity rounts	
I	Opportunities	Relative
		weight
I	O1- adoption of available potentials in area for	0.064
	reformation	
ĺ	O2- enhancement of area's economic level	0.455
ĺ	O3- the potential to set up regulations in order to	0.120
	locate in historical context area	
ĺ	O4- potential to attract private investment regarding	0.240
	private ownership	
ĺ	O5- provides more possibility of profitability and	0.120
	economic exploitation	

Resource: student's drawing



Fig. 2: Final weight of any opportunity points (SWOT-AHP)
Resource: writer's drawing

Table 4: Peer comparison of Factors in Threats Group of Shahr-E-Kord Froded Context

Threats	Relative
	weight
T1- transformation of context to a mere commercial and	0.120
ignoring other individuals' needs	
T2- procedure of area descending population and falling	0.240
value of its functions	
T3- modification of context ruined spaces to a center for	0.455
criminals and outlaws	
T4- expansion of social problems and harms in eroded	0.120
context area	
T5- uncertainty of investors toward investment return in area	0.064

Resource: student's drawing



Fig. 3: Final weight of any threat points (SWOT-AHP)

Table 5: Peer comparison of Factors in Weakness Group of Shahr-e-kord Context

Weaknesses	Relative
	weight
W1- low literacy of settlers	0.180
W2- disproportion of expenses and incomes of eroded context families	0.340
W3- insecurity due to existence of wastelands, abandoned and ruined lands	0.090
W4- low collaboration of residents in reformation of eroded context area	0.340
W5- low contribution in investment of investors in context reformation	0.051

Resource: student's drawing

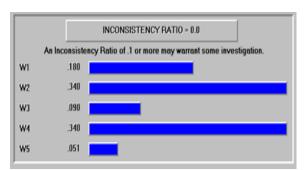


Fig. 4: Final weight of any strengths (SWOT-AHP)

Resource: writer's drawing

Table 5: Intergroup Initial Priority Matrix of SWOT Factors in Line with Optimization of Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context

Optimization of Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context			
Intergroup SWOT factors	Initial	Priority	
	priority	order	
S3- long settlement of individuals in context	1	1	
S4- concentration of economic activities	2	2	
O2- enhancement of district economic level	3	3	
O4- potential to attract private capital regarding	4	4	
private ownership			
S2- high tendency of people in reformation of	5	5	
context			
W2- disproportion of expense and income of	6	1	
families in eroded area			
W4- low contribution of settlers in reformation	7	2	
of eroded context area			
S1- context reformation	8	3	
S5- existence of valuable historical factors	9	4	
T3- modification of context ruined spaces to a	10	5	
center for criminals and outlaws			
W1- low literacy of residents	11	1	
O3- potential to set up regulations due to	12	2	
locating in historical context area			
O5- possibility of more economic profitability	13	3	
and exploitation is provided			
T2- procedure of area descending population	14	4	
and falling value of its functions			
O1- adoption of available potentials in area in	15	5	
order to reformation			
W3- insecurity due to existence of wastelands,	16	1	
abandoned and ruined lands			
W4- low collaboration of residents in	17	2	
reformation of eroded context area			
T1- modification of context to a mere	18	3	
commercial and ignorance of other people's			
needs			
T4- expansion of social harms and problems in	19	4	
eroded context area			
T5- uncertainty of investors toward investment	20	5	
return in area			

Resource: author's drawing

# 3. Determination of Functional Priorities of Renovation and Reformation of Shahr-E-Kord City Eroded Context

The gained results from final evaluation of SWOT factors in AHP framework shows that in strength points, providing reformation and renovation plan of eroded context, high tendency of individuals for reformation and renovation in area, long-term residence of people in area are respectively the most important strengths, utilization of available potentials in context in order to renovation, reformation and reconstruction, enhancement of district economic grade are from the most important opportunities and limited affordability of residents in context for contribution in context reformation, uncertainty of investors to return of the fund are respectively from most threats. Existence of narrow and impermeable thoroughfares, lack of parking lots are from the most important threats in under-study area. Thus, the results from integration of SWOT and AHP factors depicts that in general, among 20 SWOT priorities, these have the most efficiency, that

are the superior priorities of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to intervene in Shahr-e-kord eroded context as follows:

Table 6: Final Intergroup Priority Matrix of SWOT Factors for

Optimization of Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context

Optimization of Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context		
SWOT intergroup factors	AHP	Final
	final	priority
	weight	
S3- long residence of individuals in context	0.0468	1
O2- enhancement of district economic level	0.455	2
T3- modification of context ruined spaces to a center for criminals and outlaws	0.455	3
W2- disproportion of expense and income of families in eroded area	0.34	4
W4- low collaboration of residents in reformation of eroded context area	0.34	5
S4- concentration of economic activities	0.262	6
O4- potential to attract private investment regarding private ownership	0.24	7
T2- tendency of population declination in area and descending value of functions	0.24	8
W1- low literacy of residents	0.18	9
S2- high tendency of people in reformation of context	0.131	10
O3- potential to set up regulations due to locating in historical context area	0.12	11
O5- possibility for more economic profitability and privilege is provided	0.12	12
T1- modification of context to a mere commercial and ignorance of other people's needs	0.12	13
T4- expansion of social harms and problems in eroded context area	0.12	14
W3- insecurity due to existence of wastelands, abandoned and ruined lands	0.09	15
S1- context reformation	0.069	16
S5- existence of valuable historical factors	0.069	17
O1- adoption of available potentials in area in order to reformation	0.064	18
T5- uncertainty of investors toward return of investment in area	0.064	19
W5- low contribution in investment by investors in context reformation	0.051	20

Resource: writer's drawing

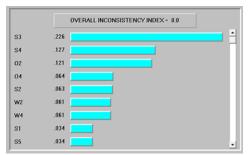


Fig. 5: Indexes final weight by EC software Writer's drawing

For this, it should be attended to a targeted and sustainable planning to inforce the strengths, proper adaptation of opportunities and facing with existing threats in line with the reformation of area.

# 4. Providing Strategies and Policies of Urban Reformation and Renovation in Shahr-E-Kord Eroded Context via Integration of SWOT Strategic Analysis Model

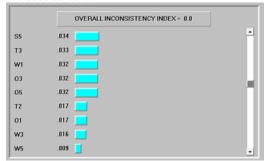
As it is discussed in different research stages, reformation and renovation of urban eroded fabrics has different aspects, therefore its strategies and mechanisms should be suggested in different aspects. Accordingly, through integration of SWOT analytic model results, the strategies and mechanisms of reformation and

renovation of urban eroded fabrics in Shahr-e-kord city are divided to four aggressive, diversity, revision, and defensive strategies:

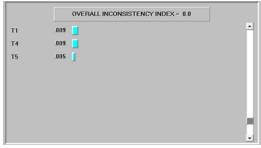
4.4. providing strategies and mechanisms for urban reformation and renovation in Shahr-e-kord eroded context through integrating SWOT strategic analytic model

## 4.4.1. Aggressive/Competitive Strategies (SO)

- Provision of scheme and arrangement of instauration and reformation plans based on residents' request and compatible to economic, social, skeletal characteristics in eroded context area in order to enhance life quality, enforcement and promotion of area identity.
- Integration of sense of belonging of Shahr-e-kord native residents toward origin of city for reformation of the city eroded context.



 Existence of powerful economic-social centers around the context area such as Mellat, 12 Moharram, Vali Asr, and Khajeh Nasir streets for economic flourishing of city eroded context area.



- Development of Shrine do-khatoon by construction of two new seraglios, adjunction of Hosseiniyeh and Zayersara for economic prosperity of area and the city accordingly.
- Establishment of a roofed market in a way that connects the walkway passages of Shrine courtyard to the street ... and as a factor to attract people toward the Shrine and economic flourishing of district.
- Placement of Mellat street as a commercial and social core for development and occupation of target area.
- Declination of social vulnerabilities inside Shahr-e-kord eroded context through development of cultural centers in eroded context.

# **4.4.2. Diversity Strategies (ST)**

These strategies are concentrated on internal strengths and external threats and it has aimed in these strategies to provide diversity in services and amenities to attract development inspirations and preserving the current residents, thus, the following issues could be suggested for better reformation of Shahr-e-kord eroded context:

 Diversification to available amenities and services for contentment of residents and attraction of high-profiles to area as well as diminishing of others' negative attitude toward settlement in this town district.

- Allocation of taxes and complications discounts, aiming at directing people and investors of private sector to follow the rules in development of eroded context.
- Provision of different protective mechanisms and establishment of diverse investment fields to attract investors toward the context in terms of context potential to return the fund.
- Presentation and practice of locational plans in wastelands in order to enhance the social security of context
- Improvement of life quality and environmental indexes of Shahr-e-kord eroded context.

#### 4.4.3. Revision Strategies (WO)

In revision strategies further to focus on internal weaknesses, it is attempted to integrate the external opportunities in order to remove the weaknesses and obstacles in reformation of eroded context. Actually, these strategies aim at revising previous practices. As for these issues, the following options could be suggested:

- Location of eroded context in city core is one of privileges that would facilitate the reformation of urban eroded context in case of correct planning to make use of these conditions; because this opportunity could be an inspiration in diverse skeletal, economic, and social areas.
- Private investors' attraction in order to facilitate the context reformation procedure and troubleshooting of the facing problems by the context (construction of public parking).
- Integration of modern technologies, methods and equipment to prevent the inefficient and low quality development in area.
- Development of technical and practical activities, basic skills in order to provide minor and sustainable occupations to enforce the family affordability.
- Abatement policies for the proprietors in eroded context featuring restoration complications.

#### 4.4.4. Defensive Strategies (WT)

These strategies focus on internal weaknesses aiming at mitigation of vulnerabilities raised by threats:

- Absence of supervision on developments aids the unofficial accommodation expansion, because in these conditions, low income people may purchase dwelling; thus, through legalization of construction and the control upon it, the expanded intrusion of immigrants to eroded context could be harnessed.
- Ignoring the housing quality in area is one of the factors that results in natives' immigration. Reformation and quality enhancement of houses and perspective and definition of open recreational spaces as greenings in core (quarter), the Shrine neighborhood of local Dokhatoon for appropriate practical use and enhancement of environmental conditions to provide more residents' social interactions.

Removing environmental problems stemming from destruction for reformation in this part of city.

- Pulling out the eroded context of Shahr-e-kord from sustainable poverty circle and providing ubiquitous opportunities for growth and prosperity of residents in this area for implementation of citizen rights.
- Reformation and widening the inner thoroughfares could have positive effect on mitigation of under-study district insecurity level.

- To provide minimum thoroughfare network considering the license plate collection project, solving the commutation problem inside the area.
- Environmental process of project field along with localization of greening in different scales through integration of last significant visions in design of urban landscapes in the world.
- Offering long-term bank facilities to the district settlers for reformation
- Providing commercial uses like retails in locale that meets the requirements of residents.
- Enhancement of thoroughfare network quality and urban facilities through their reformation

# 5. Recommendations and Practical Strategies to Gain Desirable Situation

Establishment of public unions that their goal is not self-profitability, but it is to provide profitability for the society against private ownership. These lots could be used for development of public spaces by allocating housing for low-income individuals.

- Engagement of settlers in this area to develop and practice the project by themselves, which may take place through development of corporations, financial aids and donating loans.
- Enforcement of rules for common contribution of banks with institutes and private enterprises for reformation and use modifications.
- The procedure of eroded context reformation should be designed in a way that leads to a context with culturalsocial identity and in compliance with technical standards. Supervision on such principles may result in optimized integration of available limited resources.
- Consensus of residents in purchasing houses, because their only asset may be the house that they reside in. Thus, the property of these types of residents should be bought for a value that they could afford a house in another quarter of the city.
- Provision of infrastructure services and installations in old context prevents the residents from neighborhood egression.
- Providing affordability for residents of eroded contexts, instauration of eroded context, generally brings about significant added value. This procedure should be designed in a way that the proprietors in eroded area also benefit from it, as otherwise, they are not able to reside in appropriate urban contexts and will relocate to other eroded fabrics. In case of failure to make the eroded context residents enough wealthy, actually a problem related to an eroded context will be transmitted to other contexts. On the other hand, due to appropriate housing supply to these groups in renovation procedure and increasing demand from the other hand, the housing cost in family expense basket will be ascended for low-income public.
- Prevention from speculation in reformation of eroded contexts; due to the connection with inner city markets which entails intense fluctuation, it is prone to land speculation. Thus, given the vital role of these lands, as the only remained chance to solve city problems, the attitude of context reformation should be in a way to prevent from land speculation.
- Prompt and absolute instauration and reconstruction; prolongation of eroded context reconstruction leads to fading of inspiration by private sector or responsible organizations in reformation procedure. Further, because the instauration and reconstruction procedures affect

- people's life in area, the time of project initiation is of great importance.
- Concentration enhancement; the most common way to economize forced proprietary projects is the enhancement of density in desirable area. It is important to notice that adopting this policy alone may result in inappropriate urban skeletal space. As, over-intensification of density results in degradation of regional land value.
- Use modification; another method to economize forced proprietary projects is the shift of residential use to commercial use in eroded area. The considerable point in commercial use modification is that any context only needs a certain percentage of use modification as to its own need. Vast use modification results in declination in commercial use modification capability in peripheral areas.
- Take advantage of public subsides; in this method the government allocates subside to this interest rate because of high interest rate of bank loans.
- The most important problem in instauration of eroded contexts is ignoring the proprietors in provided added value for instauration and reconstruction of eroded context. Proprietorship of these contexts by their current little values or at least partly more, dose not enable the residents to obtain an appropriate dwelling and this, as mentioned, is not capable of solving any problem relevant to the dwellers of these contexts. On the other hand, as the investors choose the central city context to obtain the most profit, this policy will lead to marginalization and poverty or at least results in more density in adjacent eroded contexts. in case of disagreement of any proprietors in the district the execution of project would be postponed. Actually, due to the lack of engagement by proprietors in the project added value and the economic pressure raised from dislocation on a family, different groups of people resist against reconstruction that would result in delay in project implementation. The type and degree of engagement by these people should be considered in reformation and renovation projects.
- Reformation project should be wholly elaborated to residents and proprietors in neighborhood. They should be assured that there is no top secret information and no one can abuse it. In case no reformation plan is provided, a group as the proprietors and residents attend to design meetings and their intellectual engagement are adopted.
- In case of the proprietors are not solely capable for reformation and enforcement, appropriate developer and cooperator would be introduced, they will be engaged in all stages of partnership and will supervise the proprietors and residents in eroded lots.

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