

## **Abstract**

**Environmental-ecologic, social, economic, historical and political factors affect formation, establishment, and organization of rural settlements. Rural settlements as cultural perspectives resulting from the interaction between human and environment have gone through changes in their physical-spatial environment in the processes affected by internal and external elements and forces; this has brought about several problems for living in these villages. Today, for us Iranians who experience elements of traditional lifestyle besides modern lifestyle, it is highly essential that we take into account valuable points of past lives and preserving them for a better and healthier life. Thus, the present research aims at analyzing the pathology of aesthetic status of rural settlements in Zahak Township. The statistical population includes rural areas of Zahak Township that -according to the 2011 census- have 141 villages with more than 20 households, and 17849 households. The size of the sample was selected as 50 and 37, respectively using Sharp and modified formulas; and the size of the sample for households was determined to be 376 using Kukran formula. Finally, indicators being studied in this research were analyzed using tests appropriate for SPSS software. Based on these indicators and the data obtained from questionnaires it was found that the aesthetic status of most villages in the area under study inspires from Iranian-Islamic pattern of living. Also, the results of data analysis based on Spearman correlation coefficient test indicated that economic factors (with a correlation coefficient of 0.882) directly affect aesthetic status of the villages under study. With the significance level of 0.000, it can be claimed that there is a significant correlation between research hypotheses.**

**Key words:** pathology, aesthetics, rural settlements, Zahak



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# **Pathology of aesthetic status of rural settlements; case study: rural areas of Zahak Township**

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