



University of Zabol  
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The Thesis Submitted for the Degree of M.Sc (in the field of geographia and  
Rural Planing)

## **Spatial Analysis of Dimensions of Changes in Rural Settlements (Case Study: Zabol City)**

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**September 2021**

## **Abstract**

It seems that rural settlements, like any other living phenomenon, go through different periods in their process of "transformation" with ups and downs. In fact, rural settlements, as a spatial complex that provides sustainable living and activity for residents, have internal and external relations and have undergone changes in the interaction between internal and external forces over time. These changes have changed over time and in place. Rural settlements in Iran have not been separated from this law, so that it seems that in the last half century have undergone various changes and transformations in various cultural, social, economic and physical dimensions. Based on this, the present study follows the spatial analysis of the dimensions of changes in rural settlements of Zabol city. The statistical population studied in this study was all villages of Zabol city and the statistical sample was 24 villages (over 100 households). From each village, 5 trustees and elites of the village were randomly selected, which was a total of 120 people. The research tool in the present study was a questionnaire. Data analysis was performed using confirmatory factor analysis, factor loading, t-statistic and ANOVA and SPSS and Smart PLS software. The results showed that the most changes in rural settlements of Zabol city were economic-livelihood changes and the villages that are less distance from the city had the highest rate of change. Also based on the results: the most economic-livelihood changes, the tendency to non-agricultural employment, most socio-cultural changes, Western lifestyle tendencies, most physical changes, improvement of infrastructure, and most of the institutional-managerial changes were managerial changes.

**Keywords:** Spatial analysis, Economic changes, Socio-cultural changes, Physical changes, Managerial changes, Rural settlements, Zabol.