

# University of Zabol Graduate school Faculty of Literature and Human Science Department of Geography

The thesis Submitted for the Degree of M.Sc (In the Field of Geography and Urban Planning)

# The role of higher education centers in the development of urban areas of Zabol

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#### **Abstract**

Cities are the spatial crystallization of the transformation and evolution of human civilization in the context of the environment. The use of urban land in city planning is for balanced and balanced development of the city in areas and areas based on potential and actual capabilities or optimal urban growth and development. In the new era and in the competition between societies, consider the role of education and especially higher education in national development and promotion of knowledge and technology. Therefore, the role of higher education in development is inevitable. The purpose of this research is to investigate and evaluate the role of higher education centers in the urban development of Zabol, and this research is based on a combination of descriptive-analytical methods and based on library, documentary and field studies and the statistical population of this research in the city of Zabol. Data analysis was done using SPSS and Friedman, W Kendall tests, factor analysis and VIKOR proportional decision making model and ARC GIS software. The results show that among different universities, National University with an average of 3.02 has the highest level of influence and other universities with an average of 1.34 have the lowest level of influence in the development of urban areas of Zabol. Also, among the different dimensions, the economic dimension with an average of 3.70 has the highest level of influence and the environmental dimension with an average of 2.70 has the lowest level of influence in the development of urban areas of Zabol.

**Key words**: urban planning, higher education, urban development, Zabol.