

## Evaluation of the Role of Urban Management in Sustainable Development of Special Economic Zones (Case Study: Mehran City)

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### Abstract

Special economic zones (SEZs) are more exposed to development than other areas. Urban management, as one of the key factors in directing and organizing urban and economic development processes, plays a decisive role in achieving the sustainable development of these zones. This study examines and evaluates the role of urban management in the sustainable development of special economic zones. For this research, the city of Mehran in Ilam Province was chosen. Mehran, located in western Iran near the Iran-Iraq border, holds significant importance in trade and transit between the two countries. The purpose of this study is to investigate the role of urban management in the sustainable development of Mehran, analyze the impact of urban management on the city's economic and environmental development, and provide recommendations and solutions for urban managers. The research method is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-survey in terms of nature. Using Cochran's formula, the sample size was determined to be 329 citizens, collected through simple random sampling, and analyzed using Spearman's correlation test and one-sample T-test. The findings of the study indicate that urban management in Mehran, as a case example of special economic zones, plays a vital role in achieving sustainable development. Key factors for attaining this goal include optimizing resource usage, enhancing infrastructure, and balancing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Furthermore, coordination among organizations, public participation, and strengthening regional cooperation can contribute to the sustainable development of the city.

**Keywords:** Urban management, sustainable development, special economic zone, Mehran city.

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