Chapter IV

Zahedan City: Urban Structure and Function

4.1 The Origin and Denomination of Zahedan City
4.2 Evolutionary Stages of Zahedan City
4.3 Urban Hierarchy and the Position of Zahedan City
4.4 Geographical and Administrative Condition of Zahedan
4.5 Demographic Aspects of Zahedan City
4.6 Pivotal Role of Zahedan City in Relation to Other Areas
Zahedan City: Urban Structure and Function

Some of the most influential contributory factors to the development of cities in Iran have been the administrative and political factors. Subsequently, there is the significance of factors such as military, trade, religious, etc (Soltanzadeh, 1988).

Zahedan city as a capital of the township and province is the biggest city in Sistan and Baluchestan and the entire southeast of Iran with radius of 900 km and an administrative and political background. Various urban functions have their considerable effect on the development and communication at regional, provincial, national and international level. On this basis, has groomed into an active economic center from simple settlement and has attracted many migrants from all over Sistan and Baluchestan and even other places especially from its neighboring provinces such as Khorasan, Kerman, and Yazd. Zahedan city and its region also provide sustenance to Afghan refugees, Indian Sikhs and other people across the border. In addition, throughout its history, these migrants have propelled socio-economic interaction between Zahedan city and other mentioned regions and have obviously affected the development at different levels. Although, it is necessary in this chapter to analyze the historical background of Zahedan city, its socio-economic aspects, status of Zahedan city in the urban hierarchy and description of Zahedan's important role.
4.1 The Origin and Denomination of Zahedan City

There are many traditions and quotations the past and present name of Zahedan city, which are stated on the historical documents and evidences. The present place of Zahedan, having been a forest of tamarisk\(^1\) in the past, with a little water stream flowing across, was called "Dozdab" by local Baluches. Some people believe that: it was an ambush or lurking place for stealers to rob the travelers who came to get water and rest. So it was called "Dozdab", meaning "water thief ". But the geographical truth is that because of the penetrating nature of fine sands, water flows of the surface, sometimes disappeared into the soil and came out at other places, so it was the soil of place that stole, and then the place was so-called "Dozdab". In the areas of coarse sandy soil the ephemeral streams are choked and disappear beneath the surface. The subsurface being undulating, collects the water. In areas of fine sand the steam again appears on the surface. This natural process of "hide and seek" by small streams was acknowledged by the local people as the phenomenon of Dozdab.

It goes in records that, in 1898, one of region's inhabitants named "Morad", with his offspring, established a Kanat and a farm and began to cultivate. Gradually, a habitation was created that called Dozdab. Because of its special trading condition, the central government dispatched some Belgian

\(^1\)One kind of tree that growing in the salty soils of dry region and mostly planted to break the force of the wind as a wind-break.
experts to verify and establish the customs 1902. Thereafter, its' value increased, at the ruling time of "Reza khan", when its' name was changed to Zahedan (Afshar-e- Sistanian 1984).

In this regard, Ghorab (1985) states that there are many places in the present capital of Sistan and Baluchestan which used to be called Dozdab by the locals. Dozdab means a place where land lies in ambush to swallow water immediately after it starts flowing from mountains and the seasonal rivers.

In 1936 Reza Khan, the king of Iran travelled to Baluchestan. In a ceremony attended by Reza Khan, Mullah Rasool, the Friday Prayer Leader (Imam-Jomeh) read a letter. Seeing the traditional dress, long beard and turban-Amameh (Islam-friendly suit) of Baluch residents of Dozdab, Reza Khan said “the land where such pious people live does not deserve to be named "Dozdab". He claimed, it is better to be called “Zahedan” which means the land of pious people. It was earlier called Dozdab, since in this plain, water sank and disappeared in sandy spots and reappeared elsewhere (Hasanzehi, 2007). After that, it seems, the cabinet approved this name because the Persian dictionary about Zahedan says "in the 1935, Dozdab has been converted to Zahedan by the approval of the Council of Ministers" (Moein, 1996).

Regarding the Zahedan's appellation, Charles Eisavi (1984) with reference of its geographical situation, wrote: The Zahedan city is located on a deserted land, surrounded by a circle chum of mountains, with no permanent
stream of water and no fertile soil and no natural pasture so that no tribe is stimulated to reside here permanently. The lone plant cover were the trees of tamarisk, around the bushes of which some water splashed and then disappeared into the soil, that is why, the local people (Baluch) called the area "water stealer", that is, "Dozdab".

In the recent years, Zahedan has become famous as a Hafezan-e-Quran city. Because every year so many students or Hafez-e-Quran who learn the holy Quran by heart including male and female have graduated from different religious schools in Zahedan city.

4.2 Evolutionary Stages of Zahedan City

Cities are the product of time. Each and every part of an urban settlement has its own historical background. The study of evolution and growth has a great significance for archiving understanding of the existing urban environment to various forces and waves of settlement in the perspective of time (Pradhan, 1983).

The present day landscape of a place is resulted through modifications of the physical environment by the cultural influences, over a period beginning principally from the down of civilization (Jauhari, 1962). Therefore, it is necessary to study evolution and growth of an urban centre, to explain its present landscape.
Zahedan city in comparison with the most Iranian big cities is a very young city with an age of less than 100 years. Formation of Zahedan city and its development has many reasons which some scholars and writers have mentioned in their books and articles. In this text, the researcher has attempted with reference to these in brief explanation of the historical background of the beginning and the reasons which have played the main role in the forming the trends of Zahedan city's development.

4.2.1 Historical Background of the Development of Zahedan City

Obviously, the development of every place is not an incidence which could have been taken place in a short time. In fact, it has been the effect of various backgrounds that have interplayed in the long time. Let us examine the historical background of development of the city which now has acquired the status of the capital city of the province.

Reference in Farmanfarma (2004) was the first person who had visited the region. In his itinerary in 1890 about Dozdab he says: "it is a farm land that has two subterranean canals (Qanat) for water supply, and belongs to Noormohammed and Dinar Mohammadani. One has fresh water and another is salty. Both are utilized to produce a single product of cereals and a part of fresh water is consumed for the drinking purposes. Around the farm, about 100 households were reported as living in a small area".
Siyasar (2003) believes that it owes to the administration division and choice of Zahedan as the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province. Hence, he says "According to new rules, the country's division separated Baluchestan from the Kerman and Sistan from Khorasan. As a result of these separate divisions a new province was established. Zahedan was developed afterwards. Zahedan as a city with strategic geographical position and a crucial demographic status has become the center and capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province. It has played the role of a base so that the Central government could control and gain enough dominance over Baluchestan. Therefore, it was of great importance to Pahlavi rulers. Government offices and organizations were gradually established. Afterwards their branches were set up in other towns of the province. Roads were developed and military based were set up across the province. Baluchestan tribes were disarmed. The government assumed the responsibility of guarding the borders instead of Baluch and Sistani ethnics".

According to Jahanbani the population of Dozdab in 1928 was 5 thousand, 3,000 of which was of Indian origin and the other 2,000 were migrants, coming from Khorasan, Yazd, Kerman and the other places, for trading. That is why the chiefs and nobles of Baluch tribes (locally called Sardar or khan) who were the representatives of bureaucratic system of old times, do not enjoy considerable power and also it was the reason that "Reza khan" (ruler of Pahlavi kingdom) chose this region as the political and
bureaucratic base of Baluchestan in order to realize the objectives of his modern government. In 1930 he made a trip to the region. By changing the name of the region from Dozdab into Zahedan, he tried to harness the city, which was free from old traditions, as a base to prevail his unique modernism all over the province (Siyasar, 2004). Zahedan almost was ruler's residential center from 1919 and Arfaul Mamalik was first ruler of Dozdab. He was the official governor general of Sistan and Baluchestan in 1928 and a political pole of the region since then. Dozdab's Custom has been established long time before by Belgium's advisors in 1898 (Siyasar, 2003).

During the English government's attention in this strategic region, when the government was trying to find a proper linking way for connecting Iranian central areas with the imperial India caused a small rural community of Dozdab to be converted into a quite big modern city of Zahedan. The first urbanization sign was establishment in the form of railway from Quetta (Pakistan) to Zahedan by the English company during First World War in 1918-19. Although it was not used as a military tool, it created optimized facilities for goods supply and transportation, so that the stream of goods exchanged between two countries of Iran and imperial India increased remarkably. So, "Dozdab" became important as a terminal of goods exchange in eastern part of Iran. And that was the point from which the growth and evolution of city began. Its' neighborhood to two countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan has given it a political and strategic importance. Therefore, it attracted the attention
of Central government of Iran, and then lots of officials were sent to the region as public servants, army and government agents. The traders began to transport their goods from "Quetta" to Zahedan and then to central cities of Iran. Trade centers were founded, and houses were built. It was through this process that the central part of the city was formed beside the rail station.

The geographical condition of Zahedan city connects it with most provinces' towards the central parts of Iran by a few grade-one linking axes and also by roadways and airways. Because of its' especial cross-way condition, the city of Zahedan can act as a linking bridge between the country's capital, trading port (harbor) of "Chabahar", "Mashhad" and countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and central Asia. Eastern and western countries can also be connected by linking Kerman railway to Zahedan railway which is already linked with "Quetta" in Pakistan. The importance of this issue has increased remarkably in the last two decades than ever before because of political evolution of the former Soviet Union Republics, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Growth and development of Zahedan city was dependent on external factors such as global policies, geopolitical and strategic importance, government attention and investment, economic and trading condition and immigration, rather than civilization background or evolution from a village to the city. It has been a general process of urban evolution that the villages grow into towns and then into cities as a continuity of the urban gravity. In the development of city, some other factors were also influential such as natural resources,
appropriate ecosystem and migration of local residents to the city as well as the
social security, so that, during a course of 80 years, Dozdab of 5,000 people
changed into the city of Zahedan with of more than 567,449 population in

4.2.2 Physical Growth of Zahedan City

With the connection of Quetta-Zahedan railway line during First World
War and its completion in 1922 by the English in Dozdab (former name of
Zahedan), the growth and development of Zahedan city was started. After the
visit of Reza khan in 1930 in this place Dozdab was renowned as Zahedan and
the government of Iran formally took over the control of the city, and
dispatched some expert representatives who with the help of a Pakistani
engineer designed the first map in the present place of main bazaar and began
to meet the needs of planning in the construction. Afterward, the first Baluch
inhabitants along with the Indian Sikhs (Indian and Pakistani business men as
well and the Iranian traders from Khorasan, Birjand, Kerman and Yazd) started
construction within the limits of area, the lands of which were freely available,
on the condition of making the place habitable as well as by plans of Reza
khan's modern government. In due course of time, Zahedan hamlet containing
a few families became a city with 17,495 populations by the first census in
1956. Establishment of organization , departments and various governmental
foundations, presence of a lot of different levels of public services in the city,
along with particular economic conditions and opportunities resulted in the
rapid migration of population from different regions of the province, especially the region of the Sistan, which was suffering from recurrent droughts during the 1960s, into the city of Zahedan and provided the ground for irregular development and growth (Housing and Urban Planning Organization of Sistan and Baluchestan, 1986). This trend of growth increased rapidly with the establishment of municipality of Zahedan in 1938. Zahedan became a centrality of Governor General of Sistan and Baluchestan in 1947 which soon changed into a province in 1951 (Soltani, 2004).

Some scholars believe that physical condition and the location of Zahedan city is main factor in the development of the city and its expansion. The physical base and the control over the environmental condition play a crucial role in propelling the growth trends in future also.

Ebrahimzadeh (2002) expressed that the Zahedan city as the center of the Sistan and Baluchestan province is situated at the meeting point of the connecting roads of Khorasan, Baluchestan, Sistan and Pakistan. As a result of it the city has experienced more than fivefold population increase during the past twenty years and has had more than ten times physical development while it's infra structure services and other economic, social and cultural functions have by no means developed proportionate to this increasing trend of population. The urban dwellings without effective planning in Zahedan had unwholesome consequences on this city which are as follows:
- The city's expansion and the acute shortage of urban drinking water.
- Expansion of the city towards the suburbs and the encroachment of the cultivation space around it.
- The increase in the city's non-homogenous social, economic and cultural trends.
- The expansion of the city's marginal shanty districts.

Hadian (2006) stated the effects of the crucial and first rank exogenous factors in the initial organization of Dozdab. Zahedan city has been the colonial power of Britain with railway construction from Quetta, Noshki, and Mirjaveh to Zahedan. The proportionate situation of Zahedan city to create commercial, political-administrative and Islamic function has also been analyzed. In Reza khan period and the Pahlavi dynasty, development factors of this city were affected by the endogenous poverty of the Pahlavi government with choosing it as capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province and establishment of different government offices such as administrative, educational, university, military, industrial and commercial undertakings in Zahedan city, and to follow them as attractive, many immigrants from Khorasan, Kerman and Yazd provinces and also Sikhs from India come in. After Islamic Revolution of Iran and occupation of Afghanistan, it was converted to comprehensive center of poverty in the province because it provided background for Afghan refugees as formal and informal residents. Hence, the economic activities and government facilities got expanded.
This trend of development continued until the Islamic revolution of Iran in 1978, and Soviet Union's invasion into Afghanistan that brought a lot of Afghan immigrants into the city and again, the trend of city development received a wider progress and scope. At this time, by the presence of plan-makers and revolutionary forces, the city's evolution increased more than before, so that in 1986, population of the city reached 419,518 people and the urban area of Zahedan increased up to 4,513.4 hectares in total and with other ancillary land uses it has expanded to 6,468.5 hectares.

Since 1988, at the time of the end of Iraq-imposed war against Iran, the period of construction began in the country, especially, in the deprived regions such as Sistan and Baluchestan. Based on detailed-comprehensive plan of the city and in the pattern of development strategies of the east axis; the development strategies had highlighted. Zahedan as a prominent city focus of country's south-east and number one service provider of this region. Since then, construction and development have given the city, a new flourish, and put its development in the frame work of comprehensive plan, so that, in continuation of this trend, in 2003, the city of Zahedan expanded about 6,865 hectares (Fig. 4.1). This included several kinds of housing, administrative, reinforcement-related, educational, health- treatment-related, trading, sport and green space-related, cultural, religious, and industrial and infrastructure related recommendations.

Fig. 4.1
According to the latest map and the last division of city by municipal authorities, Zahedan city has been divided into three wards or blocks which were named as region one, two and three, managed by central municipality with one branch of it in every region or block. Northeast and east of the city is surrounded by slums or suburban neighborhoods is named salt factory, Babaeiyan, Shirabad, and Karimabad respectively. These slums mostly belong to the immigrants from the province and Afghan refugees. The area of city had been 4,635.4 hectares in 2003 without agriculture, bare and open land with each other in a total sum of 6,865.2 hectares (Table 4.1). Those represent 39.16 per cent of the main areas belong to housing, 27.91 per cent, streets network and from total sum areas 27.44 per cent, Bare and open land, 2.79 per cent, agriculture land inside the city and about 2.25 per cent has been allocated to other land use which are stated in brief (Fig. 4.2). The most important of land use in this city is housing land use with about 1,815.3 hectares. This number includes 39.16 per cent of the city with 33.2 square meters per capita in 2003. In the past, most of the houses had been spreading in the area (Vila) and then went to the construction apartment with vertical growth as colony apartments. Growth rate of housing is good and suitable to the needs of people. Recently, many colony apartments have been built and some of them are under construction in different parts of the city especially in the new parts of city in the west and south direction.
Table 4.1 Land Use Profile of Zahedan City in 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Area in sq m</th>
<th>Per Capita in sq m</th>
<th>Percentage of Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Area</td>
<td>18,152,602</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>39.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Coverage</td>
<td>2,722,940</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>2.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health - Treatment</td>
<td>919,270</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Police</td>
<td>2,829,142</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Area</td>
<td>711,958</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Area</td>
<td>1,023,358</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Area</td>
<td>3,456,376</td>
<td>6.29</td>
<td>7.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural and Religious</td>
<td>522,816</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Green space</td>
<td>577,391</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Complex</td>
<td>1,148,573</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Infrastructure</td>
<td>573,157</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery and Fundamental</td>
<td>751,876</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Network</td>
<td>12,937,658</td>
<td>23.53</td>
<td>27.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Area</td>
<td>46,354,117</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Shahr va Khaneh Councilor of Engineering (2005)

Jam-e-Jam colony apartments were established by government about 30 years ago as first apartment colony and were given to the government office workers. Other land use is educational land use which includes all the places used for teaching at different levels from primary school to university as well as the professional training. This land use has 272.3 hectares which covers about 3 percent of city area. Health – treatment land use is other land use which covers 91.9 hectares with around 1 per cent of the city space and includes all places which are used for health and treatment. Other land uses that are more extent in the Zahedan city are Administrative and police land use. These land uses also include so many police stations, army force, and government offices in the security of township and province. This land use possesses 282.9 hectares or about 3 percent of the city area.

Fig. 4.2
Marketing land use is one of the popular land uses that everybody tries to have some part of his territory to it. This land use also is dispersed in different parts of the city with 71.2 hectares and about 1.5 per cent of the city area. Highest density of it lies in the center which is called Bazar and Rasuli cross section. In terms of area, most of shops are small and medium size. There is only one department store in the Zahedan city which named Rafah (welfare) departmental store located in the Khorram Shahr Boulevard. It is also a unique departmental store in the whole of province. Other land use is industry land use include all places that people are working over there in handicraft and machinery industry. Most activities of this land use relate to industrial units, located in three industrial complexes, namely industrial town of "Mirjaveh" with an area of 931.5 hectares, industrial center of "Kamboziya" with an area about 864 hectares, and manufacturing town called "Joshkaran" with an area of 74 hectares. These complexes are located in the north, east and south of Zahedan city. This land use has 102.3 hectares area that includes about 2.2 per cent of the city. Transportation and household keeping possess all places those are active for loading and traveling. Most important places of this land use are both bus and truck terminals in the entrance way of Mashhad and Kerman in the north of city, as well as one international airport in the south of city in the route of Mirjaveh entrance. Also there are many dispersed places as stock complex to relate to different government offices, military forces and private
part. This land use has a total has 345.6 hectares and it covers about 7.5 per cent of the city area.

The other considerable land use in this city is cultural and religious land use with 52.3 hectares or only 0.6 percent of the city area. It includes all religious places like Mosque, Hosainiyeh, religious schools and cultural places such as cinema, museum, auditoriums and the like. Among these, three places are very important such as two main Friday mosques and religious school concern to sunny and Shia people, as well as two Eidgahs. Moreover, one state cultural complex with one museum under construction too are valuable to make mention of.

Recreation and green space is a necessary land use in the cities especially in the arid zones. Previously, Zahedan city was poor regarding this land use because, its water recourses were salty. After the arrival of fresh water from Chah-Nimah in Sistan region to Zahedan city in 2001, the condition of greenery has changed and several parks and playgrounds have been built with most important of them are Laleh Park, Sanaz Park and Family park in the new parts of city and Baluch, City and Qods parks in the central and ancient parts of the city. Total areas of this land use are 75.2 hectares or only about 0.6 per cent of city area. Other remarkable land use in Zahedan city is sports complex land use which includes several stadiums and sports halls with one Olympic hamlet. These places are dispersed in different parts of the city. Among them 17 Shahrivar stadium in the old part of the city and Olympic hamlet as well as
workers stadium are well known and located in the new parts of city in the north and west direction. This land use has about 114.9 hectares area and cover 2.5 per cent of city area. In spite of the role of services in Zahedan city, tourist places like hotel and restaurant have not suitability expanded because this land use is affected by the social relations such as hospitality and kinship relations among different groups as well as the lake of tourism places in this region.

By the way, there are some hotels, hostels, guesthouses and restaurants in different part of the city especially around market places inside the city and two places outside the city. Esteqlal Hotel in inside and Barasan Restaurant outside the city are important and more popular. This land use area is about 57.3 hectares or 0.6 per cent of the city area.

Cemetery and fundamental establishment is another land use which consists of variety grave yards and several places of public services like electric power supply, water storage and conservation, fuel depots etc; as fundamental establishments. Most important part of this land use regarding to people coming for visit and recite Fateha in the cemetery of martyrs which it is well-known as Mohammad’s paradise, located in the east and inside of the city. This land use area is about 75.2 hectares or 1.6 per cent of the city area.

Streets or passage network land use is most important land use in the urban land use after housing land use and contained to all of boulevards, streets, roads and alleys in the guide or comprehensive plan of every city, town

189
or village. Zahedan city has so many boulevards, street and road in the new parts of city for development and to direct easy transfer or transportation in it. Most important of them are Motahhari, Mazari, Sarallah, Jomhuri, Enqalab (revolution), Moallem and Daneshju (teacher and student) in new part of the city and Mirhosaini, Keshavarz (agriculture), and Jam-e-jam in the ancient texture of the city. The important streets of Zahedan city are University, Khayyam and Bozorgmehr in the new part of the city with perfect buildings and high rate fees and Amirul Moemenin, Imam Khomeini, Mostafa Khomeini, Azadi, Shariati and Sadi are main streets in the ancient parts of the city. Imam Khomeini Street is main and First Street in the Zahedan city and accounts the axes of prime core of city. There are so many old buildings, old office buildings, ancient markets and Garage as well as Jama Masjed and Sikh Gurudwara and also Indian Consulate on this street. In the old texture of the city Hafez alley is a famous place for marketing and shopping. This land use area is about 1293.8 hectares which contain almost 27.9 per cent of the city area. As a mention, one should remember that the new town of Zahedan city is under construction with new plan and many new boulevards and streets in the south part of the city.

4.3 Urban Hierarchy and the Position of Zahedan City

Paying attention to the urban planning, particularly in country's 5-years developmental plans, it is to be enquired whether the Islamic Revolution has caused the cities of Iran and the urban population to grow in a way different
with logical order and reasonable trend with respect to both the population and the number of cities. The rate of city dwellings raised from 31.4 per cent in 1956 to 69.6 per cent in 2006.

Similarly, the number of cities, during the same period increased from 199 to 1012 and this trend still has been growing, so that it is expected, that this number will reach about 2000 cities by 2025 at the end of Landscape Plan of Islamic Iran. During the same period, growth rate of country's urban population has been 4.26 per cent. This accounts for a total growth of urban population of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan as 7.18 per cent, and that of Zahedan city as 7.15 per cent. This situation has resulted from a large scale rural migration to cities and transformation of large villages into cities. In his recent classification, Nazariyan (2009) has divided Iran's urban hierarchical system into five levels:

1) National metropolis, having a population more than 1.5 million people.

2) Large city or regional metropolis with a population between 0.5 - 1.5 million people.

3) Medium-size city or sub-regional metropolis, comprising of a population of 100-500 thousand people.

4) Small city which consists of 25-100 thousand people.
5) Town or village which has a small population, less than 25-thousand residents.

Accordingly, the city of Zahedan is considered as a large city or regional metropolis. It ranks itself in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Tier of urban hierarchy. This indicates the importance and the potential of Zahedan in the regional economy. It is stands eleventh in the ranking of urban centers of the country. Being ranked as top city in the level of province, it possesses a prominent position, so that among 36 cities of the province, in 2009, it ranked first. In comparison, Zahedan has a population four times more than of Zabol that of the second highest populated city, and 499 times more than the population of the Sarbaz city with the lowest number of residents. In the eastern part of the country, after the metropolis of Mashhad, Zahedan ranks second, and its population in comparison with the second city of the Zahedan region (Mirjaveh) is 40 times and with the third city or Nosratabad its population is 134 times higher. By this analysis, one can acknowledge Zahedan city as the Primate City of the region being a primate city of the province, Zahedan indicates the centralization and concentration of the infrastructural facilities and factors production. The primate city situation may not be a healthy indicator for the overall development of the region. The diffusion and decentralization of facilities is necessary for the agricultural, horticultural, industrial and commercial development of the whole province of Sistan and Baluchestan. This scenario of Zahedan's primacy is not favorable either to the growth and development of Zahedan city or to the entire province.
It is analyzed, suggested and recommended that the plans and programmes for the growth and development of smaller towns should be formulated. For example, the infrastructural growth in Mirjaveh, Nosratabad, and other big villages should be given high priority. This, decentralization of opportunities would be help the development of the rural economy of the province on the one hand, and the development of industrial, commercial and service status of Zahedan city also. Provision of infrastructure and the opportunities of growth in the smaller towns like Mirjaveh, Nosratabad and other big settlements will help in the easy distribution and diffusion of factors of production in their respective agricultural catchments as well as the promotion of growth in Zahedan city. Thus, the smaller towns will promote the creation of backward linkages as well as the forward linkages. The development of smaller towns would better help in the integrated and equilibrated development of Zahedan region and the whole province. This situation shows that in few recent decades, Zahedan city has played a faintly reasonable role and position in the development of southeastern part of country, province and other cities of the region. That is how, Zahedan has emerged as the regional capital in south-east of country in national physical design of Islamic Republic of Iran (Nazariyan, 2009).

4.4 Geographical and Administrative Condition of Zahedan City

Zahedan city has located at 29°, 30' and 45" north latitude and 60°, 51'and 25" east longitude. Zahedan is located in the lowland with an altitude of
1,378 m above mean sea level and is surrounded by various mountains such as Malek Siyahkooh, Lar and Loochan till around 25 km far from the city center. This plain is facing the problems of thin of soils and limited water resources with a general slope of 3 to 5 per cent (Housing and Urban Planning Organization of Sistan and Baluchestan, Shahr va Khaneh Counselor of Engineering, 2005).

After separating Baluchestan from Kerman and, Sistan from Khorasan in 1930 and establishment of the new province named Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan was selected as the capital or center of the province. During this time, it always received such as the opening of various government offices, security offices, disciplinary and military force, court and general office and local administration. At present time, almost all of the government organizations, general offices and local offices exist in different disciplines such as political, security, administrative, educational, health and curative, economic, mining and industry, transportation, public services and so on. This condition has given it a good situation for the development of the city and other places as well.

4.5 Demographic Aspects of Zahedan City

Demographic structure of a city or region plays a crucial role in its growth rate and development. Demographic structure pertains to the population density and growth. It also demonstrates the rural –urban population ratio in
the region. It also indicates the sex and social structure of the city. Indicators of demographic structure are very important measures to estimate the sustainability potentials of a city and its region. They indicate the prospects of development and the stability of the city.

4.5.1 Socio-Cultural Characteristics of Zahedan City

It is important to understand the socio-cultural characteristics of a city region in order to propose some developmental plans and proposals in the region. The socio-cultural elements have a close relationship with the behavior of the people. The socio-cultural variables considerably affect the various dimensions of development.

Despite its short history and background, Zahedan has become an assembling focus for major and different population and ethnic groups, including, Sistani, Blochi, Khorasani, Yazdi and Kermani at the national level, and Afghan refugees, Indian Sikhs and, residents of Pakistani descent at an international level. For the sake of sustenance different people came to Zahedan city becomes they affected by drought in the decade of 1960 and 1970 and were settled in Babaeiyan slum. Khorasani, Yazdi and Kermani settled in the city center.

They got educated because of the centrality of enclave. Hence, they are working in the government offices and marketing as well as the Sikhs and Pakistani. Baluches people were different, some part of them named Rigi and
Barahuei were settled in Karimabad neighborhood, Gorgij and Hasanzehi in Shirabad slum as well as Afghan's people, Shahbakhsh people was settled around Rasuli market and Narooei and Kobdani were settled in the north of city around Garage and its neighborhood. Each of this ethnic group and races is divided into various tribes and families which have their own specific cultural features, and based on the rate of dispersion and population percentage in the city area province as well as neighboring provinces and foreign countries. They have their own especial influence, and their superficial symbols are manifested in the pattern of mosques, Hosainias (a place where the martyrdom of Imam Hosain is mourned). Local associations, family funds, mourning and wedding ceremonies take place in these centers of social capital. Among them two main ethnic groups of Baluch and Sistani, are being 80 per cent of population have a dominant role in the city. Most of the Sistani people are Persian, Shia and speak their local language and Baluches people are the Baluch Sunni tribes, who speak their Baluchi language.

Zahedan city with 5,67,449 persons comprising 1,09,486 households has 23.6 per cent of the total population of province and 47.6 per cent of total urban population in Sistan and Baluchestan as well as 83.3 per cent of the total population and 96.9 per cent of total urban population in Zahedan region.

Out of a total of population of 5,67,449 in Zahedan city about 2,88,962 persons were male and 2,78,487 persons were female in 2006. On this basis, the male sex ratio was 103.76. This number in comparison with Iran is low and
as compared with the province and Zahedan Township, it is high (Table 4.2).

Also, the average household size in Zahedan city is 5.18. This average household size in Zahedan city is larger than the national urban household size and smaller than the average urban household in Zahedan region as well as in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Iran</th>
<th>Sistan and Baluchestan</th>
<th>Zahedan Township</th>
<th>Zahedan city</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>103.8</td>
<td>105.7</td>
<td>105.8</td>
<td>103.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of Household</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>5.32</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed by Author from Statistical Center of Iran

4.5.1.1 Literacy

Literacy is a very important index of human resources development in all the regions. Table 4.3 shows that out of 465,945 total populations with 6 year and above age about, 354,702 persons or 76.13 per cent are literate in Zahedan city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>465,945</td>
<td>237,394</td>
<td>228,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literates</td>
<td>354,702</td>
<td>191,675</td>
<td>163,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent</td>
<td>76.13</td>
<td>80.74</td>
<td>71.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed by the Author .Census, 2006, Statistical Center of Iran
Among them 191,675 persons or 80.74 per cent are male and 163,027 or 71.33 per cent are female literacy. Average literacy in Zahedan city is lower than the average urban literacy in Iran (88.93 per cent). Literacy of Zahedan city is approximately equal to the literacy of Sistan and Baluchestan as well as that of Zahedan region i.e. 76.37 and 76.6 per cent respectively.

4.5.2 Population Trend and Growth Rate

With a look at the historical background of formation of Zahedan city on the basis of first document (Razmara, 1928), this city has been reported to have about 5,000 Persons. After that, in the first Census of Statistical Center of Iran in 1956 its population increased to 17,922 and ten years after the population of Zahedan increased to 39,732. During the ten-year period the population of Zahedan city got more than doubled. This was mainly because of heavy in migration which shows a continuing trend. It continued to 2006, with its population reaching to 567,449 persons.

Table 4.4 shows this trend and growth rate of population in the last 50 years in comparative with growth rate of urban population in Iran and Sistan and Baluchestan.
Table 4.4 Trends of Population Growth Rate in Zahedan City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Iran</th>
<th>Sistan and Baluchestan</th>
<th>Zahedan city</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>5,953,563</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>9,794,346</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>72,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>15,854,680</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>1,628,54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>26,844,561</td>
<td>5.44</td>
<td>4,877,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>36,817,789</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>7,945,28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>48,245,075</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>1,193,198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed by the Author from Statistical Center of Iran

According to this table the growth rate of Zahedan city has increased during the 1956 to 1986 and has reached from 8.5 per cent to 11.6 per cent. Then the growth rate of population has decreased to 2.5 per cent in 2006 (Fig. 4.3).

Source: Based on Secondary Data Generated by the Author in 2010

Fig. 4.3
This circumstance in comparison with the growth rate of urban population at country level and the province level shows that it is not different. Of course, the degree of growth rate has varied and in the last decade (1996-2006) the growth rate of population in Zahedan city has remained less than the growth rate of population in Sistan and Baluchestan province. Zahedan city has 3.1 per cent growth against 4.15 per cent in the province. This is become in the province some villages become city in this decade at the level of province.

4.5.3 Economic Aspects of Zahedan City

The Economic condition everywhere, particularly in urban centers, is dependent on the factors such as the condition of natural environment and its potentials, geographic situation, literacy and educational levels, social structure such as family type and family size, government programs, concentration of population and administrative and political centrality. A glance on the environmental situation of the Zahedan city shows that it does not enjoy a favorable climate as well as the reasonable natural potentials. Therefore, there are some other capabilities in this city which have caused it to prosper its economic conditions. These are some other factors which have been mentioned above. Geographic situation, government programs, concentration of population and administrative and political centrality of Zahedan city has played a prominent role in the development of region, province and the country. These dimensions have paved the way for residents' economic activities especially in the services sector and particularly in marketing.
4.5.3.1 Occupation and Unemployment

Occupation and unemployment are two important indices in every region especially in the urban areas. If there are no suitable conditions of these variables, it will raise some social problems such as robbery, drug addiction, and corruption and so on with a high probability. Based on the Census carried out in 2006, from the total population (5,67,449 people) of Zahedan's inhabitants, nearly 4,22,643 individuals were aged 10 and above. Out of these 1,28,382 persons were employees. This value involves 22.6 per cent of the total population and 30.4 per cent of Zahedan city population, aged 10 and above. In the same year, the number of the jobless was 23,071. In relation to the total population, the rate of unemployment was 4.1 per cent, and in accordance to the population, older than 10 years, the unemployment rate of the city was 5.5 per cent. These numbers are different amongst male and female. The rate of employment among the male was 51.47 per cent and among the female was 8.15 per cent. The rate of unemployment also has the same condition as far as this rate among male is 8.21 per cent and between women is 2.56 per cent (Table4.5).

However, Shahriyari2 (2009) as representative of Zahedan's people in the parliament believes that these rates are not real and says unfortunately the genuine rate of unemployment in the province is at least 30 per cent but it is announced as 12 per cent by the government authorities.

---

2 - Now, he is Member of Parliament as a representative of Zahedan city people.
Table 4.5 Status of Employment and Unemployment among 10 Years and Above Population in Zahedan City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Years and Above Population</td>
<td>2,16,834</td>
<td>2,05,809</td>
<td>4,22,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Population</td>
<td>1,11,604</td>
<td>16,776</td>
<td>1,28,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Employment</td>
<td>51.47</td>
<td>8.15</td>
<td>30.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Population</td>
<td>17,809</td>
<td>5,262</td>
<td>23,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Unemployment</td>
<td>8.21</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>5.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed by the Author, Census of Statistical Center in 2006

As a result, I should say that most of the percentage rate about of unemployment may not be true.

Regarding the occupation of population in different economic sector in the mentioned year, no data are available. However, based on the evaluation of Zahedan city's comprehensive plan, in 2003, about 1.1 per cent, 35.5 per cent, and 63.1 per cent of workers were distributed in agricultural, industrial and service sectors respectively. Comparison of these values with the actual values of the year of 1996, that is, 1.7 per cent, 34.7 per cent and 61.2 per cent, respectively, indicates a slight increase in the industrial and service sector and a decrease in the activities of agricultural sector. Examination of occupational ratios in these sectors, during the recent five decades, suggests a relative increase in two sectors of industry and service, from 24.6per cent and 48per cent in 1956 to 35.5per cent and 63.1 per cent in 2003, respectively. It is apparent that during this period, service sector has maintained its' prominence.
and priority over other sectors. As the dominant economic activity of this city, has always prepared the ground for the occupation of a major part of workers.

4.5.3.2 Service Activities

In view of most of the important economic branches, being active in Iran, and consequently in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan, especially the city of Zahedan which faces natural limitations the service sector has considerably flourished. This sector includes a wide range of activities such as small and big trading activities, public servant, transport, labor work force and public services and so on.

Zahedan city possesses a special situation regarding the economic activities of the service sector in which more than 63.1 per cent of the economic activities are involved, and this is because of the following factors, including: border conditions of nearness to border of Pakistan, political and administrative situation of Zahedan city as the capital of the province and consequently, as the focus of centrality of several general bureaus and foundations such as army, disciplinary, security and political centers, educational centers and universities, and vocational, technical and training centers. In addition to it, there is the existence of transit route of goods and services, crossing the region, between Iran and Pakistan, connecting the west Asia to East Asia by international railways and roadways.
Regarding the trade-related services, the city of Zahedan is the most prominent focus of activities in the domain of micro and macro level – trade, and it is the transaction center of several kinds of imported goods, and sometimes, export goods such as textiles and clothes (mostly from Pakistan and China). Also secondhand goods, rice, tea, tropical fruits, like banana and mango; and even livestock as well as household appliances, cosmetics and hygienic substances and hundreds kinds of various goods that are carried through land and sea borders of province. Some of the items are transported from the province of Hormozgan to the city of Zahedan where they are again distributed to all parts the country and even exported to some countries such as Turkey, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Torkamanestan, and so on. This scenario indicates a close cultural and economical affinity of Zahedan to all the places mentioned above. Those conditions suggest a legitimate need for the declaration of free trade zone among the neighboring countries of the region. On the other hand, many items of food and fuel are exported informally, through the eastern borders to Pakistan and Afghanistan, because of the difference in the prices level of those commodities including flour, and many other food materials as well as petrol, diesel, gas cylinders etc. In the field of transport, goods and passengers are carried by means of road transport (private vehicles) because of the centrality of Zahedan. Transport of passengers, goods, fuel, livestock and food products, constructional materials and necessary tools and equipments is done by buses, trucks, tankers and private vehicles.
Warehouse keeping, loading, unloading, running restaurant and hotel, and driving are some of the consequent jobs and occupations, resulted from these activities, which provide a self employment to many people. Technical workers and unskilled labor force in services providing, constructional and agricultural articles along with the above – mentioned activities are almost all the Afghan refugees instead of native Iranians themselves who are mostly absorbed in the organized sector public services, insurance, banks, and post offices. Educational and health services are among the other occupations that include a significant number of workers.

As previously mentioned, in this sector about 95 per cent from urban people and only 5 per cent of rural population is engaged in the low occupational positions such as handy works, driving and low rank services in this field. This situation of Zahedan city will develop with the completion of railway net work of the country, gas network and north – south railway from "Sarakhs" center of the "Torkamanestan" province to "Chabahar" coastal city on the Oman Sea, get connected to Zahedan.

4.5.3.3  Industrial Activities

The second important and remarkable part of the economy in Zahedan city is the industrial sector, in which 35.5 per cent of workers are engaged. Most activities of this part relate to the industrial units, located in three industrial complexes, namely industrial town of " Mirjaveh" with an area of
931.5 hectares, industrial center of "Kamboziya" with an area about 864 hectares, and the manufacturing town called "Joshkaran" with an area of 74 hectares. These industrial centers have especial facilities of water and power supplies and telephone services. So, Zahedan is the top industrial place among other cities of the province. Out of a total of 1,867 industrial units, having the licensed establishment in the province, 686 unites comprising 36.7 per cent were founded in Zahedan city. Additionally, out of 997 industrial unites, having the permit of utilization, 476 unites (47.7 per cent) correspond to Zahedan city. These which include various kinds of food industries, textiles, rubber and plastic manufacturing, metal production, constructing industries and non-metallic mineral products handicap and hand-works of villagers are mainly self-consuming and produced by the women largely for subsistence purpose. These products include a range of sewing-needle-works on cloth such as flower-sewing, button-sewing, mirror-sewing, coin-sewing and so on.

4.5.4 Transportation Network of Zahedan City

One of the most important functions which can immensely contribute to the development in the outer and the inner part of a city region is its transportation network. Zahedan city is enjoying all three types of transportation networks, Air network, through an international airport that runs domestic flights also to Tehran, Mashhad, Bandarabbas, and Esfahan, Chabahar and international flights to Saudi Arabia during the Hajj Season and to Dubai of UAE for the routine commercial exchange and the services.
This network is mainly used to carry passengers and is randomly used for handling the heavy cargo due to the long distance and high costs. The most regular flight is Tehran-Zahedan-Tehran. Iran Air, Mahan Air and Sky air are the air lines which usually run these flights once or twice a day.

The second type of transportation network is rail network which currently links Zahedan city and the region to Pakistan. This network is usually for the transport of domestic and foreign manufactured goods and products which pass through the customs. Considering the fact that Zahedan rail network is not connected to the rest of the national network of Iran, Zahedan railway has not attracted much attention. It only operates once or twice a week between Zahedan and Quetta in Pakistan and carries goods and sometimes passengers as well. The project of linking Zahedan railway to other cities of Iran through the city of Bam and Kerman started several years ago and now it is at the final and completion stage. This connection can undoubtedly bring about significant changes in transport of goods and passenger in this province, because Zahedan city will be connected to the national railways of Iran and hence to East Asia, the Middle East, and probably with Europe as well.

The third transport network of Zahedan city which is the busiest network in terms of goods and services is road network. These vast and diverse road networks handle more than 90 per cent of the total burden of passengers and, manufactured goods and products from Zahedan to other places. The main road routes which link Zahedan city to other places are north – south and east –
west routes which connect Zahedan to Chabahar and Oman Sea, Tibad, Sarakhs and Afghanistan in the east and to central Asia and Russia in the north. On the other hand Zahedan’s main road to Mirjaveh for customs and Quetta (Centre of Baluchestan in Pakistan) links Zahedan with Pakistan and the Indian Sub-continent in the east and on the opposite side, the same road links Zahedan to Bam and Kerman in Iran and, therefore, to the central parts of the country and to Turkey and Europe in the northwest. Different types of buses, minibuses, trucks, Lorries, tankers and pick-up trucks, which operate from two main terminuses in Zahedan, carry passengers, goods and products from Zahedan city to other places of provincial and national importance. For the intra-regional transport of passengers, manufactured goods and agricultural products the transportation mostly takes place by means of cars, taxis, pickup, trucks and sometimes by minibuses enroute to Mirjaveh customs and the bus transportation enroute to Kurin and Chahzard. The transport of goods and services by mini buses indicate the smaller volume of transaction with some places of lesser commercial gravity. Mini buses are also preferred of avoid the delay waiting for the large volume of goods and large number of passengers. Mini buses tend to increase the frequency of movement of goods and services. Mini buses also provide the opportunity of employment and undertakings to large number of smaller entrepreneurs. Transportation network in the inner city includes bus driver system and taxi driver system in entire parts of the city as well as private the sector which all of them are managed and controlled by the
municipality of Zahedan. These wide spread Transportation networks facilitate the people who can easily transfer from one side to another in the habitable parts of the city.

4.6 Pivotal Role of Zahedan City in Relation to Other Areas

Cities usually have multiple functions which depend on their geographical, socio-economic and other conditions. In adaption with every circumstance, cities can take some roles which certainly a few of them are more dominant and have more influence and affected on itself and its hinterland development. The city provides medical, educational, administrative, commercial, recreational, transportation facilities and many other facilities to the surrounding areas as well as other places those relate to it. About 23.6 percent of total population of province and 47.6 percent of total urban population of Sistan and Baluchestan live in Zahedan city. Apart from this, 83.3 percent of total population of Zahedan region and 96.9 percent of total urban population of Zahedan region live in Zahedan city. Hence, Zahedan city plays not only important role in all dimensions of development in the region but in whole of province also. Therefore, the research, here, is going to explain some dominant of Zahedan in brief.

4.6.1 Economic Role and Importance of the City

As it has been mentioned previously, Zahedan has a especial economic position in the eastern and south-eastern part of the country; regarding some
factors such as particular geographic condition, proximity to international joint borders, politico-administrative centrality and different public functions like the, security, administrative, educational, health-treatment, cultural and service organizations. This situation has been influential not only at the provincial, regional, and local level, but also in the eastern part of country and the neighboring provinces, as well as at the national and international scene. A result of these interactions at all these levels, it has played a major role and has had a contribution to the overall development. So, it is necessary that the most important dimensions and characteristics of its economy should be mentioned briefly.

As explained previously, the most important role of Zahedan city is services role with emphasis on trade and marketing. There are two main markets in this city which are called Rasuli cross-section and Bazar as well as three sub-main markets named Garage market, animal market in Shirabad, and two fruit and vegetable markets. Rasuli market is a modern market in Zahedan as well as widely known and famous in the Iran because there are proximately all things of various foreign goods especially in field of cloths, food (rice, tea and different fruit and juice of tropical fruits), shoes, garments, electronic and electrical goods, and so on in both form new and second hand. Everybody who comes to the Zahedan city at any time or season with any purpose, certainly visits of this market and purchases something from there because he can find everything one wants over there. That is why Rasuli market is famous at the
country level and also in some foreign countries. Garage market is located in
the ancient Garage has the same condition but at a lower scale. All the exiting
goods in these markets enter from the border regions like Milak-e-Zabol,
Mirjaveh, Pishin and Chabahar in the province and then Bandarabbas in the
south on Iran, Bazargan's border in the northwest and Sarakhs border in the
northeast of Iran and outside of the province. Chinese, Pakistani and Turkish
goods dominate and then European, Arab countries, and Indian goods can also
be seen here. There are so many wholesale centers and commercial agencies
which provide and distribute various goods at different levels in the region,
province, and country and also import or export to other countries.
Furthermore, there are so many shops in the Garage market which involve with
provision and diffusion of spare parts of various kinds of machines like car,
lorry, bus, and truck etc both of new and second hand nature. In addition, all
kinds of industrial goods and equipments are supplied in this market. The most
important rural produce which is coming from the agricultural areas of
Zahedan region daily is fodder which includes Alfalfa and wheat straw. This
market also is a main place for selling and buying of this purpose.

Other main market is Bazar which the local people call it Maliy-e-
Square or Bazar (market). This market is acting as a Central Business Area
(C.B.A). Central Business Area (C.B.A) also known as Central Business
District (C.B.D), Commercial Core, and Primary Commercial Area is the hub
of the commercial activities (Proudfoot, 1937). This market is a traditional
market and is located in the city center with many ancient and modern malls of jewelry, handicraft goods, household appliances, electronic and electrical goods, food material and so on. It experiences great congestion and heavy rush of people during day time particularly at the evening. It serves the customers coming from the city and its region as well as other regions of the province. A large and busy gold jewellery market in this Bazar indicates the high purchasing power of the people. Such a large jewellery market of great variety in a city of only 567,499 persons is more than the proportion. It indicates not only the economic and social gravity of Zahedan city but also the prosperity of the city dwellers. The strangely big jewellery market in out of proportion to the size of Zahedan city can convincingly be justified by the largest service sector economy of Zahedan city and the surrounding Zahedan region. Further, the culture of Baluchi women has a great liking for jewellery, also become of the sense of economic security that the gold jewellery more in uncertain condition. The need and liking for jewellery is very high in the uncertain and insecure condition of the developing countries. It is a fact of cultural geography that women in the developing countries, all over the world, need more jewellery to safeguard than future economic sustainability, because uncertainties of widowhood and divorce may be high. In the scarcity economy of the developing countries the jewellery of women is the essential and greatest part of the compulsory dowry system. Hence, gold jewellery is not as much a function of taste and cultural tradition as it is an economic necessity. The women of this
region maintain the jewellery of their own marriage occasion for the marriage occasion of their daughters when they give their jewellery as part of the necessary dowry. So high is level of socio-economic insecurity in the developing countries that the women keep their jewellery as well as buy jewellery before the birth of a daughter and even for their very young daughter for their marriage. The socio-economic insecurity in the culture of the developing countries leads to the blockage of large money as a factor of production in the unnecessary jewellery and dowry. The jewellery and dowry have frozen the factors of production at economic growth in the weaker cultural traditions. On the other hand, in the surplus economies of the developed countries of Europe, America and Japan there is not such a visible tradition of jewellery for the sake of economic security. In the developed countries there is a taste for the light and delicate jewellery as a matter of fashion and not as fortune. Moreover, there are various local and long distance Iranian goods from industry and agriculture available in this traditional old market which is sustained at different levels of region, province and the country. Moreover, most of the foreign goods especially electronic gadgets and cosmetics are available there. It is usually a place of local people for sell and purchase of daily needs. One of the popular activities in which the local people are very much interested is dealing of cars close to this market with a concentration in the Shariati street. This market also affects and contributes to the commercial gravity of Zahedan city, although at a smaller scale.
Livestock market is located in the eastern part of city in Shirabad Mohalla which supplies different animals such as goats, sheep, cows, camels and chicken. This market is main place for selling and buying of various animals in wholesale and retail. The livestock in this market comes from region, province, other provinces and the neighboring countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan. In addition of providing the meat to this region, it provides the needs of meat of some other provinces as well. From other considerable market centers which are valuable mention to make of one can refer to two fruit and vegetable markets that which are located on the entrance city from the route of Khorasan and Kerman provinces. These markets provide various fruits and vegetables from other places those depend on fruit season. The weekly markets (Friday market) every Friday is a neighboring market, which are organized on the roads, in front of these regular markets near the bus terminal. Friday market is very congested because one can find most kind of goods which one needs at cheaper rates than other markets.

4.6.2 Administrative and Political Role of Zahedan City

With respect to politico-administrative centrality in the province, Zahedan city has been the concentrative focus for the government in terms different executive and administrative departments, organizations and foundations, police and army headquarters and forces, courts and legislation centers, for the last 80 years almost from the beginning of city growth. That is why, at different evolutionary processes of administrative and public catering
system of the country, before and after the Islamic Revolution of Iran. This sector has remained important. The offices of governments of all general bureaus, departments, army forces, and judicial and security units, have been established gradually and developed in this city. On the top of which there is governor of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan and the representative foundation of religious leadership. Concentration of this governmental managing and governing complex in this city has caused a good deal of transportation not only by the residents who come into Zahedan for different juridical, army, security and political affairs, on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. In addition, many trips are made by the officials of the above mentioned organizations to other cities and areas in order to solve the several pending problems of clients who no longer need to go to Zahedan. Therefore, the role of Zahedan in solving the problems of the region is considerably important. Additionally, the presence of two consulates of Pakistan and India in this city proves that the role of city in providing the services, in the dimension of departments' references, goes beyond the province and includes southern and eastern provinces of the country.

4.6.3 Educational, Cultural and Religious Role of Zahedan City

One of the considerable and important roles and functions of Zahedan city is its' role in culture, education and religion. Despite its short history and background, Zahedan has become an assembling focus for major and different ethnic groups, including Sistani, Blochi, Khorasani, Yazdi and Kermani at the national level, and Afghan refugees, Indian Sikhs, residents of Pakistani
descent. Each of this ethnic group and races is divided into various tribes and families which have their own specific cultural features, and based on the rate of dispersion and population of them in the level of the city, area, province and country as well as neighboring and foreign countries. They have their own especial influence, and their superficial symbols are manifested in the pattern of mosques, Hosainias (a place where the martyrdom of Imam Hosain is mourned), local associations, family funds, mourning and wedding ceremonies. Among them two main ethnic groups of Baluch and Sistani, are being 80 per cent of population have dominant role in the city. In the educational dimension, Zahedan has a considerable role, because there are many scientific and educational institutes in the city of Zahedan, including various educational centers in the levels of pre-school, primary, middle and high schools, pre-graduate, under-graduate programs, occupational-technical centers, schools for intellectuals, and above all an internationally prestigious university of Sistan and Baluchestan, Islamic open university, distant learning center of Payame-Noor , applied-scientific comprehensive university, Quran-related teaching centers and tens of private educational institutes. Sistan and Baluchistan's university only have 260 hectares area with about 21 thousands (2009) students is accounted the second lagged university after Tehran university in terms of student. Educationally, it is well-provided and well-equipped city like Esfahan and Shiraz. Regarding the religious aspects, two main sects of Islam Shia and Sunny, both peacefully and cordially exist in Zahedan and since the establishment of Zahedan city, the followers of both sects have been living compromisingly and comfortably. They share each other hardships and
pleasantries, and are culturally integrated. They have experienced a peaceful and pleasant life and have made the city a mirror which reflects a pure Islamic unity and integrity. The presence of great religious men such as Ayatullah Kafami and Mulana Abdul-Aziz, before and during the Islamic revolution in this city not only were the major causes for the people to get the message of Islamic revolution, but also flourished the peaceful and happy alliance of the people. The successors of these exalted men have been continuing their holy mission. The existence of hundreds of mosques and Hosaynias and several religious schools, namely Imam Sadeq's Houzey-e-Elmiyah and Zahedan "Darul-Oloom" has brought an Islamic atmosphere to the city, so that thousands of people take active participation in different religious ceremonies and the graduation courses of "Hafezan-e-Quran" (those who know can read and memories the holy Quran by heart) and "Tollab" (students and learners of Islamic Science). As well as for offering the Friday prayer. A large number of people mostly come from the villages around the city to offer the Friday prayer from as far as 40 Km away. These people from the surrounding rural areas have a regular social and economic interaction with the city of Zahedan.

Additionally, the offices of the exalted leader's representative in the affairs of the Sunny people, Shia and Sunny Emam-Jomeh (religious leaders of the city) and other religious experts, are the places where a lot of people attend daily, arriving from the surrounding area, province and even from other provinces. Sometimes people come from Afghanistan and Pakistan for the
spiritual satisfaction and peace. This has caused the city to achieve a considerable and particular importance.

4.6.4 Health and Curative Services: Role of Zahedan City

One of the important roles of Zahedan city is its health and curative role. With respect to this function of Zahedan as a center of the province it could be said which that are several important health centers as well as hospitals and professional Clinique's in Zahedan city. These are performing curative services to the people who come in from the neighboring, region, the province and sometimes from other provinces. Most important of these are government hospitals and professional Cliniques are Khatamul-Anbiya as old and big hospital, Nabiye-Akram and Rasule-Akram hospitals, Emam Ali and social security hospitals as new and modern curative centers as well as Ali Asghar professional Clinique for babies and Khatamol-Anbiya professional Clinique in ophthalmology. Last of these Clinique is also well-known in the whole of Iran and that is why some peoples come into it from other places of Iran. In addition so many doctor's offices (Matab), pharmacy and laboratories or labs with different physicians and specialist doctors are busy for the services to the people of the whole province and other places. There is also general office of veterinary services with several veterinarians and animal pharmacists, who are serving to the all the farmers and their cattle at the level of the province and particularly to the Zahedan region.