Original Research Article

Examining the Position of Community Participation in the Process of Conservation and Management Policymaking of World Heritage Cities

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Abstract

Problem statement: The complex and valuable structures of World Heritage Cities, as historical profiles and identities of societies, have emerged and developed throughout history and have been inherited from one generation to another. Due to the physical, social, and cultural significance of these cities, numerous researchers have tried to apply novel approaches to conserving and managing them. Also, over the years, many international institutions have been trying to present guidelines following modern management methods focusing on the active role of local communities. However, considering its specific physical, social, and cultural structure, each of these cities requires a tailored operational management structure, and applying a one-size-fits-all management approach in all societies is not feasible.

Research objective: This article mainly aims to examine the efficacy of the international charters' guidelines in enhancing community participation in the conservation and management of World Heritage Cities and presenting a flexible applied framework for effectively implementing such an approach in these cities.

Research method: While applying a content analysis method to rank the guidelines of the international charters that include an approach to increasing community participation in the management of World Heritage Cities, this article examines the process of conservation and management in eight cities. Then, by comparing the findings, it discusses the efficacy of these guidelines in increasing community participation.

Conclusion: The results show that the active role of local communities in the conservation and management process of World Heritage Cities is essential. Its implementation requires conformity to the guidelines presented by international organizations in the field of managing historical cities. In implementing this process, the recommendations of the charters must be localized to the structural features of any given context to achieve the highest possible efficacy of the community participation approach.

Keywords: *Policymaking, World Heritage City, International Charters of City Management, Local Community, Community Participation.*

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The Scientific Journal of NAZAR research center (Nrc) for Art, Architecture & Urbanism

Introduction

Participation of management institutions and other stakeholders is critical in all urban planning initiatives. Managers and urban experts should not overlook the importance of local communities in establishing an integrated solution to secure the public interest (Seidbeigi, Nasiri & Rasouli, 2019, 1). In a World Heritage-listed urban area, the physical structure and social functions serve as the primary identifiers of the city's continuity. In this respect, it is vital to develop a precise strategy to maintain the city's structure and avert social and economic harm (Fielden & Jokilehto, 2014, 106). Furthermore, policy-making and planning for World Heritage Cities are multidisciplinary processes that may involve establishing social welfare programs, safeguarding the artifacts from utilitarianism, focusing on the physical structure and preserving its identity, preserving the cultural and social values, and presenting schemes for the rehabilitation of physical environments (Daldanise, 2016, 102). As a result, the involvement of a diverse spectrum of professionals, including urban planners, architects, restorers, sociologists, and executives, is critical to the process of maintaining and managing historical cities and cultural landscapes. It is necessary to identify management resources carefully, including tangible (physical and financial resources) and intangible (cultural, technological) assets as well as human resources (local community, investors, and professionals) to ensure proper urban heritage management. In addition, it will provide a clear framework for effective communication between managers and actors (Grant, 2009; Daldanise, 2016, 103).

In recent years, several studies have addressed the issue of community engagement in urban administration, but few assessments on the management and conservation of World Heritage Cities have been conducted towards fostering community participation initiatives. It is essential because residents of historical cities are often more attached to their ancestors' customs and past management methods and more resistant to structural change than contemporary cities. As a result of the issue's complexity, it is vital to give the best framework possible in this sector via conceptual models and case studies comparison. It is a particularly pressing problem in Iran, possessing several World Heritage sites. Due to management failures and discontent in recent decades, the necessity for an integrated and adaptable framework with an active and informed presence of inhabitants is more apparent than ever. This research aims to assess the efficacy of international charters instructions in fostering community participation in the administration of World Heritage Cities and aims to develop a strategic framework for enhancing community participation in these regions. With this objective, the primary question of this research will be: How can the application of international guidelines effectively promote community participation in the process of policy-making and management of World Heritage Cities?

Literature Review

Several studies have been undertaken in recent years stressing the critical role of community participation in the protection and management of World Heritage Cities, and numerous global charters and declarations on this subject have been documented, which indicates the high importance of this issue. For instance, the Washington Charter, recorded in 1987, emphasizes the importance of local community engagement in preserving cities and historical regions (ICOMOS, 1987). Additionally, Article 12 of the Burra Charter (1999) is dedicated entirely to the topic of participation. According to this clause, the preservation, interpretation, and administration of a place should include communities with specific ties and concepts towards the area and those with a social, spiritual, or cultural link to the site (ICOMOS, 1999). The Quebec Declaration (2001) emphasizes the relevance of social values, highlighting the necessity of a democratic and participatory management system. Heritage city

administrators must provide an appropriate platform for residents to take responsibility. The Charter for the Preservation of Urban Heritage of Islamic Countries also emphasizes the importance of the participation of all stakeholders related to urban heritage, especially the local communities of the region (Charter for the Preservation of Urban Heritage in Islamic Countries, 2004). In the third article of the Paris Declaration on heritage as a driver of development (2011) on heritage as a driver of development, one of the subjects stressed is encouraging interaction between the local residents and tourists and engaging inhabitants in the region's preservation.

Regarding the prioritization of local communities, the Tehran Declaration (2014) emphasizes that conservation and development measures should be centered around the significance of heritage and implemented through the self-purifying cultural filter of indigenous peoples, as the primary filter in the process of developing changes in the historical urban landscape. Also, article 4 of the Florence Declaration (2014) underlines the need for a bottom-up approach to heritage conservation and management. The first and most critical step in this direction is establishing mechanisms involving local people in decision-making (Florence declaration, 2014). Thus, various charters in the World Heritage Cities management have underlined the need for participation. However, there have been several instances of this technique failing in the context of historical cities, particularly when local communities are not adequately included in the project. In this regard, to carefully review the international instructions on the role of the community participation approach in the policy-making process of management and conservation of historical cities, a selection of internationally recognized charters and declarations containing the community participation approach's principles are presented in Table 1.

Theoretical Concepts: The concept of community participation in the context of World Heritage Cities management

The management system of historical cities has changed in tandem with the growth of cities and the adoption of new and sophisticated urban planning methodologies. However, even though experts and organizations have issued several instructions on the management of World Heritage Cities, it seems that there are still difficulties in translating fundamental concepts of World Heritage management, particularly at the urban scale (Pendlebury, Short & While, 2009, 10; Dormaels, 2016, 3).

In general, participatory management and conservation in historical cities include a dynamic and comprehensive process that accentuates the context's authenticity and cultural and historical values. This process is implemented in three components: physical, economic, and social. It seeks to promote social interactions and prosperity of people's presence, to restore activity and vitality to the historical city's context and physical reformation and renovation and economic improvement (Hanachi & Poursarajian, 2014, 240). In this regard, many World Heritage Conservation Organizations, while recommending to include a wide range of stakeholders in the process of managing historical cities, have emphasized the importance of the status of indigenous communities, their traditions, and their specific lifestyles (Landorf, 2009, 495-497). Furthermore, several experiences in practice demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating cultural heritage management, urban planning, and socioeconomic development objectives via participatory-oriented methodologies. Local communities will also be satisfied due to participating in the decision-making process and identifying shared interests in administering the World Heritage City when this method is implemented (Li, Krishnamurthy, Pereira Roders & Van Wesemael , 2020, 1, Ripp & Rodwell, 2018, 241-253).

The "participatory planning" approach is a systematic process in urban management that transforms urban spaces into places with identity and value in collaboration with non-specialists (local community, residents, and visitors) and urban planning specialists (all referred to as stakeholders

Table 1. The role of the community participation approach in charters and declarations related to the management of historical cities[1]. Source: Authors.

	Document	Year	Applying Community Participation Approach
1	Amsterdam charter	1975	Encourage citizens to participate in the process of conservation
2	Washington charter	1987	Emphasis on the importance of participation and the role of residents
3	ICOMOS New Zealand charter	1993	Emphasis on social capital, consultation with the local community, and gaining citizen's trust
4	Nara document	1994	Article8: Emphasis on the priority of local community's responsibility in heritage conservation and management
5	Bergen protocol	1995	Emphasis on the necessity to teach the principles of preservation and promote awareness at the level of the local community
6	San Antonio declaration	1996	The critical role of local communities in the process of preservation and raising public awareness
7	Burra charter	1999	Article 12: Emphasis on the participation of the local community in the conservation and management of historical cities
8	Krakow declaration	2000	Emphasis on the participation and responsibility of social groups toward cultural heritage
9	Quebec declaration	2001	Emphasis on the need to create a suitable environment for democratic and participatory management
10	Budapest declaration	2002	Article 5: Important role of the private sector, governments, and youth in the process of participating in heritage conservation
11	Hoi An declaration	2003	Emphasis on the involvement of residents and interdisciplinary professionals in the management process
12	Bam declaration	2004	Continuity of partnerships between stakeholders, authorities, local people, and professionals
13	Charter of Preservation of Urban Heritage of Islamic Countries	2004	The necessity of participation between governments and the local community in the process of integrated conservation and development of heritage
14	Göteborg declaration	2005	Considering the role of the local communities in decisions and the process of formulating conservation and development plans
15	Xi'an declaration	2005	Emphasis on engagement and cooperation with local communities and interdisciplinary experts
16	Jerusalem declaration	2006	Article 4: Emphasis on the importance of citizens' participation in the process of decision-making, preparation, and implementation of the plan
17	Verona declaration	2007	The importance of community participation in the process of regeneration and applying cultural strategies
18	Innsbruck declaration	2007	Promote community-led regeneration policies to reduce indigenous outflows from the region
19	ICOMOS Cultural Routes Charter	2008	Emphasis on public participation, raising awareness, and cooperation of residents
20	UNESCO recommendation (Historical Urban Landscape)	2011	The necessity of local community participation in meetings and discussions regarding World Heritage Cities
21	Valletta principles	2011	Emphasis on the need for direct consultation and continuous dialogue with residents
22	Paris declaration	2011	Raise awareness and encourage residents to take control and ownership of their cultural heritage
23	Tehran declaration (Urban Cultural Landscape)	2014	The need to determine the role of local communities in change management and determining their boundaries; Indigenous peoples' culture as the most important filter for implementing changes in the historical urban landscape
24	Florence declaration	2014	The need for interaction and social participation in promoting heritage
25	Delhi declaration	2017	Emphasis on democracy and community-based approaches and involving residents in the process of conservation
26	Buenos Aires declaration	2019	Emphasis on the value of local community participation in the preservation of cultural heritage

in a conservation and development project) (IAP2, 2014). Today, historical urban regions are considered a subset of the urban structure, including natural and man-made surroundings, and incorporate the valuable experiences and social structure of local communities (Bahrami & Samani, 2015, 464). In this sense, the theoretical underpinnings of the participatory planning approach in urban management may be applied to the management of World Heritage Cities as a subset of urban regions, with a focus on preserving the historical context's authenticity and integrity. In other words, along with the rigorous application of the international conservation charters and based on the fundamental principles of participatory planning in urban management, levels of participation in cities can also be extended to World Heritage Cities. Therefore, after generally evaluating the notion of involvement of local communities concerning the management and conservation standards for historical cities, the current research especially examined this notion in the management of World Heritage Cities.

For instance, The International Association for Public Participation's report introduces the process of community participation in a bottom-up government system on three levels. According to this document, the first stage of participation is informing and educating, based on which a one-way interaction between the government and the community is built via informing and educating citizens about urban heritage preservation. At the second level, a two-way interaction between the community and government is developed and executed via receiving consultation and local inhabitants' feedback. Many theorists have offered various levels for adopting the participatory approach. Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation (1969) is the most prominent categorization of participation levels, introducing participation levels in three major stages and eight sub-stages (Ladjemi, 2011, 39-41). Later sources present the same stages more extensively and succinctly. Finally, the third level is referred to as active participation, and it consists of three stages: involvement, collaboration,

and full authority. Based on these levels, the local community participates actively in the planning, policy-making, and implementation process, and in many situations, citizens have ultimate power and decision-making authority. It should be highlighted that each level needs unique tools and should be monitored and reviewed continuously by the respective institutions (IAP2, 2014; Symonds, 2005, 7).

Bottom-up social systems management necessitates a multilayer governing approach. In other words, in such a regime, the main power is not concentrated in a central government, but policy-making and decision-making operations take place on several levels. In addition, such an approach considers processes for building partnerships and communication between management systems. Three forms of capital are often effective in the urban management policy-making process: Social Capital, Intellectual Capital, and Political Capital (Healey, 1996, 217-234 Petric, Hell & van der Borg, 2020, 3). Figure 1 introduces the general framework required for managing World Heritage Cities. As shown, the most crucial group in the management process is the local community, which indirectly impacts all three capitals. By definition, "Social Capital" is a source of social action that consists of several levels and components (Komasi & Hosseini, 2014, 144-146). The current study, based on the levels introduced in the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2, 2014) report, introduces three primary levels of awareness, trust, and participation, as well as four components of local community participation, resident satisfaction, indigenous migration prevention, and increasing tourist statistics, as some of the most fundamental and influential components in the concept of Social Capital. The second capital is "Political Capital," which comprises influential actors at the international, national, and local levels in the process of urban management. According to this research's primary objective of examining the policy-making process, the authors' primary emphasis is on Political
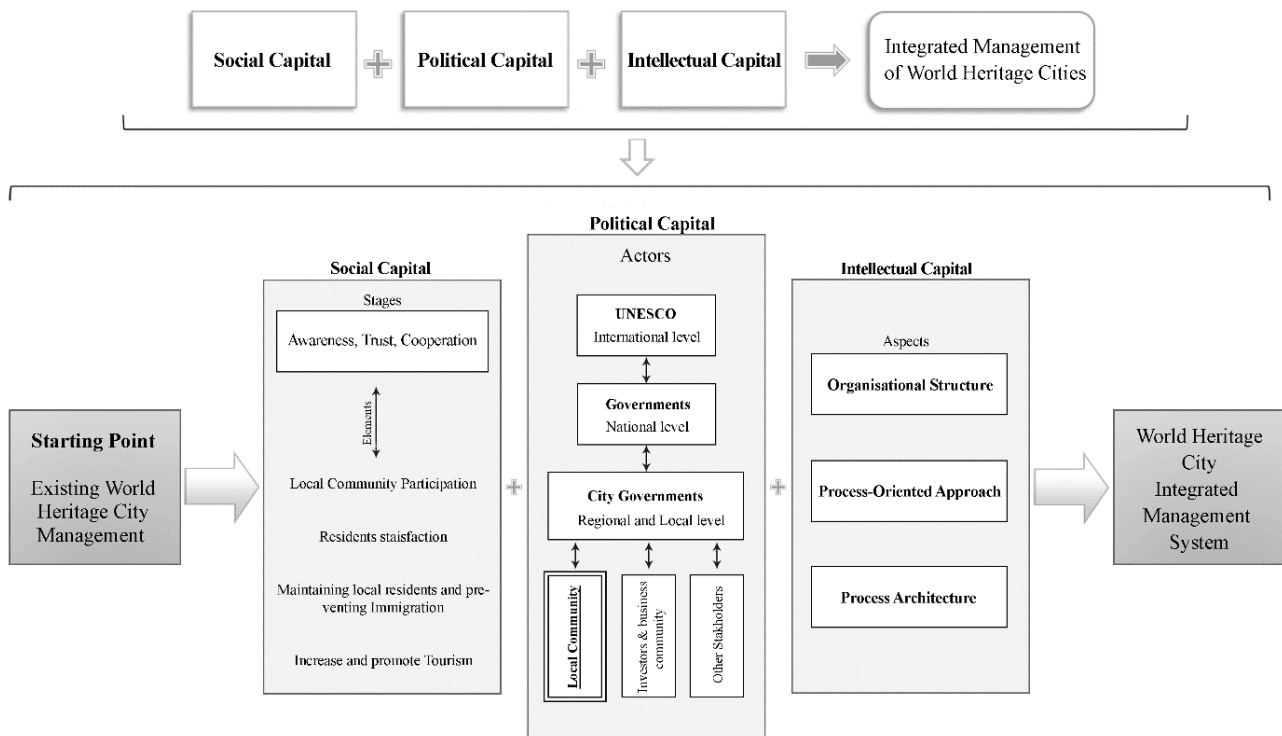
Fig.1. Theoretical Framework of the World Heritage Cities Management System. Source: Authors based on: Petric, Hell & van der Borg, 2020, 3; Symonds, 2005, 7; IAP2, 2014; Healey, 1996, 217-234.

Capital and the role of community participation in the process of policy-making and administration of World Heritage Cities. In the "Intellectual Capital" group, the fundamental objective of establishing the organizational structure is to describe the process-oriented approach and process structure for which a thorough plan and design must be considered within the preceding two capitals.

Research Method

Given the preceding context, it is clear that several charters and declarations have been presented to guide and direct the management of historical cities. As seen in Table 1, a number of these charters include proposals to increase community engagement in World Heritage Cities. However, given the unique structure and features of each World Heritage City, the success of these proposals is uncertain. As a result, it is vital to assess the efficiency of global standards in promoting local community participation in the management of historical cities. If they are effective, the method of incorporating

these suggestions into the World Heritage Cities' policy-making process should be explained.

For this purpose, the charters were first graded based on their global validity and degree of adherence to community participation principles in urban management, using the content analysis approach (Fig. 2). In this regard, four guidelines that had the maximum emphasis on community participation were chosen to evaluate their efficacy. Comparative studies are the most effective technique to ascertain the charter and global guidelines' efficacy, because by comparing the success of global experiences and the level of executing the charters' instructions, one may determine the effectiveness of their suggestions in community engagement and World Heritage City management. Therefore, eight case studies of community engagement in the management of World Heritage Cities have been chosen and presented (Table 2). In the following sections, the degree to which these experiences complied with international charters and documents (paragraphs relating to Community Participation) was computed

in a format of percentage based on the number of clauses in each charter. Finally, for each experience, the percentage of conformity with international documents compared to its degree of success and satisfaction was quantified and examined. Then, based on the gathered data and theoretical concepts, a model was developed to ensure that the community participation approach is correctly applied in the integrated management system of World Heritage Cities.

Case Studies

Eight World Heritage Cities were chosen and assessed using scholarly journals, websites, and online resources of each city's municipal and government agencies, focusing on participatory approaches. Table 2 summarizes the information gathered, including the urban governance strategy and community engagement promotion strategies. The political structure of each country fundamentally determines the urban governance approach. Naturally, communities have greater participation and active presence in urban planning and management in cities with a bottom-up approach: the higher the people's decision-making capacity and authority to change the circumstances, the greater their involvement in protecting and managing the city.

Discussion and Analysis of Findings

In order to rank the charters based on their degree of focus on the community participation approach, first, six keywords associated with participation were determined from the global documents' text. According to the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2, 2014; Symonds, 2005, 7), the words chosen at this stage were categorized into six categories depending on the structure and degree of participation described in the theoretical concepts

Table 2. Overview of Case Studies. Source: Authors.

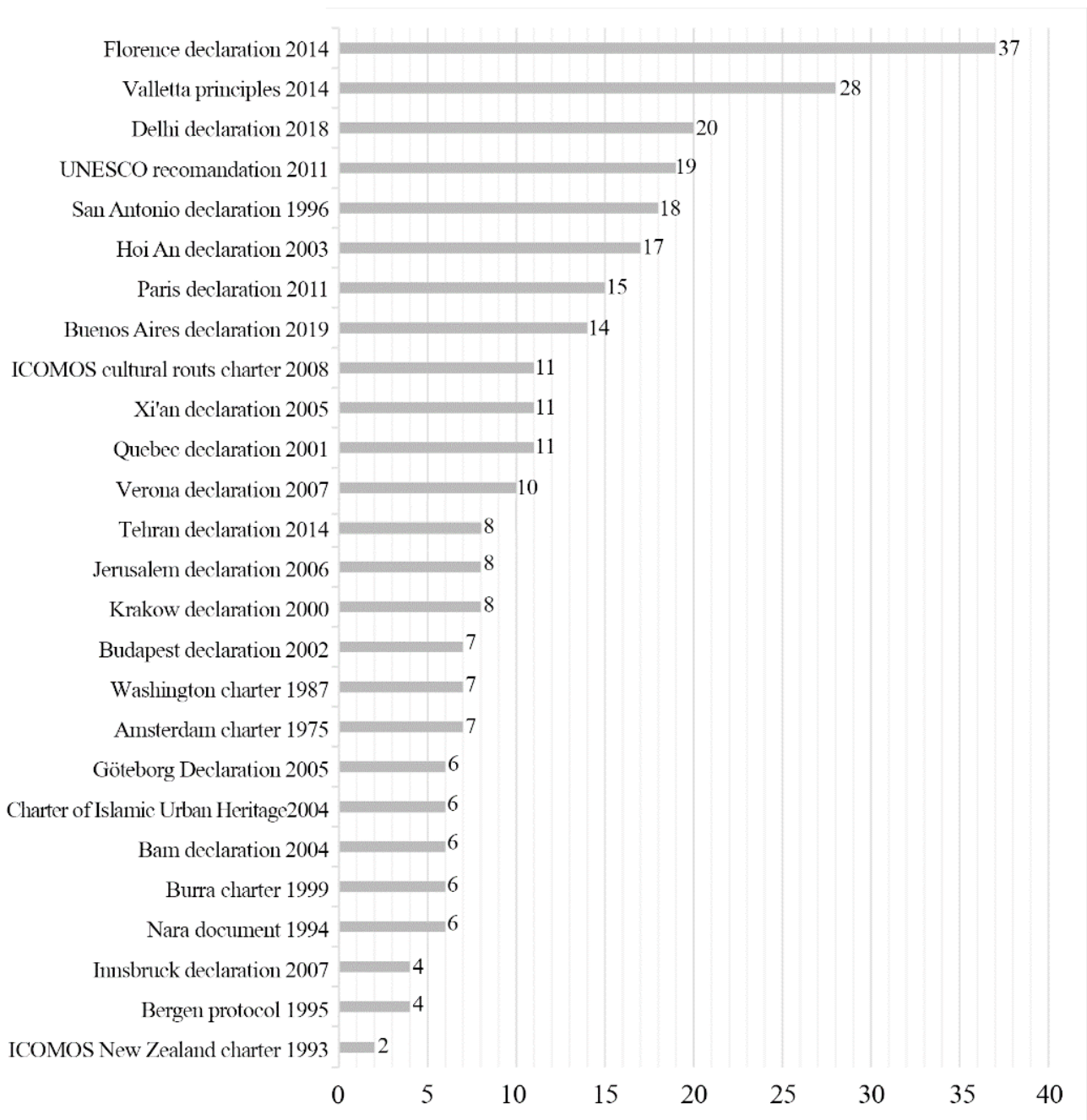| Case Study	Community Participation Policies	Governance Approach	Resources
Kyoto (Japan)	Applying the Machizukuri approach (a method for creating dialogue in society and promoting interaction among local communities and government, empowering citizens).	Bottom-up Approach	Poomchalit & Suzuki (2018) Kusakabe (2013)
Lijiang (China)	Organizing Public and Governmental Meetings, Cultural and Traditional Events, Annual Consultation Meetings, and the Establishment of Local Organizations.	Top-down Approach	Su, Zhang & Cai (2020) Li, Krishnamurthy, Roders & Wesemael (2020)
George Town (Malaysia)	Educating communities in the field of World Heritage Cities, instructing and capacity-building for government employees.	Top-down Approach	Rasoolimanesh, Jaafar, Ahmad & Barghi et al. (2017). PILAI Pilai (20132017) Dian & Nuraisyah Abdullah (2013)
Cairo (Egypt)	Informing and educating people through the media.	Top-down Approach	Gharib (2011)
Regensburg (Germany)	Establishment of the World Heritage Coordination Office, holding public workshops, and construction of the Regensburg World Heritage City visitor center.	Bottom-up Approach	Göttler & Ripp (2017) Ripp (2011)
Edinburgh (Scotland)	Establishment of community-based associations, establishing an integrated interaction between stakeholders, and holding cultural events.	Bottom-up Approach	Zappino (2010)
Quebec (Canada)	Neighborhood council, citizenship committee, preparation of a list of all stakeholders, organizing roundtable meetings.	Bottom-up Approach	Dormaels (2016)
Havana (Cuba)	Employing young people, preparing risks and resources map, holding information sessions.	Top-down Approach	Santiago (2019) Ladjemi (2011) Valladares (2017)

Fig.2. Ranking of charters based on the degree of implication on keywords and concepts related to the community participation approach. Source: Authors.

section: 1) Participation/Contribution/Partnership, 2) Cooperation/Collaboration, 3) Involvement/ Engagement, 4) Communication/ Relationship, 5) Consultation and 6) Local Community. After examining each document's concept, the frequency of each keyword and their synonymous terms and the synonymous phrases and lexical combinations of each of these six concepts of community participation were calculated. The aggregate of these frequencies was then displayed as the document's final score.

The script of each charter is analyzed descriptively and conceptually in the process of content analysis. The unit of analysis is the phrasal contents, sentences, and paragraphs of each document that correspond to the preceding six concepts, and the numerical representation of vocabulary is used only to categorize the charters. Also, to classify the global charters more precisely, each charter was rated based on its validity (national, regional, or global) and according to the sum of the introduced

charters' score points (Fig. 2). The purpose of this process is to find important community participation charters. By this means, they may be identified and classified according to how each charter stresses the community participation approach. Lastly, their instructions can be applied to promote community participation in the conservation and management of World Heritage Cities. According to Fig. 2, the Florence Declaration, the Valletta Principles, the Delhi Declaration, and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation placed the most significant emphasis on the active participation and presence of the local community in the management of cities.

Comparison of Global Documents with Case Studies

After identifying and selecting the eight cities mentioned above, the measures implemented in each of these cases were compared with the four documents of the top charters and guidelines introduced (Florence Declaration, Valletta Principles, Delhi Declaration, and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation). To focus on the research objective, only paragraphs and resolutions pertaining to community engagement were collected from these documents and applied in the process of comparison. Since the circumstances and characteristics of each reviewed case are unique, the comparisons are fundamentally relative. Also, as the comparison of variables is sufficient to achieve the study's objective, the extent to which each reference paragraph has been implemented in different cities is ruled out. Thus, each case's conformance percentage is derived based on the number of conformities to paragraphs in each charter. Quebec, for example, complies with seven of the fifteen Florence Declaration clauses, resulting in a compliance percentage of around 46 percent. Finally, the average compliance percentage for each case of participation in World Heritage Cities is provided (Table 4).

According to the research findings (Table 4), Kyoto complies with global guidelines for community participation at 96.5 percent, whereas Cairo complies

at a rate of 17.25 percent. Due to the difficulties in obtaining objective documents and field evidence for comparing the charters' achievements in global experiences, the data in Tables 3 & 4 have been relatively measured. Therefore, we increased the number of case studies to eight and repeated the measurement and comparison process to ensure the research results' accuracy. In order to review the research findings in more detail, four criteria have been used to compare the success rate of World Heritage City management: community participation, resident satisfaction, migration rate, and tourist statistics. These criteria are based on the main components of social capital discussed in the theoretical foundation section. For instance, Kyoto's high degree of community participation results from residents' full participation and a long history of implementing the structure and participation framework. In the case of Havana, residents' dissatisfaction also reflects a lack of understanding of the necessity of participation, mistrust of government institutions, and a lack of the essential framework for participation. However, it should be mentioned that each sample was taken at a distinct period and under distinct circumstances; statistical population, and viewpoint. Moreover, the information supplied on each sample was derived solely from a study of restricted research sources. More detailed findings may be produced if field investigations are conducted over the same period and in a comparable statistical population. Still, for this study, the use of relative data is adequate.

Analyzing Table 4, it is clear that the percentage of charter compliance on the one hand and resident satisfaction and city administrators' effectiveness in soliciting community participation on the other have a relatively direct link. The higher the percentage of compliance with charters is, the more satisfied citizens are, and the greater the community participation in the process of municipal administration. Therefore, cities that have complied with the World Heritage guidelines considerably have attained superior outcomes in all categories.

Table 3. Introducing selected criteria and concepts for measuring cases of community participation. Source: Authors.

Comparison Criteria	Relative Scale	Selected Concept for each Scale
The level of Community Participation	Very low	Implement conservation and management programs without the presence of local communities and the lack of educated inhabitants.
	Low	Involvement of a specific group of residents + informing other members of the community, lack of participatory framework
	Medium	Involvement of a specific group of residents + increasing awareness, provision of a relatively planned participatory framework
	High	Full community participation, a short duration of implementing the collaboration plans, and a relatively new participation framework
	Very high	Full community participation, long duration of implementing the collaboration plans with a stable and planned framework
The level of Residents' Satisfaction	Very low	Lack of awareness regarding the importance of participation, distrust, and lack of desire to participate
	Low	Being aware of the importance of participation, having distrust towards the government, and lack of the required framework for participation
	High	Having the desire to participate and having trust in government and management authorities
	Very high	Strong desire for participation and full authority of the community in the process of management and conservation
Resident Migration Statistics	Increase	Increasing residents' dissatisfaction and thus increasing migration to surrounding areas
	Decrease	Existence of relative satisfaction and decrease in migration statistics of local communities compared to recent years
Tourism Statistics	Increase	Increase in the number of domestic and foreign tourists compared to before the participation programs were implemented
	Decrease	Decrease in the number of domestic and foreign tourists in recent years

Table 4. Comparison of the studied cases with emphasis on the percentage of compliance with global guidelines. Source: Authors.

City	Average Percentage of Compliance with Charters	Community Participation	Residents' Satisfaction	Resident Immigration	Tourism Statistics	Data Collection Tools
Kyoto (Japan)	96.5%	Very high	Very high	Decrease	Increase	Available documents
Edinburgh (Scotland)	79%	Very high	High	Decrease	Increase	Questionnaire, available documents
Quebec (Canada)	68%	High	High	Decrease	Not reviewed	Interview, review of documents
Regensburg (Germany)	67.25%	High	High	Not reviewed	Increase	Questionnaire, field research
Havana (Cuba)	44%	Medium	Low	Increase	Increase	available documents
George Town (Malaysia)	42.5%	Low	Low	Not reviewed	Not reviewed	Interview, questionnaire
Lijiang (China)	34%	Low	Very low	Increase	Increase	Interview, questionnaire
Cairo (Egypt)	17.35%	Very low	Very low	Very high	Not reviewed	Questionnaire, available documents

However, it is impossible to form a conclusive view only based on these findings, since each case study is unique in its environment. Kyoto, for example, and Japanese societies in general, to some extent, have had a community-participation approach in pre-modern times long before the ratification of the charters. As a result, it has made it easier for people to be part of their communities. However, the society of Havana has not been particularly democratic for an extended period, and it is not viable to promote community participation in the area merely by using international instructions. As a result, adhering to the standards may aid in promoting community participation and ensuring the success of historical city management. However, each historical city has its unique traits and history, and it is impractical to

follow global charters as the only factor determining a successful outcome. Therefore, it is vital to localize the global principles by thoroughly examining each historical city's structural characteristics and background. Then they may be implemented in line with the demands of the same region, ensuring greater efficacy in the urban management system. On this basis, and as a summary of the initial results and analytical issues mentioned above, Fig. 3 presents a recommended model for applying a community participation approach throughout the conservation and management of World Heritage Cities. As stated in the theoretical concepts section, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) has established many levels to encourage community participation among local communities. As a result, the rows in Fig. 3 indicate the stages of community involvement at each phase of the World

Heritage Cities management process. Furthermore, the columns of Fig. 3 describe six phases of historical city conservation and management. According to the study results, it is required to execute the stage of international charters localization as a distinct stage in this part, highlighting the setting of the World Heritage City. Finally, by comparing the management experiences of eight World Heritage Cities and the effectiveness of implementing global recommendations in their conservation and management, the most efficient method for promoting local community participation at each stage of the implementation and planning process is illustrated in Fig. 3.

Conclusion

Each year, organizations in the field of world heritage conservation adopt charters and guidelines
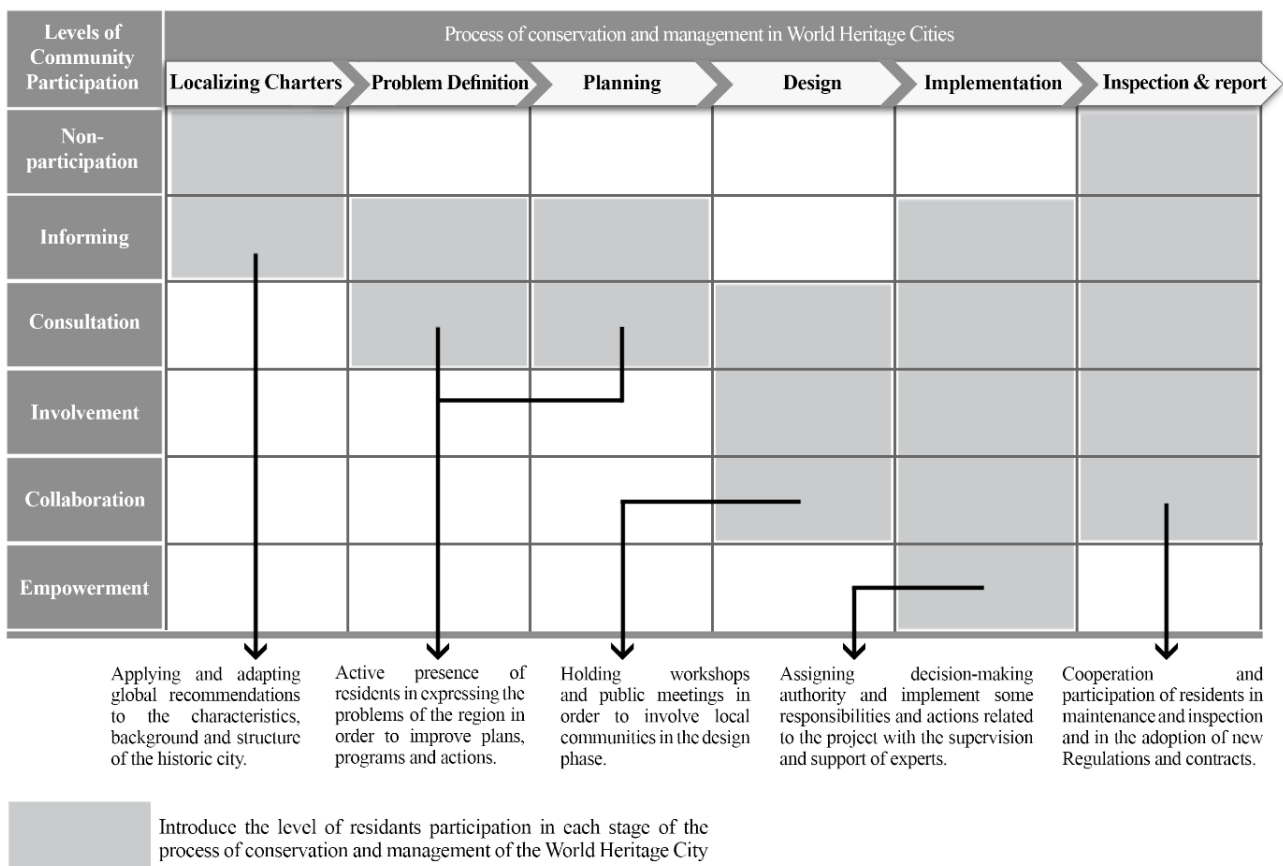

Fig 3. Recommended model for applying the Community Participation Approach throughout the conservation and management process in World Heritage Cities. Source: Authors.

to direct and aid city administrators in the efficient conservation of cultural heritage across a range of contexts and disciplines. In the course of analyzing the World Heritage Cities charters that promoted community participation principles, this study examined a considerable number of relevant experiences. Based on the selection of six keyword groups and a study of the content of each document using these six concepts, four charters with the most substantial emphasis on community participation were chosen, and criteria and cities, indicators for assessing and comparing their effectiveness were selected in this regard. These criteria are drawn from the stages and significant components of the social capital concept in urban management. Finally, by comparing the most important guidelines in the field of participation and studying eight World Heritage Cities, it was concluded that following and implementing the instructions of global documents can effectively ensure the success of management and promoting community participation in World Heritage Cities. Therefore, local communities should be actively engaged in all phases of management and conservation, with a particular framework based on the background and structures described in this research. However, given the structure outlined in the suggested framework (Fig. 3), the most critical phase in this process is the localization of the charters and guidelines of international conservation institutions for World Heritage Cities. Therefore, before undertaking any intervention, it is vital to consider the structure and background of each region to localize and adjust the instructions within the context of the World Heritage City. In other words, prior to declaring a problem and forming its statement, it is necessary to approach the localization phase of the charters as a separate stage that monitors the management of World Heritage Cities.

Moreover, the principles of international charters must be included in all executive initiatives for the conservation and management of World Heritage Cities as a disciplinary regulation and a policy-making framework. Then, after establishing the importance of local community presence and defining the conservation and management stages of World Heritage Cities, a strategy for local community participation was developed for each of the six stages of the historical city conservation and management process, based on the levels of participation described in the International Association for Public Participation report and on eight community participation experiences in World Heritage Cities. Fig. 3 shows each step in detail. As previously stated, the proposed research model requires the involvement of local communities at all phases, while only the extent and form of engagement at each step varies.

Note that a mere reliance on international guidelines will not guarantee to resolve community participation issues as global charters often include numerous components in a concise and comprehensive manner, and they cannot be implemented in all historical contexts. Additionally, these rules solely suggest the region's preservation and administration but do not define how or when they should be implemented, making it challenging to apply global charters effectively. Therefore, the management and conservation of World Heritage Cities should be carried out through a comprehensive and process-oriented approach, while prioritizing local communities. Such a process cannot be accomplished without the plans and recommendations of local experts and city administrators. Further research can be carried out to complete, and refine the findings of this study. It is suggested that the applicability of the proposed model and methods for effective implementation of global guidelines in the context of Iran's World Heritage Cities be investigated through field studies that are adapted to the indigenous characteristics of each region.

Endnote

1. A summary of the information and specifications of the declarations and charters listed in Table 1, including the objectives and scope of intervention in each case, is available in: Fadaei Nezhad, Eshrati & Hanachi (2019). "Authenticity and Integrity in Conservation of Cultural Heritage Landscape". Note that the results of this article are based on a

series of detailed analysis of each declaration and charter content.
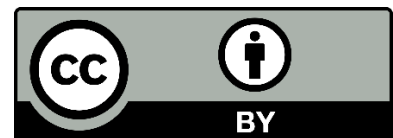
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