Inappropriate hospital site selection: A case report

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Health centers as one of the main urban services, and one of the key factors in assessing the feasibility of sustainable development in cities have a high sensitivity to location and choice of accommodation. Case Report: Shirvan is the largest city after the capital of the province in North Khorasan of Iran. On the southern edge of the city of Shirvan, there is a seasonal river between the city and Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani Hospital. The need to build a solid bridge is essential for safe access to the hospital, which, unfortunately, has not been achieved. The constructed roundabout passes approximately one meter from the river floor. In the spring of 2019, there was heavy rainfall in most parts of the country, and the area was not poor. The rains blocked access to Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani Hospital as water flowed into the seasonal river. Conclusion: A hospital that should help itself to a crisis was itself a cause of the crisis in a short time.

Key words: Hospital, Site selection, Crisis, Flood

INTRODUCTION

Health centers, as one of the main urban services and one of the key factors in measuring the feasibility of sustainable development in cities, are highly sensitive to location and choice of accommodation¹. Choosing the right and optimal location for deploying medical applications and hospitals is so important that it can be said to deal with human health and life and cannot be neglected because it would cause irreparable health damage². Hospital Site Selection at the city level and even outside of it is one of the specialties that city planners and managers have paid particular attention to in recent years³. In general, hospital location planning should be done separately for each case by urban, environmental, and structural experts, but there are general principles that are common to the whole world and cannot be overstated⁴. For the construction of a hospital, one of the most important factors in locating it can be said to be the availability of communication and access roads to the hospital⁵. Access to the city’s main streets, squares, and intersections are among the most important factors to note⁶. Other infrastructure needed to accommodate the hospital may also include public transportation such as the subway, city buses, and proximity to passenger terminals⁷. Locating in the vicinity of the urban green space and fire stations is also an advantage. Supplying the facilities and equipment needed for the chosen location, such as water, electricity, gas, sewage treatment plant, etc., are important advantages of hospital location⁵. Inhibitors and limits are related to site selection, sex and land restriction, seasonal flooding⁸.

CASE REPORT

Shirvan is the largest city after the capital of the province in North Khorasan of Iran. Shirvan city has two hospitals with a population of about 157,000. Imam Khomeini Hospital, which is the old city hospital, is on the outskirts of one of the city’s main streets and is easily accessible to people⁹. Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani’s 220 Specialized Hospital Hospital, which was commissioned in May 2016, is about 1 km from the southern margin of the city⁸. After operating this hospital, most of the general and specialized medical departments were transferred to this hospital. Imam Khomeini Hospital was transformed into a pediatric and gynecological hospital⁹.

On the southern margin of the city, there is a seasonal river between the city and Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani Hospital. The need to build a solid bridge is essential for safe access to the hospital, which, unfortunately, has not been achieved. The constructed roundabout passes approximately one meter from the river floor (Figure 1). In the spring of 2019, there was heavy rainfall in most parts of Iran, and the area was not poor. The rains blocked access to Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani Hospital as water flowed into the seasonal river. This was at a time when several rivers were flooding in different areas of the city, and all relief organizations and organizations were helping them, and at this time, there...
Figure 1: The need to build a solid bridge is essential for safe access to the hospital, which, unfortunately, has not been achieved. The constructed roundabout passes approximately one meter from the river floor.
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All authors equally contributed in this study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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COMPETING INTERESTS
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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