

# Assessing the Condition and Improving the Sidewalks of the World Cultural Heritage

## Case Study: Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan

Mohammad Reza PAIMAN, Payam-e Noor University – Kabul, Afghanistan

Nasibe SADAFI, Payam-e Noor University – Tehran, Iran

Tayebeh NAZARIAN, Payam-e Noor University – Kabul, Afghanistan

**Keywords:** *Design — Sidewalk Improvement — World Cultural Heritage — Bamiyan Buddha Statues*

**CHNT Reference:** Paiman, M. R., Sadafi, N., and Nazarian, T. (2021). 'Assessing the Condition and Improving the Sidewalks of the World Cultural Heritage: Case Study Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan', in CHNT – ICOMOS Editorial board. *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies*. Heidelberg: Propylaeum.

## Long Abstract

Historical context is that part of the urban context that was formed before the 1300. These tissues are mostly self-organized, have an interconnected structure and an organic shape. Historical contexts are among the national assets of any country and have a strong connection with the culture and civilization of the people of that land, because they are based on culture and customs, individual and social life, beliefs, worldviews and ideologies of its people. Land designed and planned. Therefore, paying attention to the role and potential ability of these valuable elements can once again inject the spirit of urban life and civic life into the worn-out historical context and organize and revive its lost qualities in a favourable direction. In Bamiyan, valuable capitals have been left from the distant past, which have represented the movement of human beings throughout history. Cultural monuments and monuments are also considered to be one of the rarest and rarest human achievements of the time, the largest of which are the two Buddha statues, which were unfortunately destroyed by the Taliban after 2001, although annually. It invites thousands of people from different parts of Afghanistan and the world here. In recent years, the original population of the old fabric of Bamiyan city has been declining and with the influx of rural immigrants, the native population has given way to them. Because the original population of the old texture has gradually moved away due to the lack of living facilities, this has caused the welfare facilities to automatically decrease in the old texture and the population composition to continue to deteriorate. However, in the historical context of Bamiyan Buddhist statues, by providing some infrastructure such as creating suitable residential and welfare facilities, the conditions for continuous and longer presence of citizens and tourists in this city can be provided with the aim of improving the level of tourism in the region. In this regard, while attracting capital and improving the economy of Bamiyan, it will also be effective in reviving its life. As can be seen, for many years, to improve the scenery and neighbourhoods

around the Buddha statues, a proper physical design that matches the characteristics of the neighbourhood environment has not been done, and currently no institution has the appropriate activities to improve the quality of the neighbourhood. They do not have public space and vitality on hand. The sidewalks leading to the Buddhist statues of Bamiyan lead from the west to the Red and Down, from the east to Davoodi, and from the south to the Bamiyan Bazaar, and from the north to the hills and mountains, in front of which are the residential houses. The Tolvareh Mosque is also located there and the houses in this area are known as Tolvareh (Fig.1).

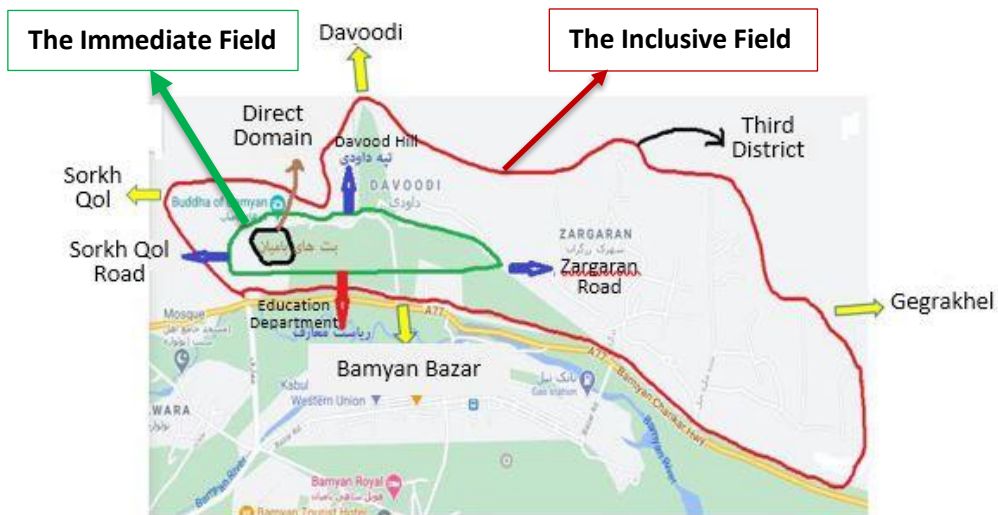


Fig. 1. Study Range of Bamiyan, Afghanistan (© Mohammad Reza Paiman).

The walks close to the Buddha statues are not smooth and have been available for a long time due to the movement of pedestrians and do not have a modern design. All the walks are dirt and uneven, and nowhere in this area are there any paved walks or even places for pedestrians to sit and rest (Fig.2).



Fig. 2. Sidewalks of Bamiyan Valley, Afghanistan (© Tayebeh Nazarian).

Undoubtedly, the construction of sidewalks, which is done in accordance with the space of historical monuments, is also justified to preserve the preservation of monuments and also prevents the abandonment of historical monuments. And the main purpose of this research is to revitalize and improve

the sidewalks of the World Cultural Heritage Site of Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan and to restore life and social life to it. The research method in the present study consists of two parts: library and field. In the first part, using descriptive-analytical method, basic information is collected based on library studies and available resources. In the second part, field studies are carried out on the historical context of the city and the architectural remains of Buddha statues in Bamiyan. This area includes the physical texture, corridors, sidewalks in the cultural heritage site of Buddha statues in Bamiyan. For this purpose, a questionnaire was used with a statistical population including 400 tourists in the Bamiyan Buddha statue area. Based on the results, there is a significant effect between observing personality and improving sidewalks and the use of range users. Also, there is a significant relationship between observing the originality and improving the sidewalks from the users' point of view. But there is no significant relationship between observing the integrity and improving the sidewalks in the users' opinions. According to the studies and analysis of the neighbourhood and identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, it is clear that the body of this axis is due to the lack of attention of government organizations to the importance of tourism and the lack of NGOs that complement the public sector in achieving tourism goals. Is, has broken down. However, the presence of two historical Buddha statues together is very important in terms of tourism and facilitates planning to create a cultural atmosphere. The physical design of this area will not only increase the social and cultural identity of historical contexts, but will also provide an effective solution for recovering lost identity and erased memories of Bamiyan city. Also, the research results show that in order to revitalize the historical axes, improve the appearance and its landscape and walls, there is a need for techniques that, in addition to improving the quality of the environment visually, functionally and functionally, facilitate the movement of people and Increases the level of security and safety.

## References

- Bacon, E. (1997). *City Design*, (Translator Taheri, F.). 1st print, Tehran: Centre Research and Urban Development Publications.
- Piebald, A. (2001), *Historical Contexts, Restoration or Renovation*, Quarterly Journal of 7 Cities, 2 (4).
- Poor Ahmad, A. and Pak Dost, (2010). *Investigating Barriers and Economic and Social Opportunities in Renovation and Improvement of Dilapidated Urban Tissues*.
- Tawasoli, M. (2000), *Terminology of Urban Renewal and Improvement*, Quarterly Journal of 7 Cities, 2.
- Zaghian, A. (2007), *Renovation and Improvement of Dilapidated Urban Tissues (Koy Imam sites and Koy Bahar Isfahan)*, Guided by Mujtaba Temory Manish, Master Thesis, Khorasan Azad University.