Critical Reviews
No. 5
March 2026
6

Lack of Programs and the Need to Train Smart Citizens from the School Level in Iran

Elham Zabetian Targhi
Researcher in Urban Planning and University Lecturer.

Abstract

The third generation of smart cities are completely based on smart citizens, and the education of smart citizens should start from childhood and schools. Currently, schools in Iran, like in many parts of the world, are not subordinate to municipalities, and in fact, the main urban management is far from education. Even at the level of universities and citizens, education related to the rights and duties of citizenship has not been defined.

Therefore, it is necessary to carry out joint planning between municipalities and education, and to anticipate appropriate curricula and operational workshops. Also, providing parallel programs and incentives such as holding competitions, exhibitions and idea banks, designing games (physical and computer) and allocating appropriate discounts and financial facilities by municipalities to children can be very helpful.

In this review, an attempt has been made to emphasize the necessity and urgency of operational planning to educate smart and active children in planning and solving urban problems; Suggestions based on successful global experiences (especially the experience of Belgium) and the initial pathology that has been carried out in the form of a research project at the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center; should be presented.

Keywords: Smart Citizen, Smart City, Training, Education, Municipalities, Schools.

Email: Ezabetian@yahoo.com

[Downloaded from jcr-sj.com on 2026-11-03]

[DOI: 10.22034/JCR.1.1.4.1.5.10]

Critical Reviews
No. 5
March 2026
7

The main question: "What is the position of education and training of smart citizens (with an emphasis on starting from childhood) in Iran?

Extended Abstract

The third generation of smart cities are completely based on smart citizens, and the education of smart citizens should start from childhood and schools. Currently, schools in Iran, like in many parts of the world, are not subordinate to municipalities, and in fact, the main urban management is far from education. Even at the level of universities and citizens, education related to the rights and duties of citizenship has not been defined.

Therefore, it is necessary to carry out joint planning between municipalities and education, and to anticipate appropriate curricula and operational workshops. Also, providing parallel programs and incentives such as holding competitions, exhibitions and idea banks, designing games (physical and computer) and allocating appropriate discounts and financial facilities by municipalities to children can be very helpful.

In this review, an attempt has been made to emphasize the necessity and urgency of operational planning to educate smart and active children in planning and solving urban problems; Suggestions based on successful global experiences (especially the experience of Belgium) and the initial pathology that has been carried out in the form of a research project at the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center; should be presented.

Here are the relevant suggestions in general:

- Prepare and implement a joint cooperation action plan between the municipality (pilot in Tehran and in the long term for the whole country) and the Ministry of Education to educate smart children.
- Prepare and teach a manual for educating smart citizens in primary schools.
- Organize competitions and competitions commissioned by the municipality and with the participation of schools, and implement the best ideas and provide them with material and moral encouragement (support for ideas).
- Produce a proposed program (application) for methods of encouraging and awarding points to smart children so that municipalities can offer discounts (for example, on the cost of a club, swimming pool or playhouse, etc.).
- Promote social capital in neighborhoods in the long term through citizens with an emphasis on children, and develop a sharing economy for the optimal use of resources and spaces and the ownership of individuals (such as sharing bicycles, additional household items and even parking lots, etc.).
- Immediately develop curricula, methods and educational tools related to educating smart citizens among children in the Ministry of Education.

The third generation of smart cities is completely based on smart citizens, and the education of smart citizens should start from childhood and schools. Currently, in Iran, schools are not subordinate to municipalities like as many parts of the world, and in fact, the main urban management is far from education. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out joint planning between municipalities and education, and to anticipate appropriate curricula and operational workshops. Also, providing parallel programs and incentives such as holding competitions, exhibitions and idea banks, designing games (physical and computer), and allocating appropriate discounts and financial facilities by municipalities to children.

[Downloaded from jcr-sj.com on 2026-11-03]

[DOI: 10.22034/JCR.1.1.4.1.5.10]

COPYRIGHTS
Copyright for this article is retained bye the authors with publication rights granted to Journal of Critical Reviews (JCR); The Iranian Journal of Critical Studies in Place. This is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution License (https://creativecommons.org/version4/)