



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HERITAGE CONSERVATION FOR HISTORIC CITIES AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN EGYPT A CASE STUDY OF ROSETTE CITY

Matreen M. Ali*

Architecture Department, Faculty of Engineering, May University, Cairo, Egypt

* Correspondence: dr.matreenmohamed@gmail.com

Citation:

M. M. Ali, "The Relationship Between Heritage Conservation for Historic Cities and Improving the Quality of Life in Egypt A Case Study of Rosette City", Journal of Al-Azhar University Engineering Sector, vol. 20 pp. 1025-1039, 2025.

Received: 24 February 2025
Revised: 12 April 2025
Accepted: 10 May 2025
Doi: 10.21608/auj.2025.363434.1787

Copyright © 2025 by the authors.
This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International Public License (CC BY-SA 4.0)

ABSTRACT

Historic cities are key to preserving cultural identity, yet they increasingly face threats from pollution, neglect, and incompatible modern development. Effective conservation must go beyond protecting buildings to address the broader urban, environmental, and social context. This study investigates heritage conservation efforts in Rosetta City, Egypt, highlighting recent government-led initiatives aimed at integrating preservation with sustainable urban development. A case study approach was adopted, combining a literature review, field observations, and a survey of 100 residents to assess perceptions of heritage, quality of life, and community engagement. The research employed descriptive statistics for quantitative survey data and content analysis for qualitative responses, while comparing local practices with international conservation standards. Results show that a holistic approach—incorporating social, economic, and environmental factors—can enhance both the resilience of historic cities and the well-being of their communities. The findings suggest that applying the five indicators of quality of life can enhance urban resilience, ensuring historic cities thrive in contemporary contexts.

KEYWORDS: Historic Cities, Quality of life, Heritage Conservation, Rosetta City, Historic Buildings.

العلاقة بين الحفاظ على التراث في المدن التاريخية وتحسين جودة الحياة في مصر دراسة حالة لمدينة رشيد

ماترين محمد علي *

قسم العمارة، كلية الهندسة، جامعة مايو، القاهرة، مصر

* البريد الإلكتروني للباحث الرئيسي: dr.matreenmohamed@gmail.com

الملخص

تعد المدن التاريخية عنصرًا أساسيًا في الحفاظ على الهوية الثقافية، لكنها تواجه بشكل متزايد تهديدات مثل التلوث، الإهمال، والتطوير العمراني غير المتوافق مع قيمتها التراثية. ويتطلب الحفاظ الفعال على التراث ما هو أكثر من مجرد حماية المباني، بل يجب أن يشمل السياق الحضري الأوسع، والبيئة المحيطة، والعوامل الاجتماعية. يستعرض هذا البحث جهود الحفاظ على التراث في مدينة رشيد بمصر، مع التركيز على المبادرات الحكومية الأخيرة التي تهدف إلى دمج الحفاظ على التراث مع متطلبات التنمية العمرانية المستدامة. وقد تم اعتماد منهج دراسة الحالة، من خلال الجمع بين مراجعة الأدبيات، وملاحظات ميدانية، واستبيان شمل 100 من سكان المدينة لتقييم تصوراتهم حول التراث وجودته والحياة والمشاركة المجتمعية. استخدمت الدراسة إحصاءات وصفية لتحليل البيانات الكمية، وتحليلًا مضمونيًا للإجابات النوعية، بالإضافة إلى مقارنة الممارسات المحلية بالمعايير الدولية في مجال الحفاظ على التراث. وتظهر النتائج أن النهج الشامل الذي يدمج الجوانب الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والبيئية يمكن أن يعزز من مرونة المدن التاريخية ورفاهية مجتمعاتها. وتشير النتائج إلى أن تطبيق مؤشرات جودة الحياة الخمسة يساهم في دعم مرونة المدن التاريخية وضمان ازدهارها في السياقات المعاصرة.

INTRODUCTION

Historic cities are vital repositories of cultural, architectural, and social heritage. They reflect a nation's identity and preserve its people's legacy. The conservation of historic cities is a global concern, as many of these sites are constantly threatened by urban expansion, environmental degradation, and socio-economic changes [1]. Despite these challenges, heritage conservation projects worldwide have demonstrated that preserving historic sites can have significant economic, social, and cultural benefits [2].

Rosetta City, one of Egypt's most historic towns, is a prime example of a heritage site facing both challenges and opportunities in conservation. Known for its unique architecture and historical significance, Rosetta City has been the focus of recent governmental efforts to preserve its heritage. This paper investigates these efforts and assesses how heritage conservation can improve residents' quality of life, drawing on international best practices and local observations [3].

Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, combining a literature review, field observations, and a structured survey to analyze heritage conservation efforts in Rosetta City. Fig. 1 explains the research methodology in detail.

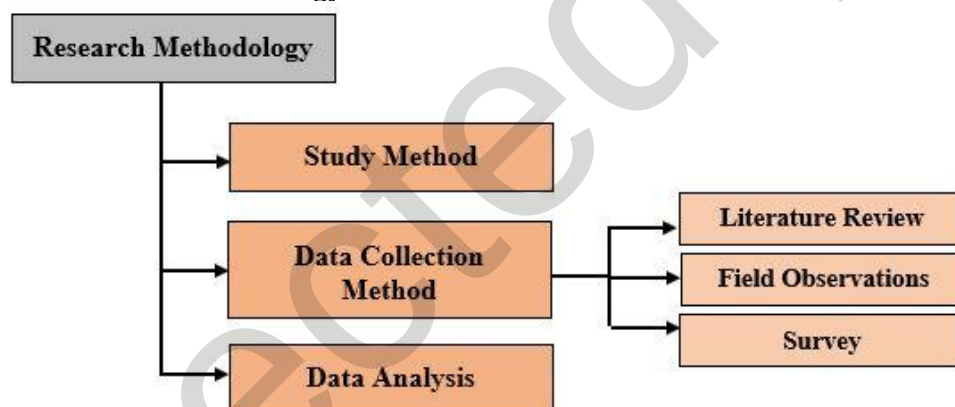


Fig. 1: Research Methodology

- **Study Method:** A case study approach was adopted to examine Rosetta City as a model for integrating modern living standards with historic preservation. This method allows for an in-depth analysis of the city's conservation initiatives and their impact on quality of life.
- **Data Collection Method:** The research gathered data through three primary sources:
 - **Literature Review:** Existing studies, reports, and policy documents on heritage conservation, urban development, and quality of life indicators were analyzed to establish a theoretical framework.
 - **Field Observations:** Site visits were conducted to assess the current condition of historic buildings, ongoing restoration projects, and urban interventions in Rosetta City. These observations provided first-hand insights into the effectiveness of preservation strategies.
 - **Survey:** A structured questionnaire was distributed to 100 residents of Rosetta City to gather their perspectives on heritage conservation, urban development, and overall quality of life. The survey included closed-ended and open-ended questions to assess

residents' satisfaction with preservation efforts, perceptions of modern interventions, and engagement in heritage-related activities.

Fig. 2 presents selected images from the field observations and the survey conducted in the study area, as following Image (a) shows the area containing buildings of heritage value as documented during the field observation, Image (b) captures the researcher conducting the survey with individuals present in the main street of Rosetta City, and Image (c) highlights some of the architecturally distinctive buildings that characterize Rosetta City, also documented during the field observation.



Fig. 2: Images from the field observation and surveys

- **Data Analysis:**

The collected data were analyzed using a comparative approach, assessing Rosetta City's conservation practices against global heritage preservation standards. Descriptive statistics were used to quantify residents' opinions on different aspects of urban conservation for the survey data. At the same time, content analysis was applied to open-ended responses to identify recurring themes. Additionally, findings from the literature review and field observations were cross-referenced with survey results to draw comprehensive conclusions on the effectiveness of conservation strategies in enhancing the quality of life.

This combined methodological approach helped position Rosetta City as a potential model for sustainable heritage conservation in historic cities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on heritage conservation highlights the multifaceted benefits of preserving historic cities. Scholars emphasize that heritage conservation goes beyond protecting old buildings; it fosters cultural continuity, enhances social cohesion, and drives economic development.

1.1. The Role of Heritage in Urban Development of The Historic Cities

Several studies underline the role of heritage conservation in urban development. It is argued that historic cities can drive sustainable growth by promoting tourism, creating job opportunities, and

improving urban environments [4]. Integrating heritage conservation in urban planning ensures that cities retain their unique character while adapting to modern needs. The UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape [5], emphasizes that heritage conservation should be incorporated into broader urban policies to maintain historical authenticity while supporting social and economic development [6].

1.1.1. The Conservation of Historic Cities

The complexity of the issue necessitates a multidimensional and systematic response that transcends isolated interventions [7]. Enhancing efficiency requires the formulation of a comprehensive framework that addresses not only individual heritage sites but also entire urban blocks and quarters. This integrative approach enables a more coherent resolution of challenges related to building preservation, spatial planning, and the coordination of surrounding urban infrastructure. Such a strategy contributes to significant economic, technological, and social benefits [8].

Addressing conservation efforts in historic cities is a multifaceted challenge that requires resolving several critical aspects. Egyptian Law No. 144 of 2006 on the Protection of Buildings of Distinctive Architectural Style mandates the preservation of historic buildings and urban quarters in a way that safeguards their cultural significance while permitting adaptive reuse [9]. Furthermore, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, underscores the necessity of sustainable conservation strategies that balance historical integrity with urban development. These frameworks highlight the importance of comprehensive planning approaches integrating heritage conservation into modern urban policies, ensuring historic cities thrive culturally and economically. Figuer 3 illustrates the key architectural and urban planning aspects necessary for effective conservation.

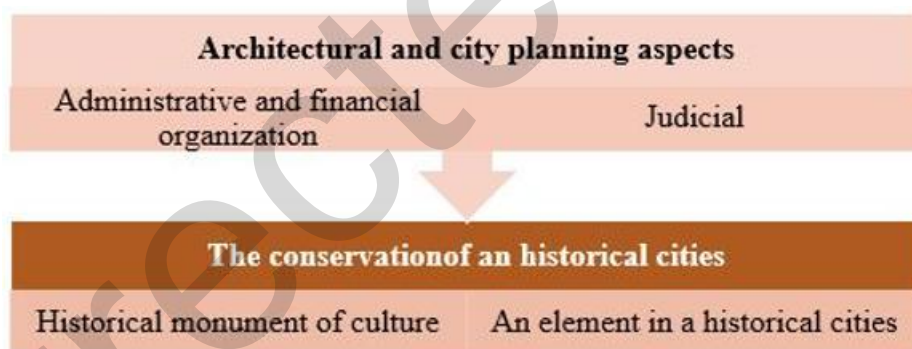


Fig. 3: The Resolution of the implementation of conservation activities in the historical cities

A comprehensive design strategy must include accurate assessments of cultural, functional, and material values and a structured design program, architectural drawings, and implementation plans. Additionally, administrative and financial organization is crucial, requiring dedicated entities to oversee investments and funding from public and private sources [10]. Legal frameworks must also align with national legislation to regulate conservation efforts effectively. Successful conservation of historic cities should yield architectural, urban, social, and economic benefits. Conservation strategies must balance the preservation of historical character with the integration of modern infrastructure and the enhancement of social services [11]. The level of intervention should be determined on a case-by-case basis—strictly preserving registered monuments, while allowing adaptive modifications for historically significant but non-monumental buildings to accommodate contemporary need.

Architectural and city planning aspects.

A comprehensive design aimed at delivering optimal architectural solutions should be developed. This design represents a cohesive package of documents, which is expected to include the following components [12]:

- A precise and cost-efficient assessment of the cultural, functional, and material values of a specific area, such as the inner city.
 - A design program outlining the objectives and criteria for conservation efforts.
 - Architectural drawings and schemes that address identified challenges and facilitate the achievement of defined objectives.
- **Administrative and financial organization:** The resolution of challenges related to investment and financing in conservation is largely contingent upon national legislation. Nevertheless, a beneficial approach in all contexts is the establishment of a dedicated entity or organization to oversee the financing and implementation of conservation efforts. Such an entity should effectively utilize resources from government, municipal authorities, and property owners, while also having the capacity to operate with a combination of public and private capital.
 - **Judicial.** The attainment of appropriate legal status and regulatory frameworks for the conservation area in alignment with architectural and civil legislation.

The conservation of historical cities

A city should achieve significant architectural, urban planning, social, and economic outcomes. The absence of any one of these elements renders conservation either unjustified or only partially effective. Through conservation, a city can revitalize its historic quarters, preserving its original architectural character while integrating contemporary urban environments and infrastructure. Additionally, conservation efforts should aim to enhance social services, foster active community engagement, and improve living standards by reconstructing buildings to meet modern requirements [13].

Historical cities, having been constructed during specific time periods or across multiple eras, embody the distinctive features and architectural styles of those times [14]. When planning conservation efforts, the degree and nature of architectural intervention should be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis.

- **In the case in which a building is registered as a historical monument of culture,** Conservation should ensure the preservation of the site's architectural, engineering, and functional integrity in its entirety.
- **In the case in which a building is registered as an element in historical cities,** its general the architectural character should be preserved while allowing for significant modifications to its engineering and functional aspects, ensuring alignment with contemporary technologies and evolving social functions.

1.1.2. The Impact of Heritage on Urban Development in Historic Cities

Urban heritage plays a vital role in shaping the present and future of our cities, serving as a source of social cohesion, cultural diversity, and innovation. Historic urban environments are dynamic systems influenced by economic, social, and cultural forces continuously transforming their image. The interaction between historical context and modern development enhances the significance of both, creating opportunities for urban renewal [15].

UNESCO advocates a holistic approach to managing historical urban landscapes, integrating urban heritage preservation with socio-economic development. This approach, established through the UNESCO recommendation on historic urban landscapes in 2011, views urban heritage as a resource for sustainable development. It emphasizes the preservation of physical structures and the intangible heritage, cultural diversity, and values of local communities [16]. By addressing social, economic, and ecological factors, this approach promotes stability and sustainable urban planning while recognizing cities as evolving systems shaped by generations past and present.

1.2. Quality of Life and Heritage Conservation

Research shows that heritage conservation can significantly impact residents' quality of life. Preserving historic sites can create a sense of pride and belonging among residents, foster community engagement, and improve public spaces. Additionally, conserved historic areas often attract tourism and investment, further enhancing local economies [17].

1.2.1. The Concept of Quality of Life

Quality of Life (QOL) originated in the United States after World War II, initially focusing on material wealth and consumer goods, symbolizing affluence. Over time, its definition evolved to encompass life satisfaction, fulfilling needs, and adapting one's environment, shifting from "having" to "being." QOL assessment now emphasizes individual appraisals of life circumstances influenced by external and internal factors. External factors include economic status, education, residence, work, and social relationships, while internal factors relate to personality, past experiences, and temperament [18]. Subjective evaluations, where individuals assess their life situations, are considered the most valid. However, different professions, such as physicians and psychologists, prioritize various dimensions of QOL, reflecting their specific perspectives. Overall, QOL is shaped by a combination of objective circumstances and subjective perceptions, highlighting its complexity and variability.

Figuer 4 shows the key determinants of QOL, demonstrating the interplay between various influencing factors. The diagram highlights how socio-economic conditions shape the general conditions of life, which, in turn, influence daily activities. Additionally, physical and psychological states directly affect an individual's daily activities, which are central to determining QOL. Furthermore, personal attributes such as personality, temperament, motivations, and emotions play a crucial role in shaping one's perceived quality of life [19]. This interconnected system underscores the multifaceted nature of QOL, emphasizing the necessity of considering both external and internal influences when assessing and improving life quality [20].

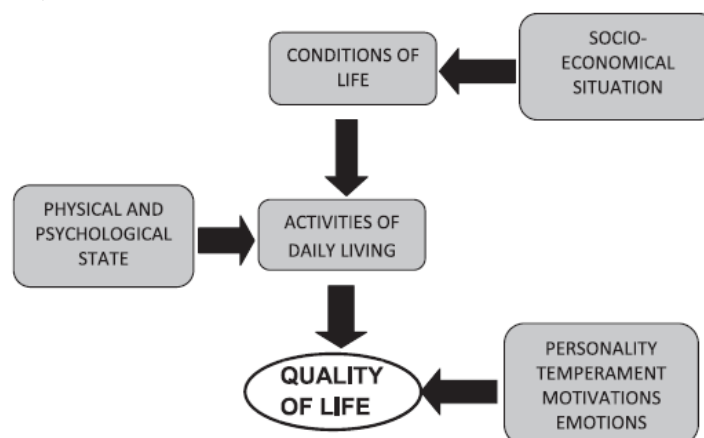


Fig. 4: Determinants of quality of life

1.2.2. Indicators of Quality of Life in Historic Cities

When assessing the quality of life in historic cities, it is essential to balance the preservation of heritage with modern living standards [21]. Below are key indicators grouped into social, economic, environmental, and cultural categories that help measure the quality of life in these unique urban settings. Fig. outlines the five key indicators determining the quality of life in historic cities: Social, Economic, Environmental, Cultural, and Governance & Policy Indicators, which will be explained in detail in the following paragraph.



Fig. 5: Indicators of Quality of Life in Historic Cities



Social Indicators

These indicators focus on the well-being of residents and their access to essential services [22]:

- **Population Density:** Balance between tourism influx and livability for residents.
- **Access to Healthcare Services:** Clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies are available within historic areas.
- **Educational Facilities:** Presence of schools, libraries, and cultural institutions.
- **Housing Quality:** Condition of historic buildings adapted for modern housing needs.
- **Safety and Security:** Ensure crime rates, street lighting, and public safety measures are met.
- **Social Cohesion:** Level of community engagement and sense of belonging among residents.



Economic Indicators

These indicators evaluate the city's economic vitality and residents' access to economic opportunities:

- **Employment Opportunities:** Job availability related to tourism, heritage conservation, and local crafts.
- **Cost of Living:** Affordability of housing, goods, and services within the historic city.
- **Local Business Support:** The presence of local shops, markets, and artisans contributes to the economy.
- **Tourism Management:** Sustainable tourism strategies that balance economic benefits with residents' quality of life [23].



Environmental Indicators

These indicators assess the sustainability of the city's infrastructure and the natural environment:

- **Air Quality:** Pollution levels in the historic city, especially in pedestrian areas.
- **Waste Management:** Efficiency of waste collection and recycling programs in historic districts.
- **Public Green Spaces:** parks, gardens, and squares must be available and accessible to
- **Walkability and Mobility:** Condition of streets, pedestrian pathways, and public transportation.
- **Conservation of Historic Buildings:** Maintain the heritage structures and adaptive reuse strategies.

Cultural Indicators

These indicators measure the preservation of the city's unique cultural identity and heritage [24]:

- **Heritage Protection Policies:** safeguard historic sites and buildings by making sure the existence of regulations
- **Cultural Events and Festivals:** Number and frequency of events celebrating the city's heritage.
- **Access to Cultural Institutions:** The historic city's museums, galleries, and libraries.
- **Preservation of Local Traditions:** Support for traditional crafts, music, cuisine, and customs.
- **Tourism Impact on Culture:** Balancing tourism development with preserving local culture.

Governance and Policy Indicators

These indicators assess how well the city is managed to maintain a high quality of life:

- **Urban Planning and Zoning:** Policies to prevent overdevelopment and preserve historic character.
- **Public participation:** include residents in decision-making processes regarding heritage management.
- **Funding for Heritage Preservation:** Government and private sector support maintaining historic sites [25].
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Measures to protect historic buildings from natural disasters.

Several international organizations use composite indicators to rank historic cities based on the overall quality of life. These indicators combine various factors like cultural, economic, social, and environmental dimensions to offer a holistic assessment as following:

▪ **Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Approach by UNESCO**

UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach emphasizes the conservation of entire urban areas, not just isolated buildings. This framework promotes integrating cultural heritage with modern urban development, ensuring that the preservation of a city's historical significance aligns with contemporary needs and urban growth. It considers both tangible and intangible heritage, such as the built environment, public spaces, and local traditions [16].

▪ **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – SDG 11:**

Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 11 encourages cities to be sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. It integrates heritage preservation as a key aspect of urban planning, advocating for urban environments that protect and enhance cultural and historical sites

while adapting to contemporary needs. This goal aligns urban development with sustainability by fostering economic, social, and environmental improvements [26].

- **Mercer Quality of Living Index for Cities with Cultural and Heritage Importance**

The Mercer Quality of Living Index ranks cities based on overall living standards, including factors like healthcare, infrastructure, and education. For cities with cultural and heritage significance, the index also considers the preservation of historic sites and how urban environments integrate cultural identity. This reflects the importance of balancing heritage conservation with modern urban infrastructure to enhance the city's livability [27].

CASE STUDY: ROSETTE CITY

Rosetta City, located in northern Egypt, is renowned for its historical significance and unique architectural style. The city has numerous historic houses, mosques, and forts dating back to the Ottoman period. [28]. Despite its rich heritage, Rosetta has faced challenges related to neglect [29], urbanization, and lack of awareness about the importance of conservation. Fig. 6 shows the location of Rosetta City, showing that it is situated north of Cairo.

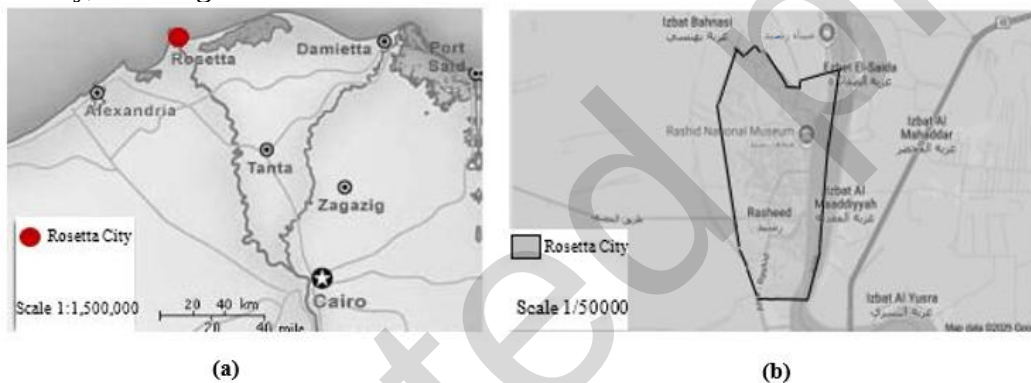


Fig. 6: (a) The location of Rosetta in Egypt, and (b) the site plan of Rosetta city

1.3. Recent Conservation Efforts

The Egyptian government has recently launched several initiatives to preserve Rosetta City's heritage. These efforts include restoring historic buildings, improving infrastructure in heritage areas, and promoting Rosetta City as a cultural tourism destination [30]. The government integrates heritage conservation with urban development to ensure sustainable outcomes.

1.3.1. Historical Significance of Rosetta City

Rosetta City, also known as Rashid, is a historic city in northern Egypt, located at the western branch of the Nile River near the Mediterranean Sea. The town gained worldwide fame with the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799, a key artifact that helped decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Beyond its archaeological significance, Figure 7 presents a selection of images showcasing the diverse and remarkable historical buildings in Rosetta City. These structures reflect a unique blend of Islamic architecture, traditional houses, and rich cultural heritage dating back to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods [31].



Fig. 7: Rosetta City Historical Buildings

1.4. Impact on Quality of Life

The conservation projects in Rosetta City have had a significant impact on the quality of life for residents. Restored buildings have revitalized neighborhoods, attracted tourists, and created new economic opportunities. However, challenges remain, including the need for greater community involvement and sustainable maintenance strategies.

Despite its historical significance, Rosetta City struggles to balance heritage preservation with modern living standards. This case study evaluates the city's quality of life using key social, economic, environmental, cultural, and governance indicators while assessing its potential for sustainable development. Fig. 8 Explains these five key indicators, which will be explained in detail in the following paragraph.

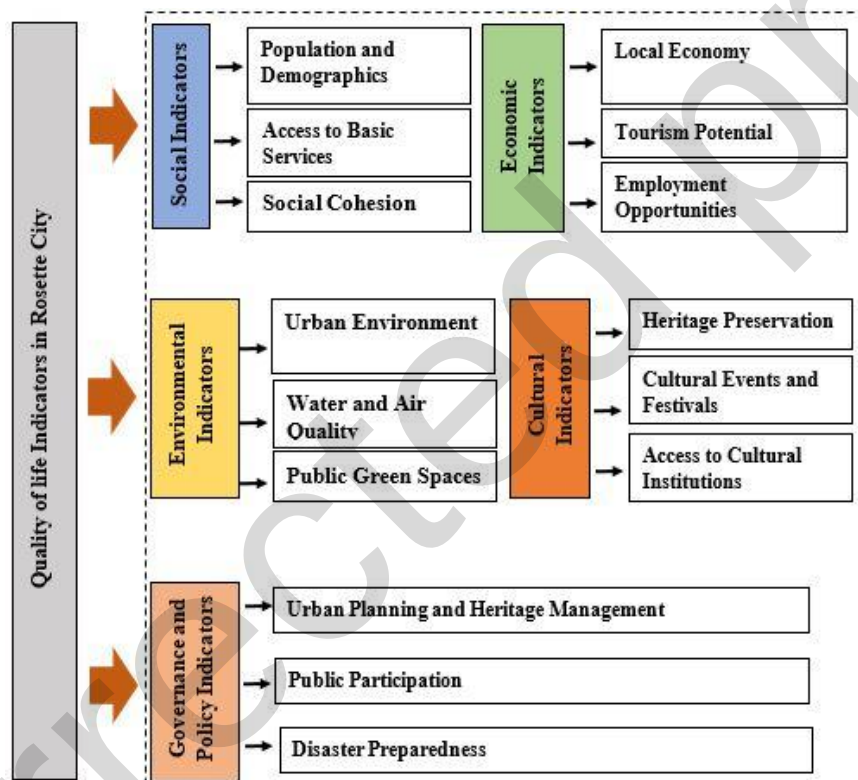


Fig. 8: Quality of life Indicators in Rosette City

Social Indicators:

- Population and Demographics

Rosetta City has a relatively small population compared to major Egyptian cities. The city's residents primarily engage in fishing, agriculture, and traditional crafts. The population density in the historic core poses challenges in terms of infrastructure and housing conditions.

- Access to Basic Services

- Healthcare: The city has a few facilities, but they are limited in scope. Many residents must travel to larger towns like Alexandria for advanced medical care.
- Education: Rosetta City has several schools, but access to higher education institutions is limited. The city's historical significance presents an opportunity for cultural education programs.
- Housing: Many historic houses in Rosetta City require restoration. While these buildings are culturally significant, they often lack modern amenities.

- **Social Cohesion**

Rosetta City maintains a strong community spirit, particularly in its historic neighborhoods. Traditional festivals and cultural practices are still observed, fostering a sense of identity and belonging.

Economic Indicators:

- **Local Economy**

Rosetta City's economy is primarily based on agriculture, fishing, and handicrafts. The city is famous for its date palms and rice cultivation. However, the local economy struggles to keep up with modern economic demands.

- **Tourism Potential**

The city's historical sites, including the Rosetta City Stone replica museum, Ottoman-era houses, and coastal fortresses, hold significant tourism potential. However, the tourism infrastructure remains underdeveloped, limiting the city's ability to attract and retain visitors. For instance, Rosetta lacks adequate hotel accommodations, with only a few small guesthouses available, often not meeting international standards. Moreover, there is insufficient signage and wayfinding systems to guide tourists between key heritage sites. Public transportation options are limited, and there is a noticeable absence of organized tour services or visitor centers that provide historical context or multilingual guides. These shortcomings hinder the effective promotion and utilization of Rosetta City's rich cultural heritage as a sustainable tourism destination.

- **Employment Opportunities**

Job opportunities in Rosetta City are limited, particularly for young people. Many residents seek employment in larger cities. Developing heritage tourism and local crafts markets could boost the local economy and create jobs.

Environmental Indicators:

- **Urban Environment**

Narrow streets, Islamic architecture, and traditional houses with distinctive wooden Mashrabiyyas characterize Rosetta City's historic core. While these elements contribute to the city's charm, they also pose challenges regarding modern infrastructure and mobility.

- **Water and Air Quality**

Rosetta City is located near the Nile River Delta and benefits from a relatively clean water supply, primarily sourced from the Nile River and treated through regional water purification plants managed by the Beheira Water and Sanitation Company. These facilities provide potable water to residents through a centralized distribution network, ensuring acceptable quality levels for domestic use. However, despite the availability of clean water, the city faces ongoing challenges in waste management. Inadequate waste collection services and limited sanitation infrastructure pose risks to both public health and the environmental quality of the surrounding waterways. The absence of proper sewage treatment in some neighborhoods further exacerbates pollution concerns, highlighting the urgent need for integrated sanitation and environmental management strategies to preserve Rosetta's ecological balance and support sustainable urban living.

- **Public Green Spaces**

Rosetta City has limited public green spaces. Revitalizing parks and open areas could enhance the quality of life for residents and provide more recreational spaces.

Cultural Indicators:

- **Heritage Preservation**

Rosetta City is a treasure trove of Islamic and Ottoman architecture, including:

- The Amasili House

- The Arab Killy House
- The Zaghloul Mosque

These historic buildings are in urgent need of restoration. Efforts to preserve these sites are crucial for maintaining the city's cultural identity.

- **Cultural Events and Festivals**

Rosetta City hosts several traditional festivals and cultural events, particularly those celebrating fishing and agricultural harvests. These events help maintain the city's intangible heritage.

- **Access to Cultural Institutions**

The city has limited cultural institutions, but establishing museums and cultural centers could enhance residents' cultural engagement and attract tourism.

Governance and Policy Indicators:

- **Urban Planning and Heritage Management**

Rosetta City faces challenges in balancing urban development with heritage preservation. Urban sprawl threatens the integrity of historic sites, as unplanned urban expansion can lead to the degradation and loss of cultural heritage. For instance, research on the impact of urban sprawl on cultural heritage monuments in the Paphos area of Cyprus highlights how urbanization processes resulting from population growth, migration, and infrastructure development directly affect the character of cultural heritage sites [32]. There is a need for comprehensive urban planning that integrates modern development with the preservation of cultural landmarks.

- **Public Participation**

Involving local communities in heritage management can improve the city's social cohesion and ensure that residents take pride in their unique identity.

- **Disaster Preparedness**

Given its proximity to the Nile River, Rosetta City is vulnerable to flooding. Developing disaster preparedness plans is essential to protect both residents and historic sites.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Heritage conservation in historic cities is a critical aspect of preserving cultural identity and enhancing the quality of life for residents. The case of Rosetta City demonstrates that, with the right strategies, conservation efforts can yield significant economic, social, and cultural benefits. By integrating heritage conservation into urban development plans and engaging local communities, cities can sustainably preserve their historic sites for future generations. The lessons from Rosetta City can serve as a model for other historic cities facing similar challenges worldwide.
- 2) The case of Rosetta City highlights several key lessons for heritage conservation in historic cities:
 - **Community Involvement:** Effective conservation requires the active participation of local communities. Residents must be engaged in the planning and implementing conservation projects to ensure long-term success.
 - **Balancing Conservation and Development:** Heritage conservation should be integrated into broader urban development plans to balance preservation with modernization. It includes ensuring that heritage sites are accessible and functional for contemporary needs.
 - **Economic Sustainability:** Conservation efforts must be economically sustainable. It can be achieved through public-private partnerships, tourism development, and the creation of heritage-related businesses.
- 3) To comprehensively assess Rosetta City's quality of life, a comparative analysis with other historic cities—Venice [33], Italy, and Fez, Morocco [34]—can be insightful. While specific data on Rosetta City may be limited, existing studies on Fez and Venice provide valuable context. To better understand Rosetta City's quality of life, let's compare it with other historic

cities in the following Table 1, which illustrates a Comparative Analysis Between Rosetta City and Other Historic Cities:

Table 1: Comparative Analysis Between Rosette City and Other Historic Cities

Indicator	Rosetta City (Rashid)	Venice, Italy	Fez, Morocco
Heritage Preservation	In Progress	Well-Maintained	Ongoing Restoration
Tourism Infrastructure	Underdeveloped	Highly Developed	Growing
Employment Opportunities	Limited	Diverse	Moderate
Public Green Spaces	Limited	Limited	Improving

- 4) Rosetta City (Rashid) is a city with immense historical and cultural value. While it faces infrastructure, economic development, and heritage preservation challenges, it also holds great potential for sustainable tourism and cultural revitalization. By balancing modern living standards with historic preservation, Rosetta City can become a model for quality of life in historic cities.
- 5) Based on the findings from Rosetta City's conservation efforts, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance heritage conservation in historic cities:
 - **Develop Comprehensive Conservation Plans:** Cities should have detailed conservation plans that outline priorities, strategies, and timelines for preserving historic sites.
 - **Promote Community Awareness:** Public awareness campaigns should educate residents about the value of heritage conservation and encourage participation.
 - **Leverage Modern Technologies:** Tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used to map and manage heritage sites effectively.
 - **Encourage Sustainable Tourism:** Heritage conservation should be linked to sustainable tourism initiatives to ensure economic benefits without compromising the integrity of historic sites.
- 6) Recommendations for Improving Quality of Life in Rosetta City
 1. **Invest in Heritage Tourism:** Develop tourism infrastructure to attract visitors while preserving historic sites.
 2. **Promote Local Crafts:** Support traditional crafts and establish local markets to boost the economy.
 3. **Enhance Public Services:** Improve healthcare, education, and sanitation services to meet residents' needs.
 4. **Encourage Public Participation:** Involve local communities in heritage preservation and urban planning.
 5. **Implement Sustainable Urban Planning:** Ensure that new developments do not compromise the city's historical character.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no financial interest to declare about the content of this article.

REFERENCES

- [1] Smith, J., & Taylor, R. (2022). Heritage Conservation and Urban Development: Strategies for Sustainable Cities. *Journal of Urban Heritage*, 15(3), 145-162.

- [2] El-Kerdany, D. (2016). Heritage Conservation in Egypt: The Struggle Between Development and Preservation. *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, 6(2), 134-150.
- [3] Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. (2023). *Rosetta City Restoration Project: A Comprehensive Report*. Cairo, Egypt: Government Press
- [4] Brown, P., & Green, L. (2021). The Role of Community in Heritage Conservation. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 28(2), 97-113.
- [5] UNESCO (1972). *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. UNESCO, Paris
- [6] Abbas, A. (2024). The Effect of Infill Architecture on the Heritage Context of Heliopolis. *Journal of Al-Azhar University Engineering Sector*, 19(74)
- [7] Yacoup, A. A., Qenawi, A. Q., & Abu Khatwa, S. A. (2025). Role of Community Participation in Preserving the Urban Identity of Cities. *Journal of Al-Azhar University Engineering Sector*, 20(75), 747-764
- [8] Rodrigues, D., & Ferreira, A. M. (2025). An integrative approach to urban heritage: Coordinating preservation, infrastructure, and spatial planning. *Urban Science*, 9(2), 109.
- [9] Egyptian Government (2006). Law No. 144 of 2006 on the Protection of Buildings of Distinctive Architectural Style. *Official Gazette of Egypt*, Cairo.
- [10] Feilden, B. M. (2003). *Conservation of Historic Buildings*. Architectural Press
- [11] Mason, R. (2002). *Assessing Values in Conservation Planning: Methodological Issues and Choices*. Getty Conservation Institute.
- [12] Afify, Ayman N. (2007). *The Rehabilitation and Conservation Policies for Historical Areas: Issues for Egypt and Mediterranean Cities*. First Euro-Mediterranean Regional Conference: Traditional Mediterranean Architecture; Present and Future, Barcelona.
- [13] Haas, T., & Olsson, K. (2023). Urban Heritage, Planning and Design and Development. *Sustainability*, 15(16), 12359
- [14] El-Mikawi, M. & Shehayeb, D. 2003, Improving Quality of Life through Sustainable Rehabilitation of Low-Income Housing in Historic Cairo, The Arab Regional Conference, Cairo, 15 -18 December 2003
- [15] Sedky, A & Shehayeb, D. (2002). Heritage Protection ...Against what? A model to explain adverse change in historic districts. 1st International Conference of the WPAHR-V titled Architecture & Heritage within the Paradigm of Knowledge and Development, Alexandria, Egypt, 2-4 March 2002.
- [16] UNESCO (2011). "Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape." United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Paris, France
- [17] Klys, M., & Węglarz, A. (2020). Towards quality-of-life indicators for historic urban landscapes – Insight into a German-Polish research project. *Environmental and Sustainability Indicators*, 7, 100040
- [18] Al-Khatib, I. A., & Al-Khatib, M. A. (2019). Urban Quality of Life Indicators and How to Measure Them Spatially (Applied Study on the City of Tobruk). *Abu Dhabi University Journal of Sciences*, 12(1), 45-60.
- [19] Sirgy, M. J. (2012). *The Psychology of Quality of Life: Hedonic Well-Being, Life Satisfaction, and Eudaimonia*. Springer.
- [20] Cummins, R. A. (2000). Objective and Subjective Quality of Life: An Interactive Model. *Social Indicators Research*, 52(1), 55-72.
- [21] Mazzanti, M., & Montini, A. (2021). "Quality of life indicators and urban regeneration of historical centers: A framework for assessing social sustainability." *Sustainability*
- [22] Al-Khatib, I. A., & Al-Khatib, M. A. (2019). Objective Indicators of Social Quality of Life in the City of Al-Kut. *Iraqi Journal of Architecture*, 8(2), 33-48.
- [23] Sykora, L., & Miskolczi, M. (2017). "The role of heritage in the development of quality-of-life indicators: The case of Central European historic cities." *Heritage & Society*
- [24] Zhou, L., & Zhang, Z. (2019). "Evaluating urban quality of life indicators for heritage cities: A case study of Xi'an, China.
- [25] Riva, M., & Guglielmin, M. (2020). "Quality of life in historical urban environments: A framework to assess the impact of urban heritage preservation policies." *Landscape and Urban Planning*
- [26] United Nations. (2015). *Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable*. United Nations.
- [27] Mercer. (2020). *Mercer Quality of Living Survey*. Mercer, New York, USA.
- [28] El-Habashi, A. (2019). *Re-Studying Rosetta City as a Cultural Landscape, a Step for Registration on the World Heritage List*. Academia.edu
- [29] El-Magd, A. A. A., & El-Gamal, M. A. (2024). Evaluation of Implemented Measures Solving El-Max Pump Stations and Drain Mouth Problems, Northwest Coast, Egypt. *Journal of Al-Azhar University Engineering Sector*, 19(71), 538-563.

- [30] El-Shorbagy, A. M. (2020). Sustainability of Heritage Buildings Reuse between Competition and Integration: Case Study Fuwwah and Rosetta
- [31] Ahmed, A., & Mohammed, R. (2018). Reinvestment of the Urban Context in Historic Cities: The Case Study of El Sheikh Kandil Street, Rosetta, Egypt. *World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology Conference Proceedings*, 146(5), 120-135.
- [32] Agapiou, A., Alexakis, D. D., Lysandrou, V., Sarris, A., Cuca, B., Themistocleous, K., & Hadjimitsis, D. (2015). Impact of urban sprawl to cultural heritage monuments: The case study of Paphos area in Cyprus. *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 16(5), 671–680
- [33] Fischer, L. (2023). Assessing quality of life and walkability for urban regeneration: The Piave Neighbourhood in Mestre-Venice. *Land*, 12(12), 2133
- [34] El Harrouni, K. (2024). Sustainable urban conservation of historical cities: The case of Fez Medina, Morocco. In *Urban Heritage and Sustainability in the Age of Globalisation* (pp. 125–140). Open Book Publishers.