Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better for government to spend money on building modern housing than on preserving historic or traditional buildings and homes.

Name: Reihaneh Abouei

It has widely debated whether government should allocate money to construct modern house rather than preserving historic buildings. In my opinion buildings of historical value should definitely be protected rather than destroyed and replaced by modern houses. Moreover, every culture has its special features. Buildings, as symbol of architectural heritage, are an important part of the history of any country or city. In what follows, two elaborate reasons will vindicate my standpoint.

The first and important reason is that every old building represents an important part of history. Undoubtedly, they can reflect contemporary culture, custom and life cycle. the value of an old building cannot be measured by money. We will lose those valuable historical buildings permanently if we don't preserve them. Once a historical building is destroyed, we can never restore it; even if it is restored to its original look, the new building is only a fake replica; the historical value will never come back to us. Therefore, a lot of old buildings belonging to the historical heritage of the world are protected by UNESCO. For example, the Amir Chakhmaq Complex in Yazd, Iran recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The second noteworthy reason is that, historical buildings are a symbol of a city and a valuable tourist resource. It is a fact that cities, which have their old, historic buildings, are favorite places for holiday and tourism. The reason is that these cities keep their special atmosphere and could offer us a magnificent journey through their cultural and architectural history. Because those historical relics and buildings are too important to the city and can generate profound tourist income. A city will benefit more by protecting its historic buildings than by replacing them with modern buildings. Moreover, by following this policy a lot of jobs will be flourished such as tour operator, travel agency, and people who work as a translator for foreign tourist. So the rate of unemployment will decrease and it will be beneficial for government.

In conclusion I would say that preserving old, historic buildings could be considered as a sign of our respect and regard to the previous generations. I am aware that it is an expensive initiative. But who can evaluate the worth the historic buildings have, for those who will come after us. Also, I admit that some old buildings have become a bit dilapidated and unsightly, and have not generated any revenue. But if we can refurbish them, I believe that they could start to attract visitors again. From what has been discussed above, I can safely draw the conclusion that we should preserver these historic buildings.

 Time: 60 minute

Words: 438