Abstract
Rural areas, especially village settlements, have an important place in the local identity and space design with their unique life style, socio-cultural, economic and natural structure, land use purposes, natural and cultural landscape features. Nowadays, globalization and urbanization tendencies have suppressed village settlements, increased immigration to cities and mostly caused negative interaction. This situation led to the alteration and degeneration of the local identity and landscape values of the village settlements. On the other hand, spatial planning and design studies in accordance with the identity of village settlements have been neglected, ignored or abandoned. This situation negatively affected the village life conditions and local identity. Therefore, according to the local identity to be determined by taking into account the natural and cultural landscape characteristics of the village settlements, the creation of a village design guide will be an important locomotive in protecting rural development (social, environmental and economic development) and values and carrying them to the future. In this study, the conceptual framework of the natural and cultural landscape features of village settlements, the effects of these characteristics on local identity and the factors related to the determination of the local identity will be determined. However, the importance and general framework of sustainable village design guidelines for the process of spatial planning and design of village settlements according to local identity will be discussed.

Keywords— Rural Area, Local Identity, Village Design Guide, Landscape