

Studying of affiliation's citizens concept in urban spaces (Case study: Mashhad Metropolitan)

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ABSTRACT :Today one of the main issues in urban space is identity. Identity concept is sensation of a particular space. It is perhaps within the realm of recognizing the significance of the concept space which we can recognize and realize ourselves as human beings. The affiliations allows and assists an average location to not only become individually unique, but also importantly reflects the cultural aesthetics of it's social surrounding as well. Affiliation is perhaps one of the most crucial phenomena's in understating the organic and humanistic relationship between human and location. This way of revealing has always been particularly important to urban designers and planners, because analyzing the sense of belonging to one neighborhood can directly assist us in the process of forming a grandeur society. The purpose of paper is, demonstrate how we can increase the level of affiliation to a particular environment (neighborhood) that surrounds us, and furthermore, analyze how we can also increase the collective sense of human responsibility towards the conditions of the common neighborhood as well. This research is applied. Also, method of research is "descriptive – analytical", and data collection method is "document –field". In order to be used questionnaire tools for collecting data. On the other hand we used from Cochran formulate for detecting relation between variables. Also, was measured affiliation of mentioned area. Finding show, there is positive relation between resident affiliation and their space , so the Affiliation of residence of kooch – sangi is high.

KEYWORDS: Affiliation, identity, neighborhood, Mashhad city

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of spatial environment and it's exterior form in relation to our average everydayness, has been one of the most important issues in the field of urban research (Bentley , 1974). The concept of identity crisis in our current age is mostly the result of dislocating the meaning and sense of being a human from the actual world we live in, and eventually enslaving ourselves to the materialistic structure of the current age. Our current technological age has produced various ways for mass communication, but the actual act and art of physical of communication has not only drastically decreased, but it's humanistic potency has declined as well; massive urban landscapes have constantly raised human beings with extremely limited perceptual experiences and memories. Our environment is the totality of a social and cultural collectiveness; it is human beings who physically and conceptually construct particular locations, because without the presence of rational agents space has no intrinsic meaning on its own. Therefore, the common and universal sense which the individual arrives at after the comprehension of a particular landscape, can be defined as the sense of belonging- This very concept is integral in the formation of the relationship of human beings and their environment. And it is perhaps in the midst of this relation whom the individual is able to gain a deep and continuous sense of belonging towards the desired landscape. In regard to this very analysis, our goal is to demonstrate why the affiliation has gradually vanished among various urban residents.

The sense of a place is the direct outcome of internal communication within one's own mental occurrences and the landscape which surrounds him, and this creates a profound sense of belonging in individual's mind when the environment he is affiliated with is able to correctly correspond to his way of being. So therefore, the sense of a place is not a presupposed outcome, but rather it is the result of the communication between human beings and their environment (our everydayness is also the result of this as well), (Felahat 2008, 63). In the realm of a common landscape, various people impose various beliefs upon the world they live in based on presupposed ideas they have towards their area of residency (Partovi, 2010: 7). John Jackson argues that, the sense of a place is not only a particular humanistic sense, but one which occurs internally in one's own individual state of being, and constantly gets redefined through the continuity of perceptual experience (Jackson, 1994). On the other hand, Towan replaces the term: sense of a place, with the term: care for a place, which is basically the caring and affectionate relationship human beings can build with their environment- For Town, this connection has aesthetics and physiological value in it as well(Felahat, 2006, 3).

The affiliation is a much more profound occurrence than just experiencing the sense of a place. This particular event is not only the result of continuous residency in a landscape, but more importantly depends on the notion of place awareness. The sense of belonging has its foundation in the sense of a place, but at the same time transcends itself beyond that particular location, and eventually develops a sense of care and attention for that place as well. The affiliation is one of the most essential attributes in the process of evaluating the quality of human communication in relation to their environment. Basically, individuals are looking to find a response to their various needs in the environment they reside in, and in the case of failure to supply this need, eventually a positive sense of emotional connection between the person and the place will not be created (Forouzande 2012, 4).

The affiliation of a particular place first and foremost means to be un-universal, steady and sustainable (Gol Mohammadi, 2003: 230) - From the perspective of Geographical Phenomenologist the sense of belonging creates a solid and effective link between the people and the place, and this link not only has to be humanistically affirmative, but it has to also expand the depth of communication and interaction with the environment with the passing of time (habibi, 2004). Various Academic Research have indicated that when the amount of time spent in a particular location increases, not only the level of awareness towards the area of residency increases, but more importantly the sense of belonging elevates itself as well. In general, we can analytically divide the various semantic dimensions of human beings physiological relationship with their environment in a few steps.

Cognitive : Based on this approach, the value of environment for individuals with more knowledge and awareness of that particular place has more much connotation than a similar environment in the absence of the individual's care and recognition of it. It can also be argued that this approach refers to the necessity of creating the idea of sense of belonging in human beings approach towards their environment.

Social : Based on this approach, the sense of belonging to a social environment is the result of interpersonal communication among all members of society. Furthermore, the environment in itself contains various social and collective cues which can not only enhance the process of human understanding, but can also decode our enigmatic interaction with the environment so we can eventually have a healthy relationship with it.

Sentimental : Based this approach, the emotional connection human beings have with a particular place allows them to engage themselves in the formation of meaning in virtue of human emotion and sentiment.

Based on the semantic model of analyzing the concept of sense belonging there exists 3 main components (individual; Collective; Environment) in this very process.

1- The individual's proper recognition and his humanistic relationship with his surrounding environment are key in the formation of sense belonging.

2- It is essential that urban planners connect their thoughts and methods of operations to actual environmental users, because again the concept of belonging heavily relies on the activity of social communication in a collective landscape.

3- Various elements existing in the realm of common place and environment serve as instruments in the pathway of cognition and identity realization.

Identity : The concept of Place Identity directly depends upon the productivity of environmental structures. Furthermore, each place does not only has its own unique identity structure, but at the same time each singular place provokes its own unique sense of belonging based on its own set of beliefs and values. Urban Structures (neighborhood, pathway and etc) are deeply influenced by the historical background, and the social and political events occurring at the core of each local state. At the same time, various public or private institutes can both

have a senseless or positively effective impact on the structure of urban landscape. We have to also indicate that, the diversity of conceptual meaning present at the core of urban structures influences its resident way of self-identification. Identity manifests itself in the sum of all diverse thoughts and desires present in one's mental state, but at the same time we cannot analyze the concept of identity without the recognition of the cultural and collective platform one's thoughts are based upon. In other words, place is the horizon for abstract thoughts to achieve actuality. Human beings are the primary presence which gives rise to meaning in a particular place, and at the same time what influences human beings way of living are the intellectual cues which they pick up from their collective landscape. So therefore, each place has its own unique mental state-The same human mental state which constructs the identity of particular place at the same time influences human beings way of living and way of being.

The Phenomenon of Neighborhood identity is the result of affiliation to a particular and local area of residency. In our current technological age where digital objects have dominated the way relationships function, Neighborhood identity has drastically lost its humanistic significance. In our current age, the identity of neighborhood has not only been deformed, but it has also lost its role in the development of culture and society. In the not so distant past, neighborhood was the centre of local discussions and gatherings, but the hegemony of current technology has created an overall un-local atmosphere where the localness of neighborhood has not only been diminished, but the unique affiliation to a neighborhood has also been impaired(Heidinger , 2007: 8-9)

Urban Space : Public urban space, in a sense is the manifestation of societies collective way of living- It is perhaps the primary platform for our interpersonal stories to unfold. So therefore, the only way a particular urban space can actually become publicly open and available, is for it to be transformed to a place where social communication and cultural competition constantly occurs (Pakzad, 2007:81). Urban space is an essential component of the social space; urban space allows the state of affairs to become available for public's perceptual experiences (Rogers, 2003:118). Urban space, both as a physical and symbolic entity, blends together what is culturally considered as known and unknown, in a specific social and geographical point (Zookin, 2002: 31)

Neighborhood : Rapport (1997) was one of the first figures in the area of Urban Planning which considered neighborhoods as an instrument for its residents to realize their own sense of identity. The unique sense of belonging to particular neighborhoods indirectly constructs the abstract meaning of those neighborhoods, and this can adequately respond to our individual need of finding an intimate and personal sense of home and hominess beyond what it is traditionally known as the Home. Furthermore, Neighborhood has to adequately respond to the everyday desires and needs of its residents. For Mumford, in the context of society, neighborhoods also carries in itself a parental role in the development of its residents collective and individual psyche (Mumford, 1954). The structure of Neighborhood has the potential to be vast and local at the same time; this unique characteristic makes neighborhoods physically and conceptually visible for the majority of outside observers. In other words, one will encounter a unique phenomenological experience (mental state) in the midst of entering the objective context of neighborhoods (Chapman, 1384: 190).

In order to achieve the unique sense of belonging to a particular urban place, like for example neighborhood, we have keep in mind these general descriptions:

- New neighborhoods are in direct relation to the historic past and the current present of the city.
- Neighborhoods are symbolic entities which carry in themselves a visible identity(Kevin Lynch)
- Understanding people's activities through the constructed ambiance of a particular landscape.
- The harmony and compatibility of Urban Design with the concept of temporality(This method of revealing is aesthetically valuable)

Research Objective : The main objective of this research is : at first demonstrate how we can increase the level of affiliation to a particular environment (neighborhood) that surrounds us, and furthermore, analyze how we can also increase the collective sense of human responsibility towards the conditions of the common neighborhood as well.

Hypothesis

- ✓ It seems the urban quality in Kooh-Sangi neighborhood (famous neighborhood in Mashhad city) has been decreased.
- ✓ It seems the affiliation of urban residents has been decreased (to mentioned place) .

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is applied. Also, method of research is "descriptive – analytical", and data collection method is "document –field". The data are generally gathered from academic centre libraries like universities, organizations, institutes and research centers such as management and planning organization and internet, official statistics and censuses, urban development plans by consulting engineers, and so on. Statistic society is citizens of koh-sangi neighborhood. In order to be used questionnaire tools for collecting data. On the other hand we used from Cochran formulate for detecting relation between variables. Also, was measured affiliation of mentioned area.

Studied area : Studied area is a particular neighborhood in the eighth district of Holly Mashhad/Iran: This location is at the core of KooH- Sangi¹ region, and is also nearby the KooH-Sangi Park. The KooH-Snagi neighborhood is located in the eighth district of Holly Mashhad/Iran, and is also considered to be one of the oldest and greenest parts of Mashhad city. The presence of KooH-Sangi Parkland, and more importantly it's historic trees which have poetically casted a stream of shadow on the neighborhood's main pathway, are one of the few natural assets of this particular neighborhood.

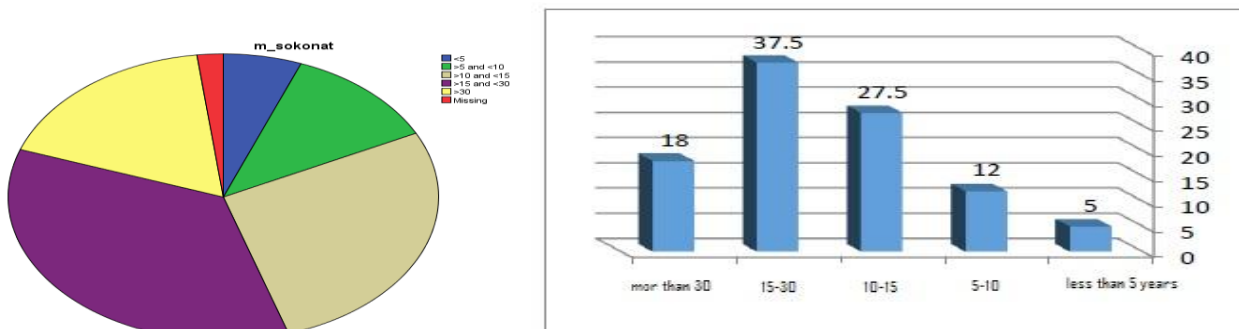


Figure 1: studied area

III. FINDING

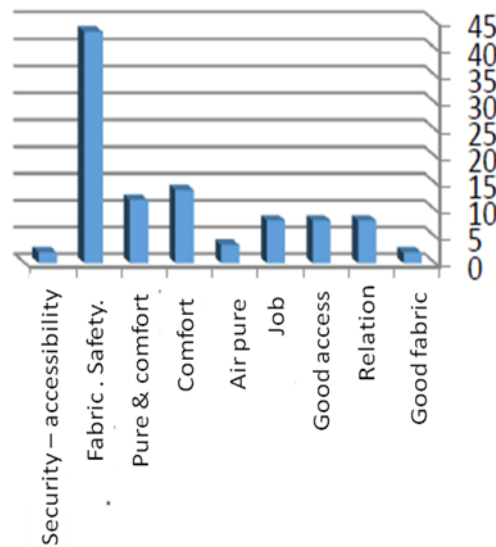
3.1. Analyzing of collected data : The process of paper is to be used questionnaire tools for collecting data. In continue, we used from Cochran formulate for detecting relation between variables. Also, it was measured affiliation of mentioned area.

Long time of residency : Based on the data collected, the majority of the residents of KooH-Sangi neighborhood have been living in the area for more than 10 years (81% of it's population). The fact that many families have been residing in this particular location for this many years(some even more than 20) indicates the level of neighborhood maturity, and perhaps it's rich historic age (This is also a significant factor in why the relationship between the residents and their neighborhood has been noticeably steady over a long period time).

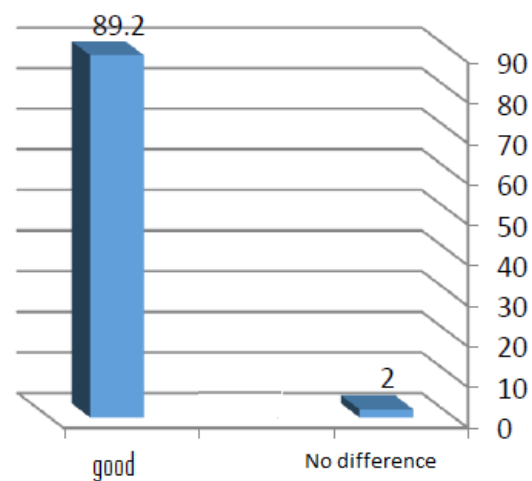
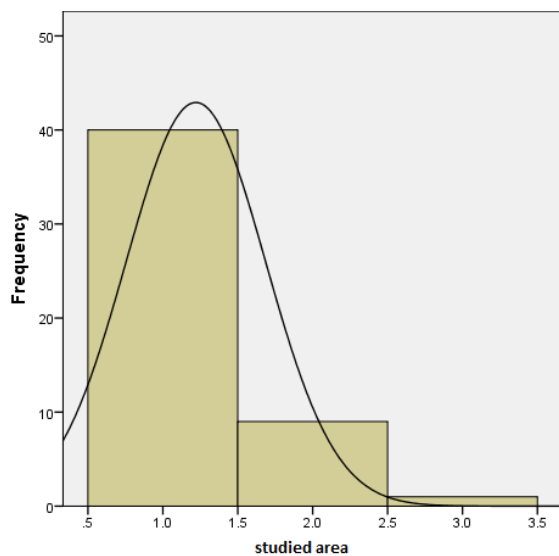


¹ - KooH- Sangi is famous location that has been located in Mashhad metropolitan.

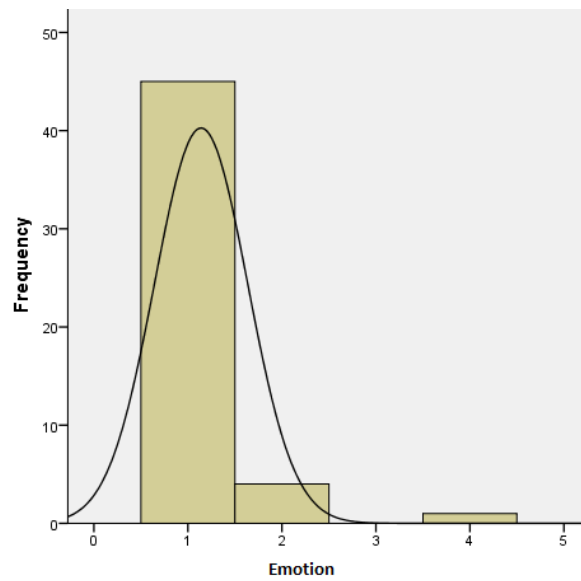
Based on our data, many of the Kooh-Sangi residents have chosen this particular area for residency due to its clean atmosphere and its evident level of neighborhood security.



Neighborhood condition : Based on the data collected, the majority of the residents have indicated that the overall condition of the neighborhoods is important to them, and only less than 2% were neutral towards the status of their common landscape. This perhaps indicates that the sense of belonging is not only noticeably high among Kooh-Sangi residents, but they feel to be influenced by the area as well.

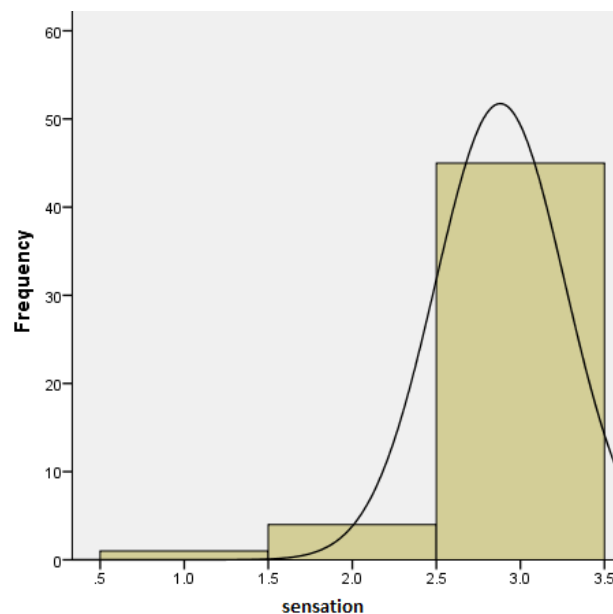


Sensation of resident toward studied area :Based on the data collected, it shows that the natural aspect of Kooh-Sangi neighborhoods have made possible the connection between the abstract concept of human emotions and the concrete objectivity of Place. This particular element has been regarded as the most significant factor in their physiological attachment to their area of residency- Many have also indicated that the natural aspect of the neighborhoods is nothing but the very identity of Kooh-Sangi (residents have considered this particular feature as highly valuable).



Resident affiliation : Based on the data collected, the level of affiliation of neighborhoods among Kooh-Sangi residents have been divided into 3 distinct categories; but it is also appropriate to point out that more than 85% of the residents have indicated that they have experienced and expressed their affiliation towards their area of residency.

Resident affiliation	Percentage
High	88.2
Medium	9
Low	2.8



Correlation Test : According to result of questioner correlation test between resident affiliations and studied area is positive. The amount is 0.8. So the hypothesis is false. Therefore affiliation toward environment is high .

III. CONCLUSION

Based on the data collected, the residents of Kooh-Sangi neighborhood not only consider themselves to carry a affiliation towards their area of residency, but more importantly the majority of them identify themselves based on the fact that they are living in such neighborhood.

At the end, based on our research on the Kooh-Sangi neighborhood in Mashhad/Iran, we can conclude that:

- [1] Residents carry a noticeably high level of sense belonging to their neighborhood.
- [2] Residents consider the overall structure and condition of the location as significant.
- [3] Residents consider the natural aspect of the neighborhood (Park, Trees, and etc) as not only aesthetically significant, but a major factor in the construction of concepts like Place-identity and communication.
- [4] The amount of time(more than 10 years) the majority of residents have spent in this particular area of residency has allowed them to not only comprehend the overall situation more precisely, but to also develop a deep sense of belonging as well.

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