A Socio-Economic Base and the Sense of Neighborhood Identity in New Cities; (Case Study: The New City of Baharestan)

Abstract

The creation of profound changes in the present age has overshadowed all aspects of individual and social life. Population growth and the need to increase fame have led to the creation of new cities on the outskirts of large cities. These cities have special requirements in space and structure. This issue has a direct impact on subjects related to social life and has affected the identity of neighborhoods in individuals. The new city of Baharestan in Isfahan is one of such solemn cities. In the meantime, the study of socio-economic status and sense of neighborhood identity in the new city of Baharestan can pave the way for more detailed studies in the construction of new cities. A combined method, i.e., a combination of library and field methods, has been applied to collect information; in this sense, data is gathered via a questionnaire. The statistical population includes a population with more than 15 years of living in phases 1, 2 and 3 of Baharestan city (Isfahan) which includes a number of 61647 people. The sample size was determined using Cochran's formula of 385 people. The sampling method is carried out via simple cluster and random. Also, sampling is carried out by the means of multi-stage cluster. Findings indicate that there is no significant difference in terms of gender, age and marital status of the neighborhood; on the other hand, a significant relationship between the socio-economic status and the identity of the neighborhood in the new city of Baharestan is observable.

Research aims:

1. Studying the relationship between the sense of neighborhood identity and the space and architectural structure of new cities.

2. Investigating the relationship between socio-economic status and sense of neighborhood identity in the new city of Baharestan.

Research questions:

1. What is the relationship between the sense of neighborhood identity in men and women and the architecture of new cities?

2. What is the relationship between socio-economic status and sense of neighborhood identity in the new city of Baharestan?

Keywords: Socio-economic base، neighborhood identity، Baharestan city

Introduction

Residential neighborhoods are one of the most significant and oldest physical divisions of the city and urbanization. These spaces can spread a sense of identity and belonging to the environment among residents. Urban identity in the intellectual line and mental image has characteristics that introduce the desired city. The construction or formation of neighborhood identity is a complex social spatial process in the field of urban planning. From ancient times, residential neighborhoods of cities, as cells of urban life, have played an essential role in the lives of its inhabitants. Consuming a specific lifestyle among the people living in a neighborhood usually leads to the creation of common goals and interests among the residents . Space due to the characteristics of demarcation, delimitability, differentiation and stability and belonging to the group are the most important factors that meet the needs of human identity by inducing security and tranquility. The current development trend of big cities shows that the residential areas of the city and neighborhoods are exposed to the loss of their long-standing personality and identity due to unhealthy development and confusion. Disruption of social relations in the city, urbanization, reduction of cooperation and collaboration, weakness in social support of the neighborhood community in urban development programs, stagnation and weakness in social security and law enforcement and protection and security and summary citizens' participation in economic and social development plans in many cities of Iran, especially metropolitan areas, has led to a loss of material and spiritual capital and exacerbated urban problems and anomalies. Rapaport believes that man establishes his identity by settling. On the other hand, there are connections. Easily communicate with other people in new local consumption areas (shopping malls) or in transportation settings to exchange-based relationships and market services (child and elderly care) and maintain pre-existing family links. With the expansion of urbanization, one of the vital issues of urban development is the identity of the neighborhood. The new city of Baharestan with its new architecture and space also faces the challenge of neighborhood identity due to the overflow absorption function of Isfahan city. The general purpose of this study is to investigate the socio-economic status and sense of neighborhood identity among the citizens of the new city of Baharestan.

Regarding the research background, it should be said that an independent work with this title has not been written so far, however, several academic studies have examined the category of neighborhood identity. The article "The Concept of Neighborhood" by Abdollahi et al. (2010) has theoretically studied the concept of neighborhood and has redefined it with emphasis on the conditions of urban neighborhoods in Iran; the findings of this study show that neighborhood is a concept that has been defined and applied by each of the different scientific fields according to their specific theoretical fields. Warsi et al. (2010) in a study entitled "Study and analysis of urban identity components and its relationship with the spatial affiliation of residents of new cities (Case study: Golbahar city)" has reviewed urban identity components affected by individual identity and the passage of time; the results of this study showed that a pleasant and intimate social atmosphere in the neighborhood creates human connections and can create a sense of closeness and neighborhood (belonging to a place) in the inhabitants of a city. Behlool (2012) in a study entitled "Assessing the identity of neighborhoods of Tehran citizens and the factors affecting it inspired by Durkheim and Simmel theories to investigate the effect of some contextual and social variables on the population of a sample neighborhood of city residents Tehran Payment; the results of his research exposed that the level of identity of Tehran citizens 'neighborhoods was moderate and contextual variables had little effect on the identity of Tehran citizens' neighborhoods. Khatibi (2013) in the article: "The interaction of behavioral patterns in reviving the identity of the urban environment" focuses on identifying and recognizing the past identity of cities and examining the components of identity in order to achieve the revival of their previous identity through design intervention. The results of Herzog and Rose (2017) show

that spatial cognition along with social and historical factors can play a vital role in the processes of identity formation and preservation. The present study seeks to assess the sense of identity of the neighborhood of the citizens of the new city of Baharestan. The research method is applied both in terms of implementation, survey and of criteria; also, it is applied and cross-sectional in terms of time. The combined method, i.e., a combination of library methods and field methods, has been used to collect information. Data is collected using a questionnaire. The statistical population includes residents with more than 15 years of living in phases 2, 1 and 3 of the new city of Baharestan (Isfahan) which is a population of 61647 people.

Conclusion

In the present study, which was conducted to investigate the economic and social status and identity of the neighborhood in the new city of Baharestan, it was found that about 61% of the respondents have lived in the new city of Baharestan for 1-5 years. The highest level of identity of the respondents belongs to the identity of the lower neighborhood with 48.3%. According to the results of this study, there is no relationship between age, gender, marital status and neighborhood identity. In other words, the neighborhood identity of men and women is the same at various ages and between singles and married people, and there is no significant difference. Based on the results of this study, there is a relationship between socio-economic status and neighborhood identity, which is consistent with the results of Nabavi et al. (2009), Bahyan and Firoozabadi (2013) and Ehsani Fard et al. (2013). The construction of new residential complexes that strongly contrast with the rest of the neighborhood, and not merely in the form of network architecture in social composition but leads to a recombination of social and symbolic internal hierarchies. The results of Herzog and Rose (2017) show that spatial cognition along with social and historical factors can play a vital role in the processes of identity formation and preservation. New cities are the arena for producing and reproducing the identity of a fluidly flowing neighborhood that is constantly evolving and evolving. From this study, it can be concluded that new cities with a new structure and space in terms of architecture and economic and social status of people living in these cities are correlated with the nature of the sense of local identity. With this interpretation, it should be said that parallel with the change in the present era and the change in social, cultural and economic relations in new cities, a new form of feeling of neighborhood identity in this space is still vacillating.

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