Research Article

STUDYING THE FUNCTION OF URBAN AND PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED SPACES ON INCREASE OF SOCIAL RELATIONS AND ATTACHMENT TO THE PLACE

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ABSTRACT
Today, modern lifestyle leads to an increase in formation of cities, development of urbanism and emergence of new communities. Such hasty rate of urbanization and development of cities (in vertical and horizontal orientation) and appearance of many towers and buildings regardless of neighborhood relationships and identity by creating a sense of attachment to place and communities resulted in decrease in social interactions. The purpose of the present research is to study the urban spaces and their role and effect on creating or increasing social interactions. At first, necessary information about urban spaces role and effect on social interactions obtained by library studies. Analyzing these data proved that creating communities in which there is an attachment to the place and creating public and intera-community semi-private spaces is necessary for increasing social interactions.

Keywords: Urban Spaces, Pedestrain-Orientation, Social Interactions, Attachment to Place

INTRODUCTION
Hasty rate of urbanization and urban development plan emphasize on development of city and appearance of new communities with modern lifestyle prioritized.
Widening of streets and narrow passages, dominance of vehicles in urban space, priority of rider to the walker, appearance of many buildings, lack of attection to the neighbours, lack of urban open spaces such as square and community center in modern communities, erosion and loss of such spaces in old communities caused social interactions faded mostly.
Therefore, this article studies urban spaces and and urban public spaces and then studies the social interactions and their reinforcement.
1-   *Studying Urban Spaces from Pundits' Point of View*
Urban space is a part of public and open spaces of a city and identity of such spaces becomes meaningful by presence of human and social interactions.
Serge Chermayeff was the first pundits considering environmental issues in urban spaces. He believed that personal vehicle ruins human life.
He categorized the hierarchy of urban spaces and aspects of social and private life into six groups.
1.   Urban public spaces: roads, urban parks, …
2.   Urban semi-public spaces: hospitals, parkings, theaters, …
3.   Public spaces of one group: places using services such as post, garbage collection, fire stations, etc.
4.   Private spaces of one group: public gardens, play grounds, etc.
5.   Family private spaces: spaces used for eating entertainment, etc. in a house
6.   Individual private spaces: personal room of family members
Chermayeff believed that we should encourage the public not to use personal vehicles as far as possible. According to him, the best approach was to provide free public trasportation (Chermayeff, 1997).
In Axford concise dictionary (1990), public space defined as a totality belonged and avaliable to the public or participation among them with available or accessible freedom which is related to the local or central government.
Regarding the above-mentioned defenition, the urban public spaces belonged to all classes and groups of people and the public want some spaces for the presence of all citizenes and their participation in social life. This requires the construction of sidewalks and reduction of riders presence.

Research Article

Markets and local squares were the most public and popular spaces in Iran. Arg or main squares of the city served as ceremonial spaces and were in the service of urban governmental institutions. Local squares and some Takaya were the place of people's gathering and social interaction (Pakzad, 2007).

Semantic Study of Square in Urbanism from Pakzad Point of View
Square: among different concepts of this word, nature of being sphere is the most common concept and the most important thing for urbanism is that the square is the place of gathering people, forces and events related to this sphere. Its social and interactive role in social life of people is the most valuable thing in urban design.

With the arrival of the vehicle in Iran, at the intersection of the axes a space constructed (called square) and ceremonial squares replaced by these squares quickly. Our urban changes which were dependent on rider's movement, resulted in squares development in the country. While, each community needs a center for public life; a place for observing and being observed by people (Pakzad, 2007).

Studying Pedestrain-oriented Issue and its Effect on Social Interactions
As Jean Jacobs mrntioned in "Death and Life of Great American Cities":
Urban sidewalks have social life. They gather people who don't know each other through social, hearty and private methods. Little public communications of sidewalks resulted in the trust to urban streets and we can say this gives identity to the people of the city.

And he belives that street and its sidewalks are important and main parts of public places and the most important and critical component of it. If the main streets of a city be attractive, then it will be attractive and interesting (Jacobs, 1961).

Moreover, according to him in order to attract pedestrains and create intrinsic safety factor, an urban street should include three important qualities: first of all, it should distinguish between public and private spaces. second, buildings on the border of a street should have façade and third, walking should be done without any intteruption. He belived that if shops and public places be active at nights, our considered attraction will be created and street as an urban space plays an important role (with appropriate experince) in creating a sense of unconcious correlation among pdestrains (Showay, 1996).

Sidewalks act in urban scale and should accept different groups of people with different thoughts, feelings, space perceptiion, age, gender and physical capability. Social life is live in sidewalks and liveliness is of its basic and main features. This space should coordinated itselt with its internal events. Therefore, flexibility is one of the most important features of sidewalks. Sidewalks safety guaruntees citizens's attendence in the city (Pakzad, 2007).

According to Franciss Teebaldz ueban spaces are environments for cultural interaction, recreation, enjoyment, spending leisure time, social life and thoughts exchange (Teebaldz, 2008).

Kevin Linch belived that urban spce is a space which breaks some social borders and results in occurance of some not developed events and people mix with each other in a social environment (Pakzad, 2006).

Being pedestrain-oriented may lead to liveliness of central regions and encourage people to voulentary presence in the city. It results in promoting economic, social and health level and improving environmental quality of a city or region (Abbas, 2013).

Permeability is a quality which effects on creating liveliness of urban pedestrains. One of the available policies is to create mutual visual relationship between path and body. Pedestrain axe should connect all actions and different applications (available in the street cross; nearest location in the line of sight) without any level difference and barrier and induce continuity and unity through creating visual distinctions (Teebaldz, 2006).

2- Studying Social Interactions from the View Point of Pundits
"Social interaction is a relationship between two or more people which leads to a reaction between them and this type of reaction is known to both sides". Therefore, meaningless realationships not included in this defenition. Of course, there are different defenitions for social interaction, for example, it can be defined as a physical subject, view point, conversation or communication among individuals which requires the defention of appropriate events and actions and as a result people's imprinting in a space or their memebership in social groups and networks (Daneshvar and Charkhchiyan, 2007).

Research Article

Different people tend to different levels of social interaction. Defenition of desired level of interaction achieved through people's quotes (objectively) and normative stance against good life (subjectively). Both defenitions are valuable and have social and political orientation (Long, 2002).

Jean Jacobs; prominent journalist and pundit on urban issues in "Death and Life of Great American Cities" focuses on the role of urban public spaces in social interaction. According to her, public spaces of a city, especially its streets and sidewalks are the most effective factors which keep in the citizens's mind. Increasing social interaction and sidewalks safety effects on seperation and racial discrimination, oppositely (Pakzad, 2007).

Therefore, the basic condition for considering a public space as an urban space is social interaction. So those soft and hard spaces which are not a bed for social interaction, can not be considered as urban spaces (Pakzad, 2010).

Ashrafi belives that as we need a place for family formation, our society also needs a place for social communications. Although it may not require a certain structure and body in a certain place, but we need some spaces in the city which give identity to a place and attract people (Ashrafi, 2007).

An important part of social and cultural interactions achieved in urban spaces. Therefore, the role of pdestrain urban spaces in strenghtening social and cultural bases of a city is so important. Among them, urban pdestrains play an important social role which can bring liveliness to the urban spaces and encourage people to voluntary presence in the city. Therefore, pedestrains freedom of action to stop, shift and direct contact with others is high. In terms of space identity, attachment to the place and perception of beauty, pedestrains nature is so important and through attrcting a wide spectrum of social groups, it strenghtens convergence feeling and direct interaction among citizens with different perceptions, feelings, demands and tendencies (Qorbani and Jam-Kasra, 2010).

Social life is an opportunity to relaese from routine stresses, spending leisue time, social interactions, different groups gathering, a bed for freedom of speech and social life in public open spaces (Sennette).

3- Studying Attachment to the Place from the View Point of Pundits

Place is not only a shelter for human activities, but it is a phenomenon which humanbeing's interaction with it makes it meaningful. Human attaches to his/her home and recognizes him/herself by it (Daneshpour, Sepehri Moqadam and Charkhchiyan).

Attachment to the place related to its emotional effect on people. Emotional and internal effect of the place on human being is the thought center of attachment. In fact, attachment to the place is a symbolic relationship with it which created through giving common cultural emotional concepts to a certain place or land and in other words is a base of an individual or group's perception or relationship with it (Altman and Low, 1992).

Attachment to the place results from activities and interactions among human beings, human beings and place and human beings in a certain place (Altman and Low, 1992).

According to Jean Jacobs, attachment to the place is a deep human charactristic and some people say " we belong to the place" and by this make it meaningful (1995).

Attachment to the place plays an important role in presence motivation and care of public spaces such as squares and urban parks (Sajjad, 2013).

Attachment to the place is related to social and personal charactristics of individuals directly (Werner and Brown, 1985).

When users feel a place completey and their functional needs and behavioral objectives met, a ttachment to the place deepened (Williams, 1995).

Qualities and features of a place effect on the attachment to a certain place (Sajjad, 2013). Prolonged residence and individuals' interaction by each other increases attachment to the place (Relph, 1976).

Attachment to the place resulted from individuals' experinces, behaviors and their social and emotional organization. It triggers individuals' behavioral motivations and purposefulness, therefore, human beings try to care of it through their appropriate behaviors and acts. It is the base of human's positive emotional interaction and relationship with the space and created through individual, social and cultural charactristics (Altman and Low, 1992).

Research Article

Emotional interactions lead to human and space conection and make the space meaningful (Rubinstein and Parmelee, 1992).

Attachment to the place is related to the effect and interaction of acts, belifs, emotions and awareness about it (Proshansky *et al.,* 1983).

Conclusion

According to conducted studies, creating public spaces such as square or neighborhood center may provide an appropriate bed for social interactions among different groups. Creating hierarchy of public urban spaces may result in constructing public and private spheres for social interactions. Moreover, sidewalk leads to social life, so that it can gather unfamiliar people for spending leisure time, cultural interaction and social life. Sidewalk makes streets more attractive. It acts in the city scale and all classes can use it. Attachment to the place is a human charactristic and plays an important role in increasing people motivation for presence in public places and care of them. When users feel public spaces, attachment to the place increases. There is a direct and bilateral relationship between attachment to the place and increase in individual's interaction.

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Research Article

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