

Components influencing promotion of social interactions in urban parks (Case Study: Zabol City)

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Extended abstract

Introduction

Urban parks play social, economic, and ecologic role in cities. They have some advantages including treatments of spirit problems, favorable environment for children training, social integrity, and welfare. The environment is also a factor to enhance quality of life space and development of society. Establishment of the urban parks can improve quality of urban life and achieve sustainable development. It can also have a cost for municipalities without return of investment and profit. Hence, use of the urban public spaces should be considered in the studies of daily life of citizens. It is believed that public spaces such as parks are defined as available open places. The citizens have the high traffic in the parks. The public spaces are considered as important elements in forming social interactions among the residents. In Zabol City, located in the border area with Afghanistan as the center of drug dealing, the parks are the best place for leisure time. The parks in the city can be useful in promoting social interactions among the adolescents and adults. In this study, we have investigated the components affecting promotion of social interactions in the parks of Zabol City. Therefore, we have addressed some issues; which components have the highest impacts on the social interaction among all the effective components; which park has the highest rank in promotion of social interaction among all the parks of Zabol City.

Methodology

This research is conducted in a descriptive analytical method. In analytical stage, the components influencing promotion of social interactions in the parks of Zabol City have been analyzed. The data have been gathered by two methods of library and field studies. In descriptive stage, document information has been gathered from books, journal articles, annuals, maps, and internet. We have used Cochran, as the most effective method to get sample volume,

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method to determine the volume of sample for selection of samples. Population of this study is residents of Zabol City. According to Cochran, we have selected 384 people as sample. The analysis of the data has been conducted in SPSS. We have also applied VIKOVER decision making model to determine the components affecting the promotion of social interactions in the parks of Zabol City and to make a ranking of the parks. The results of the information have been compared and integrated with those of library analyses.

Results and discussion

The parks are usually defined as open available spaces for citizens. Urban parks are the places in which people have the highest traffic and interactions. The public spaces are important components to shape social interactions among the residents. To explore the factors affecting the promotion of social interactions in the parks of Zabol City, some indicators have been extracted from the literature and incorporated in questionnaire to ask from the 384 respondents residing the Zabol City. For the analyses of the information SPSS application have been employed to test the hypotheses. To examine the components affecting social interactions, we have used some indices including distance and the access of residents to the parks, creation of social events for sense of belonging to the place, social potentials, promotion of participation opportunities in social life, social trust, social-environmental security, and sports and physical activities. The results have indicated that the index of distance and the access condition of residents to parks has the average of 3.94, creation of social events for sense of belonging to the place has average of 3.59, social potentials has average of 3.46, promotion of participation opportunities in social life has average of 3.09, social trust has the average of 3.08, social-environmental security has average of 3.00, and sports and physical activities has the average of 2.99. In all the indices, the average obtained is higher than median level (3), except for sport and physical activities with average of 2.99. The results have also indicated that all the components are effective on promotion of social interactions in the parks of Zabol City. The results have also indicated that the highest value of Q is belonging to Yaghubleis Park with rank of 0.509. Mellat Park with Q value of 0.502, Moalem Park with Q value of 0.454, and Alghadir Park with Q value of 0.450 are ranged from the highest rank to the lowest rank in the city.

Conclusion

The results of average values obtained from the respondents have indicated that among the indices of this study, the indices of distance and the access of residents to the parks, creation of social events for sense of belonging to the place, social potentials, promotion of participation opportunities in social life, social trust, social-environmental security, and sports and physical activities have influenced the social interactions in the parks of the Zabol. The results have also demonstrated that all the indices have effects on the social interactions in the parks of the city. The results of this study have also presented a ranking of the parks of the Zabol City based on VIKOVER decision making model using indices affecting promotion of social interactions. The parks of Yaghubleis and Alghadir have the highest and lowest rank among the parks of the city, respectively.

Keywords: urban parks, VIKOVER model, social interactions, participation, Zabol City.