

Investigating the Significance of the Relationship between Sense of Justice in Citizens and their Presence in Urban Public Spaces Case Study: Shiraz City

Ali Reza Sadeghi

Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning & Design, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Shiraz University, Iran
arsadeghi@shirazu.ac.ir

Parisa Zare

MA. of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Tarbiat Modares University, Iran
parisa.zare.16@gmail.com

Ali Reza Ravaee

MA. Student of Urban Design, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran
mr.ravaee1975@gmail.com

Introduction

With the development of social and economic injustice in the cities, further attention has been paid to the subject of the spatial justice to create the social equities among various groups of people and this subject has been changed to a comprehensive and expanding phenomenon in today's cities. In the cities, the urban space is the result of interaction between the space and community and is the place for flourishing the social life. So, it is a structure appropriate for understanding social injustices and evaluating the amount of the citizens' feeling of justice. The urban public spaces are multi-purpose spaces accessible to the public that are distinguishable from the circumscribed and specific domains of the families and individuals and also are regarded as their mediators. In fact, the public space is an essential and fundamental dimension of human community and the social justice is introduced as one of the primary principles of every community in the public space and both justice and injustice are manifested in the space, because justice depends on the time and place and the kind of relationship between the system and social structures. Therefore, there is an ambiguous relationship between the quality of individuals' lives and the access to services; in such a way that the social injustice itself reflects the access of different individuals to various services in any community. Regarding what was said, the present research aims to study the significance of the relationship between the citizens' feeling of justice in Shiraz city and the quality and manner of their attendance in the urban spaces. Accordingly, the main question of the research is: is there any meaningful relationship between the citizens' feeling of justice in Shiraz city and the number and duration of their attendance in the urban spaces? Furthermore, the hypothesis of the present study is expressed as: there is a meaningful relationship between the feeling of justice of citizens in Shiraz city and the number and duration of their attendance in urban public spaces. It is worth mentioning that despite the existence of different studies regarding social justice and urban development and the emphasis on the distributive characteristics of the justice and manner of individuals' access to the civil services, few investigations have been done on the significance of the relationship between the quality of citizens' attendance in urban space (duration and number of citizens' attendance in urban spaces for the purpose of doing the selective and social activities) and the amount of feeling of social justice (the matter which emphasizes the innovation and newness of this research).

Material & Methods

The present study is a survey research and Rasinsky and Feldman's social justice questionnaire has been used as the tool for collecting data. The statistical population was all the citizens of Shiraz city presented in urban public spaces and somehow used the urban spaces. With regard to the uncertainty of the number of statistical population and based on Cochran's formula, 170 members of the population were selected as the sample group. Random sampling was applied for

collecting the data of the present research. For this purpose, in the selected public spaces of Shiraz (Gaz Square, Daneshjou Square, Enghelab Street and Eram Street) and in specific intervals of different days of the week, all the individuals aged above 15 years were asked to participate voluntarily in this study. The selected urban public spaces have been placed in the central area and middle texture of Shiraz city near to different urban facilities and services and the attendance of different social groups and age groups

* Corresponding author: +989173146514

Copyright©2020, University of Isfahan. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>), which permits others to download this work and share it with others as long as they credit it, but they can't change it in any way or use it commercially.

have been the main reasons of the selection of these urban public spaces. In fact, the selected urban public spaces have qualities that are directly related to the subject of distributive justice and spatial justice. The validity and reliability of the questionnaire of the present research have been confirmed by the use of content validity and Cronbach's Alpha (0.73). With regard to the non-normal distribution of the data, the non-parametric tests of Mann Whitney and Kruskal Wallis and the correlation coefficient of Kramer have been used for data analysis and expressing the amount of correlation of variables, respectively.

Discussion of Results & Conclusions

The research results reveal that the feeling of social justice has no relationship with the variable 'duration of attendance in the urban space'. However, the feeling of social justice has a direct relationship with the number of attendance of citizens in the urban spaces (with an intensity of 0.407). Furthermore, the number of attendance of citizens in the urban spaces has a meaningful relationship with their preferences in regard to competency and the manner of obtaining the facilities (with an intensity of 0.223) and the kind of attitude toward the feeling of compassion and sympathy as the most important human values (with an intensity of 0.181). Also, the citizens' preferences in terms of poverty of individuals for the reason of not having a motivation and goal in life has a relationship with the duration of citizens' attendance in urban spaces (with an intensity of 0.168). In this case, it seems that the situation for the development of feeling of social justice among the citizens can be provided by taking measures necessary to improve the condition and manner of the citizens' attendance in the urban spaces. In this regard, some of the most important effective strategies are:

Need: designing collective spaces for social interactions and collective conversation among citizens; designing appropriate urban furniture in collective spaces for the improvement of social interactions; designing space by regarding all the public facilities necessary for them such as drinking fountain, public lavatory and so on.

Equity: considering 24 hours' land uses for perpetuating citizen's attendance and further monetizing of businesses; paying attention to human scale in the design of urban spaces; establishment of gratuitous entertainments for the purpose of attendance of individuals with little financial affordance and use of them.

Equality: designing urban spaces in crowded paths and places with heavy traffic; designing appropriate urban furniture usable for all the individuals; creating versatile uses in the space for the purpose of improvement of variety and diversity.

Economic individualism: designing spaces for social interactions and an opportunity for revealing the individual capacities and inherent talents of citizens, increasing supervisors for better improvement of individuals' safety and security for further attendance of citizens; holding the meetings in the space.

Keywords: Social Justice; Urban Public Space; Quality of Presence in Urban Space; Shiraz City.

References

- Ahadnejad Reveshty, M. Mousavi, M.N. Mohammadi Hamidi, S. & Waysian, M. (2016) "Investigating and Analyzing Social Justice in terms of Accessibility to Municipal Services (Case Study: Accessibility to Junior High School Educational Services in Miandoab". *Journal of Geography and Urban Space Development*, 3 (1):33- 51. (In Persian)
- Bashirieh, H. (1990) "Conference of Equity and Inequity". *Culture Letter*, (3): 4- 30. (In Persian)
- Bromberg, A. Morrow, G.D. Pfeiffer, D. (2007) "Editorial Note: Why Spacial Justice?", *Critical Planning*, 14, 1-4.
- Dadashpoor, H. & Alvandipour, N. (2016) "Spatial Justice in Urban Scale in Iran; Meta- Study of Selected Articles' Theoretical Framework". *Honar - ha - ye - ziba Memari - va - shahrsazi*, 21 (6): 67- 80. (In Persian)
- Dadashpoor, H. Alizadeh, B. & Rostami, F. (2015) *Conference of Spatial Justice in City*. Tehran: Azarakhsh Pubs. (In Persian).
- Donyavi Rad, M. & Khajavi, M. (2014) "Evaluation of Factors Effective on Attendance of Women in Urban Space of Resalat Park of Mashhad". 6th National Conference of Urban Planning and Management with Emphasize on Elements of Islamic City. Mashhad: Islamic Council of Mashhad. (In Persian).
- Dufaux, F. Gervais-Lambony, P. Lehman-Frisch, S. & Moreau, S. (2009) "Birth Announcement". *justice spatiale/spatial justice*, 1. Available at: <http://www.jssj.org/issue/septembre-2009-edito/>
- Fainstein, S. (2014) "The Just City". *International Journal of Urban Sciences*, 18 (1): 1-18.
- Farajian, S. & Roohi Isaloo, M. (2016) "Study of Role of Social Justice in Prevention of Administrative Corruption in Melli Bank Branches of Ardebil City". 2nd International Conference of Accounting and Management in third millennium. Rasht Municipality. (In Persian).
- Garcia-Ramon, D. Ortiz, A. & Parts, M. (2004) "Urban Planning, Gender and the Use of Public Space in a Peripheral Neighbourhood of Barcelona". *Cities*, 21 (3): 215-223.
- Golparvar, M. & Oraizi, H. (2004) "The Relationship between Attitudes Toward Private Schools and

- Social Justice Approaches". *Social Welfare Quarterly*, (15): 293- 318. (In Persian)
- Habibi, K. Alizadeh, H. Moradi Masihi, V. Valadbeigi, S. & Vafaei, S. (2011) "Analyzing the Social Justice in Spatial Structure of Sanandaj City". *Armanshahr*, (7): 103- 112. (In Persian)
- Harvey, D. (2000) *Social Justice and City*. Translated by: Haeri, M.R., et al, 2nd Publication. Tehran: Publications of Firm of Urban Planning and Processing. (In Persian).
- Hatami, H. & Rasti, E. (2006) "Social Justice and Spatial Justice, Study and Comparison of John Roller and David Harvey's Viewpoints". *Sarzamin Pub*, 3 (1): 38- 50. (In Persian)
- Hataminejad, H. Farhodi, R. & Mohammadpour Jaberi, M. (1999) "Analysis of Social Inequality in Prosperity of Civil Services Land Uses Case study: Esfarayen". *Tehran: Human Geography Research Quarterly*. (In Persian)
- Kamran, H. Parizadi, T. & Hosseini Amiri, H. (2010) "Ranking of Civil Services in Metropolitan Areas of Tehran". *Urban Autecological Researches Quarterly*, 1 (1): 147- 164. (In Persian)
- Khastoo, M. & Saeedi Rezvani, N. (2010) "The Effective Factors on Urban Spaces Vitality". *Hoviate Shahr Quarterly*, 4 (6): 63- 74. (In Persian)
- Laurent, E. (2011) "Issues in environmental justice within the European Union". *Ecological Economics*, 70 (11), 1846-1853.
- Lees, N. (2010) "Inequality as an Obstacle to World Political Community and Global Social Justice". SGIR, 7th Annual Conference on International Relations. Sweden, September 9-11th 2010
- Lotfi, S. Mnochehri Meyandoab, A. & Aahar, H. (2013) "City and Social Justice: An Analysis of Neighborhood Injustices; Case study: Neighborhoods of Maraghe". *Geographical Researches Quarterly*, 26 (109): 69- 92. (In Persian).
- Lynch, K. (2008) *Image of City*. Translated by Mozayani, M. 8th Publication. Tehran: Publications of Tehran University. (In Persian).
- Madanipour, A. (2005) "Design of Urban Space: An Attitude toward Social and Spatial Processes". Translated by Mortazayi, F. Tehran: Publications of Firm of Urban Planning and Processing. (In Persian)
- Marsoosi, N. (2004) "Social Development and Justice of Tehran City". *Economic Researches Quarterly*, 4 (14): 19- 31. (In Persian).
- Nazmfar, H. Eghgh Chaharborj, A. & Ghasemi, M. (2014) "Analysis of Social Justice Status in Urban Spatial Structure; Case study: Maraghe City". *Geography and Environmental Studies Quarterly*, (11): 91- 112. (In Persian).
- Neutens, T. Schwanen, T. Witlox, F. & De Maeyer, P. (2010) "Equity of Urban Service Delivery: A Comparison of Different Accessibility Measures". *Environment and Planning*, 42 (7): 1613-1635.
- Nikpoor, A. Malekshahi, G.R. & Rezghi, F. (2015) "Spatial Study and Analysis of Social Injustices in Urban areas with Approach of Cumulative City; Case study: Babel City". *Urban Studies Quarterly*, (16): 27- 38. (In Persian).
- Oraizi, H. & Golparvar, M. (2005) "Relationship between Approaches of Social Justice and Elements of Politic Equity". *Social Welfare Quarterly*, 4 (16), 155- 183. (In Persian).
- Rafieian, M. & Seyfaei, M. (2005) "Urban Public Spaces; Review and Qualitative Evaluation". *Honar - ha - ye - ziba Memari - va - shahrsazi*, (23): 35- 42. (In Persian).
- Rasinsky, K. (1987) "What's Fair is Fair-or Is It? Value Differences Underlying Public Views about Social Justice". *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 53 (1): 201-211.
- Sadeghi, A. & Ravayi, A. (2016) "Recognition of Role of Social Justice in Access to Purposes of Design of a Sustainable City". 1st International Conference of New Ideas in Urban Planning Architecture of Geography and Sustainable Environment. Mashhad. Environment Research Building of Tarbiat Modares University. (In Persian).
- Setavand, M.H. Hajizadeh, F. & Yaghfour, H. (2019) "Spatial Analysis of Shiraz Urban Areas in Terms of Social Justice with an Emphasis on Public Services". *Scientific Journals Management System*, (52): 171- 192. (In Persian).
- Soja, E. (2009) "The City and Spatial Justice". *Justice Spatial/Spatial Justice*, 1. Available at: <http://www.jssj.org/article/la-ville-et-la-justice-spatiale/>
- Talen, E. & Anselin, L. (1998) "Assessing Spatial Equity: An Evaluation of Measures of Accessibility to Public Playgrounds". *Environment and Planning*, 30 (4), 595-613.
- Tsou, K. Hung, Y. & Chang, Y. (2005) "An Accessibility-Based Integrated Measure of Relative Spatial Equity in Urban Public Facilities". *Cities*, 22 (6): 424-435.
- Wolch, J. Wilson, J. & Fehrenbach, J. (2013) "Parks and Park Funding in Los Angeles: an Equity-Mapping Analysis". *Urban Geography*, 26 (1): 4-35.
- Zare Shahabadi, A. Eskandarifard, A.M. & Nikahd, M. (2014) "Sociological Analysis of Relationship between Social Justice and Social Trust; Case

study: Citizens of Shiraz City". *Journal of Studies of Social Development of Iran*, (3), 71-86. (In Persian).

Zahedi Mazandarani, M. (2003) *Development and Inequity*. Tehran: Maziyar Pubs. (In Persian)