Investigating the Relationship Between the Physical-Social Space of the City and the Sense of Security
(Case Study: Qazvin City in 2020)

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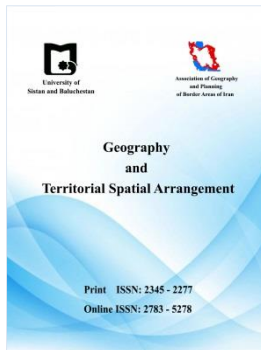   E-mail: Hamzeh.Madani@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted with the aim of investigating the relationship between the physical and social space of the city on the feeling of security among the citizens of Qazvini. In order to achieve this goal, first, the theoretical framework of the research was determined according to the appropriateness of the subject under investigation, and then the main hypothesis of the research was extracted from it. The research method in this research is a survey and the data collection tool are a researcher-made questionnaire with validity and reliability. The statistical population of the research is the citizens of Qazvin city. And the sample size of 321 people was obtained by multi-stage cluster method, then using SPSS and Amos software, it was used for hypothesis testing and data analysis. The results of the research indicate that there is a positive and significant relationship between the physical and social space of the city and the sense of security.

In the regression analysis to explain the dependent variable, among the independent variables, the variable of the residence area had the most effect, and the variable of the physical space of the city, gender, age, social space of the city, number of years of residence and socio-economic base were the most influential.

Also, according to the indicators obtained from the Amos software, the collected data supports the proposed theoretical framework.

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Security is one of the basic needs of the city and the main platform for human growth and development, which becomes more important with the expansion of the urbanization process and the increase in population density (Soltani et al., 2014). Feeling safe is an emotional response to violent social crimes and physical injuries. In today's era, unfavorable urban environments create many problems for citizens and are effective in the growth of social harms. With the spread of these damages, security loses color and increases the amount of crime; People act cautiously in social actions, and with every incident, their fear and apprehension doubles, and as a result, they feel insecure (Mousavi et al., 2019). The physical space of cities, as one of the most important products of urban design, must be able to meet the needs and expectations of its users, and if the result of urban design cannot satisfy this need, spaces will be created in the city where people do not feel safe. and the ground for the emergence of abnormal behavior and urban crimes is provided (Lak&Bahmani,2019). In fact, in this direction, there have been many researches, each of which has been carried out with a special purpose and in a specific society, which shows the great importance of investigating this issue. But since the city of Qazvin has a special position in terms of geographical location (close to the capital and the communication passage from Tehran to the west of the country, facing the increase of the immigrant population from the neighboring provinces) and on the other hand, field studies have shown the existence of empty lands in In the city, there were dilapidated and old residential units, defenseless spaces, dimly lit areas, etc., which in fact, the combination of these factors had created fear and a sense of insecurity among citizens and crime in urban areas. Therefore, the current research tries to examine the components of the physical-social space as two separate and independent and important factors on the sense of security and its four dimensions with a new and composite view from the perspectives of urban planning and urban sociology and addresses the following question Answer: Is there a relationship between the physical-social space of the city and the sense of security?

Study Area

The area under study is Qazvin city.

Material and Methods

The survey research method and data collection tool are a researcher-made questionnaire with reliability (Cronbach's alpha) and validity (confirmatory factor model). which has been selected and collected with a sample size of 321 people from the 3 regions of Qazvin municipality with a multi-stage cluster method.

Result and Discussion

Among the most important findings of the research, in the comparison between the two average scores of the physical and social dimensions of Qazvin city space, the physical dimension of the city space had a higher average score than the social dimension. Regarding the medium to high average score obtained from the sense of security, we were indicating a relatively good situation of security and sense of security in the city of Qazvin. It has been evaluated by citizens in this city. In examining the hypotheses of the research in the hypothesis of the relationship between the social space of the city and the feeling of security, this relationship was confirmed. In other words, the less the social atmosphere of the city and in terms of the human dimension such as noise, the presence of special groups of young people, crowding, etc., the less the feeling of security, and the healthier this space, the greater the feeling of security. Also, in the study of the relationship between the physical space of the city and the feeling of security, this relationship was also confirmed. In other words, the more the physical space and morphology of the city, such as the presence of abandoned and ruined areas, etc., the more it leads to a sense of security among the citizens and vice versa. Also, the data obtained from the research showed that the average sense of security is also different according to the region of residence. Based on this, the residents of the lower areas of the city feel less safe than other areas of the city, and it is an emphasis on the theories put forward in the research that violence and incivility have led to victimization for high-risk residents and also create a sense of insecurity among them.

Conclusion

Since urban physical and social spaces are actually the container and platform of social interactions, they should be able to ensure the safety of their users. Security in the public spaces of a city will lead to the vitality and dynamism of the space; Its manifestation can be seen in the active presence of people, the creation of a culture of cooperation and interaction, reducing stress and anxiety, the presence of different age and gender

groups, and night life. (Jahanbakhsh-Ganjeh etal., 2015) Otherwise, the lack of security, sense of danger and fear of crime in urban environments will reduce the use of public spaces and their inefficiency, and we will no longer witness the presence and social interactions of citizens; This can reduce the dynamism and vitality of the mentioned spaces and eventually turn them into dead spaces without social supervision(Shakuri-Asal,2016). In fact, in order to maintain and create urban security, which is considered one of the important and necessary components of today's world, urban planners, architecture, urban planning, urban sociology, etc. should create peace and a sense of security in the shade of cooperation and mutual cooperation. Provide urban spaces for citizens.

Key words: security, feeling of security, feeling of insecurity, urban space

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