

**PASSIVE SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AS A FACTOR OF MOBILITY
FULFILLMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES**

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ABSTRACT: *The simplest element of human life is social action. Social action is a vital series of movements, which humans do to achieve a goal in relation with other human. People have an inherent need to social relations and therefore provide a situation that can experience the social relationship. The social and cultural relationships all happen in space so spaces contain social and cultural relations among certain groups and certain places. This happens in a specific period of time. So social life is located in spaces and time and limited by them. In the streets and urban centers and places, social activities generally have superficial modes; most of these activities are passive communication, like vision and hearing the sound of large number of anonymous people. But even this limited activity can also be very attractive. Today's Life, the high speed causes the limited communication between citizens. In this busy fast life, more social activities (whether, willingly or unwillingly) is going to the passive social relationships. Transient looks, ambiguous and garbled sounds and.... This research in the first section is going to recognize the social existing relations in Fahadan quarter of Yazd city and also existing public spaces in this area and in the next section the proposal of urban design strategies of public spaces in neighborhood level in order to prepare a good field and strengthening the passive social relations is taken into consideration. So in this way we can increase the quality of social relations between residents and also the amount of these relationships.*

KEYWORDS: *Social action, social relations, Passive social relations, vision, hearing*

INTRODUCTION

Social relation is conducted with different goals:

- Emotional: includes friendship, relationship and neighborhood relations.
- Intellectual: in seeking to maximize the chance of people in reaching their goals.
- Value: seek a goal regardless of other possible goals and its cost.
- Traditional: is formed on the basis of traditions and beliefs.

The reason of its durability and stability is its believed and traditional esteem. Cultural system and social relations are related with each other.

On the other hand culture is the product of social relations that the severity of these relations affects the culture. This means that the establishment and sustain of social relations causes the reinforcement of values and norms or culture and on the other hand culture assign the conditions and the formation of social relations. The social and cultural relations occur in the

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space so the space includes a collection of social and cultural relations among the specific group and specific place. The type of relationships that occurs in the space and its severity gives meaning to the space. Also the space depending on the type of design and relationships that have with other existing spaces in the context can be a field producer for the occurrence of these relationships and determine the duration of the occurrence of the relationships in the inside as well as the quality and quantity of social relations. In fact the physical structure and functional divisions of space may be introductive or restrict the opportunities for relationship. Activities and social relationships occur spontaneously as a result of the movement of people in space and their being in one space. This implies that whenever social activities are necessary and optional in public spaces and have better conditions they are supported indirectly. In the streets and city centers and neighborhoods social activities are generally superficial, most of these activities are positive relationships, like seeing and hearing the voice of a lot of strangers, but even this limited activity can also be very attractive. The rate and feature of done activities in outside spaces is generally affected by the physical planning. The quality of design, interrelated components of urban design and also the mutual relationships among the variable spaces existing in a context with each other can affect the type of activities and the quality of the occurrence of activities in the urban spaces.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Public space

In Oxford English dictionary (1993) the term public is used (meant to be general and in most of the meanings as the opposite of privacy) the public space as <<common field that people do the ceremonial and functional activities that tie the society member in it>>. (Madanipour 1979, 213)

From the Valzer point of view the public space is the space we share with strangers. People who are not our relatives, friends or our colleagues. It is a space for politics, religion, trade and sport. A space for peaceful coexistence and no personal conflicts. (Pakzad, 1388, 78).

Tibald also refers to this concept in his definition of public sphere. In his perspective public areas are the most important part of cities and urban environments. In such areas the greatest contact of communication and interaction between humans occur. These areas include all parts of the urban contexts that people have physical and visual access to it. So these areas include the streets, parks, and intersections to the buildings confining them. (Khademi and others, 2009, 1380) Pakzad knows the public spaces, those spaces that all citizens are entitled to enter them with no need of control and etc. spaces like streets, parks, squares, markets, mosques and etc. (1388, 77)

From the Kermonas point of view the public sphere has two aspects of physical and social. The physical aspect of public area is considered like this: spaces and collections with public or private domain that support the public life and social interactions or facilitates them. By the activities and events that occur in these spaces and collections one can name them the social and cultural public spheres.

Good public space

The key to create the safe and vibrant public spaces is the traffic and pedestrian activity. every one regardless of his way of coming and going ,like a pedestrian enters the urban spaces and experience the surrounding environment directly with his own eye.

Coming and going good social spaces mainly is possible with walking, bicycling and restriction on the entry of vehicles. The distribution of coming and going depends on the quality of public spaces .as a result if the comings and goings of vehicles over comes, public spaces will not be exciting and vibrant for people any more. International samples show that spaces that haven't been compatible with pedestrians how have converted to an attractive and abandoned public spaces. On the other hand if we provide good conditions for pedestrians more people will walk and many interesting and amusement activities will be done .(1389,Gehl).so the key to create the attractive ,allowed, and vibrant urban spaces is dreating a good condition for walking along with facilities for hesitation, stopping and business.

The measurement criterions of effective and appropriate public spaces

According to a study done by the pps institute on more than one thousand urban public spaces in different countries ,the scholars have concluded that four main factors in assessing the qualitative utility of the status of urban public spaces are the most important. Those factors are:

- Access and linkage
- Comfort and image
- Use and activity

Of course it is obvious that judgment about the importance of quality of public spaces exactly returns to the personal perception of people. and different people undoubtedly affected by many of their cultural and environmental aspects assess the different factors too high or low, so it should be noted that the judgment that local using people from public spaces are doing due to the continuous action that these people with public space have is more valuable than the judgment of people who don't use these spaces continuously. it is important to understand that all these qualitative factors are used together to form an overall experience of public space and may prevent the presentation of a solution in order to improve the quality of public spaces.

Importance and role of public spaces in cities:

As many urban scholars have expressed, public spaces such as neighborhood parks and gardens are from the important elements of a city that define the attractive and unique parts of it. Some people believe that in the urban elements before modernism public spaces such as town squares and markets have been as a field for social relationships and in fact have been considered the places consisted of social interactions for many of the people who made these interactions possible.(madanipor 1387).in addition ,open spaces help the creation of confidence and assurance in people and increase the sense of solidarity and belonging in them and in fact these spaces are higher than places just for fun. These places are vital elements in our environment that as they have positive and necessary functions, have provided opportunities for the public amusement, protect the natural resources and affect a vast range of economic decisions. Nowadays big cities are often characterized by their large scale public spaces and the functional quality of these spaces is one of the tools for assessing the powerful being of cities and their ability to create fun and amusement and also natural beauties and open spaces

for their citizens. Public spaces in categories like creation and strengthening the urban pride ,increase of economic investment and tourist ,and help in creating the health and improving the quality of life also have benefited the cities.(rogers,2003)and have a major role in urban planning patterns and in making the neighborhoods social.in cities with rapid development despite the similarity in the urban public streets and their particular artificial structures ,public spaces face with fundamental change in their physical structure so that the meaning and importance of these spaces is lost in their rapid growth requirements and the quantity and quality of public spaces has decreased. We can emphasize on this fact that he rapid growth of cities esp. in the developing countries has resulted the functional decrease of public spaces in the second half of twentieth century and esp. since the late 1980 decade. Protesters to these fundamental decrease of public spaces believe that all of the aspects of planning and urban development should be motivated in the field of strengthening the imagination and perception and effective use of public spaces.as these spaces are considered the focusing places of public and private activities it should be noted that not only in terms of functionality should be suitable but it is necessary to have peculiar and distinct feature compared to other urban spaces too. With regard to the major role that public spaces play in sustainable development of cities, in modern literature of design and urban planning the importance of revival and recognition of public space is frequently emphasized as the places that social actions and urban life experiences occur.(madanipor,haman)

Public activities in public places

Gehl classifies the done activities in public spaces in three groups:

Necessary activities, obligatory activities and social activities that among these three groups, districted from human activities, obligatory and social activities are very important in the quality of city.

Necessary activities:

What must be done: going to the school, waiting for the bus and going to work, shortly these activities occur regardless of the quality of physical environment, because people are forced to do it. Good cities provide good condition for many of the essential activities and maintain and strengthen these activities over the time.

Optional activities:

These activities occur in ecological conditions and when the surrounding environment is attractive. These activities are sensitive to quality and occur only when the surrounding quality is appropriate. The obvious feature of good city is the existence of many optional activities. People who come to such a city find the places very interesting and stay there longer unique and charming city can be recognized from the usage of citizens of the public places for leisure.

Social activities:

These activities take place when people are passing a same place. Items such as watching, discussion, the experience of facing with others and passive and active participation. A good city, offers a great range of optional activities and since many people are present in the cities, there are a lot of people to experience, watching and speaking. As a result the city becomes lively and wonderfully urban: a city for people (Gehl 2006, 5).

Gehl believes that, in low quality urban areas only essential activities can be found. In other words, people do the things they have to do them. In high quality urban areas, not only essential activities (that are doing in appropriate terms), but also a lot of recreational and social activities

that are favorite for people are held. However, these activities take place when the condition is ideal; it means the city offers high quality and temptation space. The reason is that the good city can be compared with a good Festival: people stay longer than the time really is needed, because they enjoy of their presence.

Meeting the needs of people in public spaces

One of the most major features of public spaces with proper quality is to supply the needs of the members of the society. Awareness of the needs and desires of people in public spaces is one of the key issues in creating the public spaces with proper quality and successful in attracting the people. Supplying the Human needs in one space is one of the very important objectives of the urban design and planning. Those human needs in urban public spaces include:

- A) Physical and mental comfort
- B) Relaxation
- C) Active encounters
- D) Disable encounters and
- E) Exploration and learning.

These needs can be described as:

A) Physical and mental comfort

Physical comfort includes the need to eat, drink, shelter in nature, environmental issues (such as temperature, wind direction and intensity of the Sun). Social and mental comfort in public spaces is obtained by the promotion of security feeling by reducing the risks. A sense of security in public spaces with the presence of people increases with the awareness from the environment and the ability to view and surveillance. Human needs to mental and physical security are one of the basic requirements of human beings in relation to spaces that have different dimensions as follows:

Visibility of space

That despite the various activities, and planning events with the aim of increasing and sustaining people's presence in space, the Visual permeability, readability, clearly of space is available.

The possibility of environmental perception and acquisition

Those with proper lighting, free lines of sight, removing the unsafe areas and the existence of signs and symptoms that help to understand the position of people within the space. Imagining the space and the aesthetic values of space, putting the signboards in spaces and symptoms that prevent people to lose the space.

B) Relaxation

Relaxation depends on ease of body and soul. In fact, the mental and physical comfort is a prerequisite for relaxation. Relaxation in the public spaces is obtained from tranquil environment and through sensual inspiration elements. A public space with an appropriate quality provides maximum diversity in opportunity for use to all users.

C) Active encounters

An active encounter involves a direct confrontation with other people and the environment, so active encounter has social practice and is accessible through social discussion, gathering and turnover, children's playing, and sports and recreational activities. Active encounter in public spaces are very attractive to people because of social discussion, creating livable and more active spaces. Being in group cause people feel nearer and increase social connection between them.

D) Inactive encounters

Inactive encounters need to deal with complex without active encounter; that resulting of interest and enjoy of public spaces through watching others and watching others includes: view the public arts, watching activities such as, playing or exercising, watching people walk and view the street.

E) Exploration and learning

Discovery includes people interests for their experiences enjoyable and explores space, a sense of being pleasantly surprised and new experiences and teaching. Create a collection with the changing landscape of unpredictable changing, and changing levels, you can figure out, encourage, and different experiences and interesting for people to be mobile. Curiosity and discover or searching in public spaces such as design tools to strengthen the view details, create variation in color and construction materials strengthen it.

Social relations

Humans have an inherent need to establish social relations and so they provide positions that can experience social relationship in it. When the action system of people is directed towards each other, it is called social relations. Social relations must be significant and with the awareness. Social relationship can be temporary or permanent: if mutual relations are permanent and regular it can be described, identified and fixed. (Kozer quoted from Tavalae) Different theories about social relations and space have been raised. Some of them know the space as determinant of social relations that are named determinism. Some assume the space the material dimension of community, and believe that social relations are effective to form it. Some also believe that the space creates facilities and limitations, which people on the basis of their cultural criteria choose it. Urban spaces reflect the social relations in the city, and at the same time, based on these relationships the identity is obtained. The urban space like a built environment can hinder or facilitate social relations and affect them or turn to be affected. (Rapaport Quoted from Tavalae)

Passive social relationships (Non-active involvement)

Non-active involvement with the environment, can lead to the creation of sense of calm. But here this feeling is different. Because the needs of a person is with his/her environment, without the active involvement with it. This category of need include pleasure that the person occasionally feels by stirring at the scene of people coming and going. Such an involvement is indirect and Non-active, because it is accompanied only by looking and not talking and doing anything. Numerous examples exist of such places that have been used for this purpose and these are popular.

People watching are an activity that is often seen in small urban spaces. "White" and his colleagues (Lindi, 1978) have expressed this (people watching) is most common activity in the city plazas. "White" says (1988): "it seems that what is more attractive than all the things for

people, is watching other people ", "Lindi" in studying the plazas of "San Francisco" found that the most desirable places for sitting, is the places that are on the side of the flow of pedestrians, especially, near the corner of the streets.

Some writers believe that the physical separation can facilitate the Visual communication between people. Cooper Marcus says that in Crystal Crete Minneapolis the most popular activity is watching others and a balcony on the top floor, which prepares the possibility of watching the low population is of the high importance. Such a point that is located in a higher level, allows the watcher. "Watch people without having the Visual clash with others."

Areas for walking, places to stay, to stop: details planning

Only the creation of spaces where people come and go is not enough. Optimal conditions should be fitted to roam and stay in space, as for taking part in social and recreational activities for a broad range of circumstances is also necessary. That we go on to talk about some of necessary qualities of the outer environment with more details: some of these requirements are general and simple and some at the same time are more specific, such as a walking, standing and sitting and also watching, hearing and talking.

Because these activities are base for some of the other activities they are considered, as the starting point. If the spaces for walking, standing and sitting and also watching, hearing and talking be appealing, this is a quality for itself, but at the same time for a wide range of other activities such as, playing, exercising, social activities, and like these will provide a good condition (Gehl, 2008, 123-125)

Urban public spaces provide places for social discussions and other active /passive involvement with others. Social discussions increase the people welfare and cause people to discover themselves, others and the environment. The public spaces offer the possibility of getting together with the entire community group consisting of different age, group, and sex, social, economic and racial that has an important role in social involvement and creating social cohesion to create their social life.

If these spaces are worthy designed and cared, causes the more closeness of people with each other and create a place for meeting and reinforce the social relations that are spoiled in many urban areas. These locations form a cultural identity for an area and as part of a unique feature of that area create locational sense for the local communities.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the studies in the above research and theoretical foundations that have been offered, we have tried to edit the design criteria and principles in the form of symbols and qualities of urban design with emphasis on passive social relationships as a design statement in the completion of the urban design guide.

Table 1- the guide of public spaces design with emphasis on passive social relationships. Source: author

Quality	Principles	Represents	
socialization	1-design space in order to respond to the presence of a special social group with the establishment of the urban furniture	Social	policy dimension
Monitoring and control of	2-increase social surveillance with the forklift in the user off the overflow of pedestrian , monitoring and disposal of spaces		
security	3-securing the presence of people in space and with the absorption of the existence of the General security surveillance		
Memorabilia	4-the improvement and renovation of the historical monuments and treasured for memories of a sense of belonging	historical	
Environmental sustainability	5-reduction of air pollution and using natural elements of environmental sustainability	environmental (bio-boom)	Fact dimension (Environmental)
the vitality and security	6-creation and deployment of active units 7- pay attention to the existence of the actuator for user to attract the crowds in the evening and night hours	groundand user activity(Functional)	Fact dimension (Functional)
diversity	8-user attention to diversity in the lift to capture all segments of society		
access and priority permeability	9-different patterns of motion considering providing pedestrian and bicycle	Movement and access (space)	
security	10- safety with relaxation roadway		
Permeability	11-pay attention to what the permeability of space in terms of Visual and functional for the user space either in terms of permeability	Physical Form (Morphology)	
form	12-creating a space opening in the body of the space for people to define		
Visual continuity	13-pay attention to the ecological elements (tall trees) as a strong factor in the making of Visual continuity	Urban Landscape (Represents the visual)	
	14-create continuity in the forklift to create Visual continuity of the wall		
Sensory richness (Visual, auditory) and Climate comfort	15-Note on employing water and green space in space to provide comfort climate and increase the richness of the sensory richness of the environment	public spaces (perceptual)	

Fixation	16-attention to communication and interaction on the street encounters, as well as providing a bed for seeing and being seen for the sake of belonging		
security	17-securing proper lighting at night and with transparent \rightarrow building glazing and user security enabled for injection.		

The man is a social creature, and his life is based on the human social relationships, the most sublime way of making these relationships is visible and reviewable in the urban system. In the urban community of Iran and particularly the cities with traditional culture and inner social features, artistic urban spaces as a form of social relations are important examples in establishing of these relationships. Hence this urban space can be an able field for forming the passive social relationships including the vision and hearing, as it was seen in the above table, we can strengthen this field with different strategies in forming passive social relations and foundation of active and awarding social relations.

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