

## The impact of urban defenseless spaces on the security of citizens of 3 to 12 districts in Tehran, Iran

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### Abstract:

Urban Spaces are a collection of opportunities and are full of cultural and social facilities, so they should create comfort, tranquility and happiness. They should not produce fear and anxiety. Recreational centers, such as parks, stadiums, playgrounds, cinemas, etc., should evoke the sense of calm, joy and excitement. They should not be the source of grief, fear, stress or insecurity. Furthermore, with the existence of social institutions and supervisory and support institutions, the city must be organized and disciplined while the emergence of numerous social harm in the city indicates the impact of urbanization on the creation and increase of social problems. That is why the city, according to Robert Park and the Chicago School, it is considered the best place for the occurrence of "social disorganization". Recently, the rate of non-normative behaviors and violence has increased in some urban areas, which has been the source of social insecurity, and made it difficult to organize the relations between the citizens and their living environment.

**Key Words:** urban spaces, security among citizens, social harm, social disorganization

### Introduction

The sign of a successful city is that in the streets and alleys and other urban spaces, which are full of strangers, people, feel safe and secure. They should not feel that they are threatened. The city is a territory in which the need for division of labor is more felt. Since the population is increasing rapidly, there should be different material resources in cities where a large number of people with various moralities and behaviors live in (Mohammad Zaheri, 2016). Thus, with the expansion and generalization of the division of labor and the specialization of social duties and functions, we witness the weakening of social solidarity. The reason for the high rates of crime, violence, and insecurity in cities, especially in a large city like Tehran, may be the deterioration of mechanical solidarity which is mentioned in Durkheim's social realism (or the idea that society is an objectively real entity that exists independently and autonomously of any particular

individual). Anyway, other scholars of sociology (the school of Chicago) have confirmed this issue (Mohammadi, 2017). The growth and expansion of the physical and social dimensions of cities and their transformation into demographic, social and physical heterogeneous centers as well as urban disproportion have had a significant impact on urban life (Talebpour, 2017). Urban defenseless space is an area that has both the characteristics of the private and the state realm, i.e. it has neither a supervisory control, nor the belonging to them. Hence, it can provide an opportunity for social harm and illegal and non-normative activities from waste disposal to drug use, theft, rape, etc. (Ahmadi, 2015). The defenseless spaces or crime hotspots have many characteristics that can be divided into two physical and social categories, causing spaces to become prone to violence. From the urban designers and architects' point of view, physical characteristics have more roles in predisposing spaces for violence

while sociologists and psychologists believe that social characteristics have such an effect (Mohseni, 2011).

### **Materials and methods:**

Considering the nature of the subject, in this research, the descriptive-survey method has been used. In a method, which in terms of time and the research method used this research is cross-sectional, in terms of depth, it is extensive, in term of function, it is an applied research and in terms of context, scope and the way of collecting data, it is a field research. Since the results of this study have been used to evaluate the influence of the defenseless urban spaces on the security among citizens, it is an applied research. This study is used to carry out the reforms in the districts (3-12) of Tehran. Based on a relatively comprehensive understanding of urban defenseless spaces, steps are being taken to adopt appropriate ways to investigate and highlight this issue.

**The statistical population of the research:** The statistical population of this study is the families living in the districts (3- 12) in Tehran during the years 2011-2016. Due to the small sample size of the statistical population, simple random sampling was used. The sample size was 377 citizens in districts (3-12) of Tehran.

**The method of analyzing the data:** Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to describe and analyze the data of this research which have the survey and statistical features. In the descriptive statistics, the researcher collects and summarizes the quantitative information obtained from the samples and describes the characteristics of the sample. In the inferential statistics, the researcher is studying one or several samples using statistical methods and models. Then he determines the characteristics or the parameters of the entire statistical population from the sample indicators or the characteristics of the sample, respectively. In the research process, the next step after data collection analyses the data. After collecting data using a questionnaire and a checklist, the results were analyzed with SPSS software. In this study, we first interview with the five relevant faculty members and the all factors that may affect their satisfaction are identified. This interview will be quite effective in the extension of the researcher's view about the subject (interview method). In the next stage, according to the results of the interviews and the study of previous studies, the questionnaires are designed. The questionnaire is designed based on standard models in which Likert scale is used (library method). In the next step, the

questionnaire is distributed among the statistical population and its data and information are entered into the software. In this way, statistical analysis is performed on raw data and the results are presented (field method).

### **Results and discussion:**

The possibility of crime and violence are high in the defenseless urban spaces due to the physical and social characteristics of these places. These spaces are the product of complex interactions that there lake of symbolic and real obstacles, the lack of a definition of specific areas and regulatory facilities, including natural, social and physical monitoring in these kind of places that have led to significant levels of crime and social harm (Dadfar, 2018). In this research, the defenseless urban spaces in Tehran, especially in 3 to 12 districts has been examined. These areas have been expanded considerably due to the physical and demographic growth and worn-out urban texture. One of the most important social needs of human is the need to provide security in urban environments, especially defenseless urban spaces. Many crimes and offenses occur in the corner of the city, which is hidden and away from social monitoring (Fakuhi, 2013).

### **Research indicators:**

**Descriptive indexes of variables in defenseless urban spaces:** The questionnaire of urban defenseless spaces has 35 items and questions. In addition, it includes the following seven criteria: the type of defenseless urban spaces, the rate of using urban defenseless spaces, the time of use of urban defenseless space, the way of use of urban defenseless space, the level of awareness of the defenselessness of urban space and insight into the defenseless urban spaces. Each of criteria contains 5 questions. The polls are based on the Likert scale from 1 to 5, which are given 1 score to strongly disagree and 5 to strongly agree. The range of each criterion is from 5 to 25 and the main criterion is 35 to 175. Therefore, the higher the score of each criterion means that the mentioned criterion affects the sense of security. The average amount of utilization of defenseless urban spaces is 17.17 with the minimum and maximum amount of 11 and 25, respectively, standard deviation of 2.693 and Skewness and Kurtosis are 0.141 and - 0.321, respectively. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of people are saying that the use of defenseless urban spaces in 3 and 12 districts of Tehran leads to the loss of security. According to the amount of standard deviation, it can be said that there is no significant difference between the views

of the people. Also, based on the amount of Skewness and Kurtosis, it can be said that data has the normal distribution.

**Descriptive indicators of variables of security sense:**

The security questionnaire has 28 questions, consists of the following four criteria: financial insecurity, physical insecurity, emotional insecurity and sexual insecurity, which contains 7 questions. The polls are based on the Likert scale from 1 to 5, which are given 1 score to strongly disagree and 5 to very strongly agree. The range of each criterion is from 7 to 35 and the main criterion range is 28 to 140. Therefore, the higher the score of each criterion means that the defenseless urban spaces affect the sense of security. The average amount of sense of security is 94.29 with the minimum and maximum amount of 67 and 125, respectively, standard deviation of 1.648 and Skewness and Kurtosis are 0.017 and -0.302, respectively. Therefore, it can be said that the majority of people are believed that the defenseless urban spaces lead to loss of security. According to the amount of standard deviation, it can be said that there is no significant difference between the views of the people. Also, based on the amount of Skewness and Kurtosis, it can be said that data has the normal distribution.

**Exams and results:**

**Test validity:** The concept of validity (narrative) answers the question of how much the measuring tools, measures the desired attribute. Without the knowledge of the measuring tolls validity, the accuracy of the data obtained cannot be guaranteed. The measurement tool may be valid for measuring a particular attribute, while it does not have any credibility to measure the same attribute in another society. There are different methods for obtaining validity, and factor analysis has been used in this study. It is worth mentioning that the reported number is related to the KMO and Bartlett tests. The closer the KMO test is to one, the more reliable the questionnaire is. The Bartlett test also correlates the questions it shows.

**Security questionnaire's test validity**

Based on the results of the table, the KMO value for the security questionnaire is 0.677, which indicates the proper validity of the questionnaire. Also, the significance of Bartlett's statistics also indicates the correlation between questionnaire questions. Also, the results of Table 1 confirm the validity of the questionnaire. The results of the table, which have been identified as subscriptions, indicate two points:

1. The column for the initial value indicates the total value of the variance of each variable that a set of

factors can explain. Therefore, since agents can explain all the variances of a variable, it is worth noting in the table that the value of this variance for all items is equal to one.

2. The extracted column represents some amount of variance in each variable that the set of factors has been able to explain. The more the numbers are closer to the number one, the better. Therefore, as 0.05, we will determine and adjust them and remove them from the collection.

**Table 1:** Test validity of Security questionnaire

<b>KMO value</b>	<b>0.677</b>
Bartlett	<b>1003.897</b>
p-value	<b>0.000</b>

**Normality test:** To use statistical techniques, it must first be determined that the collected data has a normal distribution or not? Because if the distribution of collected data be normal for testing the hypotheses, parametric tests can be used, and nonparametric tests are used in case of being non-normal. For this purpose, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is used to investigate the normal distribution of the main variables. This test, in one-sample mode, compares the observed cumulative distribution function with the expected cumulative distribution function in a variable at the distance measurement level. In interpreting the test results, if the observed error value is greater than 0.05, then the observed distribution is the same with the theoretical distribution and there is no difference between the two. That is, the obtained distribution is the normal one. But if the meaningful value is smaller than 0.05 then the observed distribution is different with the expected distribution and the distribution of the difference is not normal. This test examines the normalization of data according to the following assumptions.

H0: There is no difference between observed and desired frequencies (normal distribution).

H1: There is a difference between the observed and desired frequencies (non-normal distribution).

Based on the results of Table 15, both major variables follow the normal distribution, because the assumption of zero variables is not significant at 5% level.

**Correlation test:** The correlation analysis is a tool for determining the type and degree of the relationship of a quantitative variable with another quantitative variable. Correlation coefficient is one of the criteria used to determine the correlation

between two variables. Correlation coefficient shows the severity of the relationship as well as the type of direct or inverse relationship. This coefficient is between 41 and -1.

### Results and suggestions:

The violence spread in everyday life is rapidly growing in many countries and cities due to intellectual and mental issues. In such a situation, the policies of anti-violence institutions that often focus directly on the perpetrator are not very successful, and this has led to be attended the dimensions affecting on the violence occurrence and the underlying factors (Abolhasani, 2014). One of the influential factors that urban planners, sociologists and environmental psychologists have been focusing on in recent decades are urban spaces and, hence, urban defenseless spaces (Tavakolinia, 2016). It can be said that there is a certain level of violence in any given urban space, but violence at the city level have not been accidentally distributed, since spaces with the name "infected" or "defenseless" are a place of occurrence for all kinds of violence. While no violence occurs in other places or less violence occurs (Dadfar, 2018).

### Conclusion:

Based on the size of this statistical population, 377 people were selected and surveyed. 9.32% of respondents are male and 1.67% of women. Statistical population's age groups consist of 1.15 % between 15 and 25, 6.15% between 26 and 35, 9.36% between 36 and 45, 5.26% between 46 and 55 and 8.5% more than 55 years old. The academic degrees of these people include 13% lower diploma, 8.9% have diploma and associate degree, 8.59% bachelor, 4.14% master of science and 9.2% doctorate degree. Additionally, 9.36% of respondents reside in the district 3 and 1.63% in the district 12. According to the results of this study, residents in districts 3 and 12 feel insecure in defensive spaces. The structural form of these places has a significant impact on citizens' insecurity. The roundabout alleys, half-finished buildings, ruins, underpasses, etc. are among these structural forms. Therefore, this feeling of insecurity can be reduced with the government cooperation, the private sector and the people. In addition, people can reduce the feeling of insecurity by helping each other, avoiding the gathering of strangers and begging habits and holding lectures, gatherings and other celebrations in low traffic and distant areas. On the other hand, the government can reduce the feeling level of insecurity increasing the levels of monitoring and

dealing with thugs in defenseless areas, collecting addicts, and supporting different classes.

### Suggestions:

#### Functional suggestions:

1. Setting instructions from government agencies (municipal, judiciary, etc.) for the confinement and inaccessibility of semi-finished buildings for the people.
2. Installing the station houses in the defensive districts 3 and 12 areas,
3. Providing suitable lighting for the roundabout alleys and defenseless places,
4. Construction of small parks near low-traffic and defenseless places and
5. Launching small businesses and commercial units near defenseless locations

#### Future suggestions:

1. Conducting research on the same subject in other districts of the country and comparing their results with each other,
2. Investigating the effect of social and economic factors on the increase of security in urban defenseless spaces and
3. Developing principles and strategies for promoting security in urban defenseless spaces.

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