A study of the indicators enhancing and Improving Social class status in Old Urban Textures -Lepers Hospital, Chopda Taluka, India

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Abstract

The major aim of present research investigation is a study of the indicators enhancing and improving Social Status of Old Urban Textures. As per what has been discussed and with the objective of heightening the identity level, supervision and security in the process of reconstruction, it can be concluded that reconstruction enhances the security because of the shortage of environmental threats and sharing to reconstruct buildings causes the promotion of social supervision indicators in community, as well as, to heighten the level of identity in society, the level of residents` social interactions should be increased by predicting alternative environment (social environments). Such environments could increase functional mixture in social interaction and the level of security.

 Keywords: Indices Improvement, Old Urban Textures, Social Status

Introduction

During the recent decade, the problem of old urban textures and following reconstruction approach in these areas has been discussed with the aim of planning and interfering to decrease vulnerability against earthquake. The indices identifying these areas also have been determined with a focus on structural system quality, the possibility of providing aid and the number of at risk people[1]. Therefore, providing the opportunity to destroy and reconstruct these areas by the help of government and municipalities support is considered as the general approach at national level[2]. Accordingly, the least spatial changes derived from reconstruction can be stated as follows:

• Improving spatial conditions of residential spaces by residents of these areas in the frame of retrofitting and reconstructing

• Providing the services and infrastructures in the frame of building down and widening existing roads, constructing new alleys and streets, and citizens` other required services by municipalities and other executive organizations

Although retrofitting the existing structures is the simplest strategy to improve buildings strength, it has not been done due to some reasons including lack of financial support, lack of accordance with some detailed plans regulations (obligatory widening), and the lack of structural frame for retrofitting. Hence, it seems that destruction and reconstruction strategy is more likely to be achieved due to the lack of the above mentioned cases. Reconstructing building in unstable and old urban textures can be done through the two following ways:

• Individual construction

• Construction through accumulation of plaques (due to the lack of construction possibility in some fine aggregate plaques and anticipating incentive density or other factors in this case leading to more infrastructural gain)

The common point in both methods is constructing building based on economic resources; that is, if environmental conditions (the value of earth and building in an area), anticipated incentives (incentive density, facilities, exemption from the payment of duties,

and so forth) and purchase demand (the lack of recession conditions and certain environmental abnormalities) provide the possibility of access to the minimum expected profit, reconstruction will be occurred and otherwise, texture will remain in the existing conditions.

Question

In case of improving the quality of building based retrofitting strategy, the pattern of residence and subsequently, social indices such as identity, supervision and security are not undertaken any change. But, in destruction and reconstruction, on one hand, residence is changed from independent units into apartment and on the other hand, the number of residential units are increased as it is exists now. So, the question is that considering the level of identity, supervision and security in these areas and with respect to the fact that residence type is changed due to reconstruction, is it possible to increase the level of identity, supervision and security by anticipating planning and design?

Definition of affective components

Participation

The word of "participation" means to involvement and accumulation for a specific purpose. According to the definition provided by oxford dictionary, participation is "an act or reality of participating, having or constituting a part of something"[3]. The research institute of united state defines participation as "the organized efforts to increase the control over regulating resources and institutes in certain social conditions from some groups and movements which have been excluded of such controls"[4]. Ornstein also considers participation as "the process of sharing power by people to influence the behavior of governance".

Identity

In Moein Persian-Persian dictionary, identity is defined as "what causes to identify a person". In fact, identity is a set of features and characteristics which causes to distinguish an individual from other individuals or a subject from other subjects[5]. According to Linch, identity is the simplest form of "meaning" and a certain limit by which a person can distinguish or recognize a distinctive place. As he believes, great familiarity, just like a certain form, cause to create a sense of place; also, events can have identity (the meaning of event).

Supervision

In Persian language, supervision is to investigate, inspect and monitor the execution of an affair [6]. Human applies supervision over land pieces as well as the masses carried by a person; spatial supervisions are resulted in strong psychological effects such as emotion, satisfaction and pride. One of the rights causing the sense of ownership and reinforcing supervision is the right of use and acting freely in a place and the right of change and modification. A good settlement is a place in which that supervision over the place is "reliable", "compatible" and" responsible"[7].

Security

Researchers consider security as to support values and cope with dangers and enemies. As Jacobs introduces, the main features to make streets secure include the necessity of separating public and private spaces clearly, the dominance of buildings over streets (increasing the look of supervisor over street) and creating dynamic spaces causing to encourage people to participate in street. The emphasis of Oscar Newman to create defendable spaces involves four main elements for design. Together or separately, these four elements affect creating defendable space. These concepts can be referred as territory, supervision, building image, and residential facilities accompanied with other facilities[8].

Security has very wide dimensions (at micro and macro level). Urban security is one of the aspects which can be investigated in two scopes of environmental threats (flood, earthquake and human) and human threats (financial and life threats) [9].

Investigating the affective factors in old textures (status quo)

Participation

In constructing building at old urban areas, a spectrum of focused intervention can be considered by executive (public or governmental) to investigate the lack of any action and following market mechanism. In focused intervention, due to the extent, various dimensions and complexities of the problem on one hand and financial, executive and management limitations of municipality dependent executors on the other hand, are not defined or fulfilled in projects and/or its related costs are increased to a great extent. After implementing such projects, the consequences also lead to new problems. In case of the lack of any action, reconstruction will not be occurred due to the lack of residents` financial ability and the lack of economic attractions to attract investment. Accordingly, the achievable strategies should cover the lack of executive intervention by government and municipality besides anticipating supporting tools. The most important consequence of buildings reconstruction by residents is to avoid population replacement in the process of reconstruction and also decrease and control many negative aspects of reconstruction (such as social capital, feeling of attachment, identity, and so forth). Further, this approach involves a less social and economic cost compared with the direct action taken by government.

Identity

Various natural and social elements are effective to form individual and social identity of human. Regarding social elements, the specific activities existing in the area lead to the formation of a certain identity (Figure 1).

Since human activities are formed in specific spaces, it is important to study the opportunity of activities formation in order to recognize identity making indicators. Some spatial elements which are changed during reconstruction and can influence residents' identity are as follows:

- Yard, as a threshold space and a contour between private space (home) and semi-public space (alley) which meet some spatial and functional needs of family on one hand and is the bed of doing some activities shared by neighbors on the other hand.

- Alley and dead end: as a play place for children and adolescences, a place of conversing and communicating for neighbors and doing common social activities. This space is qualified for semi-public function due to its low influencability (Figure 2).

Supervision

In old textures, supervision can be divided into two kinds of supervision on place and supervision on behavior. Regarding supervision on place, due to the strong hierarchy between public, semi-public and private spaces (generally, the existing perceivable spatial organization), residents and users are allowed to use, and act freely and even more ownership in some semi-public and semi-private spaces such as ally and dead end. Moreover, in such spaces, there is more possibility to change and modify (Figure 3 and Figure 4). Regarding supervision on behavior, on one hand, due to more coherence among social groups and due to longer history of residence on the other hand, residents' behavior is more restrained. The common cooperation among neighbors and community residents can also enhance the level of mutual supervision in an organized or natural way in the frame of religious, social and economic institutes.

Security

In old textures, security can be investigated based on different aspects including:

- Environmental threats: due to the fact that Egypt is placed on earthquake belt and there are a plenty of unstable buildings in old areas, the security derived from environmental threats is placed at the lowest level of these textures.

- Human threats: it seems that this index is directly related with urban poverty in old textures. Due to the fact that in these areas, the density of low income villages, the possibility of formation of affective activities and behaviors is more by decreasing the security in old textures compared with the area with less urban poverty.

- Performance mixture: due to the dominance of building in old textures and the lack of a mixture of supporting and reinforcing users, there is a low level of security derived from variety and mixture in these areas leading to urban space liveliness and high social interaction.

- Due to a good level of supervision, the factors related with social supervision (territory and supervision eyes on street) are in a good status.

The summary of factors affecting reconstruction and comparing them with status quo

The factors affecting the investigated components can be summarized as follow:

Table 1- summary of affective components

Component	Affective factor
Participation	Residents` participation to reconstruct building
Identity	Yard, as a multi-functional and social space
	Alley, as a multi-functional and social space
Supervision	Hierarchy of public spaces
	Social groups coherence
	Residence history
	Residents` common Cooperation
Security	Natural threats
	Economic poverty
	Functional mixture

The changes of affective factors during reconstruction

Participation

According to aforementioned, in Egypt's laws, building reconstruction has been anticipated based on execution by residents. At the present time, buildings are constructed in old urban textures by owners (self-ownership) and/or by participation of private legal and natural investors and constructors (civil participation). In this area, government and municipalities do not consider any executive role for themselves and support reconstruction through presenting incentive packages such as bank facilities without deposit, 50% to 100% discount for construction duty and incentive density, therefore, "participation", in this comparison, is considered as a constant and existing factor.

Identity

Yard: due to the apartment living pattern as the only residence style alternative, lose its place as a semi-private space in the process of reconstruction in urban spaces hierarchy and find a semi-public role. Additionally, yard is changed into functional space by decreasing social function.

Alley: due to anticipated widening in upstream designs, alley finds more impressionability and so, it loses its dominant social function.

Dead end: its function is also changed just like alley and/or is added to land area or omitted due to the accumulation of neighboring plaques.

Supervision

The hierarchy of public spaces: as mentioned, the level of supervision is decreased due to the fact that the function of neighboring roads becomes more public.

Social groups` coherence: in this scope, it should be referred to increasing the number of residential units due to reconstruction. For example, according to the existing statistics in Ghahereh, 3/6 units have been created for each unit of destruction in old textures. The constructed units add new residents to community but due to reconstruction done by

residents and the presence of a primary center of residents, social texture is not undertaken fundamental changes in the area.

Residence history: due to the factor of participating and remaining primary residents, no specific change is taken place in this scope.

Residents` common cooperation: it remains as a strength point due the aforementioned reasons.

Security

Natural threats: supposing that supervision mechanism affect construction quality positively, reconstruction causes to decrease the risk taking level of texture.

Economic poverty: building reconstruction increase the value of participants' assets but it does not influence the increase of income level necessarily. So, it does not undertake any significant change.

Functional mixture: due to the lack of land use change, this factor remains also constant.

Conclusion

According to what discussed and with the aim of increasing the level of identity, supervision and security in reconstruction process, it can be concluded that:

- Reconstruction increases the security due to the lack of environmental threats
- Participating to reconstruct buildings causes to preserve and promote social supervision indicators in community
- To improve the level of identity in community, the level of residents` social interactions should be increased through anticipating alternative spaces (social spaces). These spaces can increase functional mixture during social interaction (by creating semi-public and semi-private opportunities) as well as security level.
- Reinforcing the existing local institutes can enhance social coherence and lead to reinforcing social supervision.
- Enabling residents and creating the opportunity of gaining skills and increasing income can reduce urban poverty and increase security. However, it should be noted that such issue greatly requires resourcefulness at national scale.
- In case of anticipating service spaces supporting residence, increasing social coherence and security can enhance residence history and social capital.

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