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Effect of Physical Factors on the Sense of Security of the People in Isfahan's Traditional Bazaar

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Abstract

Sense of security is one of the efficient characteristics in an urban place. One of the sites in Iran is the traditional bazaar that has been active as the heart of traditional cities since many years ago. The purpose of this research is to study the effects of some of the physical factors, in traditional Bazaar, on the sense of security. The method of this study was descriptive-analytical, and we collected the data through survey and questionnaires. After, Friedman test was used to determine the level of significance and the classification of the main factors. The finding results show that factors like the shape of ceiling and the apparent similarity of rooms have the most influence and ceiling height has the least influence on the sense of security.

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Keywords: Security; sense of security; bazaar

1. Introduction

Security is one of the complicated concepts, for which providing a unique definition is not easily possible. From a spiritual viewpoint, security is the most important need that is considered as the most important purpose of life and the mental health essence of an individual (Frum, 1981).The need for security originates from not to feel

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endangered. Human beings have worked out a lot of solutions to meet this need in the course of the time. The most important of the solutions was living together which ultimately resulted in establishing cities. Gradually, not only people were unable to dominate most of the natural disasters, but also they turned into serious threats to each other (Faridtehrani, 2011). Security is a concept that has two dimensions of objective and subjective type. From the objective points of view, social security is regarded as providing a secure condition and environment for the people in society and from the subjective perspective, security is considered as the feeling of being secure sensed by an individual (Kargar, 2004). In this way, both security and sense of safety refer to the danger in the surrounding environment felt by the people in society (Ellin, 2001). The issue of security as a goal and reality is assumed as one of the fundamental rights of the people. Undoubtedly, no elements other than security and serenity elements, has been more important for the development, progress and evolution of society as well as the realization of talents. Social development, creativity, and valuable activity will not be possible without security (Kolahchian, 2009). One of the significant urban spaces in Iran, whether economically or socially, is Bazaar. From the ancient time, Bazaar as the spine of an Iranian city has been a place for commuting, business, interchange of visits, leisure, preparing daily needs and even paying religious affairs for the people of a city. Now, if the element of feeling secure is omitted from the structure of these Bazaars, people will no longer have tendency to attend these places, leading to stagnation of business and demolition of general feature of Bazaar that results in irreparable damages to the city's framework. Aim of the present study is to find the factors affecting the feeling of security in Iran's traditional Bazaars and responding to the question of which indexes of Iran's traditional Bazaars have an impact on the feeling of security by the people. To accomplish such a significant task, 146 questionnaires consisting of 46 questions, which were evaluated as suitable based on Bartlett test, were gathered from shopkeepers and other users of the traditional Bazaar of Isfahan, as one of the richest Iran's bazaars from skeletal and functional viewpoint. The obtained data were examined by the software SPSS. Variables to be examined include "presence of shops in front of each other", "particular width of row", "penetrability", "presence of the same shops in each row", "presence of religious elements", "presence of public gathering locations", "outward similarity of the shops", "presence of rhythm", "dome-like form of the ceiling" and "height of the ceiling".

2. Literature review

From the very beginning of the creation of early societies and residential complexes, in response to one of his most primary natural and innate needs, the human being has tried to control his own built environment and world. This control, which was realized through various natural, mythical, religious, and practical tools, appeared in the form of some discipline, pattern and shape of human's habitat. This type of discipline originated from nature and has penetrated all activities of human (Salehi, 2008). Sociologists believe that the basis for social discipline is the observation of social rules. Social rules are the tools to regulate a person's relation to the society that makes the social life possible and puts some burdens on sensual desires and extreme individuality. According to Herbert Edward Reed, the English poet and theorist "a chaotic society is not a society but is a negation of the society" (Lloyd, 1977). Discipline is regarded as a prerequisite for other elements such as security. When the established discipline is disturbed, we encounter Normative Disorder. Then, security is proposed as a problem. The normative disorder is what is called by Dorkin as "social anomy" (Chalabi, 1996). Security is one of the complicated concepts, for which providing a unique definition is not easily possible. Security is more of a sensational and perceptual phenomenon type than a definable concept. It means that the required insurance must be created in the minds of people, politicians, and decision makers that there is a necessary security to continue life without apprehension (Kazemi, 1973). Larus dictionary defines security as "Trust is the spiritual and mental serenity. The thought upon which danger, fear, horror, and loss will become meaningless and equivalent to the absence of risk" (Sumpf, 1973). The sense of security and real peace of mind have nothing to do with numerous observable police force or presence of the army. The issue is not related to iron lattice netted windows and self-defense tools in women's handbags. In fact, the reverse is more accurate. Sense of security and peace of mind refers to the situations where the security system of the society has more effective and efficient conditions to prevent and effectively hinder crimes and anomies (Sherman, 1988). Security is not solely a need as the past. It is a right. Security is like freedom, and all members of society feel rightful to benefit it (Body, 2000).

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