Analysis of Spatial Justice Discourse in document of urban management policy-making (Case study: Tehran City)

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Extended Abstract

Objective: It is important to know and analyze the space via goals and processes which have consolidated it. These goals and processes are provided and implemented by existing structures, rules and institutions which have so many effects on creating injustice. Among these issues, policymaking plays an important role in creating justice including spatial justice as one of the important platforms for space production. In Tehran city, because of wide variation and change in space for urban management policymaking, especially recent two decades, spatial sensitivity leads to justice, process knowledge and regulations and is very important and essential.

So, spatial justice is a conceptual tool which can review and analyze dynamism, processes and tools of urban space production to reach just city. Furthermore, the main goal of this research is to analyze the content of urban management policy-making based on spatial justice. Then, using the obtained theoretical concepts in spatial justice discourse, it has been revised components and associated dimensions based in content of urban management policymaking.

Method: Since the comprehensive plan of Tehran city, approved in 2007, is the main document in the field of urban Policymaking, in this paper, its selected as a well-known example of policymaking documents and interesting principles and components related to spatial justice discourse has been extracted and analyzed from inductive approach and use of qualitative method and theme analysis. First, the criterions of spatial justice and their concepts and components have been extracted from theoretical and intellectual thoughts and then, the proposed levels with main document of comprehensive plan, existing evidence or invisible and visible codes which are supported by these criterion and components, have been known and analyzed.

Results: Considerable component and dimension review of document policymaking is induced by obtaining associated 21 main themes in the base of spatial justice discourse criterion such as “participation, liberty, inclusion, consensus, diversity, equity of opportunity, difference, negation of marginalization and transparency”. In this context, research findings show that this document has been paid attention more to negation of marginalization, inclusion, equity of opportunity and participation. The obtained evidence is induced by less attention to existing principles and components about diversity, transparency and consensus criteria in these criterions. According to deference and liberty criterion, this document has remained at some general ideas which don’t have any specified proposed policy as well as necessary effect on performance process.

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Conclusion: The results of this research can be based in dialectical relationship between justice/injustice and space. This relationship is based in “spatiality of injustice” and “injustice of spatiality”. Our review is based in the second concept which speaks about analysis of the existing structure capacity such as urban management policymaking to producing/reproducing injustice about the space. It can be concluded that some context and dimensions of spatial justice have been paid attention on document of urban management policymaking in Tehran which explain the relative existence of “justice of spatiality” in urban management policymaking. Although, the city is explained “problem” in the process of this document, policymaking content has been provided based on it and in response to it and principles and criterion of the spatial justice have been a low-basis for the solution of these challenges.

Keywords: Spatial Justice, Policymaking, Urban Management, Comprehensive Plan, Tehran City.

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