



Studying the effective factors involved in non-formation of mixed communities in Iranian cities: Content-Analysis

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Extended Abstract

Objective: Social cohesion and lack of distinction among individuals based on their socioeconomic features are considered among the most critical goals of Islam, which are called mix communities or diversity in the urban environments these days. Despite the importance of forming mixed communities, nowadays cities are encountered with geographical and societal segregation and its consequences such as poverty, deprivation, social distance, individualism and lack of identity, joblessness, stigmatisation and the loss of out-group interactions. Iran cities are not also exceptions and as historical evidence indicates, socio-physical segregation has been rooted in Iranian cities since their emergence. Studying the urbanisation trend in Iran suggests that segregation had been an element of urbanisation until the Sasanian Empire. In the Islamic era, segregation among different socioeconomic groups was removed, and Ummat notion got important. Gradually, after the very beginning of the Islamic era, urbanisation went back to the Sasanian Empire, and segregation again became a significant factor of cities. Contemporary studies also suggest that segregation not only has not mediated but has been resonated daily. Hence, identifying effective factors in non-formation of mixed communities – considered as anti-segregation policy – in Iranian cities not only could contribute to the implementation of Islam notion but could hinder segregation from taking place and mediate its consequences.

Methods: The present research method is based on quantitative content analysis. A set of articles and researches conducted on segregation and its roots compromises the current study data. To identify these researches, a 25-era from 1993 to 2016 has been considered. Almost 37 studies were identified related to segregation in Iranian cities. Each of these researches was read carefully and owing to the theoretical approach of the study; the required data was extracted. Researches were analysed structurally and contently. Besides, after identifying the barriers to the formation of mixed communities in Iranian cities, Kramer correlation was used to see how barriers are connected.

Results: The findings of this study indicate that urban planners have dedicated less attention toward urban segregation phenomenon. However, findings also illustrate that studying segregation and its roots not only have been increasing rapidly recently but urban planners have taken it more into account. Regarding the cities that studies were conducted there, findings also indicate that most of the studies had been conducted in border provinces or researchers considered provinces where many migrants have migrated there in the past decades. Although segregation and the formation of mixed communities are of high importance, results suggest that almost 16 provinces of Iran have not had any studies related to the current study topic. Content findings also illustrate that authors have studied geographical segregation more than sociological segregation. They also believe that there are four different factors which hinder mixed communities from forming. Socioeconomic features, personal preferences, land market and governmental decisions and

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interventions are these factors which together give rise to segregation and prevent mixed communities from forming. Results also indicate that socioeconomic feature and governmental decisions are more significant than the other two factors. The level of income, occupation, uneven distribution of goods and services and ethnicity are the most numerous variables which based on the researchers' points predispose cities to give rise to segregation and non-formation of mixed communities. Moreover, inferential statistics results declare that governmental decisions and interventions are correlated with socioeconomic features and land market.

Conclusion: Therefore, the most critical challenge to the formation of mixed communities in Iranian cities is governmental decisions and interventions. These decisions and interventions not only affect socioeconomic features and land market but resonate segregating between individuals and socioeconomic groups. As a result, decision-makers and takers are those who give rise to involuntary segregation with their decisions. Thus, they should take responsibility for their mistakes and review their decisions and gain experience from past mistakes to predispose cities to be prepared for the formation of mixed communities. Introducing context-based planning for diversity to celebrate differences is one of the most critical steps which should be taken into account to contribute to the formation of mixed communities.

Keywords: Mixed Communities, Urban Segregation, Socioeconomic Factor, Government Intervention, Content-Analysis

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