



Evaluation of the development of pocket parks with the approach of the participation of citizens in urban neighborhoods (Case study: Zibashahr and Amirkabir sectors in Zanjan city)

Ahadnejad, M.^a, Heydari, M.T.^{b,1}, Azizi, M.S.^c

^a Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Planning, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.

^b Assistant Professor of Geography and Urban Planning, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.

^c MSc Student of Geography and Urban Planning, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran.

Extended Abstract

Objective: Green spaces and parks should certainly be considered as one of the most fundamental factors in sustainability of natural and human life; if properly planned, they will have a beneficial impact on health of human body and soul. However, the optimal allocation of land to green space in cities is one of the most important tasks of urban planners. This study proposed the approach of developing pocket parks through citizen participation as one of the most effective ways to compensate for the lack of green space in urban areas. Zanjan has the capacity and potential to create green space in general and pocket parks in particular; it can increase the development of pocket parks by benefiting from citizens' participation. These parks are missing in hierarchy of Zanjan urban parks; they can play an effective role in relaxation, leisure, and play of citizens. The purpose of urban planning is to regulate urban spaces in terms of access to urban facilities and services and proper distribution of different urban uses. The access to urban green space tailored to needs and participation of local people can play a major role in sustainability of Zanjan's neighborhoods.

Methods: This was applied descriptive-analytical study. The library study and field observation (structured interview using questionnaire) was conducted for collecting the data. The study was conducted in Zibashahr and Amir Kabir (population= 13907). The sample size was determined to be 374 people. Due to similar population at two regions, 187 questionnaires were distributed at each region. This study used the CVR model to evaluate the validity of questionnaire. According to CVR, the validity should be above 0.85; the validity of questionnaire was determined to be 89% which was completely valid. To determine the reliability, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was evaluated to be 0.835; this indicated high reliability of questionnaire. Using SPSS software, the one sample t-test, ANOVA, and path analysis method were used for analyzing the data.

Results: The findings showed that the impact coefficient of indices on development of pocket parks in Zabashahr and Amir Kabir neighborhoods is equal to 26.98 and 25.5, respectively. On the other hand, according to path analysis, the NGO component (total effect= 0.507) and sense of belonging (total effect= 0.432) had the highest impact on development of pocket parks in study area. The path analysis was used to determine the causal relationship between independent variables and function. According to findings, the total effect of NGO, feeling of belonging, trust, motivation, and feeling of security components was 0.507%, 0.432, 0.429, 0.348, and 0.317, respectively. Given that these values were between 0.3 and 0.6, it was stated that the impact of citizen participation components on development of pocket parks was higher than desired. The necessary platforms for creating modern urban land-use tailored with sustainable

¹ Corresponding author at: University of zanjan, P.C: 45371-38791, Zanjan, Iran. E-mail address: mt.heydari@znu.ac.ir (Heydari, Mohamad Taghi).

development and quality of life were provided by people's willingness to participate, especially in Zibashahr neighborhood. Meanwhile, the NGO index (total effect= 0.507, direct effect= 0.410) had the most influence on formation of this culture and intellect than other indices. Therefore, it seems that the citizen participation should be considered in physical planning and urban planning in residential neighborhoods around the city center. As far as possible, the local councilors should participate in the decision-making process.

Conclusion: The findings showed that the contribution in development of Zibashahr and Amir Kabir areas may be a source of reassurance for development of pocket parks. Considering the findings on development of pocket parks and their interaction with social identity of citizens in Amir Kabir and Zibashahr neighborhoods, it was acknowledged that the development of pocket parks may provide various opportunities for joy of citizens. The pocket parks will provide favorable conditions for formation of Neighborhood Spatial Organization and consequently, they will affect the social life and citizen mentality of neighborhoods. Considering the social, cultural, and identity crises in neighborhoods in Zanjan, therefore, the pocket parks may be used as communal spaces to take a big step toward resolving some of these crises and redefining identity in neighborhoods.

Keywords: Sprawl, spatial development pattern, land use, Qaemshahr

Received: December 15, 2018 **Reviewed:** April 15, 2019 **Accepted:** May 07, 2019 **Published Online:** September 23, 2019

Citation: Ahadnejad, M., Heydari, M.T., Azizi, M.S (2019). *Evaluation of the development of pocket parks with the approach of the participation of citizens in urban neighborhoods (Case study: Zibashahr and Amirkabir sectors in Zanjan city)*. Journal of Urban Social Geography, 6 (2), 39-54. (In Persian)

DOI: [10.22103/JUSG.2019.1991](https://doi.org/10.22103/JUSG.2019.1991)

References:

- Alavitabar, A (2003). *Pattern of Citizen Participation in Urban Affairs*. Volume 3; Publications of Tehran Municipalities Organization; 184 p). (In Persian)
- Alikhani, M and Manizeh, A (2013). *Envelopes, parks, open spaces of urban spaces and green spaces are key factors in creating a sustainable city*. First National Conference on Geography, Urban Development and Sustainable Development, March.). (In Persian)
- Armanshahr Consulting Engineers (2009). *Detailed studies of Zanjan city*. Zanjan Housing and Urban Development Publication. (In Persian)
- BahramSoltani, C (2011). *Basics of Urban Green Space Architecture*. First publishing, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Publications and Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Urban and Architecture of Iran. (In Persian).
- Behbahani, H (1994). *Evaluation from Tehran parks to pattern determination*. Journal of Green Space Science and Education, Issue 8, pp. 25-25. (In Persian)
- Behzad, D (2005). *Theoretical analysis of social capital in the prevention of social harm*. Proceedings of the First Symposium on Social Capital and Social Welfare, First Edition, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences. (In Persian)
- Borkowski, N., (2015). *Organizational behavior in health care*. Jones & Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury: Massachusetts. (In English)
- Buzan, B (1999). *People, governments and panic*. Translator: Researchers at Institute of Strategic Studies, Tehran: Institute of Strategic Studies, 432 p. (In Persian)
- Dehghan, A., Ghaffari, G (2005). *Explaining the socio-cultural participation of Tehran University of Medical Sciences students*. Iranian Journal of Sociology, Volume 6, Number 1, pp. 98-67. (In Persian)

- Ghadrajani, R., Hajian Zeidi, M (2016). *Park Envelopes and their Design and Terms in Urban Spaces*. Second Conference on Urban Development, Management and Urban Development, pp. 34-41. **(In Persian)**
- Gharamlaki, A.F (2009). *Ethics in NGOs. Publication: Presidency*, Center for Women and Family Affairs, Tehran, 116 p. **(In Persian)**
- Hosseini A.H (2009). *A Transition on the History of Zanjan*. First Edition, Danesh Publications, 96 p. **(In Persian)**.
- Hosseini, F; (2008). *Investigating and providing effective physical-functional indicators to enhance public safety*. Thesis Supervisor: Tarbiat Modares University Dr Mohammad Reza Bamanian. **(In Persian)**.
- Hosseini, S.A (2001). *Methods of Citizen Participation in Urban Development Plans*, Rasht. PhD Thesis Geography and Urban Planning, Tarbiat Modares University, Supervisor: Shadravan Hossein Shokoui. **(In Persian)**.
- Irannejan Parizi, M.H., Jamilian, M (2011). *Garden and urban green space*. Yazd University Press, 416 p. **(In Persian)**
- Jasprizza, Roger., (2000). *Small Spaces Make a Difference*. Landscape Australia, Vol.21, No.4 (84), p.292-294. **(In English)**
- Kalhor, S (2009). *Social Security Strategies*. Retrieved from Andisheh Club Access site in Morgheh, Mehr, Tehran, Young Thought Center. **(In Persian)**.
- Khakpour, B, Rafiei, H. Salehi Fard.M (2010), *Investigation of Urban Management Performance in Expanding Public Green Space (Park) Using TOPSIS Method*. Journal of Geography and Regional Development, Spring and Summer, No. 14; pp. 2-27. **(In Persian)**
- Khaldbarin, A., Olia, A., Jafari, A (2009). *Green Space Design from a Citizen's Viewpoint*. Journal of Forest and Rangeland, No. 84, pp. 4-45. **(In Persian)**
- Madani Pour, A (2002). *Tehran; the emergence of a metropolis*. Urban Planning and Publications. **(In Persian)**
- Maheri, A (2007). *Investigating the Role of NGOs in Building Social Trust (East Azerbaijan)*. M.Sc. in Research, Islamic Azad University, Science Research Branch, Tehran. **(In Persian)**
- Marasusi, N., Rashvand, S (2017). *Analysis of Zanjan Urban Landscape Periodic Changes from 2006 to 2011 and Presentation of Optimal Location Model*. Two Urban Ecology Research Quarterly, Eighth Year, Second Issue 16, Fall and Winter; pp. 101-118. **(In Persian)**
- Marcus, Clare Cooper and Carolyn Francis., (1998). *People Places*. Edition: John Wiley and Sons Inc. New York. **(In English)**
- Matin, C; Shirley, P (2007). *Green Urban Design Dimensions*. Second Edition, Tehran: Urban Planning and Processing Company, 464 p. **(In Persian)**
- Minai, M. A (2007). *Introducing Social Security Studies Comprehensive Plan. Researchers' Monthly*. June & July, No. 1 & 2, Tehran: Institute for Cultural Studies and Humanities 10. **(In Persian)**
- Moghimi, S.M (2011). *Entrepreneurship in Community Institutions*. Research in Iranian Non-Governmental Organizations, Third Edition, University of Tehran Press, 415 p. **(In Persian)**
- Mohammadi, J., Mohammadi Deh Cheshmeh, M (2007). *Qualitative evaluation of the role of green spaces and optimizing citizens' use of it in Shahrekord*. Journal of Environmental Studies, Thirty-third Year, No.44. **(In Persian)**
- Motahari, M; (2004). *Collection of Master Martyr Motahari's Works*. Tehran, Sadra Publications. **(In Persian)**
- Niebuhr Reinhold (1932). *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. New York. **(In English)**
- Pakzad, J; (2002). *The role of urban spaces in social security*. Municipalities Publications, Year Four, No. Forty-One. **(In Persian)**
- Rafiiyan, M., Hhodayi, Z (2009). *Investigating effective indicators and criteria on citizens' satisfaction with urban public spaces*. Landscape Quarterly, Volume 18; No. 53, pp. 227-248. **(In Persian)**
- RafiPour, F (1993). *Evaluation of Rural Tendency towards Construction Jihad and its Affecting Factors*, Research in Three Provinces: Isfahan, Fars and Khorasan. Ministry of Construction Jihad, Rural Research Center, Tehran. **(In Persian)**

Rahnama, M.R., Mehrouz, A., Abbaszadeh, G (2013). *Factors Analysis of Participatory Management in Mashhad*. Urban and Regional Studies and Research Quarterly, Fifth Year, No. 19, pp. 2-4. **(In Persian)**

Rostam Khani, P., Leghaei, H (2004). *Principles of green space design in residential environments*. Second Edition, Publication: Building and Housing Research Center, 168 p. **(In Persian)**

Taheri, F (2010). *Formulation of sport-oriented urban criteria and criteria*. Thesis for Master of Planning, Islamic Azad University, Qazvin Branch). **(In Persian)**

Tissot.b.n., (2005). *integral marene ecology: communit-based fishevy management in Hawaii*. Journal of general evolution, No.6, pp. 79-96. **(In English)**

Zanjan Municipality (2006-2016). *Statistics of Zanjan Municipality, Population Season*. **(In Persian)**