

Comparative study on the effect of social features on the level of social cohesion in old and new neighborhoods of Yazd (Case study: Poshte Bagh and the first phase of Azadshahr)

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Extended Abstract

Objective: The concept of social cohesion has been transformed from the past to the present and has been affected by some factors. Since urbanization has been a widespread dynamic in recent decades, and caused the changes in social structures and relationships, the sustainability of the social and cultural life of a society which is concerned with the solidarity between the components and constituent elements of its social structure has been considered. Components such as sense of belonging, income, and level of education can be used to assess solidarity and social cohesion, and thus make a difference in a cohesive society. According to Durkheim, the sense of belonging to society creates a sense of closeness and similarity that results in the expansion of communication at the community level. Income and education are also among the social components of increasing social cohesion, so that by increasing investment in education, the skills range has increased and the earnings (economic factor) then increase that this increase in income also serves as an impetus for enhancing relationships and communication between people in societies and even on a wider scale. In this study, considering the physical and social disruptions resulting from population substitutions in terms of socioeconomic bases in different urban areas, the concept of spatial belonging in the absence of spatial identity has faded and social features that guarantee the survival of a cohesive local community are at the center of attention, therefore, the two new and old neighborhoods, respectively, Poshte Bagh and phase one of Azadshahr, have been evaluated on the influence of their sense of belonging, income, and education components on their social cohesion to determine the coherence of each of these factors. Education and income are among the most important social features that enhance social interactions by raising public awareness in favor of society, so education in the new context (Azadshahr) seems to affect the social cohesion of its residents. In addition, the level of social cohesion in different contexts has been influenced by the amount of income, which seems to be a factor in social cohesion in the new context (Azadshahr). The sense of belonging to society that is formed as a result of sharig interests and history of residence can have a different impact on social cohesion in different neighborhoods, so it seems that the residents of old contexts (Poshte Bagh) feel more attached to neighborhoods than the new one (Azadshahr).

Method: The method of study was to collect documents using a questionnaire and library studies. The statistical population is residents of the Poshte Bagh and the first phase of Azadshahr as two old and new neighborhoods in Yazd in 1395 and the sample size was 384 households, which is estimated according to Cochran's formula. In order to analyze the data for evaluating of social cohesion and education, used Anova test, income used Pearson correlation and sense of belonging, T-test was used.

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Results: The results of Anova test with its level and significance were F: 1.59 and 0.187, F: 3.675 and 0.043, respectively in Poshte Bagh and first phase of Azadshahr that shows the effect of education on social cohesion. Pearson correlation with 0.187 and 0.000 in significant level in Poshte Bagh, and with 0.368 and 0.002 in significant level in Azadshahr were explained which shows the role of income on cohesion. And T-test result: sense of belonging in Poshte Bagh was 4.38 and 3.98 for its social cohesion and 4.13 for Azadshahr and 3.53 for its social cohesion at the significant level of 0.000; this means that a sense of belonging can effect community.

Conclusion: The results show that the component of education in two neighborhoods has a different effect on social cohesion; so, this relationship is not significant in the Poshte Bagh, and only in the new Azadshahr neighborhood, the education has been affected and this relationship is significant. Also, the component of the economic base has a different effect on the level of social cohesion in the neighborhoods, and Pearson's correlation shows the stronger effect of these two variables in Azadshahr. Regarding the sense of belonging and regression analysis, it is cleared that Poshte Bagh has the greatest impact on the commitment of individuals to the local community. However, this attachment in the first phase of Azadshahr is based on a neighborhood relationship that basically forms of kinship relations. In general, the sense of belonging in Poshte Bagh has created a more coherent community towards Azadshahr.

Keywords: Education, Sense of Belonging, Social Cohesion, New and Old Neighborhoods, Yazd City.

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