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## An Analysis of Urbanism, Community and Neighborhood in the Modern Metropolis (Case Study: Tehran Metropolis)

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Research Article

### Extended Abstract

**Objective:** The neighborhood as a "spatial" and historical phenomenon has usually had two dimensions: one is the explicit or implicit territory, and the other is a "special social group" that has been relatively homogeneous in terms of social, economic, and cultural characteristics. But with the advent of the modern era, the divergence between the two dimensions began, and over time, in the form of spatial incompatibility of neighborhood and community, especially in metropolitan areas, was raised in the urban planning literature. Analysis of concepts such as neighborhood and community and the degree of their adaptation and spatial correlation in cities and the analysis that can be given to these concepts on a metropolitan scale today can have a special place in the city's social geography. Neighborhood and community have long been considered physical and social areas in Iranian cities and were considered functional and geographical components of cities that have played a key role in cities' social lives. The emergence of new structural changes from the late Qajar period, especially from the 1940s until now, had a significant effect on the change in the structure and function of urban neighborhoods in Iran, which caused the disintegration of the traditional neighborhood system especially in large cities. Tehran is considered the largest and most important city in Iran, leading and representing the changes in Iran's urban neighborhoods' structure. Accelerated urbanization, population growth (more than 5000%), and the size of Tehran (more than 2500%) in the last two centuries on the one hand and becoming a city with multiple functions, on the other hand, led to the formation of a special metropolitan character with a non-reproducible identity in cities. The other Iran is for Tehran. The mentioned fields have caused the evolution of the concept and divergence of the neighborhood and the community in the metropolis of Tehran. Explaining the process of this divergence and the effect of urbanism on it in the scale of Tehran metropolitan neighborhoods has been the main issue of this article.

**Methods:** This research has been of survey-analytical type, and the method of data collection is documentary-field. The statistical population is the neighborhoods of Tehran metropolis that, based on a classification of Tehran neighborhoods, five neighborhoods have been selected by purposive sampling method. The neighborhoods studied in this study include five neighborhoods: 1) Rostamabad Ekhtiaryeh in District 3 as a modern dignified neighborhood, 2) Shemiran No in District 4 as a Problematic neighborhood, 3) Sangalaj in District 12 as an Immigrant neighborhood with high ethnic diversity, 4) Jalili in District 17 as a traditional neighborhood with an indigenous structure and 5) North Khalij Fars in District 18 as a working-class neighborhood that accommodates a population of about 196,276 residents of the

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metropolis of Tehran. Field data is provided through interviews, observations, and photographs. To operate the variables using the theoretical foundations and previous research, special socio-cultural conditions and contexts of Tehran, two dimensions and three components, nine indicators in the form of 66 questions have been defined to assess the status of community and urbanism in Tehran. The research questionnaire was researcher-made. Its validity was confirmed based on the opinions of professors and experts. Its reliability was confirmed based on Cronbach's alpha with a coefficient of 0.805. Five hundred questionnaires have been distributed and completed in selected neighborhoods (100 questionnaires in each neighborhood). Quantitative-statistical methods (descriptive and inferential), including one-sample t-test, one-way ANOVA, Tukey post hoc test, and multivariate regression, were used to analyze the data.

**Results:** The results of field research showed that there are significant differences in indicators, components, and dimensions of community in the sample neighborhoods of the Tehran metropolis. Despite the developments caused by modernity, it is still possible to distinguish a range of neighborhoods from the community's characteristics in the metropolis of Tehran. Thus, the neighborhood identity in Ekhtiaryeh and Jalili neighborhoods has been at a higher level than in other neighborhoods. The level of solidarity and social interactions in Shemiran No and Jalili neighborhoods has been higher than in other neighborhoods. This is while in Sangalaj and Ekhtiaryeh neighborhoods, the level of solidarity and social interactions within the neighborhood has been at a lower level. In general, the level of neighborhood identity in the sample neighborhoods of Tehran was relatively high with an average of 3.50; however, this situation has not led to the formation and improvement of interactions and internal social solidarity of their residents. So that the level of social solidarity in all sample neighborhoods with an average of 2.56 was lower than the research average (3). Also, the results of the multivariate regression test showed that all indicators of urbanism as an independent variable had significant relationships and negative effects on the characteristics of the local community in the sample neighborhoods. Among them, the variables of individual utilitarianism and urban lifestyle tendency with coefficients of -0.189 and -0.167, respectively, have the most negative impact on neighborhood identity, and the indices of individual utilitarianism and new communication technologies with coefficients of -0.785 and -0.206 had the most negative impact on solidarity and social interactions within the neighborhood. Therefore, the theories of deterministic urbanism apply to the neighborhoods of Tehran to a considerable extent because, according to research findings, urbanism and metropolitan lifestyles have been among the causes of divergence and diminishing characteristics of the local community in existing neighborhoods of Tehran.

**Conclusion:** However, the findings of this article indicate the existence of fields and capital of the community in the sample neighborhoods of Tehran; However, based on the basic idea of the research, it should be noted that promoting and strengthening the spatial matching of community and neighborhood is the basic condition for creating, improving and recreating existing neighborhoods within the framework of modern metropolitan discourse and urbanism of Tehran metropolitan scale.

**Keywords:** Urbanism, Neighborhood, Community, Modern Metropolis, Tehran.

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