ORIGINAL ARTICLE

EVALUATING THE ROLE AND IDENTITY SITUATION OF ZONES FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Mohamad Zand Moghadam, Somayeh Mottaghe*, Mahnaz Molai

Department Of Geography, College Of Human Science, Semnan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Semnan, Iran

ABSTRACT: The concept of zone in urban planning and design has special situation because by identifying it, one can promote the feeling of belonging to place and a kind of feeling of place and identity of citizens. Buildings and residential zones allocate main portion of area in the cities; therefore, their quality play important role in the common feature of the city. The trend of developments in our cities, particularly great cities, indicates that due to their disorganized and confused development, residential zones exposed to lose their old identity. For having a good city and enjoying suitable quality of living, it is necessary managing the development of zones comprising the city. As the smallest unit and basis of civil integrity, zone plays special role and situation in urban development and management and comparing the city and zone, the zone has priority. Along with, sustainable development may be considered as precondition for sustainable development of city and zone. Studies indicate that today centralist and pragmatic logic replaced with non-centralist or multi core logic in urban design and development. This paper aims to investigate the zone identity in urban sustainability and development.

KEYWORDS: Zone, identity, sustainable development, sustainable city

INTRODUCTION

Urban identity can be accounted as a type of mass identity and of course, zonal and urban identity is meaningful when it has objective shape in physics and concept of the city provided identity norm can be properly understood. City is a collection of dynamic factors that its identification gene transfers during the times and its elements and ingredients, whether buildings, passages and squares ... are creature of creative spirit of its inhabitants (Behzad Far, 2007). City develops during time and changes by interaction with its citizens and feature of city may turn as a mirror of its citizens feature. By beginning the investment period, production form and living style of these citizens changed and there was occurred texture changes and density of modern day. Due to such environmental changes, the identity of inhabitants together with their mental and spiritual conditions is also changing unwantedly and there occur new identity. Identity is considered as a measure of development. On the other hand, when a city or society develops, a part of its identity traits may change during its development and newly organized (Lang, 1997). In this structure, urban identity must be discussed as a measure for development and a factor for promoting the quality of environment in order for providing the people with fields of cooperation and security.

DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

2.1. Zone
Zone is made by unity of people and close cooperation and strict neighborhood relations or making unofficial unity among groups of people. Combining different classes of zones promote social relations between men and reduce the limitations between people in the cities. Zone is known as a physical unit with a fully determined identity, common living model, equally using the possibilities and public institutes as a tool for urban planning. From the past, urban zone had special situation in forming and organizing the urban affairs. By providing day-to-day services and making zonal symbols and special properties, any zone caused its inhabitants to have a kind of identity feeling (Barton, 2003).

2.2. Sustainable Development
In modern society, for accessing to sustainable development, zones are accounted as the most fundamental elements and intermediary between city and citizens. From far past, zones of cities played special role for shaping and organizing the city affairs. By providing its daily services and making the symbols of places and special properties, any zone caused its inhabitants to have a kind of identity feeling such that any citizen known by the name of the zone he lived in. in the past, the inhabitants of the zone asked to participate in management,

Corresponding Author: Somayeh Mottaghe, Department Of Geography, College Of Human Science, Semnan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Semnan, Iran. **E-mail:** So_mottaghi@yahoo.com

clearing and making the security,… and people played role in all issues related to the zone. But by time, people left their role. In such situation, citizens knew themselves separate from the city and zone and problems of city controlled in the absence of citizens. In such situation, zones and city become unstable (Foroozeh, 2010; Frampton, 2000). In modern urban management, the world is going to become more urbanized. Therefore, during the meeting of UN in the fields of human residences held on 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey, it was determined that most countries founded the importance of cooperation of people and follow it in their plans. In this case, zones play special role. Urban zones comprise a center and workshop for cooperative management and planning because they are accounted as the smallest unit of legal organization of city and have maximum social and spatial integrity among other classes of legal organization of city.

2.3. City
The life of cities is lower than human living's. The first cities through the world formed about 5500 years ago. During recent decades, scientists of geography, sociology, economy, demographics and some other sciences, provided different definitions for city and sociologists such as Angles and Marks know the city as a place of concentrating the population, production tool, capital, needs, etc… where the social labor sharing has also been conducted there. Geographers consider the city as an artificial landscape of streets, buildings and organizations and monuments where living is possible there (Dikens, 1998).
Finally, "city is a man-made habitat and close to the determined political power involving a relatively stable concentration in it, makes specific spaces based on the professional skills that is a separation fully distinct among residential textures and work textures and makes special culture as a result of its internal relations carrying numerous micro-cultures."

PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES IN ZONE SUSTAINABILITY

In the framework of existing theories and skills globally, there are many principles and measures that may be analyzed for sustainable development in the city and zone. Some of such principles include esprit, identity, dynamism, compatibility, variety, readability and access dealt with as below (Ali Mohammadi Kakroodi, 2010).

3.1. Identity and Esprit

Clearly perceiving the zone and facility of knowing and communicating between its elements or other places may be accounted as identity of zone. Meaning has direct relation in the zone and spatial shape and its quality, while, it has also sever dependency to the culture. It is zone or zonal identity that is distinct from other places and zones. A good and sustainable zone is a habitat where provides the safety and welfare of its inhabitants. Some of the factors influence on making the esprit in the zone is the presence of proper public spaces. By their attractiveness and influencing on man's mind, these spaces may provide the esprit of the zone. For example, allocating proper space for pedestrians, conducting economic activities, easy traffic, and proper possibilities for people's purchase (not only its economic facet, but also facets such as recreation, recreational spaces such as cinema and theater, stadium, museums, cultural centers, restaurants and libraries) provide the promotion of esprit in the zone (Chapman, 2003).

3.2. Dynamism and Compatibility
Zones are the place of interactions and economic, social and structural and environmental factors. Some examples of continuance include continuance of living of inhabits since past era, change and continuance in types and pattern of activities, dynamic places in the zones than whole down town, quality, quantity and value of residential and non-residential buildings, pattern and age of buildings, pattern of distribution of green space, pedestrians network, different building materials, native and non-native, ownership patterns, new urban activities and equipment. Changes in any above mentioned conditions and factors as social and economic pressures may gradually develop and change the zone structurally (Haghighi and Hatami Nejad, 2009). Such transformations may be seen in changes in the pattern of buildings in its parts, promotion, usage changes, abrasion and devastation in the trees and green spaces, environmental abrasion by increased traffic, wear of urban equipment and losing their efficiency responding to new needs due to changes in the zones in cities.

3.3. Access
Movement in the zone, in its different objectives may have different dimensions. The main important difference in movement and access in the zonal dimension comparing with greater units includes its sensible and direct relation with living and families. Along with, the pedestrian walkways of most cities through the world have different functions related to the

social interactions, market and recreation in planning and designing and establishing the connection networks and walkways in the zonal dimension that has a function higher that traffic spaces, for this reason some principles and measure may be considered as below:

- Accessing without car and or access of disable people; Easy access; Security; Social space; Recreational and sports space; Economic environments; enough parking spaces; Balance between types of movement.

3.4. Identity

Identity is a normative and valuable case and discussing for it requires normative valuating. In most specific and researching texts, there have been studied the identity in the artificial environment according to the theories of environmental concept and behavioral sciences. But according to common definition, "identity is the feeling of fixation to the material and spiritual collections that its elements formed before (Lich, 1998; Mahdi, 2010). Because identity is a set of traits result in recognizing an individual or community from others; following this measure, city will be also make its personality and becomes independent. Identity in the city due to showing the public memories of citizens provided the fixation and dependency among them and directs the people who are living in the cities towards being citizens who have ranges more active than merely residing. Therefore, although, the identity of city is itself due to the culture of its citizens, but, it influenced on the urbanization process and can prepare measures related to the cooperation and judgment of its habitants. Urban identity may be accounted as a type of mass identity and may be meaningful when it has objective shape in the physics and content of the city provided, the identity norm could be properly understood, and identity is the measure of development. In this structure, urban identity may be discussed as a measure for development and a factor for promoting the quality of environment by which it can provide the fields of cooperation and security of people (Rasouli, 2009; Sheea, 2010; Rahim, 2000).

SOCIAL IDENTITY OF URBAN ZONES

Social identity of urban zones includes compatibility and readability of culture and place of living such that provides the possibility of different belongings in spatial communication and living of habitants in the city. Durability and sustainable development of city may not belonged to rehabilitation and or designing the structural spaces. What causes the cities to be stable for longer times and maintain its acting performances, includes attempting to providing the social and cultural spaces and thinking about the mechanisms turning the citizenship of people residing in the city to each other as well as good relation with living place in the city. Based on the duration of residency and or activity and due to internalizing the experiences, observations and or different memories of feeling of belonging in people, a part of social and legal identity in people will be promoted (Ozkan, 1985; Wheeler, 2004). Spatial identity may not be defined as a thing except general social mental and cultural belonging to the geographical place of living and work.

PROPERTIES OF A SUSTAINABLE CITY

1- Improving the living quality of man
2- Enjoying the development achievements
3- Using renewable sources
4- Development for all generations (current and future)

A sustainable city may have following properties:

• Continuously improvement of living quality of man
• Efficiency in enjoying the development achievements for all citizens
• Environment protection

ROLE OF CITIES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The population of developing small cities during recent decades has developed more. In developed areas, city plays important roles for protecting the sustainable national development.

1- Facilitating the fundamental social changes: by improving and accessing to believes, opportunity for innovation;
2- Providing the employment and enough services for current inhabitants and newly ones;
3- Ensuring the safe and attractive environment for attracting the urban population while protecting the natural sources and reducing the harmful effects in the extended zones for next generation.

What provides the urban zones with changing and improving the urban quality is the scale and density of cities as well as their social and economic variety.

CONCLUSION

The zone unit is the main fundamental of urban living and the future of social equilibrium of cities depends on protecting the zone unit. Zone is a place where families live in or become familiar with individual spaces and any corner of

it has specific meaning for and zone is a place where while has unity originated from the culture and tradition of its people, and on the other hand, zone may be accounted as the second living house of people. Therefore, any member of the zone attempts to maintain its zone. When meaning the zone, Tony Gibson focuses on the applicable facet of neighborhood unit and knows it as cells generally maintain the society. Thus, neighborhood unit and organizing the relations and interactions play important role for providing the sustainable identity of the zone. The zonal symbols are considered one of the factors for making the interest and attachment of citizens to the zone and city as well as making and or rehabilitating the identity of citizens. By reviving the zonal symbols, zones will be given the identity, therefore, citizens' interest to their living place. Interest and belonging of citizens to their living place result in their cooperation in the management of zone and city and promoting the access to the measures of a sustainable city. Therefore, the planning and zone-based development approach in the cities, generally and in metropolitans, particularly, are considered as one of the necessities and requirements for making a proper city for citizens and achieving sustainable development in the city.

REFERENCES

Ali Mohammadi Kakroodi E. Identity Sustainability in the Zone. 1st National Conference for Sustainable Urban Development in Iran 2010; pp:11.

Barton H. Shaping neighborhoods: a guide for health, sustainability and vitality. Spon Press, London 2003; pp:110-115.

Behzad Far M. City Identity; a glance to identity of Tehran. Shahr Press 2007; pp:1-3.

Chapman D. Creating the zones and places in the man-made environment. Faryadi Sh, Tabibian M (Eds.), Tehran University Press 2003; pp:89-102.

Dikens P. Urban Sociology: Society, National Community and Human Nature. In: Hossein Bahrevan B (Ed.), Astan Qods Razavi Press 1998; pp:128-132.

Foroozeh B. Zone as a generative cell of city. 1st National Conference for Sustainable Urban Development in Iran 2010;pp:8-10.

Frampton K. Toward a critical regionalism. In: Malcolm miles (Ed.), The city culture reader. Routledge 2000;pp:65-66.

Haghighi J, Hatami Nejad H. Urban sustainable development in the zones scale. 1st National Urban Civil Conference, Islamic Azad University of Sanandaj 2009; pp:4-7.

Lang J. architecture and independence. the search for identity-India 1880 to 1980. oxford university press 1997; pp:34-45.

Lich Q. Theory of a good city shape. Bahreini SH (Eds.), Tehran University Press 1998;pp:145-151.

Mahdi R. Recognizing and reviving the zonal symbols alternatives for promoting the identity of zones. Citizenship and Zonal Management Conference 2010;pp:8-11.

Ozkan S. regionalism within modernism. in the proceedings of the regional seminar in the series exploring in the architectural Islamic cultures 1985; pp:8-10.

Rahim Zadeh MR. Concept of Identity. Collection of papers of congress for history of architecture and urbanization in Iran, Cultural Heritage Organization 2000;3:1-295.

Rasouli M. Residence and Identity. 1st national urban civil conference, Islamic Azad University of Sanandaj 2009; pp:8-9.

Sheea E. Comparing the role of socially identifying factors in the old and new residential zones of Iran. National Conference of Architecture and Urbanization 2010; pp:11-12.

Wheeler S. planning for sustainability. London, Rutledge 2004; pp:98-102.