

are essential activities that meet basic indicators of continuity of urban texture, security and diversity of people and activity. European social spaces in 1900 to 1920 has had such a situation and at present, social and voluntary activities which has arisen the spirit of social spaces have increased by improving the physical quality and standard of living (Gehl, 2006:2).

Low physical quality in India is affected by level of life. According to the checklist without physical modification the possibility of social and voluntary activities, comfort and pleasure in them is very low (Higher physical quality of Mumbai & Chandigarh studied spaces had caused other activities, too). Initial study of social spaces in India both considering

Conclusion

routine activities and the physical quality showed many differences comparing familiar social spaces of world qualified cities. So that another uses and Criteria of utility have been taken. But this difference raised from people's living standards and concepts such as life, leisure and activity. The importance of view quality, physics and comfort of space have been declined as per the cities living standards in India and selected

social activities are happening during the day routines and very intangible. Therefore it can be concluded that the study theory can be corrected as follows: "social spaces of Indian cities are interpretable and adaptable with the world common theories and their domestic cultural aspects cause to achieve the minimum conditions of space quality and activity type".

Endnote

1. Jürgen Habermas, German Social Theorist
2. Other samples include: Delhi: Chandichouk Street, Karnak square, Shandigar: Lake Beach, Geipur: City Center Plaza, City Palace square, Ajmir: Emembare Gharibnavaz area, Pushkar: Lakeside, Udipour: Clock square, Mumbai: beach & Bonares: Gang river Stairs & Center of Muslims' district.

3. John Gehl (born 1936) Danish urban architect and designer, professor in School of Architecture in Copenhagen. He has spent his entire professional life to improve the quality of social spaces and culture of walking and cycling in the world big cities. His books, papers and projects have received many awards so far.

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phenomenon in India, as well as life style of most of Indian population, the second largest country in the world (even in big cities), the pattern of life is close to rural and agricultural. As though efforts for livelihood would leave no opportunity for leisure and engaging in other aspects of human development such as the formation of civilization and social leisure experiences. Thus, the characteristics of urban spaces in India are derived from the culture of the people and this is the primary difference with the popular image of western spaces. On the other hand, relation of this space with the users' behavior is explainable with John Gehl's³ recommended checklist for physical quality control of social spaces: In the above table, the quality of social spaces is

evaluated in the 12-steps. In case one space responds to all the cases, the quality is fully achieved. Each of the three categories of urban known activities occurs in areas with adequate capacity. In low quality urban spaces, only necessary activities that people have to do are found. These spaces have only the level of protection and security. Whereas the high quality urban spaces encourage people to stay there. In other words, the factors of 4 to 12 provide the comfort and leisure. At minimum, the key to the formation of safe and alive social spaces is moving walks and people activities (Planning SA, 2002:10). These two factors are the only common point of all areas of study. In other words, in Hindi social spaces being influenced by the general level of life's there

Table2. Social Space Design Checklist, Source: Gehl, 2006: 5.

Protection	<p>1. Protect against Traffic & Accidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic Accidents - Fear of Traffic - Other accidents 	<p>2. Protect against Crime & Violence (Feeling of Safety)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lived in/ used - Street life - Street watchers - Overlapping functions in space & time 	<p>3. Protect against Unpleasant Sence Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wind/ Draft - Rain/Snow - Cold/Heat - Pollution - Dust / Glare / Noise
Comfort	<p>4. Possibilities for Walking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room for Walking - Untiering Layout of streets - Interesting Facedes - No Obstacles - Good Surfaces 	<p>5. Possibilities for Standing /Staying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attractive Edges (Edge Effect) - Defined spots for staying - supports for staying 	<p>6. Possibilities for Sitting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zones for Sitting - Maximizing Advantages Primary & Secondary Sitting Possibilities -Benches for resting
	<p>7. Possibilities for See</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeing Distances - Unhindered Views - Interesting Views - Lighting (When Dark) 	<p>8. Possibilities for Hearing/ Talking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low Noise Level - Benches Arrangements (talkscapes) 	<p>9. Possibilities for Play/ Unfolding/ Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation to Physical Activities, Play Unfolding & entertainment (day& night and summer & winter)
Enjoyment	<p>10. Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dimensioning of Buildings & Spaces in Observance of the important human dimentions related to Senses, Movements, Size & Behavior 	<p>11. Possibilities for Enjoying positive Aspects of Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sun/Shade - Warmth/Coolness - Breeze/Ventilation 	<p>12. Aesthetic Quality/Positive Sence - Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good Design & Detailing - Views/ Vistas - Trees / Plants/ Water

Table1. Evaluation of Indian Social Space Sample with World Criteria, Source: the Author, 2012.

		Traditional & Local			Modern & Universal	
		Bazaar of Jama Masjid -Dehli	Square Nearby Jagdish Temple- Udaipour	Ahmadabad- Gandhi Street	City Center Plazza- Shandigar	Indian Gate- Mumbai
Relation & Access	Connectivity & Continuity					
	Transit Pattern	On foot/ cycling	On foot/ cycling	On foot/ cycling	On foot	On foot
	Walkable					
	Parking					
Land Use & Activity	Land Use	religious & commercial	Mixed Used	Mixed Used	commercial /Official	Services
	Property Value	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Celebratory					
	Retail Sales					
Space Image	Security					
	Building Quality					
	Green Space					
	Sanitation					
Sociability	User Diversity					
	Night Life					
	Social Networks					

inviting, people devote more time to be in space.

3. Social activities: talking and watching, experiencing the others and contribution needs the continuous presence in a space. In these places there are many optional activities (Gehl Architecture, 2004:28). Among the three groups, the necessary activities in Hindi cities similar to basic communities are more apparent and significant. In these communities there is no significant border between leisure time and work. In many parts of the today world, people work hard and long for their basic needs, and their lives are free of something called leisure time (Fakouhi; Ansari & Mahabadi, 2003: 63). Essentially leisure is a completely new event that has raised from the industrial and urbanism phenomenon. Type of

leisure time also depends on the type of education and cultural development of society (Raafatjah, 2008). In ancient cities as well as Islamic ones, the main form of leisure is sightseeing in the city. By being in city's social spaces (bazaars, mosques, streets and squares) this sightseeing was performed. (Fakouhi, 2004). Also in Indian urban spaces (similar to past traditions) none of the aspects in life are preferred to another. As for the proximity of culture and social structure of India to agriculture age, the concept of work and leisure as well as in the hearts intertwined. Basically, highlighting the personal life and attention to complex needs of people are concerned with the industrial revolution and modernity. Despite understanding and localizing some aspects of this



Fig.5. India Gate; Leisure separate from other aspects of Hindi life, Photo: Mona Masoud Lavasani, archive of NAZAR research center, spring 2012.

behavior, the way of space use, context-oriented, social norms, etc. are factors of urban space identification and analysis (Parsi, 2002: 43). Based on the use that people give to space it is not permanent and universal. Not all the people interpret the space based on issues such as social and private, work and leisure, and so on (Raafatjah, 2008).



Fig.6. Sophisticated Means a Street, Combination of Move and Stay, Work and Leisure, Residential and Business, Photo: mona Masoud Lavasani, archive of NAZAR research center, Spring 2012.

To answer the research question, after some categorizing and simplification characteristics (physical, usage, etc.) dividing Indian social spaces into two categories of indigenous traditional and modern spaces had the question answered. Theoretical principles which are recommended in current theories of social space is largely adaptable with formed spaces in the modern texture; though in some cases these spaces have become compatible with Hindi culture and habits (such as the incorporation of social class and poor sanitation). In these spaces, recreation and leisure will be followed more noticeable than other aspects of life. In other words, today social space has appeared from the social conditions in modern era. Perhaps after reviewing urban theories, the word "Implant" was used to restore the social space in city (Mansouri, 2009: 9). Citizen overall activity in city can be divided into three categories among which the influence and importance of the last two sets are higher in the quality of city space

1. Essential activities: Such events are taking place regardless the quality of physical environment since people have to do them; like going to school and work.
2. Optional activities: When the climate, the environment and the whole place is attractive and

- Most places hold a mixed usage mostly business use and social spaces seldom seem to be purely cultural and religious.
- Due to the width of the streets and organic formation of texture, the accessibility is not effective on creation of social space. But these spaces are connected to the main structure of city.
- Due to its large Indian population, Different social groups with variety and mix of ages, gender, ethnic and religious groups are present throughout the entire city and this diversity of the users does not specify particular characteristics for spaces.
- This presence lasts from the early hours of the day until the beginning of the night and increases according to the usage of some hours.
- Consequent of this presence and the author's observations most Indian urban spaces retain relatively good safety and this feature is also

reinforced in the light of culture and religious.

- It looks like the physical features like closed rate, architecture building styles, worn-out physics, antiquity and historic value, environmental quality or space sanitation and measures such as embedding furniture or ... does not much effect on the social space location. Therefore, studying factors such as security, physical quality, user's diversity or variety of Land use, etc. which is recommended for these places does not specify the location of social spaces in India.

Indian City; a Space with the Texture of Life Simplicity

Social values of societies throughout history, made certain types of space appear. Factors like common sense of space in people's minds, mixing human



Fig.4. Mavi Festival Ending near Square to Udipour Jagdish Temple, Photo: Mona Masoud Lavasani, archive of NAZAR research center, Spring 2012.

regard to the sanitation level of this country (Fig.4).

• **Modern Memorial Space, Mumbai-India Gate**

The area of this monumental built in early 20th century on a small cape by bay, is connected to the city with a green space. The memories of departure of the last British Forces from India, the charm of waterfront and the English-style of texture nearby (such as Taj Mahal Hotel) is one of the strengths of this space that is coincident with the theoretical foundations of social spaces. Due to the vastness of space and distance from user absorbing land use, the main act of space is leisure. Sitting and watching, photographer's activities and selling snacks is the life of this space which is different from the most urban India is (Fig.5).

• **Business Space, Ahmadabad-Gandhi Street**

This street which according to the location of three gates, jama-mosque and Ahmadshah tomb at its edge is one of the oldest arteries of city, is a sample of the old streets of world, holds full meaning and aspects of city life. Although the body is worn-out and low level of Sanitation, vehicles moving along the sidewalks, the various business units and vendors, and lower and middle class men and women together have given life to this axis (Fig.6).

By survey on research samples² and adapting world social spaces factors, the following results were obtained:

- social spaces of Indian cities have been formed in all types of historical, religious and ritual, business spaces or environmental attractions.



Fig.3. Shadigar City Center Plaza as a Successful Social Space, Photo: Mona Masoud Lavasan, archive of NAZAR research center, Feb.2012.

• Modern-Business space, City Centre Plaza- Chandigarh

After half a century of city foundation, pedestrian areas have worked well among modern buildings of Sector 17. Prefiguration of vast parking lots and strong relation of large arteries is the characteristic of all parts of the city. Placement of proper furniture in staying spaces, the simple planting, fountains and statues are included in measures done by the designer to increase the utility of space, especially young people in site-seeing the goods. The presence of people groups (such as Tibet fans or advocates yoga school) is accepted. Generally, this body has dictated western life and thinking from which has rooted could guide its content to some extent as a container. However, vending and the lower class Hindus attendance which is the characteristic of all Indian urban spaces have also light flow here (Fig.3).

• Ritual-Historic Space, Udaipur-Jagdish Temple near Square

The location of Jagdish temple (the oldest and the most important temple of the city) beside this square and the sea nearby, indicates that the space has settled on the main city skelton. Although the width of organic pedestrian and the vastness of the square is not much, it benefits in urban scale. Urban texture pattern around the square and arteries led to it is commercial on the ground floor and residential etc. in other floors. This space with heritage precious and religious festivals entertains foreign tourists other than Udaipur people. So the security lasts permanently by continual watchful eyes. Totality of square is inseparable from the tracks leading to the beach considering neither space nor function. It has completely indigenous and half worn-out physics furthermore the streets cleanness is moderate with



Fig.2. Neighboring Nature, Trade & Religion; Path ended to Jama Masjid (Mosque) stairway, Source: mona nasoud Lavasani, archive of NAZAR research center, Feb. 2012.

members of the community; even normal routine or periodic festivals."(Madanipour, 2000: 215). social space, is an open area and accessible to the social that may be planned or created spontaneously. Social space is an area where social thoughts to be formed and becomes the only source of legitimizing the laws which are governing the social life (Khatam, 2005: 11). social space is one of the quality control committees of "urban landscape" which is as the form and physics, a "void" in city and the effect of empties in the urban landscape is much more than masses (Mansouri, 2009). Social space is filled with elements that are not directly functional and everyone has such common sense about it that this space has existed and will continue for generations (Mansouri & Atashinbar, 2014: 14).

Social Space Specifications

Physically some basic features should exist in an urban space to select as a place for people to meet and friendly community (Al'alhesabi, 2006: 8). Zukin mentioned three main specifications of social spaces in proximity, variety and access. (Zukin, 1996: 262). The most important characteristics of social space is availability for all society strata, locating on the main roads, diversity of land use as well as social interactions therein at all hours of the day. The most powerful factor in locating a successful social space is social memory. Other factors are physical potential such as locating at the intersections, squares, ecological potential, and reputability (Mansouri, 2009). Evaluation of 1000 Urban Spaces in the World shows that four key factor are important in social spaces quality: availability, land uses and activities, comfort and landscape and sociality of the space (Rafiyani, 2005: 40). (Fig.1). Regarding access criteria, successful social spaces are visible from far and near and benefit parking capacity and suitable social transportation. Comfort of space includes safety, cleanliness and Possibility for Sitting. Socialization is a difficult quality to achieve. In an environment where people can meet their friends and neighbors and feel comfortable in their interactions with strangers, strong sense of belonging to a place and society has emerged (Project for social Spaces).

Case Studies

Following reasons of locating a social space in Indian culture, physics of these spaces were compared with advised principles to have a successful social space. Below are some samples that show a variety of social spaces in Indian cities, briefly introduced.

• Religious-historical space, the front face of the Jama Masjid, Delhi

This space which settled in old Delhi texture, near Red Castle and several parks is connected to Chand Chowk Street (one of the city focal points). Jama Masjid (mosque) illustrates the social memory continuity of city from this space which acts in the scale of city. Vendors' activity near a religious place has caused the presence of a number of women and men with different ages. But the district location in city and also cheap goods has caused more attend of the lower and middle classes of society. Life here which gradually leads from the mosque steps to its courtyard has that security of alive markets in the vicinity of a religious atmosphere. Physically, this linear space has worn-out texture and open and low Sanitation (Fig.2).



Fig.1. The Most Important Factors to Locate Social Space, Source: www.pps.org

Introduction

Historical urbanization experiences show that the most difficult and fervent moments of citizen lives pass in public urban spaces. Human is social animal that needs physical place for social interactions. Social spaces are reflection of this need. Social spaces are a part of public spaces in which the social relations and interactions are formed. Various definitions have been presented for social space that for selecting research samples, the agreed definition of this study and social spaces characteristic's are provided as follows. At first glance, it seems that studied spaces in India do not have much similarity with social spaces around the world and its native color and specific culture have apparently made the advised criteria of most places of the world ineffective here.

Indian social spaces are places for business, production, communication and even living. Especially the streets are spaces for sleeping of homeless people at night and business and trading of vendors during the day.

Teenagers do fun and window-shopping, middle-aged people daily walking around, neighbors rumoring, children playing, sellers presenting their goods, women drying washed clothes, festivals and mourning, worshipping beside small and informal shrines, gatherings and street protests, etc.

all in all happen in a square or street together and all these occurs regardless the physical quality. All these characteristics enhance the following perception:

Hypothesis: The meaning and forming factors of social space in Indian cities are different from universal theories and are influenced by current life style in India.

From Urban Space to Social Space

Habermas¹ critical debate in the early 1960s can be seen as the root of the social field's researches and the indication of social space (Wessler, 2011). Although the existence of such spaces return to historic cities like Greek Agoras that all the business, conversation, popular meeting and city elections take place there (Minton, 2006 : 9). These discussions led to the abandonment of modern urbanism theory and returning to the destroyed the old social spaces such as little squares between church and bazaar and residential texture. These places which were often located next to the focal points were considered as political, social and cultural arena of city. At the beginning of the twentieth century the perception of the urban space has changed along with the development of various movements and ideas. Modern movement by stressing on functionalism, geometry, orientation, individualism and dividing zones of city into four main functions made the

urban space practically to be forgotten. Since the beginning of the 60s decade of twentieth century so far the meaning of urban space with a flash back of culturalism and human preparation fans in city relies on the presumption that:

Urban space should be organized for the activities and should be a part of alive organism in city which is connected to social and economic conditions' changes. The city social environment involves a collection of people's relations and is concerned with heart and center of social strategies (Parsi, 2002: 43). Urban space is definition of the physics of space which reports urbanization of space. Definition of social space versus private space, which means that the particular person does not belong to the universality of its own. Urban space is opposite of private space; that is to say it does not belong to a special body, generality against privatization. social space is an urban space, but not necessarily vice versa. The users of urban space do not find a single identity. While in social space, the population stands before individualism and consequent of this space is the phenomenon of society (Mansouri, 2009). Some of the most obvious definitions of social space are as: social space is "a common context in which the functional activities and events happen that link the

Footprint of Life in City

Investigation on the Meaning of Social Space in Indian Cities

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Abstract

Today paying attention to the citizens' interaction and social lives has created some needs in urban design. So that social spaces have become an important subject in our cities. The survey on the characteristics and factors of forming these spaces constitutes a part of theories of urban studies. Considering landscape architecture as domestic/native knowledge and careers/occupations, it appears that these factors in different territories exactly belong to the same culture and people. This text investigates on social spaces of India to reply this question that "in which principles and factors the meaning of social space, Indian cities are common with the current theories or have differences?" In this research having done by observation and library study, lots of discrepancies have been detected in physical conditions and life flow; differences which have made great gap between Indian social spaces and modern types at the first glance. It seems that the meaning and the forming factors of social space in Indian cities differs from descriptions and identified factors in the theoretical foundations. Thus, the equal factors cannot be recommended for social spaces shaping around the world. For finding the answer of this research, field studies have been done in the variety of type, function and physics from religious spaces to business ones and from old to new textures. These spaces are separated into two categories as Indian organic space (mostly old & religious) and the modern planned parts. In modern texture the properties of social spaces were similar to known efficient factors; but a specific definition for social space in India was searched for other parts. Totally, eighteen social spaces in 8 cities were recognized by field study and observation and their specifications were analyzed. Finally after reviewing principles and minimum factors advised for forming such spaces (Security, continuity with city and pedestrian movement), it was found that Indian social spaces influenced by general level of life in this country are matched with primary type of life style (essential activities) known in the world theories. Therefore, the reason of difference seen at first, is the distance between life and physics of Indian and western modern spaces.

Keywords

Social space, Life style, Leisure, Physics and function, India.