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## Article

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## The Role of Public Spaces in the Realization of City Prosperity and Sustainable Development

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**Abstract:** Public spaces are those that embrace a wide range of citizens from child to old, woman and man, and with every religion and race; therefore, public spaces have the potential to strengthen social cohesion, economic development, and the improvement of the quality of collective life. The realization of these issues requires the consideration of the design and visual quality of public spaces so that these spaces are able to significantly reduce environmental stimuli and increase the vitality of the society. Correct management of public spaces can informally increase the collective knowledge and individual and social skills of urban residents. This is achieved in the light of people's participation in the economic, political and administrative affairs of the city as well as the increase in the level of their social interactions. Of course, the role of environmental-physical elements, such as symbols and signs, should not be ignored in raising awareness and citizens' visual perception. Accordingly, public spaces should be considered as a platform for encouraging citizens to participate and accept social responsibilities in order to transfer knowledge and awareness to improve citizens' quality of life. Therefore, in this research, it has been attempted to study the issues that need attention to urban public spaces management while studying the literature of city prosperity and sustainable development. In terms of method, this research is descriptive-analytic. The results indicated that development and attention to public spaces lead to economic development of city, improvement of citizens' health and education, and rebuilding the local identities of the city.

**Keywords:** Public Spaces, City Prosperity, Sustainable Development

**JEL Classification:** P25, R11, Q01, R12

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## 1- Introduction

Efforts to transform cities into better places to live have always been the main concerns of urban management. More than seventy years ago, the GDP<sup>1</sup> index, won the Nobel Prize for Metrics, and named the mother of all stats. This index reflects the notion of the prosperity of each country in terms of producing goods and services. But later, it seemed that this indicator, despite the wide range and acceptability, has shortcomings in measuring the overall welfare and prosperity of a community and urban prosperity. In 2006, China produced a green GDP index that seriously challenged environmental standards. In 2009, it became clear that the GDP growth figure does not reflect many of the essential characteristics of welfare, prosperity, and happiness in societies (Mohtashami et al., 2016). In this regard, in 2012, UN-Habitat put forward a comprehensive and integrated approach called "City Prosperity," which pursues a path beyond sustainable urban development. In addition to sustainable development, it also has the happiness, prosperity, vitality, dynamism and quality of urban life. City Prosperity is a wheel in the center of which government institutions, urban planning laws and regulations, and its edges, infrastructures, environmental sustainability, quality of life, justice and urban equity (Habitat, 2013).

Prosperity is a widespread concept associated with balanced and harmonious development in an environment of fairness and justice. Accordingly, city prosperity is a kind of social construction that provides human activities. This concept examines how cities can produce and how the benefits of this production can be

distributed in a fair way among its citizens. This thinking involves economic growth, the rule of social relations, environmental sustainability and a better quality of life (Joss, 2015).

In fact, the concept of city prosperity has an unbreakable link with the quality of urban life and sustainable development, a development based on civil partnerships, responding to the challenges of the present era, optimizing resources, and building capabilities and potential for the future. Un-Habitat (2013) not only proposes city prosperity indicators to assess the progress of the present and future of cities on the path to prosperity, but also prepares local authorities and stakeholders to evaluate potential opportunities and areas of intercession for their city prosperity. These indicators include:

- Economic growth due to increased productivity, lower unemployment, increased financial reserves and optimization of energy consumption
- Strengthening the infrastructure and facilities of the city (improving water quality, improving road network, improving health, developing the information and communication network, rebuilding local identities, etc.)
- Quality of life (education, health, safety, and attention to public spaces)
- Reducing poverty (reducing inequalities)
- Attention to the environment and preservation of natural resources of cities in the direction of sustainable urban development (environmental sustainability)
- Urban Management (Oversight and Legislation) (Habitat, 2013).

As it can be seen, improving the quality of urban life is one of the pillars of the city prosperity model. Undoubtedly, public spaces are important for improving the quality of life in cities. The quality of

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<sup>1</sup> Gross Domestic Product

public spaces is a benchmark for measuring the utility of urban life. In fact, urban public space is an open space for various social groups whose dynamism and efficiency require social interactions and diverse encounters (Rafieyan et al., 2012). Accordingly, in this article, we seek to study and analyze the role and position of urban public spaces in the realization of city prosperity. The fundamental hypothesis of this study is that improving and development of quality of urban public spaces, taking into account the needs of the audience of these spaces, can greatly outweigh the economic, cultural and social crises that today's cities face like reducing economic downturn and urban crime, and increasing the level of social trust, livability and dynamism of cities, and boost cities and move towards better cities for the future.

In this regard, considering some of the indicators of city prosperity, this research seeks to answer the following questions:

- Does the development of the city's public spaces lead to economic development?
- Does public spaces development of city increase citizens' health?
- Does public spaces development of the city improve education status?
- Does public spaces development re-create the local identities of the city?

## 2- Literature Review

Considering public spaces are urban spaces that have diverse functions and consequently have a special impact on the quality of citizens' life, scholars in various fields such as economics, geography, sociology, anthropology, urban planning in this field, have done some research, some of which are listed below:

### *a) Foreign Researches*

Atkinson (2003) in a research entitled "Control and Empowerment in Public Space Management" argued that public spaces were a critical component of successful cities. In addition, they are places in the city that inspire socialization, culture and social capital. Public spaces make the city livable and play an important role in achieving a safe, comprehensive, flexible and sustainable city.

UN-Habitat (2013) "streets as public space and pioneers of city prosperity" argued that throughout the history of cities, the development and success of a city without its proper physical organization, including the precise design of the streets and the placement of public spaces, was not possible. The streets, squares, parks and public spaces are a tangible expression of the social, cultural, economic, and political activities of cities and a factor for city prosperity.

Nasution & Zahrah (2017) in a research entitled "Public Open Space's Contribution to Quality of Life: Does privatization matters?" acknowledged that people engage in social activities in public spaces, which contributes to the coherence, dynamism and economic development of the city.

### *b) Iranian Researches*

Rafieyan et al., (2012) examined qualitative parameters in designing urban public spaces and used four general models to classify these qualities and compare their weaknesses and strengths and to achieve comprehensive concepts. They compared the views and models to a comprehensive set of features including adaptability, permeability, diversity, flexibility, vitality, readability, visual fit, sustainability and efficiency.

Rafieyan & Seyfayi (2005) studied the role of public spaces in facilitating social relations and refining social construction in urban settlements. The results indicate that improving the quality of urban public spaces such as cleanliness, accessibility, attractiveness, convenience, comprehensiveness, vitality and dynamism, performance, differentiation, safety and security, strength and health are essential to create social capital and strengthen the integrity of the community.

Amjadi-Molayi et al., (2013) in a research "The Role and Importance of Organizing and Beautifying Public spaces in the Development of Urban Tourism" argue that several factors play a role in the development of urban tourism, one of these factors in the creation of urban tourism attractions is public spaces; including urban furniture, urban green spaces, modern residential centers, amusement and entertainment spaces, large shopping malls, museums and cultural art and centers etc. On the other hand, arranging and decorating these spaces has an important role in attracting tourists as well as relaxing their spirits and encouraging the maintenance of the city. The proper organization and development of urban spaces, the beautification of the public spaces of the city, the livability of the abandoned spaces of the city, have a good foundation for the development of urban tourism and encouraging citizens to use the facilities created in the city.

Izadi & Haghi (2015) in a research entitled "Promoting the sense of security in public spaces by utilizing urban design" investigated security in Imam Square of Hamadan, as one of the most important public spaces in this city. In their research, while addressing the importance

and role of the fields in the livability and dynamism of cities, they have pointed to priorities in the design of public spaces, in particular fields, which include:

- Organizing vehicle movement in the square and reducing unnecessary transit traffic
- Arranging and locating public transport stops (especially taxis) at an appropriate distance from the square
- Monitoring the activity of vendors and tourists and organizing spatial and temporal activity of them
- Strengthening tourism-services uses in a range that is appropriate to the historic spirit of the square and surrounding context
- Restoration of night activities and the implementation of cultural and artistic programs
- Organizing light status

### 3- Theoretical Background

From the perspective of Farabi, the city is a place that can meet the biological and social needs of humans (creating interaction and cooperation between them) and allows them to achieve their prosperity (Ameri & Zand, 2011). Mumford believes that the city is not just a physical set; it is also a place for social action and collective unity. In fact, Mumford, like Farabi, has emphasized the social role of cities that underlies interactions and social relationships among urban residents (Rafieyan & Khodadi, 2009).

Urban life is one of the hallmarks of the influence of modernity on the lives of human societies, and belonging to society and presence in social spaces is one of the needs of today's human life. In general, the city contains three related concepts of space, daily life, and the reproduction of capitalist social relations. City is a general field of space through which production

relations are reproduced in the everyday experience of people. The city is no longer the only place to live; it is a reflection of society and social relations (Fakuhi & Ohadi, 2012).

The design of urban spaces should be done in such a way that the city can reflect the cultural and social values of the community and provide the ground for social participation (Tavalayi, 2002).

Jane Jacobs considers the socio-cultural aspect of the city more than its physical aspect and regards the dynamism and livability of the city dependent on complex, dense and crowded urban centers. Therefore, she wants to stop the separation of uses and places emphasis on spaces such as streets as one of the platforms of social interaction. She believed that by strengthening public spaces; like the streets, could give identity to cities, in particular urban centers (PapliYazdi & Sanajerdi, 2013).

Tibbaldez, like Jacobs, focuses on integrating uses and activities (integrating public and private spaces) in order to increase the livability of urban spaces, and believes that such an action, due to the greater freedom that city residents make for work, recreation, shopping, or even seclusion in the corner of the city, makes the inhabitants love and enjoy the environments more. According to him, streets and sidewalks are the most important public areas in cities, where special attention to the design of these spaces can greatly enhance the humanitarian aspect of cities. He describes a good urban planning of three principles: the ability to rebuild the past (historical identity), meeting the needs and desires of the inhabitants, as well as thinking to have better settlements in the future (Tibbaldez, 2017).

According to Stephen Carr, public spaces, such as streets and sidewalks, should have responsive, democratic, and meaningful spaces that can respond to the needs of urban residents (including physical, emotional and mental needs), as well as all segments of society, able to be freely and without any limitations use the spaces. In fact, meaningful public spaces are spaces that can make a significant relationship between people, their individual and social life, and thus create a clear mental image in their minds. This feature is closely related to the cultural and social values and characteristics of the community (Carr et al., 1992).

In the theory of "City Prosperity Initiative Plan," the prosperous city is created by integrating six main areas including productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life, social equity and inclusion, biological sustainability, oversight and law, each of which underlies some sub indicators. Based on the approach developed by the United Nations Human Settlements Program, prosperity implies success, wealth, prosperity, happiness, self-confidence in the future, the creation of equal opportunities for all, and development of sustainable policies (United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2013).

The issue of urban public spaces cannot be followed without communication with theories and views on urban identity. The identity of each city emerges in social, cultural, economic and physical contexts, and public spaces must have characteristics of citizenship, which is an effective factor in strengthening urban identity.

City prosperity is one of the concepts that have emerged from the concept of sustainable development. There are many

definitions of sustainable development, but perhaps the simplest and most comprehensive definition, is related to the Brentland Conference in 1978, which considers it a development to meet current needs; without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable development is a development that treats human survival and its full and comprehensive prosperity and interacts with all chains, dynamic processes, human resources, natural resources, and the hardware system of society, and seeks to engage in interaction between the present and the future, human and nature and justice and well-being between and within generations. In this regard, sustainable urban development is a form of modern development that guarantees the continuous development of cities and urban communities of future generations (Mohammadpour Zarandi & Tabatabaei Mozdabadi, 2012).

#### 4- Research Method

This research is qualitative based on the nature of data, and its methodology is descriptive-analytical, which has been based on library studies, documents and results of reports, conferences and meetings held in the field of public spaces and city prosperity.

#### 5- Results

Public spaces are for all members of the community, and everyone can walk freely in them, whether consciously or unconsciously. Moreover, public spaces play a significant role in increasing social capital by promoting the level of interaction and civic participation, as well as social cohesion and, of course, improving conditions and economic prosperity; therefore, these spaces, are regarded as

one of the important factors in improving mental health of urban residents, as well as increased livability, mobility and dynamism in cities. In addition, the role of public spaces in the economic prosperity of cities should not be ignored. Public spaces can be suitable places for attracting economic investments, business activities, and creating the city's economic development (Carmona et al., 2008). Today, public spaces are influenced by historical orientations and tendencies, the laws adopted by governments, and the values and cultural traditions governing society, political priorities, and in particular the lifestyle that governments support, as well as the economy and the trade market that can be seen in in public spaces. It can therefore be understood that public spaces are areas of flexibility that, while providing services to urban residents, form the public's minds and direct their lifestyles to a specific direction and, in fact, teach them. Now considering the importance of public spaces and the emphasis of the organization of human settlement on it, in order to realize city prosperity and sustainable development, the research questions are addressed:

Question1: Does development of public spaces make economic development?

Public spaces play a significant role in promoting the level of social and economic capital. Improving the conditions of the public spaces and the possibility of better access conditions for all residents of the city, with the equity approach, will increase the dynamics of urban spaces and increase the social interactions of the people, thereby providing the areas of investment and favorable economic growth in the city. The lack of security in public spaces is one of the most important issues facing today's cities, one of the

reasons for which is the low level of trust and social capital, which reduces economic capital and, of course, the decline of urban tourism as one of the most important factors in the dynamism and prosperity of the cities. In recent years, the discussion of urban tourism with two economic and cultural objectives was considered by economic planners (Hataminejad & Sharafi, 2015). The conditions for its success are the existence of infrastructure and efficient management, as two important indicators in the city prosperity initiative. Accordingly, it can be said that paying attention to improving the quality of public spaces in terms of physical (cleanliness, safety, infrastructure, etc.) and non-physical (justice-oriented, social security, social participation, sense of belonging, etc.) can be accompanied by livability, prosperity and urban dynamism and economic development of the city and citizens due to the large presence of tourists that is in line with the studies of Asadi (2011), Ebrahimniya et al, (2013), Motie & Azadi (2013), and Noori & Khorasani (2012).

Question 2: Does the development of public spaces of the city improve the health of citizens?

Although various factors, such as family, education level, occupation and income level (financial status), affect the quality of life and physical and mental health of urban residents, the role and impact of public spaces as spaces where citizens walk on them consciously or unconsciously, and they spend a considerable part of their time that cannot be ignored for their health. The way of designing and managing the public spaces of the city can affect the satisfaction and mental health of citizens. For example, on

urban streets, the main structure of the social life, as much as possible environmental stimuli such as noise, visual, air pollution, and factors such as high speed cars, as well as types of urban violence and crime (such as robbery or aggression) due to the correct environmental and spatial measures should be reduced. This will make citizens more comfortable and relaxed in public spaces and reduce their stress and concern due to exposure to a variety of environmental stimuli. This issue must be taken into account most in the case of women, children, the elderly and the disabled, as their vulnerability to environmental stimuli and threats is more than other citizens (Pakzad & Farid-Tehrani, 2011). In this regard, women are physically less capable of self-defense against urban violence, especially sexual assault, which has made their socialization process, from the outset, accompanied by fears from the outside world, for mothers who are with their young children entering urban spaces is two-fold, because responsibility for taking care of children also adds to their stress and concern and makes them more vulnerable to external stimuli. Therefore, one of the most important factors to be considered in relation to the design of public spaces is to provide maximum security and safety for citizens, especially women, which can be significantly increased with respect to the factors that are considered as legibility and visibility features. According to Lynch, legible and high-quality environments can reduce the fear and stress of citizens, especially women, from being present in urban spaces, and as a result of safety, their traffic increases in the city, which contributes significantly to the livability and dynamism of the city. One of the world's plans for urban spaces and the



health of citizens is the Healthy City Plan, which was first introduced in 1984 by Leonard Duhl. Professor Duhl defines a healthy city as a city that continuously develops or improves the socio-physical conditions and resources development, in order to enable it to function properly and fully in order to maximize the exploitation of human power (Bahreyni, 1995). In fact, the idea of a healthy city is a combination of ecological and health ideas to improve the quality of urban life. The idea that urban residents are motivated to collaborate and accept responsibility to improve the quality of their housing (Tabibiyan, 1997). The realization of this idea, while addressing the ecological problems of cities, can be effective in ensuring the social security of the community as well as the mental and physical well-being of the city's residents by interacting, co-operative and citizen participation in urban affairs, thereby increasing the sense of trust among citizens, their cohesion and unity; therefore, the idea of a healthy city can be considered in order to promote the quality of urban life, as well as the prosperity and prosperity of the cities and ensure the health of citizens. In general, it can be said that the development of public spaces of cities contributes to the health of their citizens, which has been confirmed by numerous researches such as Bagheri & Azamati (2009), Ansari (2014), Marsouei and Azimi (2017) and so on.

Question 3: Does the development of public spaces of the city improve the status of education?

Several scholars have argued that training is a process because it transfers knowledge and culture from generation to generation and also considers it a product, since it implies a transformation, whether explicit or implicit, tacit or explicit. It is

also a discipline, because it creates positive behavioral patterns in people. Education is an essential tool for cultural, social and moral development (Ejikeme, 2014). It is worth noting that although for the development of several factors such as improving infrastructures such as dams, roads, telecommunication facilities and communications, ports and the like, education is considered as the key to social and economic development (Maclean, 2008). Taking these definitions into account, learning is an inevitable in the path to sustainable development and the realization of city prosperity, as UN-Habitat also speaks of education as an important component in improving the quality of urban life. According to the initiative developed by the organization, flourishing cities should provide citizens with essential social services, including helping them to raise their level of knowledge and education as well as their health and safety, since citizens will then be able to take full advantage of their potential for developing their intellectual capacities, as well as enjoying a healthy and productive life.

Today, formal education has been implemented in many countries and for which there has been some programming, but attention to informal education should be taken into consideration because it is believed that informal education than formal education has a greater impact on improving people's quality of life and they can be in the context of a daily, completely tangible and understandable life in different situations for the citizens. One of the areas of education indirectly is the urban public spaces that people are connected with each day and can be said to be somehow associated with the daily lives of urban residents. Spaces that

respond to the various needs of citizens (their psychological and emotional needs), also have the ability to inform city residents in various fields, including urban culture and citizenship rights, as well as through graphic and environmental elements, cause intellectual growth and increase visual understanding of them. In fact, urban spaces are media spaces that are affordable for educational work, but these spaces are forgotten about the use of education, and thus we are seeing the weakening of today's urban civilizations. Two principles related to the role of public spaces in promoting the general level of public knowledge are as follows:

***Education by Preparing the Ground for Civil Participation and Social Interaction of Citizens:***

In this regard, public spaces are an appropriate place for the exchange of thoughts and information, as well as suitable contexts for the formation of social networks; therefore, these spaces, rather than the physical space, is the space for collective life, and through the acquisition of experiences, knowledge and social skills (Hajer, 2001). Accordingly, it can be said that these spaces provide the basis for social cohesion and social balance, because when people interact with other people in the community, they feel deeper relation with their place and society, and this leads to the formation of a sense of collective identity and sense of belonging to the place. In this context, UN-Habitat also seeks for city prosperity to talk of such spaces as interactive and inclusive environments for promoting democracy in urban societies. In addition, urban public spaces are important places for social mixing, dialogue and entertainment that promote the diversification and social interaction in the city. Considering the

social and cultural importance of these spaces, urban planners must design and plan for public spaces from designers to project implementers in a multi-dimensional approach. Successful public spaces are the basis for increasing the quality of urban life by increasing the level of social participation and social knowledge of citizens, livability, security, satisfaction, and commitment.

***Training Through the Design of Responsive and Meaningful Spatial Elements:***

The streets, sidewalks and parks are one of the most important public spaces that each day encompasses a large population of urban residents, both old and young, and the child; therefore, the design and management of these spaces may be more than other types of public spaces that are considered as close spaces like cinemas, theater houses, halls and music halls, which have a valuable place in promoting the knowledge and culture of the community, should be taken into consideration. Although enclosed public spaces are public, they attract specific audiences, while open public spaces are open to all segments and groups of society, and everyone uses them. In addition, open public spaces play an important role in shaping the city's image. Accordingly, the design of these spaces, due to the fact that they must be responsive to a wide range of citizens, are different from each other's mental and physical needs, requires more precision and action. For example, in designing elements such as news kiosks that play an important role in conveying news and information to citizens, it is important to consider factors such as fitness, human scale and accessibility, as well as aesthetic factors to improve the visual quality of public spaces. This means that

such elements need to be designed and installed in accordance with their surroundings, their audience, their needs, and, ultimately, the improvement of the visual quality of the city's design. It is worth noting that the installation of news kiosks for children and adolescents, given these factors, in public spaces can play an important role in encouraging children to read, and promote their social skills. It extends to other physical elements of the city, such as graphic and environmental signs, as well as other types of urban furniture. In general, the structure and quality of urban public spaces can in turn be effective in citizenship education that is in line with Rafieyan & Seyfayi (2005), and Daneshpoor & Charkhiyan (2007).

Question 4: Does the development of public spaces re-create the local identities of the city?

Identity; That is, the extent to which a person can recognize a place as a distinct location from other places, in such a way as to have a specific, unique, or at least specific character (Lynch, 2011). Based on this definition, and looking at the urban spaces of today, we see that this functional axis, which Lynch mentions as one of the pillars of good urban habitat, is declining. As in these days, the city's image is much more similar to the one that has the opposite. In the past not so long ago, we could easily identify the cities of Iran from each other because what determines the form of buildings, the shape of the streets and other public spaces, such as alleys, commercial centers and markets, were the climate and cultural and social beliefs of the people, so each city, due to its own characteristics, had a different shape. Nowadays due to the lack of attention to indigenous factors and following

standardized patterns in urban planning and development, the feature of the meaning of cities has been taken and faced with an identity crisis. In other words, if we consider urban spaces as the manifestation of the culture and history of the nations, what is happening today in most cities is a departure from the rich cultural and ancient values of the inhabitants of their land (Karimiyan, 2010). The condition for the exit from this crisis is to return to the local and national characteristics of the development programs without decoding the development programs in other countries of the world. Each city in each country has its own topographic, social, cultural and political characteristics, and its full realization in other cities of the world seems unlikely. Therefore, efforts to revive indigenous identities of cities and sustainable development are essential. This, in addition to its physical dimension, has psychological and cultural dimensions and is associated with the quality of life of the city's inhabitants. This means that as the city's urban environment and city spaces are closer to the cultural and social minds of the community, the readability of it is increased, and as a result, the inhabitants of the cities bring more urban spaces with greater sense of security; thus, the city is safer, more lively and ultimately it becomes more meaningful. In such a process, residents of cities have a greater sense of belonging to their homes, they are responsible for the city and are ready to participate in the improvement of the city. This is what Lynch emphasized in order to realize successful settlements. In the meantime, it should refer to the role of historical and cultural heritage as the cultural capital of nations, since historical monuments are

not just physical objects, but beyond them, there are notions and civilization that link the generations to each other. Turning to the importance of reviving local identities, public spaces, as spaces that embrace all classes and groups of the community, can be considered in urban design as an area for strengthening indigenous culture as well as the historical and civilian values of a nation or a people. One of the issues that needs to be done is to extend the interaction and co-operation of experts in urban planning and design, anthropologists, sociologists, and art history researchers in order to take into account the technical and physical aspects of public spaces to the semantic aspects that come from culture and history to create meaningful and identity spaces.

## 6- Conclusion and Discussion

UN-Habitat considered city prosperity in 2012 with the aim of realizing sustainable and human settlements, as well as creating better and more successful cities, and indicators for them. One of these indicators is the quality of life. The quality of life index includes elements such as public spaces, education, health and safety, which specifically aims to help realize the fundamental goal of UN-Habitat, namely the creation of successful and sustainable cities for discussing public spaces and its various aspects. One of the issues that need to be addressed about designing and organizing public spaces is to protect citizens against all kinds of environmental stimuli, in order to enhance their sense of security, satisfaction, belonging, and co-operative because by reducing the environmental stimuli, especially in relation to women and children, citizens are more likely to enter the public spaces with a sense of

security and enjoy being in the community and thus increasing their sense of satisfaction and attachment. Training as another component in relation to public spaces and improving the quality of life of urban residents as well as sustainable development is discussed in this article. It has been argued that public spaces play a decisive role in creating the fields of civil participation and social interactions, which indirectly increase the awareness and knowledge of society in society. Because humans are able to learn individual and social skills in relation with each other, they can increase the level of collective consciousness. The role of the design of space elements in public spaces cannot be ignored in transferring knowledge and raising the level of community awareness. Therefore, in the use of elements of space, it is also important to consider how these elements can enhance the visual thinking and the general knowledge of citizens. One of the uses of public spaces is to educate citizens in various fields informally. Citizenship education today represents an important type of investment in human resources that also helps to develop economics by providing and promoting the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed by individuals (Mohammadpour Zarandi & Tabatabaei Mozdabadi, 2016).

One of the other results of the research can be said that public spaces are a suitable platform for the restoration and regeneration of features that can distinguish the city from other cities and give it a special meaning and identity. Not only does this bring about meaning in this space; it also preserves the values and characteristics of the indigenous culture and transfers them to future generations. Not paying attention to this causes the

same formation of cities, as well as the disconnection of the thinking of generations, due to the lack of use of elements of the material and concrete culture of society in urban spaces.

In this regard, if the view of urban managers at micro and macro levels about cities, especially public spaces, is a citizen-friendly look with the aim of promoting the dynamism, livability, prosperity and quality of life of urban residents, many problems of cities, including social, economic, cultural, and even environmental can be solved and the ground for urban sustainable development will be more prepared. In fact, sustainable urban development will not be achieved unless by modifying the city's vision and following the humanistic approaches that the city belongs to human beings and consider it to meaningless and unnecessary without humans and activities. Accordingly, participation, interaction, justice, etc., will be meaningful and adaptable in society, where city prosperity will be realized in its shadow.

In general, public spaces will help to realize city prosperity indicators and achieve a comprehensive and sustainable development that will be organized and managed by the community for the people of the community, with the participation of all social groups and their needs and desires. Public spaces should be the result of the interaction and collaboration of city administrators and citizens in order to be effective in moving towards sustainable development and livable and prosperous cities.

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