



Investigating the Attachment in Urban Residential Environments (Case Study: Tehran Navvab District)

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Abstract

The attachment to a place can be described as a meaningful relationship between person and place, an emotional bond that people consider to be worthwhile as a setting to return. Attachment to a place is an indicator by which one can measure the degree of distinction of that place among people compared to other places. These distinctions are the result of a variety of material and spiritual factors, including the environment, physical and architectural environment, the social environment and types of activities, the level of culture and history, personal and psychological dimensions (perception, cognition, and feeling). Attention to the identity of places that play an essential role in the socio-humanitarian and urban structure is essential in today's society. Social events in residential districts of cities play a vital role in the vivacity of their inhabitants. The present study explores the attachment to the neighborhood among the inhabitants of the Navvab residential district between Komeyl Street and Mortazavi Street. The present study was a survey method in which data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. The main questions of the present research are, how is the status of neighborhood attachment among residents in the Navvab district? What is the effect of this phenomenon? How can the attachment in people be enhanced by designing the environment? What are the potential capabilities of the environment, and what is the impact of planning on improving the neighborhood? Findings indicate that the variables of local social ties, access to facilities and educations, the sense of security and social order, age of people have a high impact on the attachment to the residential district. Also, people who are more satisfied with their neighborhood are likely to have more attachment to their neighborhood identity. Indigenous people living in the neighborhood (the effect of the length of stay) have more attachment to their neighborhood than non-indigenous people. The more the security of inhabitant of the neighborhood, the more the attachment of the inhabitants becomes.

Keywords: *Attachment; Attachment to Residential Neighborhoods; Neighborhood Affiliation; Navvab District; Residential Neighborhood*

Introduction

Attachment to place is a multifaceted, complex, and interdisciplinary concept that interlaces various aspects of people linking to place. Over the last few decades, this concept has attracted many scholars in various fields of science, such as sociology, environmental psychology, anthropology, human geography, and architecture (Hekmatpour et al., 2017; Burns et al., 2018; Windsong, 2010). In addition to the material dimension, the place also has a non-material dimension and creates feelings in its inhabitants. Due to these feelings, a place of attachment has been created in individuals, which leads to the formation of spatial identity, which is consistent with post-modern planning, mainly at the level of urban neighborhoods (Rahnama and Razavi, 2012). In the last few decades, fundamental changes have been made with dramatic modification in the way of life in the neighborhood structure. Reducing social cohesion and the sense of social indifference are the hallmarks of today's cities (Moayyedfar and Moghadam, 2010). The initial impressions of the research indicate that Tehran Navvab district is one of the old and worn-out neighborhoods of Tehran (Tabar, 2018). Observations show that one of the main problems of the inhabitants is the lack of attachment to the neighborhood, and they consider it a temporary place for life, which has caused social harm. To improve this disorder, we recommend taking a step toward improving it by carefully examining the status quo and designing the environment. Physical changes in the environment alone do not resolve problems, but there should be a willingness to make these changes. For achieving this purpose, field observation and questionnaires have been used. The construction of the Navvab highway, which was considered a former solution to the problems of the district, became a source of many other problems. The architectural environment is determining, and this determination is the bedrock of the emergence of many potentialities. By carefully examining the context of the neighborhood, the needs, the living space, limitations, and other environmental features, are useful and investigated solutions that offer not only the architectural perspective but also the psychology that can solve the problems as far as possible.

History of Navvab Highway

Navvab Safavi Highway is one of the highways of Tehran located in the north-south direction. This highway starts from Azadi Street in the north and reaches the highway of Shahid Tondguyan and Velayat Park in southern Tehran. The northern route of this highway connects to Chamran Highway. The idea of designing the Navvab highway as the main route connecting the north of the Chamran highway to south Tehran was raised since 1965. The municipality of Tehran in the year 1990 takes into account after approval by the Commission Article 5 of the Supreme Council of Architecture and Urban Development of Iran in the design and implementation of this highway on its agenda. The objectives of the plan were as follows:

- Quick communication between the north and south of the city
- Destruction of old and worn out the urban fabric of Navvab
- Implementation of urban planning standards
- Apply traffic regulations and guidelines to prevent unreasonable intersections
- Securing the path through the creation of a green area in the highway
- Identify suitable uses for the fit margin of land

The Navvab project that the renovation of the surrounding fabric area of the highway was at the same time as construction, due to some problems such as neglecting social and service needs at the time of the change and a 10% reduction in the width of this highway and some other things, could not achieve all its goals and caused the experts to call this highway as a very large and uncovered contaminated canal. Unlike the success of reducing the traffic problem, the implementation of this plan, in urban terms, has created many consequences for the surrounding urban fabric, which is a disruption to a residential context such as the Beryanck district, which is an old and renowned neighborhood which one of the negative consequences of this project. Also, construction with a minimum distance from the highway edge, the

lack of conformity of high-rise apartments built with cultural, social and economic characteristics of the inhabitants of the locality, a large number of residential units in each block, the lack of green areas and parking required by the residents, air and noise pollution due to its proximity to the highway, are other causes of inefficiency which have been mentioned.

Neighborhood and Place Attachment

Neighborhood

The neighborhood is the largest and, at the same time, the most intimate group in a community or city. The size of the social environment, the sharing at place residence, and the quality of social relations are among the most critical elements defining the neighborhood (Fisher, 2012). In other words, the neighborhood is a true reality, and wherever a group of people live together, the neighborhood can also be found. In other words, neighborhoods are as old as families and kinship units (Banerjee & Baer, 2014). One of the most essential elements of the neighborhood as a unitary structural unit, systemic and symbolic of the urban community is the place of identity and attachment. Attachment is a process in which the sense of responsibility increases and the partnership is realized (Goudarzi et al., 2018).

Stages of forming an attachment to the neighborhood

Sampson (1988) surveyed 10,905 people in the United Kingdom in two phases of personal and social factors in the local and spatial attachment. His findings show that factors such as the number of companions, the density, and the duration of socialization can be valuable in the attachment of the individual's place. His findings show that factors such as the number of companions, the density, and the duration of socialization can be important in the attachment of the individual's place. Ghasemi and Negini (2009) showed that factors such as the urban fabric of neighborhoods, the level of permeability, and the variable level of interpenetration affect the local social identity. Park, Wuerth, Schultz, and Guns argue that resettling deprived areas is retreating due to limited selections within narrow boundaries, and through the social identity within them is formed and organized. This situation can also create common interests and strengthen personal relationships (Chalabi and Amir Kafi, 2004). The attachment to the place brings people closer to the place (Hidalgo et al., 2010). This bond considered as a link between the individual and the physical and social environment (Hidalgo et al., 2010; Monarini and Fedi, 2009). The interactions resulting from the attachment to the place increase the perceived quality of the neighborhood, increasing the amount of satisfaction (James et al., 2009). The more comprehensive urbanization has contributed to the collapse of the spatial and social proportions of cities and reduced the spatial and physical attachment of the inhabitants. The consequence is the reduction of social coherences as a result of the social indifference of an individual (Moayyedfar and Moghadam, 2010).

Table 1: Physical and social structures of the neighborhood (Source: Pirbabaei and Sajjadzadeh, 2011)

Social structures
An Individual acquaintance of neighborhood
Levels of social class
Events and incidents
Relationships and Neighborhood
Conducting social rituals
Human organizations and institutions

Physical structures
Center of the neighborhood
Signs
Neighborhood introversion
Historic Buildings
Reminiscent elements
Names

Different Dimensions of Attachment to the Place

Three-dimensional classification of attachment to the place

In a study by Scannell and Gifford, in a broad category, the attachment is the result of a three-dimensional organization (person-process-place) that is referred to in the table below.

Table 2: Three-dimensional classification of attachment to the place

A personal dimension attachment to the place	Individual-level	At the individual level, it includes personal links that a person has to one place. For example, the place's attachment is more durable for environments that create personal memories, and this kind of attachment to a place is thought to be accompanied by a feeling.
	Group level	The attachment of the place formed in the group tested in different cultures, genders, and religions. For example, attachment has been described as a process of public, in which the group attachment to the places where they are accustomed and thus, their culture is preserved.
the psychological process dimension attachment to the place	Feeling and affection	person-place dependence undoubtedly involves an emotional connection to a particular location. Humanist geographers describe the attachment of the place in an emotional lexicon. For example, the term "topophilia" or "love of place" was invented for this connection. Relph recognizes the attachment of a place as a reliable and emotional link with an environment that provides a basic human need.
	Recognition	The person-place link also includes cognitive elements. The memories, beliefs, meanings, and the knowledge that people bring with their interior environments make them authentic. The attachment of the place as recognition involves making and linking the meaning of the place.
	Behavior	The third aspect of the psychological dimension of attachment is the level of behavior in which membership is expressed through activities. As an interpersonal attachment, the attachment of the

		place is manifested by neighboring preservation behaviors, and "a positive emotional bond between an individual and a certain place, a crucial indicator that maintains proximity to such a place."
Place dimensional attachment to the place		Perhaps the most important dimension of the attachment's place is the place itself. What is around the place that attracts us? This dimension has been tested on different geographic scales, a room in a home, a city, or the world, and in terms of type, is divided into two levels: the physical and social attachment. Hidalgo and Hernandez have measured social and physical levels of attachment in three levels of space (home, neighborhood, and city).

Social dimension attachment to the place

Some feel that attachment is due to current social relationships and interactions in the place and it is considered as the main factor in shaping this feeling. "In terms of this approach, the attachment to the environment is a factor in social interactions that takes place in the environment; based on this approach. The environment contains common social information and signs that humans interact with by their perception and decoding"(Javan Forouzandeh and Matlabi, 2011).

Emotional dimension (perception and recognition) attachment to the place

It emphasizes the attachment to human emotions and feelings about the place and surroundings and considers the attachment to be interactive between the person, physical, social, and activity stimuli. "Emotional attachment is referred to the emotions, psychological conditions, and mentalities that people have about certain places. According to Giuliani's views, both of them can be related to the place itself and to the communities defined by it and to help define that place" (Livingston et al., 2008). In general, there are two main ways to change the environment. Initially, changes can be made by manipulating the space features, sometimes temporarily (for example, relaxing music playing) and sometimes forever (for example, changing the living room floor). Second, the changes can be brought by transferring to a new environment with previous features that used to meet the needs. Sometimes these actions are temporary and sometimes more permanent (for example, moving to a neighborhood) (Bishop, 2009).

The physical dimension attachment to the place

"This type of attachment is derived from the physical elements of the place as part of the process of recognition and human identity. Based on R.Laracass studies, he mentions the important role of physical attachment and refers to it as the root of which the individual remembers the environment with its physical elements in the form of attachment meaning".

Social factors

Among social factors, the impact of social ties and relationships on attachment to residential areas is essential. In most studies, social links have been strong and positive predictors (Lewicka, 2010). Social relations refer to interactions between neighbors and cover things like lending or borrowing tools and equipment, baby-sitting, informal appointments, emergency assistance requests. Through these interactions, neighbors give each other emotional, personal, instrumental, and informational support. Another social variable that affects the attachment to the place is the sense of security in the residential area (Lewicka, 2010). Residents who consider their residential area safe are more attached to that place.

At the same time, residents who are more interested in their residential areas are more prepared to deal with crime (Comstock et al., 2010).

Environmental factors

Social links are the sense of security, trust, and variables that Bolan in 1997 calls them "kind of people", and they fall into place variables. New variables are environmental characteristics that facilitate or prevent the growth of attachment (Lewicka, 2010). Research shows that most of the contacts of neighbors take place in educational, sporting, and recreational places. These places (for example, green areas and parks) facilitate the engagement of the neighbors with a pleasant atmosphere and engagement, and, in turn, it will enhance the human sense and attachment to the place.

Economic factors

To understand the situation of today's inhabitants of Navvab, we should have an all-round view of them. In a city such as Tehran, socioeconomic and cultural issues are closely related to each other and cannot be investigated individually. However, along with this all-round view, there should be a more in-depth look at the economic and financial issues of the new residents of Navvab district.

Research Methodology

The Navvab district covers the intersection of Azarbaijan Street and the intersection of Beryanak with the following three phases:

- Phase I: The intersection of Azarbaijan Street to the intersection of Imam Khomeini
- Phase II: Intersection of Imam Khomeini Street to Sina intersection
- Phase III: The intersection of Sina Street to the Beryanak intersection

The purpose of the distribution of the questionnaire:

To determine the socioeconomic-cultural structure of the Navvab's inhabitants, it is necessary to take a comprehensive look at the inhabitants of the Navvab complexes. It covers the level of education to the type of employment, the rate of income to the shortage of types of use, to make it clear that the current inhabitants of Navvab achieve the Navvab social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. In this section, things like apartment life and the reasons for choosing Navvab complexes to settle in and communicating with neighbors and surrounding neighborhoods, the security issue, problems, or positive aspects of life in the Navvab complexes will be examined to meet the needs of the Navvab residents. This questionnaire covers 115 people.

Research Findings

Literacy and Education

Since the 1990s, literacy, and education levels have improved dramatically throughout Iran and in Tehran. On the other hand, the level of absolute illiteracy has declined and, on the other hand, many young people have entered the university, therefore higher education has a higher percentage than the past. Comparison of the socio-economic situation of Navvab residents also suggests that although the

level of higher education among house-holders is high, due to the superiority of sedentary occupations, the level of household income and the quality of life in the Navvab are shallow.

Employment

The employment situation of Navvab residents shows that the total employment rate of the Navvab is relatively high. However, what is significant in socioeconomic terms in phase one is the high proportion of retirees in the entire Navvab district.

Lack of land usages

Regarding land use, according to interviews with inhabitants and employees in the Navvab neighborhood, we find that most of these people are demanding parks and green spaces for spending their leisure time. When summarizing the results of the interview, there were some problems, such as the difference in some people's responses to the type of problems of the neighborhood (For example, some problems that other people did not recognize and expressed satisfaction). Regarding the lack of some land use, one of the reasons for this may be the lack of dispersion of proper land use in the neighborhood, which made the people be delighted with the existing services and some feel lacking.

Conditions of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the place of residence

The satisfaction of residents of a location depends on several factors, each of which alone or sometimes all together can provide satisfaction or discontent for residents of a place or complex. One of the most critical factors that reinforce people's sense of satisfaction in one place is the sense of possession of place and attachment. If one does not consider attachment, he sees himself as an alien to space and certainly does not work to improve his condition, and thus does not find attachment to it. The French urban sociologist Paul Henri defines the process of ownership and attachment to place: "The attachment of space means the ability to move comfort - to possess - to act - to feel - to admire - to imagine- to acts on the plans, desires of the individual or group. The possession of the place and the attachment to it are an integral part of the social-psychological processes that allow a person to live in a safe and secure environment and to create it surrounding atmosphere. Nevertheless, the place attachment is definitely in connected to many alternatives, which makes sense, and what constrain it also the laws and the presence of others in that space". In many old and traditional neighborhoods of Tehran or other cities of Iran, the attachment of place still exists in the neighborhood, at least in their old neighborhoods, people have the space attached to it.

How to manage in Navvab complexes

It seems that one of the most critical issues in the Navvab complexes is the managerial issue, and it is still unclear how the public and semi-public spaces of the complexes are to be managed by anyone or institution. One of the main problems with the management of Navvab's buildings is the lack of adequate space for holding management meetings. Another problem is the buildings that have a large number of residential units leased. Therefore, tenants do not have attachment and responsibility for attending the meeting and solve the building problems.

Finally, neighborhood problems can be summarized as follows:

- Lack of sense of security among residents of neighborhoods related to the district
- The lack of facilities in neighborhoods and, consequently, the emergence of problems such as lack of interest in living in those neighborhoods

- The lack of land-use requirements for people, especially residents, in areas such as: green area, recreational and cultural spaces
- Noise due to the number of vehicles and the small distance of buildings with Navvab highway
- The lack of balance between the number of parking lots and the number of visitors and residents of neighborhoods
- Lack of attention to the visually appropriate landscape in neighborhoods
- Lack of green area in neighborhoods
- The lack of social interaction and the relationship between East and West inhabitants of Navvab Highway
- The lack of identity and attachment to neighborhoods by residents
- Lack of vivacity among residents
- The existence of urban spaces and ruined and unused utilities in neighborhoods such as the municipal bridge and other existing commercial spaces
- Absence of sound insulation and appropriate measures to prevent noise

Conclusion

The features of the environment represent the importance and meaning of a place for its users. The importance of identifying users according to their demographic profile and roles determines the proper way to truly understand the value of a location for a particular group of users, as well as their responsibilities and concern about the location. These features will help the process of implementing projects on different types of users to keep the economy and cultural identity in the right direction. It is important to ensure people's attachment to their environment. Therefore, it can conclude that the continuity of places helps to preserve local identity and its continuity. Comparison of the performed studies, including clinical studies, questionnaires, and articles mentioned, and by adapting the factors and alternatives studied, this neighborhood requires a change in the mental and design aspects of Multidimensional attention. Also, the inhabitants of Navvab have been ranked very low in terms of the level of attachment to the place, which based on their low residence time in the neighborhood and the lack of formation of social networks in them. Neighborhood units are not predictable for the environment because of the environmental characteristics of residents that do not override the sense of safety. The criminality, the lack of clarity of the environment, irregularities, desolation, and worn-out urban fabric, persuade the residents to leave the neighborhood, thereby reducing the sense of attachment. The house owners have more sense over tenants, because the existence of a large number of tenants has been the basis of many of the problems. These factors also cause distress and distrust of the residents and a lack of willingness to participate in community activities in the neighborhood. Studies show that the possibility of meeting residents of the neighborhood in public spaces is very low. The main design goals for the Navvab neighborhood (and similar neighbors with the same problems) can be the creation of a sense of security through the consideration and design of spaces for the presence and interaction of individuals in neighborhoods, the creation of a community to the needs of visitors, and in particular residents, the creation of pedestrians beside green area to create a sense of vivacity, creating recreational spaces to create a sense of vitality in individuals, improve existing applications, and create new applications to meet

the current needs of the neighborhood and create community spaces in order to increase the social interaction of residents.

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