

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

## Conceptual model of the role of urban pause space in promoting social interactions

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### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:** Urban pause refers to those places where social interactions, human communication and the presence of people, which is the identity and meaning of the environment, are formed and are a place for citizens to gather. In fact it is a pedestrian area or a public place for urban open space. In modern applications, the social interactions of citizens in today's cities, including Tehran, have been severely damaged. The purpose of this study is to achieve a conceptual model including principles and criteria to increase social interactions of citizens in 15 Khordad Square in Tehran, Iran to determine how to realize the appropriate urban pause space, increase social interactions of residents and passers-by in this area.

**METHODS:** The present study has been done in a descriptive-analytical manner and based on a survey strategy with an exploratory and mixed approach, various aspects of urban space, urban pause space and citizens' social interactions are examined. The statistical population included researchers and academic elites with knowledge relating to the research topic, as well as urban planning experts, senior managers and social science experts working in Municipality of Tehran. Using a snowball sampling method, a researcher made questionnaire were distributed to 100 people. Cronbach's alpha test was performed in order to achieve reliability and validation of criteria and sub-criteria of field measurement tools. Spss software were used to analyze the obtained data.

**FINDINGS:** The results showed that based on the standard deviation calculations, the average score of all propositions (sub-criteria and criteria) was higher than 4 (based on 5 and average 3) accepted by experts and specialists. The standard deviation of the propositions below 1 showed that 3 functional, physical and semantic dimensions and a total of 18 components and 54 indicators in the formation of the final research model were accepted and approved by experts and specialists.

**CONCLUSION:** Social interactions in parts of the city not only lead to the identity of the neighborhood and the region, but also lead to human communication and the presence of people and personality and give meaning to specific places with historical and nostalgic background in the city. Biological, spiritual and psychological needs and the most important aspect of the principles of urban management. Such a city can be the main link between dynamic urban spaces and tourists.

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## INTRODUCTION

Growth and development of cities, centralization of facilities and welfare services in downtown have made aggregation problems for urban life, such as crowds and traffic problems. Powerful countries in the world have taken measures to get rid of urban traffic problems that one of them is creating an urban pause space. Urban pause space for optimal use of urban space with a focus on sustainable urban development is done with using underground spaces in cities (Gehl, 2013). Urban pause space can have positive social cultural economic and political effects of it which is created in suitable space, such as:

- The place of formation of social interactions and citizenship relations;
- Increasing the amount of social wealth in urban structure;
- The place of social integrity formation and expansion of national solidarity;
- Creating opportunities to strengthen political functions and local associations;
- The arena of displaying and cultivating cultural and social values
- Use of urban subsurface spaces;
- Preventing the waste of energy resources and increasing air and environmental pollution on the surface of the planet;
- Reduces the density of earth's surface and makes life (Steuteville, 2004).

In the United States, spaces are created for low income neighborhoods in the form of urban pause space, also with this activity, develop the economy and pedestrian mobility and provide safety for pedestrians for famous urban pause space. Rose Square in Egypt is the universal experience in the field of urban pause space and its influences on different dimensions such as reduction of traffic, tourism development, increasing walking and human centered city instead of car centered (Forman, 2014) and makes the obsessed researcher study the urban pause space in cities of the country to make a research in the field of influences of urban pause space on promoting social interactions. Naghshe Jahan square in Isfahan, Azadi square, urban pause space in Hemmat square, urban pause space in vanak square, urban pause space in Vallieasr square and recently Imamhossein square and natural bridge

in Tehran and Sheikh Safi street in Ardabil are the attractive and noticeable places of urban pause spaces in Iran (Soltani, 2020). The study of the history of Iranian architecture shows that space creation and urban planning of ancient Iran were in a way that in addition to supply daily requirements of people, It has actually been a place for aggregation and trade and it makes the importance of urban pause space in ancient Iran a noticeable topic. By spending time and due to the deprivation of new cities from this point in the development of modern cities in the new decade, it can be seen that this issue has been considered in theory and to a much lesser extent in practice. Due to the role of important urban elements and attention to architecture and culture of Iran and insufficient attention to them in development of modern cities and creating strict problems for the wealth of citizens, provide motivation to create and develop important urban elements (Soltani and Khodaparast, 2010). Panzdahkordad Street, is one of the most important street remaining from old Tehran. This street is part of Arg Naseri and now is one of the most crowded streets in Tehran and has become a sidewalk over the years. Important historical constructions such as Khakhgolestan, Tehran radio building, historical building of national bank, historical building of Justice, Rezza bazar, Gold bazar, sabzeh square, Nasserkhosro street, Zargarha bazar entrance, Oudlajan bazar, Pamenar, King mosque, Timcheh hajabdollah, Nayeab, Moslim and Shamshiri and many other important places are located in its neighborhood areas. Fortunately due to the importance of the mentioned streets and constructions, extensive and great rebuilding's by the Municipality of Tehran and with the help of people and tradesmen are done in this street which is extremely appreciated. The area around Panzdahkordad due to its location in the historical context and also due to the existence of Tehran Bazar has huge potential to become an urban pause space. The studied area with locating in the center core of Tehran is one of the most crowded and busy area of Tehran and is one of its remarkable commercial-cultural areas. This region has a rich history in terms of architecture and urban planning, and due to its physical nature, which is a collection of various official cultural and commercial activities, it is a place of travel for all groups of society. Also, one of the important and strategic features of this region is the location of Tehran Grand Bazaar in this

region. With its potential and the great use of the people of Tehran (businessmen and local people), this region needs more special facilities for the use of citizens, stopping in urban areas and increasing their social interactions. (Hamidi *et al*, 1997; Daneshpour and Charkhchian, 2007). Considering the significant shortcomings in the field of urban pause in social interactions in the area of June 6, Tehran, this study seeks to identify and determine the principles and criteria that, if applied, will lead to social interactions of citizens who use this space. The present study was conducted in 2011 in Tehran.

### **METHODS AND MATERIALS**

This research is developmental in terms of depth of study and descriptive in terms of research purpose because it's done with the purpose of explaining the various aspects of urban space and social interactions. It uses the mixed approach that is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods in a way that firstly explain the different aspects of urban space, urban pause space and citizen's social interactions in a qualitative way and with a case study strategy which is one of qualitative research strategies. In addition to the case study, the scrolling method has been used for gathering and data analyzing a quantitative method. The research approach is exploratory. The research approach as the name implies, seeks to explore the things that happen and the question is about them. The method is useful when there is insufficient knowledge about a phenomenon which does not exist, therefore the exploratory method can be used to decide whether the subject matter is worth researching or not. The exploratory method can be done by searching the literature, talking to experts in relevant field and conducting focused interviews with individuals or groups, reading various texts and writings, consulting with professors, etc. exploratory research is non-experimental and observational; in other words the researcher observes only the variables without changing them. In such studies the discovery of relationships with municipality variables are studied. The main goal in research exploration is the recognition of a situation about which necessary information is not available. In other words the researcher seeks accessing the information that can realize the research topic with them. Although it is necessary to mention any research requires a series of exploratory studies with the meaning that exploratory

research is a field of doing more important and more extensive researches. After studying the principles and history, a suitable questionnaire was designed in order to access the validity of the conceptual model of urban pause space in promoting social interactions. Due to the specialization of the subject, the first statistical population includes a number of researchers and academic experts in addition to have research experiences about urban space, urban pause space and social interactions will be selecting for questioning. Scholars, urban planning experts, senior municipal managers and social science experts are chosen through snowball sampling which is a non-random method. Researchers are used to identify potential individuals in studies or the topic that are difficult to find or limited to a very small group. 100 people were chosen in this way. According to recent study the exact statistical population of elites and academic experts on the subject of urban pause space and social interactions are not available, therefore the snowball method will be trusted about elites and experts. The research system or research core describes the role of urban pause space in promoting social interactions and is dawn as Fig. 1.

#### *Humanistic urban planning*

What is referred to as the human-centered city in urban discourse literature, may be due to the lexical limitation of returning the Latin word "people-oriented city" or "people centered city" or "human oriented city" and it is better than the word; people-oriented city or humanistic city to be used for that. Designing the topic Human oriented city versus or car-oriented city has specialized application in urban planning. The human oriented city in no way opposed to theism. It is not intended to create a duality in the form of originality to human against the absolute sovereignty of God. The translation of these specialized terms in to human centered city creates this mentality that such a view is merely rooted in the school of humanism is centered or humanism proposed by (Badri *et al*, 2018). Petrarch revealed his intellectual framework against teaching of Catholic Church and believed that every individual social movement should be measured by human standards and be judged (Asadi, 2018). The continuation of these currents of thought led to atheism and the grounding of affairs and relations and with industrial progress and replacement of mechanical relationships instead

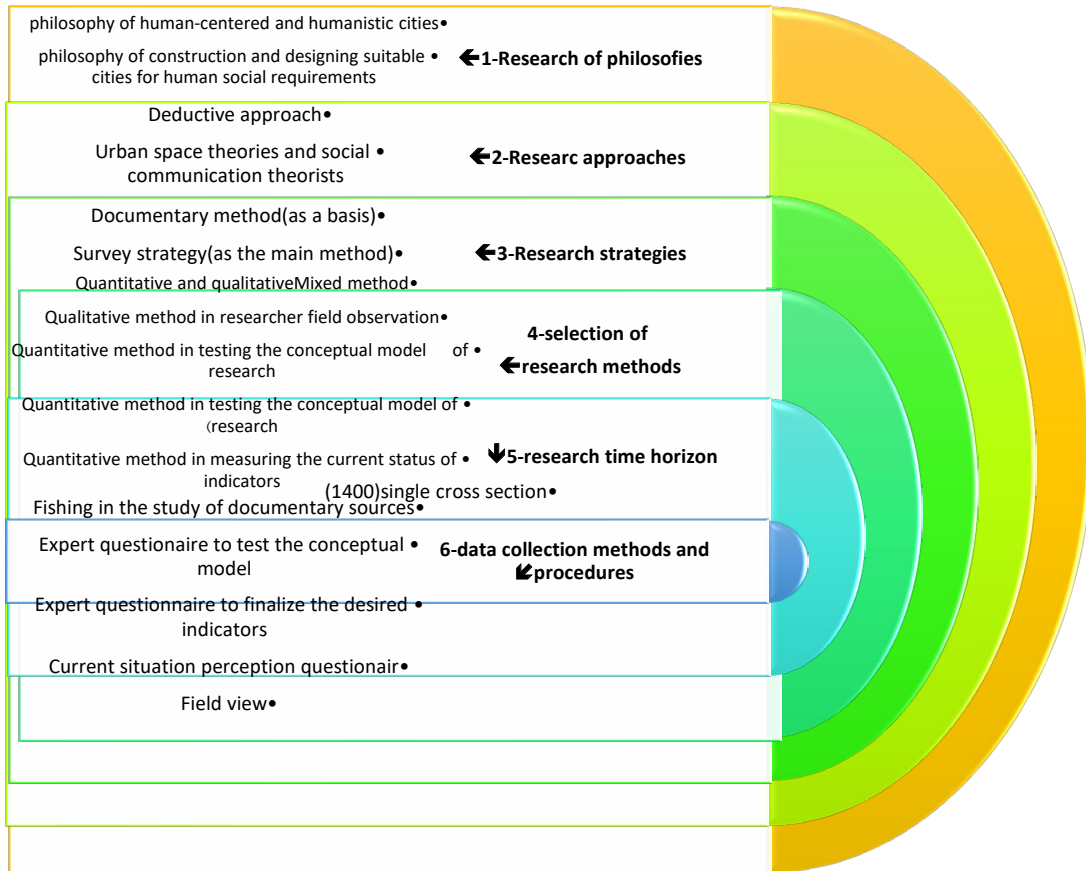


Fig. 1: Layers of research system or research onion explain the role of urban pause space in promoting interactions

of human emotions we reach the area of mechanism domination in which human is transformed in an automated life and the age of Fordism is over. As in the school of Fordism manufacturing firms with hierarchical structure operate in such way that mass production and consumerism are maximized simultaneously. One of its consequences is to achieve standards like every person is a house and every person is a car, which indicates the peak of consumerism and use of resource without paying attention to their subsequent consequences. Postmodernist movements don't have response to the instrumental use of mind and were an emphasis on the fact that humanism was necessarily opposed to traditions and values of past such as religious teachings (Sullivan, 2010; Heidari, 2015). A human oriented city is a city constructed with human scale and has special attention in physiological and spiritual needs of

human beings, the difference between human beings in proportion to the environment and the context of the city for acceptance and response to human needs. Human who can choose his destination and path of life based on his worldwide and beliefs. Of course in a Muslim society human will be oriented towards God, not the originality of the human essence. Infact being anthropocentric humanism is defined as subset of being theocentric, not in parallel or in opposition. In humanistic urban planning (Porahmad et al, 2015). The needs of fellow human beings and citizens are considered from human perspective and the orientation of urban management to the side of responding to the requirements of citizens which in fact is deemed to be the same example of serving the people and another aspect of following the divine commands (Steiner, 2012). In humanistic urbanism the rotation of powering space is such that

all individuals, groups and social classes have the right to participate in space and benefit from urban facilities and services (Haffner, 2013). The task of humanistic urban management is also to prevent monopolization of urban facilities, so that a suitable place can be seen for all citizens (Mao and Long, 2014). The theoretical model of the humanistic city is in the middle of two different views, one is the view of maximum government intervention and the other is the competitive view based on mechanism and the free market. Paying attention to the philosophy of human creation and utilizing the power and capacity of human for development and architecture so that the environment will be prepared for responding to human needs and in line with the same worldwide (Kellert et al., 2011), same as the holy Quran that commands; one of human's duty is development on earth (Pasalar, 2003).

#### *Humanistic urban components*

Citizens are the main and essential components of cities which are constantly dynamic by the nature of non-human static factor and quantitative changes (number), their distribution and quality of life in accordance with the levels of modern technology (qualitative), it is necessary that urban development and urban planning characteristics are always considered to meet the same requires and conditions, as Shahbazi (2017) also deals with this issue. After the widespread and uncontrolled entry of cars in modern cities of the world, have the various effect and consequences including the deed line of special cities in the control boundaries. In addition, the logic based on the zoning of inner-city users, causes the city to break as much as possible. In the scientific urban planning community of the world in the 1980s and 1990s one change of attitude is gradually seen that leads a process which is now called humanistic urbanism. In this urban planning as also Pakzad (2011) points out, concept and components such as comfort, citizens, their security, more efficiency of urban spaces and vitality of cities are noticeable components. In this opinion in the past construction techniques not only included construction but also spaces, and this issue requires to be revived and to achieve this target, the cooperation of all professions relevant to environment is essential. From great importance in humanistic urban planning as principals, include the following: safety, security, and welfare of citizens.

Now if it is stipulated that in the subset of the same principals, some more detailed cases be dealt with specifically, the safely of pedestrian which in the humanistic urban planning approach can be pointed to, which includes the following:

- Wide sites for movement on foot;
- A network of side walk with easy access for neighboring areas and units;
- Out skirts located around the city and away from centers of traditional units;
- Pedestrian encouragement and bicycle movement, dispersing and traffic distribution along it;
- Minimizing housing units to accommodate more people establishment of urban centers, retail stores, restaurants and residential units in about 5 minutes' walk;
- Design of streets with the possibility of controlling movement and speed;
- Encouragement of various users to encourage residential integration and retailment and business activities (Alitajer et al, 2016).

It is important to mention that interference with citizen's private spaces such as a home or a commercial personal property out of control and will power of urban planners except in a series of principle such as localizing occupation or in the view of properties. But public spaces are the arena in which the most urban planning intervention can take place. The most important urban public space are urban streets so it would be imaginable to discuss humanistic urban planning. A significant amount of writings will lead to design of urban streets. In other words, among the urban spaces, the street in the most important public area which urban planners have the most remarkable role in their design and construction because it's not owned by a person in which a person has a taste and dominates. This urban space can be very attractive in quality. Accordingly, it contributes to the quality of citizen's life where they live or just pass by. From the point of view of urban planners and designers the street must be responsible for the various activities of citizens in public spaces as an urban space. These activities can be mandatory and get the minimal influence from the physical space; either it is an activity that the person choses voluntarily or an activity influenced

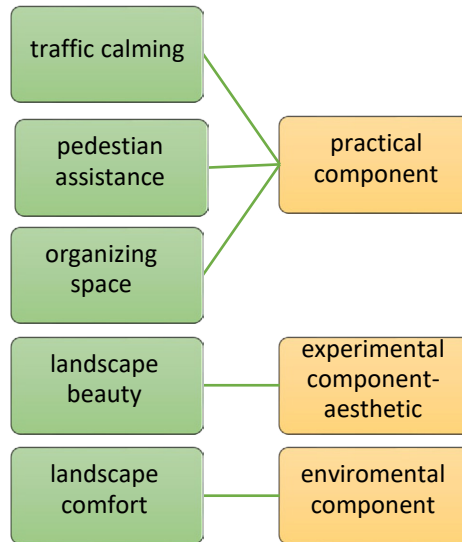


Fig. 2: Components and indicators of urban streets for a humanistic approach (Soltani and Khodaparast, 2010)

by presence of others in public places. Soltani and Khodaparast (2010), examined the issue of streets with humanistic criteria in a research. According to studies in theoretical literature and practical experiences in creating humanistic streets they choose various indicators to measure the humanism of streets. These quality measure indicators of urban street as a consequence of three factors of functional quality, experimental quality, aesthetic quality and environmental quality were considered.

*Public territory and urban pause space*

The most noticeable differences between personal pause and territory are that; firstly personal space is transformed while the territory is almost stable and secondly human usually demarcates his territory and significantly makes others realize it, in the other words, it places itself in the form of a demarcated territory, which is totally significant for others. in public places pause spaces are defined as local territory. The facilities which enables the pedestrian to do some secondary activities in space are also factor of creating pause. If it is possible for the person to sit, the possibility of pause in space will be increased. Existence of visual, functional or absorbing activities. Spontaneously summon the pedestrian the pedestrian to pause in space definitely utilizes the facilities of space and stop there for a while, and realize

that itself is a response to create a sense of stillness in a space whose territory is provided as maximum tolerance of the audience, therefore enclosed safe spaces with suitable facility for comfort of people such as platforms and benches should be considered (Efroymsen et al, 2009). It is also possible to install distinct spaces from the moment routes for the comfort of people. These spaces can be separated by height difference, flooring, and lighting of movement routes. The people feel still in the space when they find their required calmness in it. Calmness is in terms, of factors affecting a person’s physical aspects, such as ease of movement, security, comfort, and also peace of mind. When the space is predictable, the peace of mind will be created. Predictability of space must be possible both physically and from various events in space, it means the person should have the ability to monitor the space. To make it possible to monitor the space, any corners should be low traffic, low light, and the other words eliminate obscure corners in space. In summary, pause space must have all the characteristics of a local territory to meet the requirements of individuals. In public spaces.

*Social interaction*

Social interaction is defined as relationship between two people or more, which causes a relation between them and this reaction is realized for both

Table 1: Types of spatial territory

Experienced example	The amount of ownership	Time of capture	Types of territory
Room of the house	Complete	Always	First territory
Sight space	Complete	Always	Around the person
Clothes and personal accessories	Complete	Always	Proprietary territory
Haunt <sup>1</sup>	Relative and high	Limited period	Secondary territory
Parking and integrated corridor	Relative and common	Long period	Defendable territory
Parties	Relative and low	Short period	Interactive territory
Street and park	Lack of ownership	Temporary	Public territory
Chair in the restaurants	Lack of ownership	Temporary	Public area
Turn in the queue	Lack of ownership	Temporary	Temporary area

(Shahcheraghi, 2015)

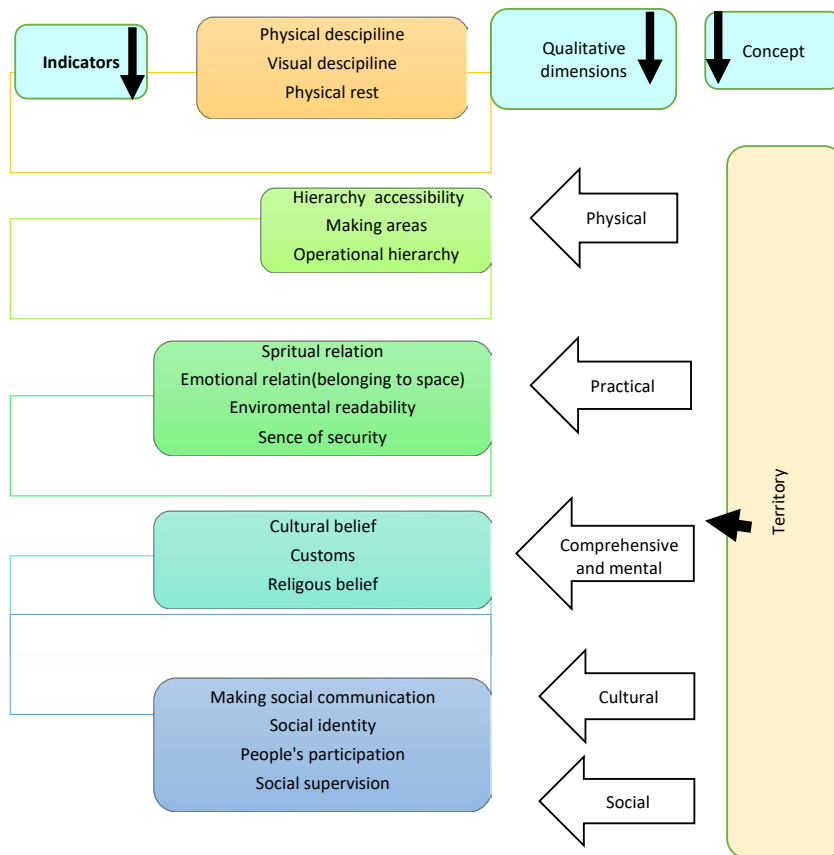


Fig 3: Qualitative indicators of spatial territory formation  
(Bahreini and Tajbaksh, 1998)

sides; therefore meaningless relationships are not in this mentioned group. Of course there are some other definitions for social interactions, As an example, social interaction and making communication can be a physical subject, one look, one discussion or communication between people which requires events definition, appropriate activities and as a result

role playing of people in space and their membership in groups and social network. Entertainment is one of basic human requirements which includes; rest and socializing. These different requirements can be met by interaction in space, therefore social interaction is one of human's demand. Social interactions depends on a sociable space to meet this demand. Two



general types of known social interactions in public spaces are defined; random social interaction such as street conversation opportunities and organized social interactions for example a party in a park (Daneshpour and Charkhchian, 2009). One of valuable aspects of public spaces is opportunity for stochastic interaction. Stochastic social interaction is divided in to two types; daily (normal) interaction and sudden interaction factors creating social interaction in social spaces: proximity or neighborhood, durability. Familiarity, freedom for procrastination .facilities, physical features of equipment, facilities and services, access, movement, outdoor activities. In order to have meaningful social relationships, people must be in moods of sitting, standing or walking; therefore the matter of paying attention to pedestrian movement for having meaningful experiences and making communication and receiving information can be understood.

#### *Factors affecting social interaction*

People make their social relationships based on their benefits and do it based on their expectations, norms and their specific roles, therefore the presence of individual in the places with others, is remarkable factor for the person to stay in it. Hens people may look for places where have people with similar characteristics in terms of class, ethnicity, religion, economic group, life pattern, education, salary. Way of growing up the children, similar race but despite being homogenous people, meeting encouragement and interactions increase with physical and social places this dependence promotion to that place, heterogeneous social spaces are also an opportunity for people to experience aggregation and perfect social and free interaction (Tibalds, 2008).

Cumulative elements have important influence on social interactions and among them the following can be mentioned:

- Sidewalks (narrow passages), pedestrian urban spaces, places for citizen's presence and their participation in life which consider their qualities maximize their vitality.
- Urban signs: symbols located in towns, distinguish the different parts and due to their index, have attraction and accumulate residents and ultimately establish interaction among residents. Minarets, mosques, the existence of an index

tree, urban elements, etc are examples of these urban signs.

- Spatial identity: people need identical space units to feel dependency to them. Sense of attachment is hidden inside the meaning of identity (Moghtadar et al., 2016).

Social interaction is one of the most important manifestation of successful urban spaces. Aggregated spaces have particular importance in making social relationships. Cause of the role of life and initial relationships of people's socialization as one of essential human requirement is possible when spaces are designed in a way to respond to social interaction appropriately. The use of the word sociable, indicates the quality of spaces which bring people together or make them separated (Efroymsen et al., 2009). The sociability of public spaces promotes a spirit of solidarity and individual growth for all citizens, regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, age or social and economic status. If a collective space has desirable characteristic, it would be capable to attract people. Parks as one of collective spaces have potential role in socializing and creating social interactions. Various aspects are involved in creating social interaction in collective spaces, researches, based on research factors, affecting socialization are in two general categories of factors. "Physical" and "activity". Factors that emphasize on physical dimension, like privacy provision, territory, legibility, comfort and security are factors such as environmental experiences, presence and social interactions refer to the activity dimension of space (Shaftoe, 2012).

#### *Physical components affecting socialization*

Physical space in any environment performs as a space system and the characteristics of this space system affect social interactions of users. The physical environment provides facilities and spatial organization special systems and patterns consolidate actually in space and diminish other activities; in other words physical environment facilitate the formation of group relationships and provides a pleasant level of privacy in activity space. It includes dimensions, space geometry and space relationships in activity spaces. Provide essential indicators for constancy and peoples comforts in the environment and at last man made environment generates and guarantees and esthetic feelings, experiences and



symbolic perceptions as qualities, affect the users in the environment and offices. Eagerness for group activities in life environment in different levels of family and groups, is relevant to organization of physical space and its quality is extremely efficient in biologist of residents. Physical factors can cause entry or stop inside the space for individuals. Also factors such as availability, visual attractions and natural factors for creating space can play an effective role in creating a sense of security and lead to increased interaction between space users (Giddens, 1994).

#### *Activity components*

Activity components of public spaces are related to activities and surrounding users. The behavioral nature of a space form through different activities. When people are active and present in a space to watch and listen, they make the environment of space, alive and dynamic and transform it with inactive participation. Dependency to a place is enhanced not only by physical aspects but also by the quality of behaviors and social interaction in space (Dines and Cattell, 2006). There are enough spaces for sitting and special events occurring in space such as street performances, public arts and similar events that connect the people, increase the attraction of spaces. William White believes; there are perfect opportunities for making communication between people and eagerness for talking to each other, in the process of such events collective spaces such as parks have appropriate physical and activity features, will be considered as safe place and will be capable to attract different groups of society. This issue finally increase social interaction in proposed user (Kogani, and Pirmohammadi, 2015).

#### *The role of urban space in developing social relations*

According to the Maslow pyramid, human requires to establish social relationships (Hopper, 2020). Maslow believes that this requirement is because of physical requirement, trust and safety requirement and requirements of social relationships and respectfulness and dignity and approval and encouragement requirements. Urban space makes the possibility of social scope expansion and face to face encounters, which is due to high potential of such space in a variety of good exchanges, rumors, information and news (Andishmand, 2018). Also social relationships improvement causes the trustiness' and

increase the dignity and social position, although urban space has a huge potential to reinforce group behaviors and social reactions (Roy et al., 2014), it is talented in collective behaviors more than any other places as a prone classifier of social life. Therefore Mumford believes main performance of urban space is shaping the city collectively and the basic function of the city is to give the city a collective shape which Martin (2016) rightly call it "the relationship between me and you". Operation which has provided the possibility of many gathering, numerous meetings and many competitions between different individuals and groups in a way that the exhibition of social life can come on stage there, actors and spectators change their role. Instead the social function of open urban spaces enables the gathering of individuals. The existence of groups and the movement of people in the urban space is the key of success for urban space, and this is the image which "Jane Jacobs", presents of urban space and considers it as the main factor in the nature of urban space Jacobs and Jacobs, (1996). The feature like being dynamic and alive of a city depends on complex, dense and crowded urban centers; density and congestion and proximity and the activity of people are ideal images because such features attracts more city residents to the urban centers and it leads to economy promotion in such urban environments and give them on new, active and vibrant face Suzuki et al., (2013), and these features spread to the whole city, on the other hand the more present of people cause to different reactions and provide the social emotional requirements of human being (Ghalambardzfuli and Naghizadeh, 2014).

#### *The influence of framework on social interaction*

If the urban framework is considered to be the same set of intertwined buildings and places that the people of the city are its residents and life continues in the pores and empty spaces, It can be concluded that the framework and biosocial which take place within cannot be separated (Rebernik et al., 2017). People are naturally sociable and love guttering with others but to create a memorable space where you can gather and mingle, a place, focus or support are demanded. Those gathering places may be around fountains, artwork, and platforms or around memorable constructions. Those constructions usually have a place to sit, a lip to lean on, a place to shelter from the sun and rain and have a quiet place

to chat even those who don't know each other well, find justification for presence of each other in these places. What makes these spaces social and active, refers to framework factors which cause entry and then stop for people inside the space factors such as; access, visual attractions and natural factors (Mehta, 2014).

*Effect of function on social interactions*

The activity dimension of public spaces is related to the surrounding activities and users. Jane Jacobs in "life and death of huge American cities, reveals that one of the most important of urban life promotion is combination of urbanization with commercial and residential practices on a neighborhood scale. Studies show public spaces where people are able to work in the environment by looking at others, sitting, eating, retail activities, sport activities or in White's words events or Woody interpretation of active and inactive entertainment, are more attractive for people. These activities and many other activity and physicality features give identity to public spaces and influence the comfort and give people the possibility to enjoy for being in space (Shahbazi et al., 2017).

*Designing urban space to increase social interactions*

Designing urban space to increase social interactions, Ghalambardzfuli and Naghizadeh (2014), the target of studding the relation between specs and social interaction, is an attraction of people to space in which encouragement for communications

and social interaction is considered between people. If the space be able to supply the general and special expectations, the presence of people in that space will be possible. It means firstly the space should include basic criteria's such as security. The secondary purpose is that, in addition to the presence in space, the person should be encouraged to communicate and interact in space.it means that this space in addition to initial criteria's, require other criteria's which support pause in space, for example if you demand furniture's as well as urban space, this furniture should be in a way to support face to face contact.in this case the placement of benches moving and facing each other are preferred to the fixed and row benches. The ultimate goal is also the creation of social interactions is formed by achieving primary and secondary goals and with the presence of people as the most important influential factor. In fact existence of appropriate and physical factors as the main factors supporting the presence. The possibility of face to face encounters has increased and social interactions are formed. Ghalambardzfuli and Naghizadeh (2014) reveal that; in the field of the role of environmental factors in the creation of social interactions two main concepts are identified, by reading the theoretical concepts presented.one discussion the interaction of space and environment with people and its impact on the formation of social interactions and another discussion of people's interaction with people in the sense of what William White expresses the presence of people as an effective factor in attracting people.

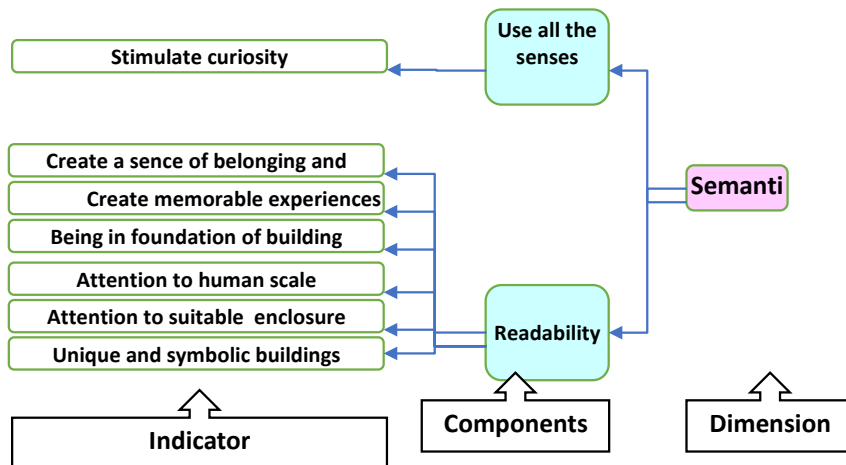


Fig 4: Semantic effective factors on social interaction promotion

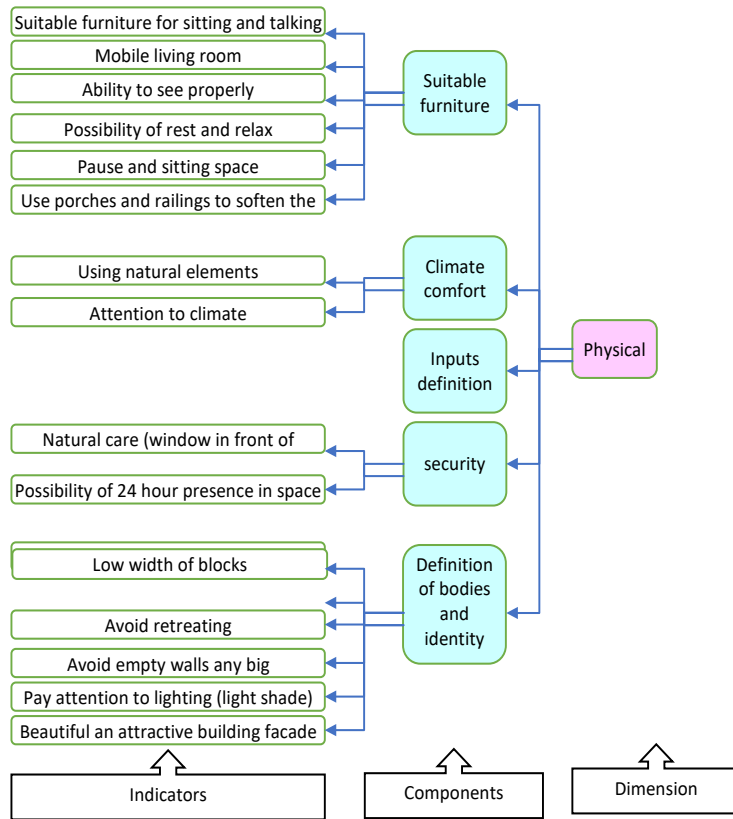


Fig. 5: Physical effective factors on social interaction promotion

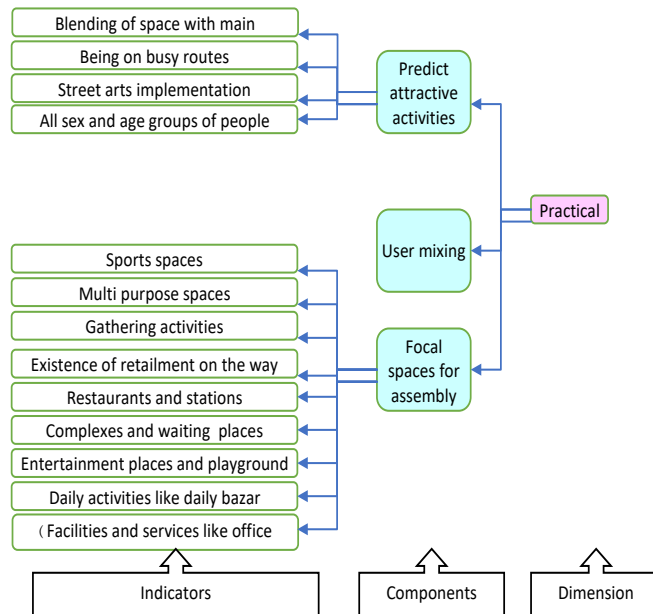


Fig. 6: Effective practical factors on social interaction promotion

Table 2: Semantic dimension subset indices

Stimulate curiosity
Smell quality and the aroma of environment
Ceate a sense of belonging to the space
Create memorable experiences
Pay attention to the human scale
Pay attention to proper confinemen
Cleanliness and beauty of the enviromen
Existance of unique and symbolic buildings and creation of symbols encouraging presence
Existance of haunt
A gathering place for age and sex groups
Location identification
Memorable space and place
Implementaton of street arts
A sex and age activities
Gathering activities
Places of hosting(restuarants and statios)
And playground entertainment places
Being on the way of daily activity(daily bazar)
Retailment on the way
Facilities and services (office)
Constand and continuous pedestrians
Design based on behavioral available patterns
Facilities for disabled people
Organic communication with city foundation and city center
Variety of activities and users
Creating various activities in space
Domminance of retailers and peddlers
Celebrating in space
Proximity to intersections and urban nodes
Communication with shopping malls
Communication with historical and cultural places
Space communication with urban symbols and signs
Respond to events and ceremonies
Being big enough for the people using space

Table 3: Subdivisions of the physical dimension

Suitable furniture for sitting and talking
Possibility of rest and relax
Using natural elements
Paying attention to regions in design
Natural care and supervision of citizens
Possibility of being in space all day and public monitoring of citizens
Security agains vehicle movement
Pay attention to lighting)creating a light shade
Attractive building facade
Visual vision to natural and suitable element
Create consecutive and varied visual sequences
Design of stable city
Use of native elements
Ecosystem balance
Removal or reducing pollution(audio and air)
Establishment of services that lead to the continued presence of citizens
Establishment of leisure users
Body path lighting
Light emphasis on key elements and buildings

The first concept includes environmental factors that affect the possibility of the formation of face to face collisions that can divide these environmental factors in the form of 3 components; physical, semantic and functional factors (Figs. 4, 5 and 6).

*Analysis of findings*

After studying the basics of the subject and its background, a set of dimensions, components and indicators was obtained, which is presented in the form of a conceptual model. The conceptual model includes the following;

To test the accuracy and validity of the obtained model, a questionnaire was used which was distributed among experts. Experts included university professors in the Department of Urban Management, Urban Planning, Geography and Urban Planning, Social Sciences, PhD students, graduate students, and urban and municipal specialists. Provided that they have experience in the field of urban spaces, urban pause space, social interactions

and public urban spaces. In completing these questionnaires, first the subject of research and its purpose were well explained and then the proposed model that the research has achieved (conceptual model of research) was provided to them. Finally, the descriptive statistics of the statistical community are given (Table 4). Then, the analytical statistics related to the test of the conceptual model of the research (including criteria and sub-criteria of measurement) are inserted. Specialists, experts and professors were asked to answer questions about the validity and appropriateness of the model The frequency distribution of the population by gender is shown in Table 5, which shows that 77% are men and 32% are women.

An examination of the frequency distribution of the population in terms of education shows that 55% have a doctorate and 44% have a master’s degree (Table 6).

Then, the questions asked by experts and specialists regarding the components of the

Table 4: Age composition

		Abundance	Percentage	Variable percentage	The cumulative percentage
Variable	Year 39 to	13	13.0	13.1	13.1
	From40 to49 year	57	57.0	57.6	70.7
	Year 50 and higher	29	29.0	29.3	100.0
	Total	99	99.0	100.0	
	Without	1	1.0		
	Total	100	100.0		

Table 5: Gender composition

		Abundance	Percentage	Variable percentage	The cumulative percentage
Variable	Man	77	77.0	77.8	77.8
	Woman	22	22.0	22.2	100.0
	Total	99	99.0	100.0	
	Without response	1	1.0		
	Total	100	100.0		

Table 6: Composition in terms of education

		Abundance	Percentage	Variable percentage	The cumulative percentage
Variable	BA to MA	44	44.0	44.4	44.4
	PHD	55	55.0	55.6	100.0
	Total	99	99.0	100.0	
	Without response	1	1.0		
	Total	100	100.0		

Table 7: Criteria for measuring the appropriateness and validity of the conceptual model of the role of urban pause space in promoting social interactions

Description of criteria / sub-criteria	Criteria
The degree of adaptation to the subject and objectives of urban pause research on the promotion of social interactions?	Suitability
The degree of compatibility with the macro goals of citizens' social interactions in the urban space?	
The degree of adaptation to the current conditions of the country's central cities and metropolises?	
To what extent is the ability to solve problems caused by the lack of urban pause space and weak social interactions in the future?	Effectiveness
How useful is it to improve the conditions for interventions in urban space to improve citizens' interactions?	
Acceptance of the model by experts and professors?	Legitimacy
Acceptance rate in the context of sustainable city policies and sustainable urban development?	
Acceptance of the model by senior municipal experts and urban planning and urban planning experts?	
To what extent is it cohesive as an interconnected set?	Continuity
To what extent is it evaluated as a set of traceable strategies and activities that can be implemented in the long run?	
Ability to test and repeat the pattern in other times and places (different cities of the country)?	Flexibility
To what extent is it applicable to middle cities or metropolises with a similar situation?	
To what extent is it in line with existing laws, regulations and policies in the field of urban design and urban space furniture?	Regularity
To what extent is it in line with the goals and demands of urban management?	
The degree of transparency and unambiguity	Transparency

Table 8: Cronback's alpha test of the measured criteria shows that the reliability of these criteria and sub-criteria is very high

	N	%
Cases		
Valid	91	91.0
Excluded <sup>a</sup>	9	9.0
Total	100	100.0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.941	15

Table 9: Mean and standard deviation of each of the criteria and sub-criteria of the overall evaluation of the research conceptual model

	Number	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Standard deviation
Suitability	100	3.00	5.00	4.6200	.63214
	100	3.00	5.00	4.6100	.66507
	100	3.00	5.00	4.6300	.63014
Effectiveness	98	3.00	5.00	4.6020	.65393
	99	3.00	5.00	4.5859	.68527
	99	3.00	5.00	4.6263	.64817
Legitimacy	100	3.00	5.00	4.6700	.56951
	99	3.00	5.00	4.6465	.61134
	99	3.00	5.00	4.6566	.60881
Continuity	100	3.00	5.00	4.6100	.66507
	99	3.00	5.00	4.6667	.60609
	100	3.00	5.00	4.6700	.60394
Flexibility	99	3.00	5.00	4.6566	.59181
	100	3.00	5.00	4.5900	.62109
	99	3.00	5.00	4.5859	.63904
Transparency	99	3.00	5.00	4.5859	.63904
Valid N (leastwise)	91				

Table 10: Extracted indicators

Indicators	Components	Dimension
Performing street arts	Attraction of activities	<b>Operational</b>
Activity for all people		
Gathering activities	Focal points of accumulation	
Place of restaurants and stations		
Entertainment places(parks),games and sports		
Being in daily activity path(daily bazar)	Accessibility and interaction	
Being retailment on the way		
Being in the path of facilities and services		
Existence of constant and continuous pedestrians		
Design based on behavioral and available model of people	Mixing user and activity	
Existence of facilities for disabled people		
The relationship between the body and the foundation of the city and city center	Deployment position	
Variety in activities and users		
Existence of various activities in space		
Dominance of retailers and peddlers	Size	
Making different celebration in space		
Proximity to intersections and urban nodes	Sensory richness	
Spatial relationship with shopping malls and business centers		
Proximity and connection to historical and cultural places	Readability	
Spatial relationship with symbols and signs		
Respond to events and happenings	Behavioral camp	
Being large enough for the space user population		
Stimulate curiosity	Identity	
Voice quality		
Quality of smell and aroma of the environment	Proportion of furniture	
Create a sense of belonging to space		
Getting memorable experiences	Eclipse calmness	
Pay attention to human scale		
Pay attention to suitable siege	Security	
Cleanliness and beauty of environment		
Existence of unique and symbolic buildings and creation of symbols encouraging presence	Definition of body and wall identity	
Existence of haunt		
Places of gathering different sex and age	Aesthetic	
Identity of place		
Memorable space and place	Environmental	
Suitable furniture for sitting and talking		
Possibility of rest and calmness	Vitality	
Using natural elements		
Pay attention to climate in design	Light emphasis on key elements and building	
Care and supervision of citizens(window in front of street)		
Possibility of being in space 24 hours and monitoring citizens		
Security against transformation movement		
Pay attention to lighting(penumbra)		
Beautiful and attractive building facade		
Visual version of desirable natural elements		
Create consecutive and varied visual sequences		
Urban stable design		
use indigenous elements		
Ecosystem balance		
Delete or reduce pollution(voice and air)		
Establishment of service users that lead to the continued presence of the citizens		
Establishment of leisure users		
Body path lighting		
Light emphasis on key elements and building		



conceptual model of the research (in the form of a questionnaire) include a set of questions including criteria and sub-criteria, which are described in Table 7.

Table 9 shows the test of each of the sub-criteria related to measuring the validity of the research model:

According to the average score of a propositions (sub –criteria and criteria (higher than 4) is based on 5 and the average is 3, located experts and specialists. On the other hand the standard deviation of the propositions show that the opinions are completely in line and close each other. In this research, firstly the studies of the principles and literature on the subject of urban pause spaces and also social interactions in urban spaces and also social interactions in urban spaces were performed, then set of dimensions components and indicators were identified. The relevant conceptual model was drawn and were available to the experts and elites, in following the proposed conceptual model is tested with this method. In general the research result show that in the study and research of the role of urban pause space on the promotion of social interactions. The following model should be used which includes (Table 10).

## CONCLUSION

Growth and development of cities, centralization of facilities and welfare services in downtown have made aggregation problems for urban life, such as crowds and traffic problems. Powerful countries in the world have taken measures to get rid of urban traffic problems that one of them is creating an urban pause space. Urban pause space for optimal use of urban space with a focus on sustainable urban development is done with using underground spaces in cities. The purpose of this study is to achieve a conceptual model including principles and criteria to increase social interactions of citizens in 15 Khordad Square in Tehran, Iran to determine how to realize the appropriate urban pause space, increase social interactions of residents and passers-by in this area. The present study has been done in a descriptive-analytical manner and based on a survey strategy with an exploratory and mixed approach, various aspects of urban space, urban pause space and citizens' social interactions are examined. The standard deviation of the propositions below 1 showed that

3 functional, physical and semantic dimensions and a total of 18 components and 54 indicators in the formation of the final research model were accepted and approved by experts and specialists. Social interactions in parts of the city not only lead to the identity of the neighborhood and the region, but also lead to human communication and the presence of people and personality and give meaning to specific places with historical and nostalgic background in the city. Biological, spiritual and psychological needs and the most important aspect of the principles of urban management. Such a city can be the main link between dynamic urban spaces and tourists.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Z. Yaghoubpour, performed the literature review, experimental design, analyzed and interpreted the data, prepared the manuscript text, and manuscript edition. F. Habib, performed the experiments and literature review, compiled the data and manuscript preparation. Z.S.S. Zarabadi, helped in the literature review and manuscript preparation.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest regarding the publication of this work. In addition, the ethical issues including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and, or falsification, double publication and, or submission, and redundancy have been completely witnessed by the authors. According to the authors of the present study, there wasn't any conflicts of interest.

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#### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<i>UPS</i>	Urban pause space
<i>SI</i>	Social interactions

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