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# Physical and Social Aspects of Vitality Case Study: Traditional street and modern street in Tehran

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#### Abstract

Happiness is among the most important human psychological needs that have always occupied the human mind. This study first presents a theoretical framework for understanding social values and the role of urban public spaces in the quality of urban life. Finally, it evaluates the factors affecting vitality by investigating vitality and its determining factors in two streets in Tehran. Then, it evaluates the level of vitality within the scopes of the study by distributing questionnaires and analyzing the data using multivariate analysis method and standard multivariate regression.

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Keywords: Vitality; daily activities; accessibility and connectivity; sustainability

#### 1. Introduction

Cities are the main center of human's activities and are known as the greatest natural sources consumer; hence it is vital to reach the highest possible stability in cities. Not only cities resistance is related to environmental categories, but also reaching economic dynamism and social justice are considered. Development determines a quality concept that can be considered equal to the increase of lie quality that includes issues such as hygiene, welfare, freedom, expression right, training, etc. (Dalir 2001). From Greece and Roman Empire, public spaces were the chief interest of residential programming and major indexes for centuries, but they were ignored for a long period. In modern programming we focus on required items for cars instead of pedestrians' needs and expectation; consequent cities lose most

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of characteristics of their old samples. This negative aspect affects everyday life quality in cities (Octai 1990).

In this regard, the aim of this article is to understand the meaning and application of urban public spaces, to analyze their social values and effects on urban life quality, and to study vitality improvement criterion in order to reach permanent vitality and how to supply human environment in public spaces through emphasis on sustainable development indexes.

First, we address exact definitions of urban public space, exhilaration and vitality in street, urban vitality, sustainable development, and sustainable urban development concepts through the emphasis on comments and descriptions of planners, architects and international organizations, then we examine the level of vitality in Narmak and Golestan streets in Tehran, Iran, and finally we showed the level of vitality in the scope of the study using stemming mentioned definitions and keeping similar and different reasons in these two streets, the effect of each index in vitality is identified by the use of multivariate and regression method. Then after prioritizing vitality indexes, solutions for improving each of these indexes are showed to reach sustainable vitality in the scope of the study.

#### 2. Literature Review

#### 2.1. Urban public space

Almost all definitions and viewpoints about public space include primary lists of availability and activity. Francis Tibald (1992) explains federal territory as all the parts of urban tissues that are available physically and visually for public. Public space is a space that we share it with foreigners, people who are our relatives, friends or co-workers (Valz, 1980).

People public life occurs in a mixed complex of figures and operations. So these spaces should have the ability of applying different behaviors of services and activities such as walking, talking, shopping, resting, and variety of attractions, hanging out as daily activities and also periodic holidays, events and a place for keeping against weather conditions. In creating public spaces, which even are available physically, issues and aspects of public places can be an obstacle for people using them. Those places can have the problem of lacking public restroom, facilities for kids and elderlies and parking for cars (Carolineh and others 2007). In modern programming, they pay attention to car more than pedestrian. Nevertheless, the pedestrian is more important than vehicles in vitality for urban areas. Oktay (2002), Siksna (1995-1998), Jacobs (1994), Joe (1998) and Montgomery (1998) also emphasize on the importance of pedestrian in urban exhilaration and criticize paying attention to vehicle traffic.

#### 2.2. Vitality and exhilaration in streets

Several famous people who specifically study vitality. Linch defines vitality as one of the seven major factors of quality (vitality, meaning, proportionality, access, supervision, authority, efficiency, and justice), and defines it as the extent to which city supports vital operations, biological conditions and human abilities and how it makes survival of all creatures possible. This factor is related to human (Linch, 1997). Operational factors that Linch knows as cause of city space vitality are as follows:

- Survival: quality of water, air, food, energy and offal services.
- Security: absence of environmental toxins, diseases, risks or control of these items in a way to minimize the fear of facing these risks as much as possible and to establish a safe environment
- Adaptability: Amount of coordination between environment and human needs internal temperature, body harmonic movements, visual perception, and body process.

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